

Cross Talk



July 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 5 th July, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 12 th July, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with croissants & tea/coffee</i>
Sunday 19 th July, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 26 th July, 9.30am	Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 5 th July, 11am	Family Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 19 th July, 11am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Thursday 2 nd July, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 5 th July, 8.30am 6.30pm	Said Holy Communion (BCP) Choral Evensong <i>followed by refreshments and wine</i>
Thursday 9 th July, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 12 th July, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 16 th July, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 19 th July, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>followed by refreshments</i>



Thursday 23rd July, 11am

Midweek Morning Prayer *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 26th July, 10.45am

Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Thursday 30th July, 11am

Midweek Morning Prayer *followed by refreshments*

July Reflection – Revd Dawn Ward *p.4*

St Robert of Knaresborough - Richard Byas *p.5*

Village News – *p.7*

Readings for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity to the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)

Sunday 5th July, The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole Body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings Proper 9 related (p251)

Zechariah 9.9-12

Psalm 145.8-15

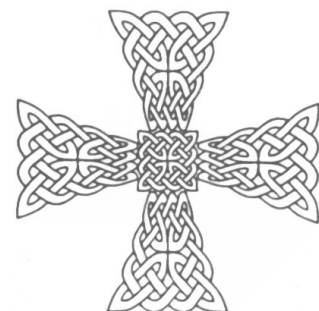
Romans 7.15-25a

Gospel: Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

Sunday 12th July, The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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 10 related (p256)

Isaiah 55.10-13

Psalms 65.[1-8,] 9-14

Romans 8.1-11

Gospel: Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Sunday 19th July : The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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 11 related (p261)

Wisdom 12.13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44.6-8

Psalms 86.11-17

Romans 8.12-25

Gospel: Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Sunday 26th July : The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
we maybe preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.



Readings Proper 12 related (p268)

1 Kings 3.5-12

Psalms 119.129-136

Romans 8.26-39

Gospel: Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

July Reflection



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On Sunday 21st June Ffion Hutchinson one of our church family from St. Columba's Topcliffe was confirmed by the Bishop of Whitby at St. Andrew's church South Otterington, a wonderful and joyous occasion.

Confirmation is a chance for anyone who has already been baptised (perhaps baptised as a child) to commit themselves to Christ – to 'confirm' the promises made at their baptism. These promises publicly recognise God's love for us and acknowledge that we all need to turn away from selfishness and evil and to accept God's offer of a fresh

start with him.

In declaring this faith, we become members of the local and worldwide Christian family, and the Church promises to support and pray for us on our journey of faith. Confirmation is also an opportunity for those who don't already receive communion, perhaps children or those new to church, to start taking communion with the rest of the church family.

In the Bible, baptism with water and praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit by laying on of hands were originally both used to welcome new Christians into faith in Jesus. Over the centuries they are now often done separately, with many people being baptised in water as children and then confirming their faith later when they are old enough to answer for themselves.

Those being confirmed declare that they have decided to turn away from everything which is evil or sinful and instead to turn towards Christ - the same promises used at baptism. If you were baptised as a young child your godparents will have made these promises on your behalf, and you will renew these decisions and promises at Confirmation. You will declare your faith in front of members of the local church and your local Christian community, who will promise to support you and pray for you. You may have a sponsor, as you would at a baptism, to stand with you to support you in your journey of faith.

The bishop will make the sign of the cross on your forehead with oil. The cross as a sign of belonging to Christ, and the oil as a sign of the Holy Spirit. The bishop will speak to each candidate by name saying: **(name), God has called you by name and made you his own.** He then lays his hand on the head of each as he prays: **Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.**



If you feel you would like to explore confirmation do come and speak to me about this. If you are unsure and have questions to ask, please do speak out and do pray about it. It can be really helpful to ask other Christians to pray with you also.

We send our congratulations to Ffion and we pray for her as she continues her journey of faith.

God Bless,

Reverend Dawn.

St Robert of Knaresborough



The 14th century parish church in Pannal and a Roman Catholic church in Harrogate are both dedicated to St. Robert of Knaresborough. Interestingly, neither the Church of England nor the Roman Catholic Church have officially canonised St. Robert. He was acclaimed as a saint through popular acclaim, and his feast day is the anniversary of his death, the 24th September.

Born Robert Flower, he was born in York to wealthy parents in about 1160. He was the son of Touk Flower, a prosperous merchant and Mayor of York. Robert had no desire to follow in his father's footsteps however and instead chose to enter the church. St. Robert was regarded by the medieval chronicler Matthew Paris as one of the three most important saints of the 13th century.

Very early in his life he became a sub-deacon and a novice at the Cistercian Newminster Abbey, but he stayed there only a few months. He became disillusioned with the monastic life and chose to become a hermit. He visited a knight-hermit who lived in a cave by the River Nidd at Knaresborough, hiding from King Richard the Lionheart. On the death of the king, the knight returned home to his family leaving Robert on his own.



With no means of support, Robert was offered a cell at St Hilda's Chapel in nearby Rudfarlington by a wealthy widow, Juliana. He stayed there only a year before his hermitage was destroyed by bandits. So driven from his home, he lived for a time under the church wall at Spofforth. He tried living with the monks at Hedley, near Tadcaster, but their lifestyle was not strict enough and he returned to Rudfarlington.

Robert was well known for his charity to the poor and destitute. His favourite form of charity was to redeem men from prison. For a time, Robert prospered, having four servants and keeping cattle, but he was soon in trouble again, this time with William de Stuteville, the constable of Knaresborough Castle, who accused him of harbouring thieves and outlaws. When his hermitage was destroyed for the second time (this time by the forces of law and order under William de Stuteville), Robert returned to the cave at Knaresborough, where he stayed for the rest of his life.

To call Robert's residence a cave may give the wrong impression; it was a dwelling, hewn into the limestone bank above the river. The cave existed before Robert's arrival, but he is thought to have enlarged it. It originally served as both a dwelling and a chapel before the chapel of Holy Cross was built outside the cave entrance. Inside the cave is a shelf carved out of the solid stone, which may have served as an altar.

We often imagine hermits living far away from and having little contact with others. In practice, although they lived alone, they often had a lot of contact with local people and Robert developed a reputation as a wise and holy man who cared for the poor.

De Stuteville may have regretted his actions, or he simply bowed to the pressure of public opinion, for he gave Robert land and cows. That was nothing compared to King John, who visited Robert several times and gave him 40 acres of land. Robert accepted the gift on condition that he paid no tithes for it, thus he was free to use the land to feed the poor and destitute.

King John did not have to go far to see Robert; he was fond of hunting in Knaresborough Forest and stayed frequently at the castle, less than a mile from the cave. The traditional story of the king's meeting with Robert says that the hermit was kneeling at prayer when the king arrived. Robert did not acknowledge his presence in any way, forcing the king to wait until he had finished his prayers before rising to greet him. Given King John's notoriously bad temper, it was a bold move!

Towards the end of his life, pilgrims flocked to see Robert to seek spiritual guidance and to be healed of physical ailments. Before his death, St Robert founded Knaresborough Friary for the Trinitarian order. He asked the friars to bury him in a simple grave near the altar of his chapel beside the River Nidd. This they did when Robert finally died on 24th September 1218.



St Robert's Cave, carved into the limestone of the Nidd Gorge, is now a Grade II* listed building and is accessible to the public. The cave is on Abbey Road, which follows the course of the River Nidd from Grimbald Bridge to Low Bridge. From Wetherby Road (the B6164) go down a set of steps on the north side of Grimbald Bridge to reach Abbey Road. Follow Abbey Road south and west to the cave, located down a bank towards the river. Look for an information panel and blue plaque marking the path down to the cave and chapel.

If you carry on following Abbey Road as it curves west and north beside the River Nidd, in the direction of Knaresborough Castle, you will come to a 15th-century chapel carved into the limestone cliff. This is the Chapel of Our Lady of the Crag (the Chapel in the Rock). This is sometimes confused with St Robert's Cave and Chapel, but it was built two centuries after St Robert's death and has no links to the saint.

Richard Byas

'Looks like a bad storm is brewing' said the Dales hostess. 'you'd better stay for dinner'

'Oh, thanks' said the guest absently 'but I don't think it will be that bad.'



Richard Byas

Village News

Baldersby St. James Church

Tuesday 7th July, 10-12 noon – during our Coffee and Chat we will be holding a **Defibrillator Familiarisation** morning with no charge. This is a chance to remind anyone who would like to come, how and when to use our machines.

Saturday 15th August, 7pm to 9pm in church, **"Kris Jones Music" Summer Concert**. Come and join us for a relaxed fun evening of music across genres and decades from Kris Jones and talented guests. All proceeds to charity. Refreshments. Tickets £10 on door.

Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th September – Bumper Book Sale. Please leave donations of books in the church porch. Funds raised will go towards repairs of our ceiling in church this year.

Church Ceiling

We are still waiting for permission to put a net high up in church to hold any falling pieces of plaster. Although the church is not open to the public we can still hold services in the Lady Chapel, and use the cafe, kitchen and toilet areas.

Susan Brown, PCC Member

Dalton Church and Village Events

Strawberry Cream Teas

Saturday 4th July from 2pm until 4pm, in church, come along and enjoy strawberries and cream, selection of cakes and sandwiches. There is no set charge but donations gratefully received. All welcome.

Domino Drive

There will be a Domino Drive in the village hall on Saturday 4th July at 7pm. Admission is £2, with 5 raffle tickets for £1. Tea and biscuits will be served at the interval. Prizes for the highest score. All ages welcome.

Dalton Village Gala

This will be held on Saturday 18th July, starting at 2pm. There will be children's races, BBQ, Owl Adventures, Tombola, Teas and more. Come along and enjoy a fun family day out.

Coffee Morning

July's Coffee Morning, in aid of Prostate Cancer, will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 22nd July, 10.30 until 12 noon. There is no set charge, but donations are welcome. Come along and enjoy coffee and cake and have a chat with friends and neighbours in support of a good cause.

Knit and Natter

This is held fortnightly on a Wednesday in the village hall. You don't have to knit or crochet, you can just come along for a cuppa and a chat. For details please contact Sharon on 01845 577643.

Craft Classes

These are held on the first Wednesday of the month from 9.30am until 3pm. Please contact Lois Gillie for more details on 01423 325608.

Sylvia Binks

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Church Roof Repairs

Urgent work is needed to replace faulty lead flashings on the gable ends of the nave and north aisle, to examine the ridge tiles and make safe any loose stone, and to reinstate slipped slates. A quotation for this work has been received and approval for the work has been granted by the church authorities. Grant funding towards the cost is being sought.

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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