

Cross Talk



March 2026

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 1 st March, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Wednesday 4 th March, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Sunday 8 th March, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with Coffee and Croissants</i>
Wednesday 11 th March, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Sunday 15 th March, 10.45am	Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Wednesday 18 th March, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Sunday 22 nd March, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Wednesday 25 th March, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Sunday 29 th March, 10.45am	Palm Sunday Benefice Service <i>with</i> <i>Topcliffe and Dalton – followed by refreshments (clocks alter 1 hour!)</i>
Wednesday 1 st April, 7pm	Compline for Lent



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 1 st March, 11am	Family Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 15 th March, 11am	Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday <i>followed by refreshments</i>



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Sunday 1st March, 8.30am	Said Holy Communion (BCP)
6.30pm	Choral Evensong for Candlemas
	<i>followed by pre-supper nibbles and wine</i>
Wednesday 4th March, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Thursday 5th March, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th March, 10.45am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 11th March, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Thursday 12th March, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer
Sunday 15th March, 10.45am	Mothering Sunday Sung Matins
Wednesday 18th March, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Thursday 19th March, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd March, 10.45am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th March, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Thursday 26th March, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer
Sunday 29th March, 10.45am	No service at Topcliffe, (5th Sunday) but the Benefice Palm Sunday Service is at Baldersby St James
Wednesday 1st April, 7pm	Compline for Lent
Thursday 2nd April, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer



March Reflection – *Revd Dawn Ward p.5*

St William – Life and Legacy Exhibition - *Richard Byas p.6*

Village News – *p.9*

Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Lent to Palm Sunday

(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)

Sunday 1st March, 2nd Sunday of Lent

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings (p90)

Genesis 12.1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

Gospel: John 3.1-17



Sunday 8th March, The Third Sunday of Lent

Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life 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 (p93)

Exodus 17.1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5.1-11

Gospel: John 4.5-42



Sunday 15th March, Mothering Sunday

Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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 (p101)

Exodus 2.1-10 or 1 Samuel 1.20-28

Psalm 34.11-209 or Psalm 127.1-5

2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17

Gospel: Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25b-27

Sunday 22nd March : The Fifth Sunday of Lent



Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 (p105)**

Ezekiel 37.1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8.6-11
Gospel: John 11.1-45

Sunday 29th March, Palm Sunday

LITURGY OF THE PALMS (p108)

Gospel: Matthew 21.1-11
Psalm 118.[1-2,] 19-24, [25-29]

LITURGY OF THE PASSION (p.110)

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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 (p110)**

Isaiah 50.4-9a
Psalm 31.9-16, [17-18]
Philippians 2.5-11
Gospel: Matthew 26.14-27.66 or Matthew 27.11-54

March Reflection



Dear friends,

I thought it important that our churches and communities were aware of changes happening in our deanery. As we journey through Lent together, Lent gives us the space to pray, reflect and look to the future with hope.

We are pleased to let you know that the reorganisation of the South Mowbray Rural Parishes, of which the benefice will be a part will be completed as of Sunday 1st March 2026. Thank you for your patient and prayerful participation throughout this process over the last two

years.

We wanted to take this opportunity to provide clarity about the new structure and how day-to-day ministry will operate going forward.

1. Leadership

Your new Rector of the South Mowbray Rural Parishes is **Revd Dianne Gamble**. She is supported by two House-for-Duty priests: **Revd Dawn Ward**, and another appointment to be announced shortly.

2. A team approach

This is very much a team ministry – not only among the clergy, but also including the laity. The new structure offers fresh opportunities to draw strength, support, and encouragement from one another as we work together in God’s service. Each of us has gifts to offer, and we long to see these gifts released and celebrated across the rural parishes.

3. Day-to-day focus

Each member of clergy will have a particular focus for pastoral care, occasional offices, and being a visible presence within certain parishes. These areas of focus are intended to provide you with a clear first point of contact, while recognising that all clergy serve the whole benefice and will support one another as needed.

- Revd Dianne: Leake with Over and Nether Silton, Kewick, Cowesby, Kirby Knowle, Felixkirk, and Boltby.
- Revd Dawn: Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth and Skipton-on-Swale, and Dalton.
- House-for-Duty (to be announced and licensed shortly): Thirkleby with Kilburn and Bagby, and Sessay.

A final word of encouragement

We know that change can bring both challenge and anxiety, but we trust in God’s good purposes – to see us grow, flourish, and bear fruit. As we enter this new season, we invite you to join us in prayer with your PCCs and congregations, using the prayer below.

Prayer for a New Season

Gracious God,
we thank you for your faithfulness to our parishes,
for the people and places where you have been worshipped and served for generations.

As we begin this new chapter,
fill us with your Holy Spirit:
give us courage to embrace change,
wisdom to work together,
and love to serve one another.

Bless every member of our churches.
Help us to recognise the gifts you have placed among us,
and to use them for the building up of your kingdom.

May our parishes be places of welcome, worship, and witness,
where Christ is made known, and your people flourish.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God bless.

Revd Dianne, Revd Dawn, Revd David, and Revd Mary.

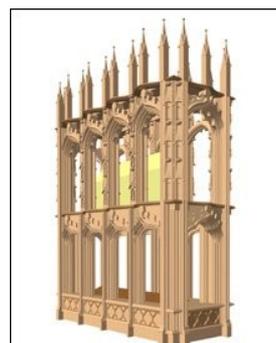
Please be assured of my prayers for the benefice and the wider communities our churches serve.

Blessings

Revd. Dawn.

St William: Life and Legacy Exhibition at York Minster

The exhibition which runs throughout 2026 involves a digital reconstruction of the shrine of St. William together with fragments of the original shrine which are returning to York Minster after nearly 500 years. Fragments of the shrine have been 3D scanned using technology employed by the cathedral's Centre of Excellence for Heritage Craft Skills and Estate Management to bring the medieval structure to life. These fragments, which were rediscovered in excavations and have been cared for in the Yorkshire Museum, have been kindly lent to the cathedral by York Museums Trust for the duration of the exhibition.



Other treasures to be seen include a decorated ivory casket made in Sicily with Arabian design influences, a reproduction of the only surviving seal of Archbishop William, and the stone that fell on the head of an unsuspecting man who was miraculously saved from harm!

The exhibition marks the 800th anniversary of the canonisation of St William of York. William Fitzherbert's story is often told as a story of religious politics: contested appointments, exile

and eventual vindication. All of which is true. But the episode that finally secured William's place as York's patron saint was the famous miracle on Ouse Bridge.



William was twice Archbishop of York. He was a cousin of King Stephen and popular with the people and was first made Archbishop in 1141. This was a controversial appointment which was challenged by Cistercian monks. As a result he was deposed, appealed to the Pope, was reinstated, and performed his first miracle. When the citizens of York came out to greet him, so many congregated on Ouse Bridge that it collapsed. According to tradition, William prayed, and his intercession ensured that everyone survived the plunge into the river. The survival itself was the miracle. Modern historians might note that the river was wider and much shallower at this point than it is today, but a mass gathering, a dramatic collapse, and no loss of life would have been astonishing in any age. Three weeks later, William fell violently ill while celebrating mass, prophesied his own death, and died nine days later, on 8 June 1154. He was buried in the cathedral.

The miracle at Ouse Bridge, coupled with various miracles attributed to him after his death, led to him being canonised in 1224. There are numerous reports of St William's intervention to protect people from danger, from the King to a servant, all attribute their lives being protected to William of York.

Edward I, having accepted an invitation to attend the translation of the relics of Saint William, later has a near-fatal fall from a mountain whilst in Wales. The King was unharmed and he later ascribed his deliverance to have been from St William of York as he had promised to honour him.

A servant to one of the canons at York Minster fell asleep during Matins, whilst resting against the pulpit. A stone column of considerable weight fell on his head. Miraculously the servant was unharmed, and he thanked the grace of St William and walked away. The stone forms part of the exhibition and has a Latin inscription which reads: "Which fell on the head of Roger of Ripon"

Sailors who were in danger of being shipwrecked, reported that St William appeared in a vision and their ship, which had suffered a broken mast in a storm was protected from running aground on the rocky shore.

St William was originally commemorated by a small altar in the Minster but in about 1330 a shrine was built in the centre of the Nave to house his tomb. This proved a very popular place to visit, pay homage and pray. So much so that 150 years later the tomb was moved to a new larger shrine behind the High Altar.

Both shrines were dismantled during Henry VIII's reformation of the church and buried. Pieces of each have since been excavated and large parts are now in the collection of the Yorkshire Museum, York.



St William's tomb is still in the Minster and in a location that he would recognise. The stone coffin is actually a reused Roman sarcophagus, although the top is

modern. On St. William's day, in June, services are still held in the Western Crypt, and the area around the tomb is used as an area of quiet reflection.

York Minster's Research Coordinator Dr Jennie England, who features in the exhibition film and curated the new exhibition, explains: "2026 marks 800 years since St William's canonisation. This anniversary presents the opportunity to reflect on what St William means to York Minster, its community, and its visitors today, and the impact of his legacy on the history and fabric of the cathedral'.

Richard Byas

Four retired men are walking down a street in London. They turn a corner and see a sign that says, "Old Timers Bar – ALL drinks 10p." They look at each other and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

There's a fully stocked bar, so each of the men orders a drink. In no time the bartender serves them and says, 'That'll be 10p each, please.' They pay the 40p, finish their drinks, and order another round.

Again, the drinks are produced, with the bartender again saying, 'That's 40p, please.' Finally, one of them says, 'How can you afford to serve drinks for a 10p a piece?'

'I'm a retired tailor,' the bartender says, 'and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery Jackpot for £25 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs 10p: wine, liquor, beer-it's all the same.'

As the four of them sip at their drinks, they can't help noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered anything the whole time they've been there. Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the men asks the bartender, 'What's with them?'

The bartender says, 'They're retired people from Yorkshire. They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half-price.'

Richard Byas

Baldersby St. James Church

Compline Services

These start on Wednesday 25th February at 7pm and continue each Wednesday at 7pm during Lent. This is a short, quiet service of evening prayer.

Coffee Mornings - Every Tuesday 10-12 noon in church. Lovely cheese scones and chat. Everyone is very welcome. Jigsaw swap on the last Tuesday of the month.

Communion Services in March – We celebrate Mothering Sunday (15th March) with posies, and Palm Sunday (29th March) with crosses. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Susan Brown, Baldersby St James PCC

Dalton Church and Village Events

Quiz and Bingo

There will be a quiz and bingo evening in the village hall on Saturday 21st March from 7pm.

Pop-Up Pub

This will be in the Village Hall on Friday 27th March from 7pm. Families welcome.

Easter Egg Hunt

This year's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday 28th March, starting at 11am. Entry forms are £2 available from the village hall.

Village Spring Lunch

This year's village lunch, run by St John's Church, will be held on Sunday 12th April, 12 for 12.30. Tickets £14, available from Judy on 01845 577607, with under 5s free of charge. We will be serving Cottage Pie and vegetables, followed by lots of home-made desserts or cheese and biscuits. You won't go home hungry!

Date for your diary

There will be a 'Through the Decades' Night Disco in the village hall on 18th April.

Please Note : Access to Dalton

If you are intending to visit any of the services or events in Dalton, please enter the village from Sessay as the road from Topcliffe is completely shut due to roadworks until the end of March/beginning of April.

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 25th February to Wednesday 1st of April.

BENEFICE DIRECTORY

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

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