

# Cross Talk



May 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 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with Coffee and Croissants</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday - <i>Benefice Service at Topcliffe</i>



### St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 11am	Family Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May, 11am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>



### St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 8.30am 6.30pm	Said Holy Communion (BCP) Choral Evensong <i>followed by refreshments and wine</i>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>followed by refreshments</i>



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

**Midweek Morning Prayer** *followed by refreshments*

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

**Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

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

**Midweek Morning Prayer** *followed by refreshments*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 10.45am**

**Benefice Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

### **Deanery Pentecost Celebratory Services**

**Pentecost Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 3.30pm at All Saints Church, Northallerton**

Celebration of new team ministry, with the installation of Rev David Johnson

**Pentecost Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm at St Oswald's Sowerby**

Celebration of new team ministry, with the installation of Rev David Biggs.

Bishop Barry and Archdeacon Amanda will be at both services, helping us to celebrate. Everyone is most welcome.

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**May Reflection – Revd Dawn Ward p.5**

**St. Mary's Church at Leake - Richard Byas p.6**

**Village News – p.9**

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### **Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter to Trinity Sunday**

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

#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

##### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us  
the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

##### **Readings (p179)**

Acts 7.55-60

Psalm 31.1-5, [15-16]

1 Peter 2.2-10

Gospel: John 14.1-14



## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, The Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Collect

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us  
to eternal joy;  
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 (p181)

Acts 17.22-31

Psalm 66.7-18

1 Peter 3.13-22

Gospel: John 14.15-21



## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Ascension Day

### Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens,  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Readings (p184)

Acts 1.1-11 or Daniel 7.9-14

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1.15-23 or Acts 1.1-11

Gospel: Luke 24.44-53



## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May : The Seventh Sunday of Easter

### Collect

O God the king of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place  
where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
one God, now and for ever.

## Readings (p189)

Acts 1.6-14

Psalm 68.1-10, [33-36]

1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

Gospel: John 17.1-11

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May : Day of Pentecost, Whit Sunday

### Collect

God, who as at this time  
taught the hearts of your faithful people  
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:  
grant us by the same Spirit  
to have a right judgement in all things  
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;  
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
one God, now and for ever.



## Readings (p193)

Acts 2.1-21 or Numbers 11.24-30

Psalm 104.25-35, [36,] 37

1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 or Acts 2.1-21

Gospel: John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-39

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May : Trinity Sunday

### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have given us your servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity  
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the  
Unity:  
keep us steadfast in this faith,  
that we may evermore be defended from all  
adversities;  
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 (p198)

Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-31

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13.11-13

Gospel: Matthew 28.16-20



## May Reflection



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our local churches shared wonderful services at Easter as we celebrated the Risen Lord. Thank you to everyone who came along and joined us in these celebrations.

As we move into May we have three important dates to observe. 14<sup>th</sup> May is Ascension Day, 24<sup>th</sup> May, Pentecost and the 31<sup>st</sup> May, Trinity Sunday.

Ascension Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> May commemorates the last earthly appearance of the Risen Christ, who, according to Christian belief, ascended into heaven in the presence of many witnesses. It is one of the four most important dates in the Christian calendar. Observed generally by Catholics and Anglicans, it is also known as the Feast of Ascension, and occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter. It marks the end of the Easter season and falls ten days before Pentecost.

According to the accounts in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus appeared to many of his disciples during the 40 days following his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. On the 40th day, he came again to the Apostles and led them out to the Mount of Olives where he instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Then, as they were watching, he ascended into the clouds.

According to Augustine of Hippo, one of the early church fathers, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. John Chrysostom and Gregory of Nyssa, contemporaries of Augustine, refer to it as being one of the oldest feasts practised by the Church, possibly going as far back as AD 68. There is no written evidence, however, of the Church honouring Ascension Day until Augustine's time in the fourth century.

On the day of the feast, Holy Communion is celebrated and the Paschal candle, which was lit on Easter Sunday, is extinguished. Liturgies proclaiming the finished work of salvation and the ascension of the glorified Christ into Heaven are recited, followed later by evening prayers.

Then follows seven days of prayer and devotion, two additional days are kept by the priests, making a total of nine days (a novena). The novena allows for the preparation of Pentecost, which takes place the next day, which will be observed this year on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

For many Christians, Ascension Day's meaning provides a sense of hope that the glorious and triumphant return of Jesus is near. It is a reminder of the ever-present Spirit of God, watching over and protecting them as they spread the light of Jesus' truth throughout the world.

Ascension Day is associated across Britain with various festivals ranging from Well Dressing in Derbyshire to the Planting of the 'Penny Hedge' (or 'Horngarth') in Whitby, Yorkshire. The legend dates to 1159, when the Abbot of Whitby imposed a penance on three hunters, and their descendants for murdering a hermit at Eskdale. Each year, on the eve of Ascension Day, on the east bank of the River Esk in Whitby, they had to construct a short hedge from stakes

woven together, able to withstand three tides. The instructions stipulated that a knife “of a penny price” was to be used.

It is also the day for Beating the Bounds, or Boundaries, of a church’s parish. The custom was once found in almost every English parish, but now is only carried out in a few places. In modern times, it involves people in the locality walking around their farm, manorial, church or civil boundaries, pausing as they pass certain trees, walls and hedges that denote the extent of the boundary to exclaim, pray and ritually ‘beat’ particular landmarks with sticks.

In England, eggs laid on Ascension Day are said to ‘never go bad’ and will guarantee good luck for a household if placed in the roof. In Devon, it was an ancient belief that the clouds always formed into the familiar Christian image of a lamb on Ascension Day. If the weather is sunny on Ascension Day, the summer will be long and hot. If it rains on the day, crops will do badly and livestock will suffer from disease. According to Welsh superstition, it is unlucky to do any work on Ascension Day.

So friends let us pray that the weather is kind to us on Ascension Day and favours our local farmers, but I’m not sure about placing eggs in the roof.....

Blessings

## **Reverend Dawn.**

### **St Mary’s Church at Leake**

St Mary’s Church at Leake is situated just off the A19 between Thirsk and Northallerton. The only habitation near the church appears to be a local farm but it once served a thriving medieval village with one authority claiming the population may have been as high as 1500; the population of the modern hamlet of Leake is given as 10 in 2010.



The name Leake is the same root as Lych or Lyke (Lyche gate) from the Norse word for corpse. Perhaps it was a dead or massacred village, or perhaps it is because it is near the end of the Lyke Wake walk route,

The site of the church is an ancient one with a church already there in Norman times. The west face of the Norman tower has a Saxon cross built into it; this may well have been the original churchyard cross. It is the only bit of recognisable Saxon work to survive. The church now serves the two thriving nearby villages of Borrowby and Knayton.

The earliest parts of the present building are Norman in origin dating from c.1100. The tower and nave reveal this Norman foundation, with its thick walls and simple sturdy stonework typical of the period.

After the Norman period the church continued to grow, presumably with the village, and it contains work of every century up to the 15th. However, in the 14th century something happened which caused Leake to cease to exist as a village, though not as a parish. The reason for this is unknown. It may have resulted from a number of factors such as the effects of the Black Death or repeated raids by the Scots; other possibilities include land exhaustion or death of livestock on a large scale.

However, the church continued to function, and the locals using Leake church seem to have successfully acquired items for the church when the monasteries were dissolved by Henry VIII. One of the three bells in the tower has the legend "O PATER AELRED GRENDALÉ MISERERE" which may be translated "O Father Aelred pray for the sinners of Grendale". Aelred was the third abbot of Rievaulx (1147-67) and Grendale was another Cistercian house a few miles south of Loftus. There are two possibilities for the bell's origin. The first is that the bell was at Rievaulx at the time of the Dissolution and was the gift of the nuns of Grendale to Rievaulx; the second is that the bell came from Grendale itself. Whichever is correct, the bell remains a link with medieval times and is stated by Aelred's biographer to be the only medieval invocation of Aelred's prayers that he has ever found.



Equally interesting are a pair of bench ends for the choir stalls in the chancel. These, too, are Dissolution "loot" and came from Bridlington Priory. They were carved by the famous school of Ripon carvers and bear the rebus form of names of the Prior and Sub-Prior of Bridlington in the year 1519.

Bridlington Priory Church has copies of these wonderful bench-ends, carved by Thompson, "the Mouse Man" of Kilburn. A third pew end has been attached to the Consett family pew, but it belongs to St. Mary's Church, Over Silton.

Though in Yorkshire, Leake was in the gift of the Bishop of Durham. The vicar at Leake church was paid a stipend, the tithes being reserved 'for upkeep of the Bishop's table'. A house belonging to the Bishop stood on the site of the present farm building opposite the church gates and in this house the vicar had a suite of rooms, the rest being kept for the use of the Bishop on his journeys southwards. The parish was therefore a little island of Durham in the midst of Yorkshire. It was the half-way house when the Bishop was travelling between York and Durham, a day's journey each way.

With such an interesting history and historical artifacts present the church is open to visitors during daylight hours.  
Satnav ref: YO7 4BN



**Richard Byas**

A visitor to a remote Yorkshire village asked a local about the meaning of a black mark high up on the wall of the village pub.

'Oh, that was the height of the water in the big flood of 1893' he was told.

'Never, the whole village and the whole county must have been yards under water'

'Well no. You see the mark used to be two foot off the ground but as the local boys kept rubbing it out, we had to put it up higher out of their reach.'



**Richard Byas**

## **Baldersby St. James Church**

**Coffee Mornings** - Every Tuesday 10am until noon in Church – everyone very welcome with a Jig Saw swap. This is very popular with plenty of local people to chat to.

**Book Sale** – If you have any clean books to donate to our Book Sale we would be very pleased and they can be left in church. Every year we need to have new books of all categories for our regular buyers. Many thanks in advance as we often do not know who has left them but we are very grateful. **Book Sale Dates: 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Uganda – Rev. Sheelagh** is leaving for Uganda to visit her charity in May. The church is collecting items for her to take, as we have done in other years. This time she is taking toothpaste, toothbrushes, paracetamol, ibuprofen, vaseline, septic creams. If you would like to leave any of these in church before 9<sup>th</sup> May she would be very grateful.

*Susan Brown, PCC Member*

## **Dalton Church and Village Events**

### **130 Club results for April**

£15 Lexi and Jack Ramshay, No.52; £10 Olivia Spence, No.46, £6 Maureen Hardwick, No.57.

### **Coffee Morning**

The May Coffee Morning in the village hall is on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30 until 12 noon. Come along and have a natter, a cuppa and a piece of cake. There is no charge, but donations for this month's charity are welcome.

### **Ceiidh**

There will be a Ceilidh with pie and pea supper in the village hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 7pm. Tickets are £15, available from Becki on 07734 474781. The bar will be open.

### **Pop-up Pub**

There will be a Pop-up Pub on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 7pm in the village hall. Families welcome.

### **Knit and Natter**

This is held every other Wednesday in the village hall. For information please contact Sharon Spence on 01845 577643.

### **Domino Drives**

There will be two domino drives in May, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> in the village hall. Entrance is £2 with a strip of raffle tickets for £1. Tea and biscuits are served at the interval. Everyone welcome.

### **Craft Classes**

On the first Wednesday of the month there is a Craft Class, from 9.30am until 3pm in the village hall. New members welcome. Please contact Lois Gillie for details on 01423 325 608.

*Sylvia Binks*

## **St Columba's Church, Topcliffe**

### **Coffee Morning for Christian Aid**

The coffee morning for Christian Aid will be held in Topcliffe and Asenby village hall from 1030am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Donations of cakes and scones would be most welcome. Do come and support this worthy cause.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Benefice Service**

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May Trinity Sunday, at 10.45 am, the Benefice Holy Communion service will be hosted by St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service.

### **St Columba's Festival and Barbecue, 7<sup>th</sup> June**

Make a note for your diary. The St Columba's Festival Eucharist will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10.45am followed at 1.15pm by the village barbecue in the churchyard, Guided Tours of the church, church tower and churchyard at 2.30pm and the closing Service of Compline at 6pm. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

## 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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