

Cross Talk



August 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 2 nd August, 10.45am	Holy Communion "Lammas Service" <i>for the first wheat harvest of the year.</i>
Sunday 9 th August, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with croissants & coffee</i>
Sunday 16 th August, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 23 rd August, 9.30am	Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 30 th August	5th Sunday <i>Benefice Service is at 11am at Dalton</i>



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 2 nd August, 11am	Family Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 16 th August, 11am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 30 th August, 11am	Benefice Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Sunday 2 nd August, 8.30am 6.30pm	Said Holy Communion (BCP) Choral Evensong <i>with Matthew Atherton (organ) followed by refreshments and wine</i>
Thursday 6 th August, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 9 th August, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>



Thursday 13th August, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 16th August, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>with Matthew Atherton (organ)</i> <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 20th August, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 23rd August, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 27th August, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 30th August	5th Sunday <i>Benefice Service is at Dalton at 11am</i>

August Reflection – Revd Dawn Ward *p.5*

‘Martyr of the Moors’ - Nicholas Postgate - Richard Byas *p.6*

Village and Church News – *p.8*

Readings for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity to the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity *(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)*

Sunday 2nd August, The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy 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 Proper 13 related (p273)

Isaiah 55.1-5

Psalms 145.[8-9,] 15-22

Romans 9.1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14.13-21

Sunday 9th August, The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please 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 Proper 14 related (p279)

1 Kings 19.9-18

Psalm 85.8-13

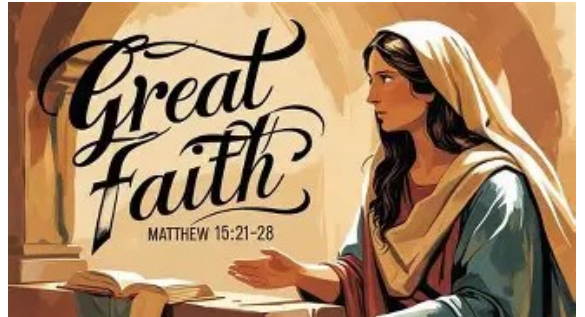
Romans 10.5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14.22-33

Sunday 16th August : The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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 15 related (p283)

Isaiah 56.1, 6-8

Psalm 67

Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15.[10-20,] 21-28

Sunday 23rd August : The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
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.

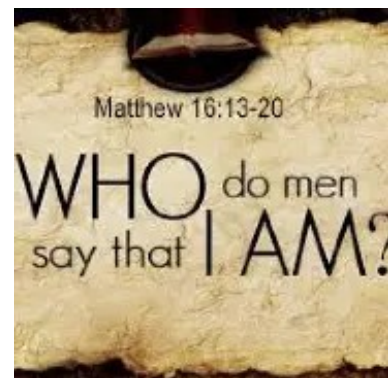
Readings Proper 16 related (p289)

Isaiah 51.1-6

Psalm 138

Romans 12.1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16.13-20



Sunday 23rd August : The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.

Readings Proper 16 related (p289)

Isaiah 51.1-6

Psalm 138

Romans 12.1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16.13-20



Sunday 30th August : The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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.

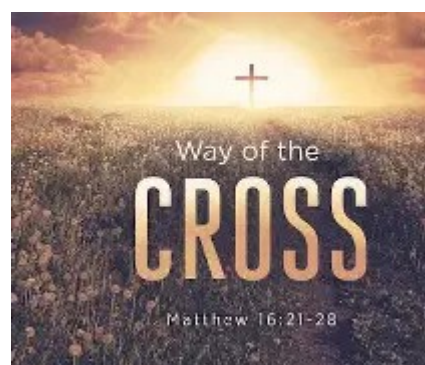
Readings Proper 17 related (p295)

Jeremiah 15.15-21

Psalm 26.1-8

Romans 12.9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16.21-28



August Reflection



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In July the Diocese of York invited clergy and Licensed lay ministers to the first Diocesan Conference in many years.

The theme of the conference was Called and Sent.

Called and Sent, reminds us who we are and why we are here. By the Spirit, God calls each of us into life with Christ, not as spectators but as participants in his story.

We are gathered to listen again to that call – to be rooted in Jesus, changed by grace, and renewed in hope. And we are sent outwards, into parishes, schools, chaplaincies, and communities, to share the good news of God's Kingdom. To be called and sent is to live Christ's story today – receiving his love, and sharing it with courage and compassion.

Coupled with this theme our Gospel readings over the last few weeks have challenged us to have wisdom, be people who listen, and to be people who make choices and decisions based on what Christ would want us to do and be.

Sometimes the decisions you find yourself making in life are not easy or ones that you would normally not choose to take, and yet deep in your heart – as difficult and as inherently painful as it may be – it is the ones you know that God would want you to take and the ones that you should take that can bring you closer to God.

For most of us Christians, God has given us multiple choices over the years and one suspects that there may have been neither only one right or only one wrong way to arrive where God wants us to be.

But God calls and challenges each and everyone of us, not just those of us wearing a 'dog collar'. Each of us comes with different skills and gifts.

Our churches couldn't survive without the lay people who support us each week. The people who welcome us as we enter church, those who provide hospitality after a service and the grass cutters who keep our churchyards looking pristine, just to name a few.

God also sends each and everyone of us into our communities. To be people who support the lonely and bereaved. To pray and support those in need and to listen to the concerns of our wider communities.

God calls us all.

If you feel that you could support our churches or wider communities in some way do come and speak to me or members of our PCCs. I know that within our wider parishes there are people with many gifts, skills and compassion for those in need. By working together we can achieve so much more.

And so we pray

Loving God,
by your spirit you call us into life
and send us to proclaim your Kingdom in the world.
Renew the life of our diocese,
make us part of your story,
so that, called and sent, we may be more like Christ
and share his love with others.
Amen.

God Bless,

Reverend Dawn.

'Martyr of the Moors' - Nicholas Postgate.

The years between the mid-1500s and the late 1600s were a dangerous time to hold strong religious beliefs unless they conformed with those of the government of the day.

The Acts of Supremacy in 1534, confirmed Parliament recognising Henry VIII's status as head of the church in England and, together with the Act in Restraint of Appeals in 1532, they abolished the right of appeal to Rome. Anyone who did not recognise Henry VIII's status as head of the church in England was regarded as a traitor.



The Catholic Mass became illegal in England in 1559 under Queen Elizabeth I's Act of Uniformity. Thereafter Catholic observance became a furtive and dangerous affair, with heavy penalties levied on those, known as recusants, who refused to attend Anglican church services.

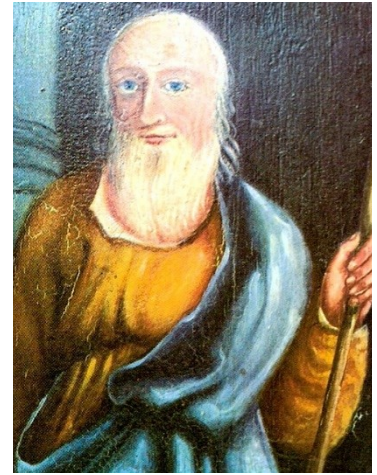
Except during the reign of the Catholic James II (1685-88), Catholicism remained illegal for the next 232 years. Catholic worship became legal again in 1791.

However, there were periods when the persecution of Catholics and non-conformists was less severe. The 1689 'Toleration Act' allowed dissenters to worship in their own chapels and meeting houses, provided these were licensed by Justices of the Peace. Ten years later in 1699 The 'Popery Act' forbid Catholic schooling, inheritance and purchase of land and it was not until the Catholic Relief Acts of 1778 and 1791 that Catholics were allowed to purchase land, join the army and gave them the freedom of worship.

It was in 1597, at a time when anti-Catholic feelings were running high, that Nicholas Postgate was born in Egton Bridge. Roman Catholicism still had strong support in the north of England, but when Postgate decided to become a Catholic priest, he must have known that he had chosen a dangerous profession. Postgate entered Douay College in France on 11th July 1621 and was finally ordained priest on 20th March 1628.

Postgate was sent on his mission to England on 29th June 1630 and returned to his native Yorkshire. For many years he served as chaplain to wealthy Catholic families before returning to act as a parish priest at the age of 60.

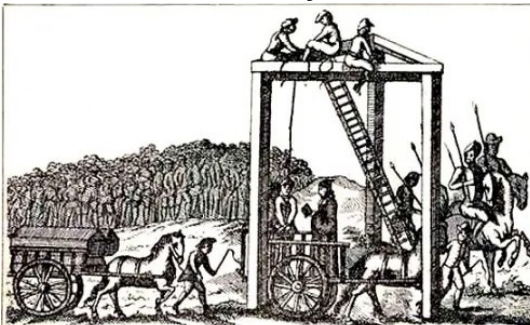
In the 1660s, he settled in Ugthorpe, a village to the north of Egton Bridge and his parish, known by the extinct name of Blackamoor, extended between Guisborough, Pickering, and Scarborough. He was described as being exceptionally conscientious in performing his pastoral duties and he walked the high moors of North Yorkshire and the plains of the Holderness, ministering to a scattered flock often disguised as a beggar or a gardener. Known also as 'The Good Samaritan of the Moors' due to his generosity to all regardless of their status or religion, he walked around his huge 'parish' of Blackamoor, always declining the offer of a horse. He shared his food and clothes and visited people in remote areas to offer both spiritual and practical help, wanting to understand the plight of the poor and to empathise with them in every way.



Anti-Catholic sentiment in England had decreased by the late 1670s but it resurged due to the fabricated Popish Plot of 1678. Titus Oates falsely claimed there was a conspiracy to install a Catholic king, inciting renewed and fierce persecution of English Catholics. This period marked the last time Catholics were executed in England for their faith, with Nicholas Postgate being among the final victims.

During the panic incited by Oates a prominent Protestant magistrate, Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey, was murdered, and Oates blamed the Catholics. In response, Sir Edmund's manservant, John Reeves, sought revenge and decided to act in the Whitby area, possibly because he knew priests arrived there from France.

Nicholas Postgate was arrested by exciseman Reeves while performing a baptism at the house of Matthew Lyth in Little Beck, near Whitby. Reeves, accompanied by his colleague William Cockerill, raided the house during the ceremony and arrested Postgate, who was 82 years old at the time. Lyth had inadvertently alerted the authorities by speaking publicly about



the ceremony. Postgate was taken to York to stand trial, was found guilty and sentenced to death by being hanged, drawn and quartered. He was executed on 7th August 1679 with quiet dignity forgiving those who had testified against him. On the scaffold at the Knavesmire, York he stated that he was too old and frail to make long speeches and would simply die for the Catholic faith to which he

had devoted his life.

Postgate is recognized as one of the 85 English Catholic Martyrs of England and Wales beatified by Pope John Paul II in November 1987.

John Reeves was recorded in a treasury book as having been paid 22 shillings for the apprehension of Postgate, but soon afterwards his body was found drowned in the river. He seems, like Judas, to have committed suicide.

The memory of Nicholas Postgate lives on with his portable altar stone being venerated at the front of the altar at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Pickering. In addition, since 1974, an annual open-air service has been held in his honour, alternating between Egton Bridge and Ugthorpe.

The Postgate Society aims to spread knowledge of Nicholas Postgate and promote interest in Catholic history during penal times.

Richard Byas

Roman in a bar

A Roman centurion walks into bar, sticks up two fingers to the barman and says "five beers please."



Richard Byas

Village News

Baldersby St. James Church

Kris Jones has cancelled his concert on Saturday 15th August. This will now take place later in the year.

Book Sale - Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September – Our big fund raiser – this year funds will go towards the repair of our pesky ceiling! Open 10am to 5pm. Weds/Thurs/Fri to put books ans Sunday 4.30pm onwards to pack up.

Church Ceiling – Our netting and fixings are ordered and permission granted, so we are hoping to start fixing them next week, and then we can open our doors once more. The cost is in the region of £10,000 which includes Architect's Fees, Netting, Hire of Cherry Picker and Labour. Sadly, we can no longer reclaim the 20% VAT charge, so any donations will be gratefully received. (Parochial Church Council of Baldersby St. James. Sort Code 40:38:23 Account: 40132160).

Susan Brown, PCC Member

Dalton Church and Village Events

5th Sunday Benefice Service on 30th August

St John's Church, Dalton, will host the Benefice Service on Sunday 30th August at 11am. All the South Mowbray Rural Churches have been invited to attend the service, which will be led by Rev. Dianne Gamble.

Sylvia Binks

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Church Roof Repairs

Work 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 reinstate slipped slates will take place in September. Grant funding towards the cost of around £10,000 is being sought.

Visiting Organist Matthew Atherton

We are delighted to announce that Matthew Atherton, our renowned former organist, will be playing our Father Willis organ for both the Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on 2nd August and sung Matins at 10.45am on 16th August. Expect to hear some amazing virtuosity both before and after both services.

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

Parish Secretaries:

BALDERSBY with DISHFORTH and SKIPTON-ON-SWALE - PCC Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Wharton wharton370@btinternet.com

DALTON - PCC Secretary: Mrs Hannah Bissett tel: 07739 382831
spannerb79@gmail.com

TOPCLIFFE – PCC Secretary: Mrs Roz Norris RozNorris@aol.com