Benefice Online Magazine

for the Parishes of Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth & Skipton on Swale, and Dalton

Cross Talk

November 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 1st November, 10.45am	**Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*
Sunday 8th November, 9.30am	**Breakfast Service** *with croissants & coffee*
Sunday 15th November, 10.45am	**Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*
Sunday 22nd November, 9.30am	**Morning Service** *followed by refreshments*
Sunday 29th November	**No Service**

St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton



Sunday 1st November, 11am	**Family Service** *followed by refreshments*
Sunday 15th November, 11am	**Holy Communion** *followed by refreshments*

St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society



Sunday 1st November, 8.30am	**Said Holy Communion (BCP)**
6.30pm	**Choral Evensong for All Saints** *followed by refreshments and wine*
Tuesday 2nd November,7.00pm	**Compline for All Souls**
Thursday 5th November, 11am	**Midweek Morning Prayer** *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 8th November,10.45am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Thursday 12th November, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 15th November, 10.45am Sung Matins *followed by refreshments*

Thursday 19th November, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 22nd November, 10.45am Holy Communion *followed by refreshments*

Thursday 26th November, 11am Midweek Morning Prayer *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 29th November, *10.30am 5th Sunday Benefice Service at* Bagby Church

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Reflection – *Revd Dawn Ward* *– p.4*
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Readings for All Saints' Day to the First Sunday of Advent *(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)*

Sunday 1st November, All Saints' Day

Collect

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love 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 (p343)

Revelation 7.9-17
Psalm 34.1-10
1 John 3.1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5.1-12

Sunday 8th November, The Third Sunday before Advent, Remembrance Sunday

Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (p352)

Wisdom 6.12-16 or { Amos 5.18-24

Canticle: Wisdom 6.17-20 { Psalm 70

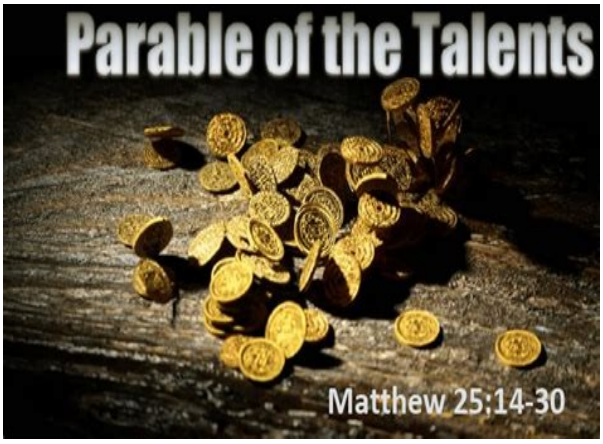
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25.1-13

Sunday 15th November : The Second Sunday before Advent

Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him
in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (p356)

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18

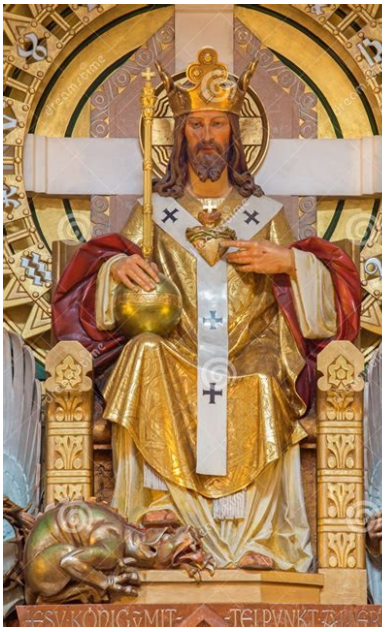
Psalm 90.1-8, [9-11,] 12 or Psalm 90.1-8

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25.14-30

Sunday 22nd November : Christ the King, The Sunday next before Advent

Collect
Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (p360)

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95.1-7a, [7b]

Ephesians 1.15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25.31-46

Year B begins

Sunday 29th November : The First Sunday of Advent

Collect
Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (p377)

Isaiah 64.1-9

Psalm 80.1-7, [16-18]

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Gospel: Mark 13.24-37

Reflection



On November the 1st we celebrate the feast of All Saints, followed by All Souls on November the 2nd.

What are we doing as we commemorate the saints and remember our loved ones departed? Simply put, we are remembering with gratitude those who we have known and loved who have died and gone to God before us and we are giving thanks for those deemed to be saints and asking for their prayers as we try to live a good Christian life.

The saints are those named by the church as being good examples to us of how to live a life dedicated to the service of Christ and to God's people. They range from the obscure and eccentric to the known and remembered. They are remembered by the Church and us as an encouragement in how we attempt to live our lives in the light of Christ. Like us the saints are flawed and all too human but that I think can be more of a help than a hindrance as we can see in them ourselves and we can be encouraged in the lives we are trying to live.

Alongside the saints we are also remembering the departed.

A most helpful comment comes from the late Cardinal Basil Hume, who once wrote that he believed that at the point of death we get to whisper into God's ear all the things we want to tell him, with the opportunity to say sorry for the things we got wrong, knowing that as we do so we are fully accepted and welcomed into his loving embrace.

As helpful as this comment may be it does not, however, remove the pain of loss and separation that we feel when our loved ones die. That pain is often raw for a long time and I actually think that one never really gets over it but learns to live with the pain better as time passes. The one thing we never do is to forget those we have loved and lost – they remain alive in our memories, hearts and consciousness. What this means is that every time we think of them be it with tears or with laughter, or when we do something they taught us, we keep their memory alive and in doing so bring ourselves comfort.

There is a funeral prayer that talks of using the time that we have left aright:

"Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and the grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth. Lead us to repent of our sins, the evil we have done and the good we have not done; and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

This prayer reminds us that we all pass through this life quite quickly and that we should try and make the most of it as we do so. We need to regularly reflect upon our lives and to give thanks for the good things and to make amends for the things we got wrong wherever we can.

It is a prayer that encourages one not to live one's life with regrets and to get on and do the things we want to do. We cannot change the past but we can apologise for it, we live in the present and we can deal with things as they arise and we can hope for the future and perhaps control it to some extent too.

Our commemoration of All Souls encourages us to remember our loved ones both with smiles and sorrow and it tells us not to squander the time we have left. I also think it says to us not to worry about what we may or may not leave behind either. For what we leave behind is ultimately decided by those who are left, for it is they who remember what is important to them about us.

The saints did not know that they would be declared 'saintly' - it was after their death that others decided their lives merited that honour. This does not mean that we should not try to live a good life, far from it in actual fact because I suspect we would all like the memories we leave behind for others to be good ones and who knows thy might think us saintly too!

With every blessing,

Reverend Dawn

Sledmere and the Sykes Family



Sledmere is a village in East Yorkshire about 7 miles north-west of Driffield on the B1253 road. At its heart is Sledmere House an elegant Georgian country houses which for over 250 years has been the seat of the Sykes family.

The Sykes family's rise to prominence began in the city of Kingston upon Hull. In the 17th and early 18th centuries, the family built its fortune through the wool trade, shipping, and Baltic commerce. The pivotal moment came in 1748, when Richard Sykes, a prosperous Hull merchant, married Mary Kirkby, sister of Mark Kirkby, a wealthy Hull merchant who acquired the whole of Sledmere in twelve separate purchases over 25 years from 1721. The village was left to Richard Sykes when Mark Kirkby died in 1748 and has remained in the Sykes family ever since. This marriage transformed the Sykes family from urban merchants into landed gentry.

Richard Sykes and his descendants invested heavily in their new estate, reshaping it into one of the largest and most influential landholdings in the region. Their wealth allowed them to commission ambitious building projects, improve agricultural productivity, and engage in philanthropic works that would leave a lasting mark on the Wolds.

In 1751, Sir Richard Sykes demolished the previous Manor House at Sledmere, which had existed since medieval times, and built a new mansion. He also planted some 20,000 trees on

the Wolds about his new home. He left no male heir however and on his death the estate passed to his brother Mark Sykes. Sir Mark's son, Sir Christopher Sykes, 2nd Baronet, MP for Beverley, greatly expanded the estate. He and his wife bought and enclosed huge areas of land for cultivation, built two new wings to the house, and he commissioned Capability Brown, the celebrated landscape designer, to remodel the parkland, creating sweeping vistas, tree-lined avenues, and ornamental features that still define the estate today. Sir Christopher left a vast estate of nearly 30,000 acres and a large mansion set in its own 200 acres of parkland, which survives in the family to the present day. Sir Christopher also employed Joseph Rose, the most celebrated plasterer of his day, to decorate Sledmere. The result has been called among the finest plasterwork in England.

Throughout the 19th century, successive generations of the Sykes family expanded and embellished the estate. They were known for their agricultural innovation, introducing modern farming techniques and improving tenant farmers' conditions. The family also invested in the village of Sledmere, building cottages, a school, and a church, St Mary's, which contains remarkable stained glass and memorials.

One of the most notable figures of this era was Sir Tatton Sykes, 4th Baronet (1772–1863), a renowned breeder of racehorses and shorthorn cattle. His passion for equestrian pursuits brought prestige to the estate and contributed to Yorkshire's reputation in the racing world.



Sir Tatton was reported to stand six feet tall and weighing a muscular 11 stone maximum. He was renowned as a boxer with a punch that was not forgotten in a hurry. Two drovers very much misjudged him when he was on a sheep buying visit to Pickering. Thinking he was a 'toff' who could be intimidated, one of the drovers reached past him at a bar and took his pitcher of ale and drank it. Sir Tatton ordered another only to have the incident repeated by the other drover. It is reported that Sir Tatton sighed gently and quietly ordered another drink. He watched as the first drover made a grab for it and drank it. Sir Tatton waited until the drink was finished then told the man to stand up. He did so and Sir Tatton hit him, a straight left to the solar plexus. The man tried to return the blow, but Sir Tatton put up his guard and delivered a succession of piston-like jabs to the man's head and face. A swift uppercut from Sir Tatton finished the fight. The second drover then got up to join the fight but within seconds had received the same treatment. The second drover broke off the fight and ran out of the bar with his colleague crawling out after him. Sir Tatton is reported to have smiled at the barmaid and quietly ordered another drink.

Locally Sir Tatton is maybe best remembered as starting a major church building and restoration project. Between 1856 and 1913, no fewer than 18 rural churches were built, rebuilt or restored in East and North Yorkshire, chiefly on the Wolds by Sir Tatton Sykes, and his son the fifth baronet, also Sir Tatton. They financed the building and restoration of the churches from their own family fortune, spending £15m in today's money, and employed the greatest architects of the day: men such as John Loughborough Pearson, George Edmund Street (who designed the Royal Courts of Justice in London) and Temple Moore. The result is what some believe to be one of the most important collections of small rural churches anywhere in the UK. They include St Michael and All Angels at Garton on the Wolds, with its stunning Victorian wall paintings telling the story of the Bible.



The 20th century brought both tragedy and resilience to Sledmere. In 1911, a devastating fire gutted much of the house, destroying priceless interiors and artworks. However, under the direction of Sir Mark Sykes, (1879–1919), the house was meticulously restored. Sir Mark was a man of many talents—diplomat, traveller, writer, and key figure in Middle Eastern affairs during the First World War. He is perhaps best remembered for the Sykes–Picot Agreement of 1916, which shaped the post-war boundaries of the Middle East.

Sir Mark Sykes received permission to raise the Wagoners Special Reserve as a Territorial Army unit in 1912, signing up farm labourers and tenant farmers from across the Yorkshire Wolds for war service as drivers of horse-drawn wagons. Sykes held wagon-driving competitions for his wagoners.



During the First World War, 1,127 men from the corps were called up to serve in the Army Service Corps and the Royal Engineers. Most were sent to serve on the Western Front in France, with little or no military training, and given the important logistical task of moving essential materiel: food, ammunition and equipment. Wagoners also served in Italy, Salonika and the Middle East. The Wagoners' Memorial designed by Sir Mark is to the west side of Sledmere, north of St Mary's Church and commemorates local men who served in the conflict. The last wagoner veteran died in 1993.

Today, Sledmere House remains in the hands of the Sykes family, who have adapted it to the realities of the 21st century. The estate is open to the public, offering guided tours, gardens, and seasonal events. Visitors can explore the Drawing Room, Library, and Music Room, admire the landscaped grounds, and learn about the family's history through exhibitions.

Richard Byas

In a Hawes café one day, a farmer's wife told her friend that her husband had just stopped smoking.

'My goodness, that takes some willpower I think,' said her friend.

'Indeed it does' agreed the wife 'And that's just what I've got'.



Richard Byas

Village News

Baldersby St. James Church

All Saints Day, 1st November

We also celebrate All Souls Day on the same Sunday. In church there is a list which you can fill in with names of friends and relatives who are no longer with us. It will be read out during the service and we can also light a candle for departed relatives and friends.

Remembrance Sunday

Although this is an early service, we will read out the names of young men who died in the First and Second World Wars who we remember each year.

Church Ceiling

We have good news that a Grant of £4,000 grant has been awarded to us by Yorkshire Churches Trust. Along with our generous donations of £3,500 this has covered over half the cost of the netting attached to the ceiling. So that is brilliant and the church is open again every day for anyone to drop by.

Drop In and Chat

Every Tuesday morning from 10 till 12 noon. Everyone is most welcome for a sone, coffee and a good natter. Also swap your jigsaws on the last Tuesday in the month.

Notice Board

Our very smart new oak Notice Board is in place on the left of the Lynch Gate, which holds all or church news and looks very impressive.

Susan Brown, PCC Member

Dalton Church and Village Events

Coffee Morning
November's Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 18th in the village hall, 10.30 until 12 noon, with all proceeds for Water Aid. There is no set charge, but donations will be gratefully received. Come along and enjoy a chat whilst enjoying coffee and cake

Christmas Fayre

This year's Fayre will be held in the village hall on Saturday 28th November 10am until 12 noon. Admission is £2.50 for adults, which includes a drink and mince pie or biscuit, and £2 for children, which includes a drink and mince pie or biscuit and a small gift from Santa, who we are expecting to have a helper with him! There will be various stalls, bacon butties for sale and a tombola. Everyone welcome to come along and get the Festive Spirit going!

130 Club results for October
£15 – Andrew Birkbeck (No.91); £10 – Sheila Shuttleworth (No.21), £6 – Fern Mitchell (No.110)
Sylvia Binks

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Service for All Saints, 1st November.

Our Service for All Saints at 6.30pm on Sunday 1st November will include Justorum Animae and Beati Mundi Cordae by Byrd, followed by a Bring and Share supper and wine.

A Compline Service for All Souls will be held on Monday 2nd November at 7pm. This will be an opportunity to remember family and friends who are no longer with us. Names can be added to the list in church before the service, to be read out during the service or placed on the altar. Candles will also be available to light for departed relatives and friends.

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