

Cross Talk



January 2025

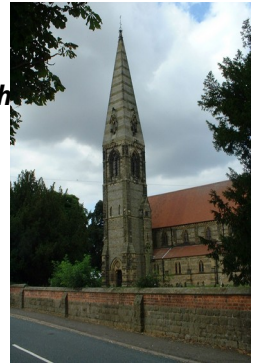
Cross Talk is published monthly by email. To receive a copy please contact kitnorris@live.co.uk

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 January, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee</i>
Sunday 12 th January, 10.45am	Plough Service <i>followed by Bring & Share Lunch</i>
Sunday 19 th January, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee</i>
Sunday 26 th January, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>followed by coffee</i>



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 5 th January, 11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th January, 11am	Family Service

Services are followed by refreshments



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Sunday 5 th January, 6.30pm	Choral Evensong <i>followed by pre-supper refreshments and wine</i>
Sunday 12 th January, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>
Sunday 19 th January, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 26 th January, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>



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Readings for the Second Sunday of Christmas to the Third Sunday of Epiphany

(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)

Sunday 5th January, The Second Sunday of Christmas

Collect

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fulness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (p765)

Jeremiah 31.7-14

Psalms 147.13-21

Ephesians 1.3-14

Gospel: John 1.[1-9,] 10-18

Monday 6th January, Epiphany

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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.

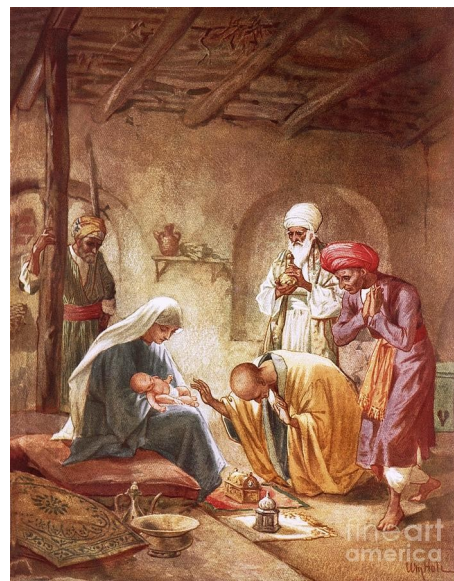
Readings (p771)

Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalms 72.[1-9,] 10-15

Ephesians 3.1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12



Sunday 12th January, The Baptism of Christ : The First Sunday of Epiphany

Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling
as your adopted children;
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 (p775)

Isaiah 43.1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8.14-17

Gospel: Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

Sunday 19th January, The Second Sunday of Epiphany**Collect**

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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 (p778)**

Isaiah 62.1-5

Psalm 36.5-10

1 Corinthians 12.1-11

Gospel: John 2.1-11

Sunday 26th January, The Third Sunday of Epiphany**Collect**

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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.

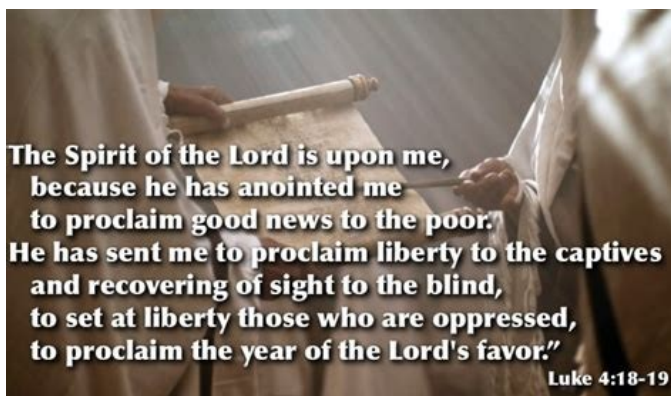
Readings (p780)

Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19.1-6, [7-14]

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

Gospel: Luke 4.14-21



A Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Year to Everyone in 2025

Reflection January 2025

As we try to wrestle with the problems in our lives, we often try to use the New Year as a time for personal new beginnings. In making New Year resolutions we often hope to change our lives (often in a rather limited way) for the better.

We often also yearn for a better world in which to live. The bidding prayer that is often used at the start of traditional carol services includes the following:

'But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in our local community. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love'.

The Christmas season and the New Year are often times when we dream of a better world, not only for ourselves but for all humanity. However, the words "You're dreaming" are rarely a compliment. They tend to mean that the person in question is out of touch with basic reality.

And yet, as our Christmas readings from the Bible show, dreams are often the way in which God is able to reveal a deeper reality, and to show possibilities that were not otherwise obvious. In the last few weeks as we have retold the Christmas story, we have heard again of Joseph being visited in a dream by the Angel Gabriel and told to go ahead with his marriage to Mary. We also hear of the wise men being warned in a dream not to go back to King Herod with news of where the baby Jesus is to be found. In both cases, God shows the dreamers a deeper reality and enables them to see a way forward that they hadn't previously considered.



In his famous 'I have a dream' speech, Martin Luther King invited us to see a deeper reality, one with possibilities for a different way of being. He dreamt of a world where his four young children 'will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.' At the time his speech seemed to be deeply out of touch with the reality of life in so many parts of America, but in his dream Martin Luther King invited his listeners to be those who travelled the next part of their journey by a different route.

Martin Luther King's speech is still incredibly powerful and moving, not least because his dream has not yet been fully realised.

So, to have a dream is not somehow to be detached from reality, but to be ready to plot a different course. For Joseph his dream meant taking Mary as his wife and becoming stepfather to Jesus. For the wise men, it meant being willing to change their plans and to journey home by a different road.

I wonder what we may dare to dream for in 2025. And as we dream how our own lives may change and how the world around us may be different; I wonder if we dare take the risk of seeking after God's will and then be prepared to respond by taking a different road?

As we begin this new year, may we dream of lives lived well with God and with those around us; and as we begin to see those deeper possibilities, may we have the courage to take that risk of faith and step boldly into a genuinely transfiguring new year.

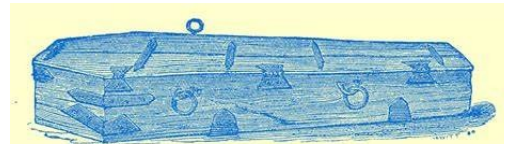
Richard Byas



Parish Coffins

Just as some church jobs such as 'dog whippers' and 'sluggard wakers' have ceased to exist in today's church, so have some other features which were commonplace in previous centuries. One such feature is the parish coffin.

For the poor who were unable to afford a coffin and for the sake of decency and decorum, deceased members of the church were placed in the Parish



Coffin and taken to the churchyard for interment. Most such coffins have been destroyed but the church of All Saints and St John in Easingwold still has its parish coffin which is kept as a curiosity. Other churches where Parish Coffins were still present towards the end of the Victorian era were at Stockton-on-Tees, Howden in the East Riding of Yorkshire and St Oswald's at Durham. When most Parish Coffins were used, the deceased was removed from the coffin at the graveside and placed in the grave in a simple shroud. The coffin was then returned to its place of storage to await its next customer. However, there is on record Parish Coffins which had hinged floorboards. With its inhabitant in-situ it would be placed over the grave, then the base was opened to deposit the deceased in the grave (but as no such examples still exist this may be nothing more than a rumour!)

The purpose and use of parish coffins was disliked by everyone, particularly the poor, and to avoid the indignity of a pauper's funeral or one that used the parish coffin, funeral clubs or guilds were established.

Members paid a monthly or annual subscription, and the idea was to save sufficient for one's funeral; if this failed, then the club would pay and recoup the cost from its members or make use of its own savings account. In 1840, the congregation of St Hedda's Catholic Church in Egton Bridge asked their parish priest to find out more about the guilds. He did so and founded The Holy Guild of St Joseph and St Hedda. Among its functions was to encourage its members to plan ahead and save for their funerals, and if they could not afford to pay, the guild would ensure that none of its members would suffer the indignity of a pauper's funeral, particularly one without a coffin.



The Egton Bridge Guild was unique because it continued to function long after the others had ceased (probably due to the spread of life insurance policies). Most of the guilds across the country had closed by the end of the 19th century but The Holy Guild of St Joseph and St Hedda continued well into the 21st century being disbanded in 2009.

Today if someone dies in destitution or without any family to arrange a funeral, the local authority has a statutory duty to provide a coffin and engage a funeral director to transport

them with dignity to either a crematorium or cemetery. Known as "public health funerals", a simple service is held before the person is laid to rest.

Richard Byas

A Secular Celtic Blessing

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.



Baldersby St. James Church Events

Everyone is welcome to all our services – our Plough Service was well attended and much enjoyed last year, remembering our land and food supplies.

Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Held on the 4th Tuesday of the month during our Coffee and Chatter, 10am – 12 noon, we are having an exchange of jigsaws, so please bring along any you would like to swap. We have lots of jigsaw enthusiasts so this is an opportunity to complete new ones without having to buy them. The first event is Tuesday 28th January.

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Our Churchwarden and PCC at St. Columba's are delighted that, as part of her training for ministry, Revd Dawn Ward will join us in the New Year on a more formal basis, having accepted a temporary placement with us as Assistant Curate.

The Revd Dawn will already be familiar to many parishioners and churchgoers through her presence at local events, her contribution to the life of Topcliffe Academy, and her personal support and involvement in pastoral care for several local families.

We hope that she will enjoy her time with us and that her placement will be a fulfilling, happy and fruitful one.

Dalton Events

Domino Drive in the village hall on Saturday 25th January at 7pm, admission £2, which includes tea and biscuits at the interval. There will also be a raffle.

A Date for your Diary - Cottage Pie and Pudding Lunch on Sunday 9th March. More details next month.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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

There is currently no Vicar of the parishes. Until one is appointed, please contact our Area Dean,

Rev'd Mary Rolls, mob: 07877 213327 email: mary.rolls@mowbraydeanery.org.uk

BALDESBY 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