

Cross Talk



April 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 6th April, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>with refreshments</i>
Sunday 13th April, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with coffee and croissants</i>
Sunday 20th April, 10.45am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion <i>with refreshments</i>
Sunday 27th April, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>with refreshments</i> <i>Everyone very welcome</i>



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 6th April, 11am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Friday 18th April, 2.30pm	Good Friday Service <i>(short service)</i>
Sunday 20th April, 11am	Easter Day Holy Communion



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Sunday 6th April, 6.30pm	Choral Evensong <i>followed by pre-supper refreshments and wine</i>
Wednesday 9th April, 7pm	Lent Compline
Sunday 13th April, 10.45am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>
Wednesday 16th April, 7pm	Lent Compline
Friday 18th April, 2.00pm	Good Friday Reflection <i>with Revd Robert Williamson</i>
Saturday 19th April, 7.00pm	Easter Vigil and Choral Eucharist for Easter <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>
Sunday 20th April	No Service
Sunday 27th April, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>



April Reflection - Richard Byas p.5

Saint George - Richard Byas p.7

Village News – p.8

Readings for the 5th Sunday of Lent to 2nd Sunday of Easter

(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)

Sunday 6th April, 5th Sunday of Lent

Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 (p834)

Isaiah 43.16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3.4b-14

Gospel: John 12.1-8



Sunday 13th April, Palm Sunday

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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 (p838)

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Psalms 31.9-16, [17-18]

Philippians 2.5-11

Gospel: Luke 22.14-23.56 or Luke 23.1-49



Friday 18th April, Good Friday

Collect

Almighty Father,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ
was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

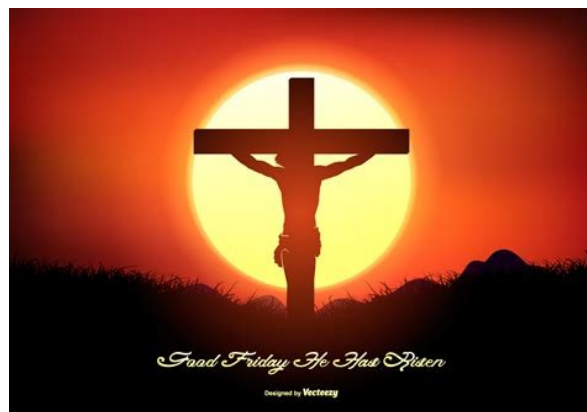
Readings (p860)

Isaiah 52.13-53.12

Psalm 22 [or for shorter text use 1-11 or 1-20]

Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9

Gospel: John 18.1-19.42



Saturday 19th April, Easter Vigil

Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Readings (p873)

Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21

Canticle: Exodus 15.1b-13, 17-18

Psalm 114

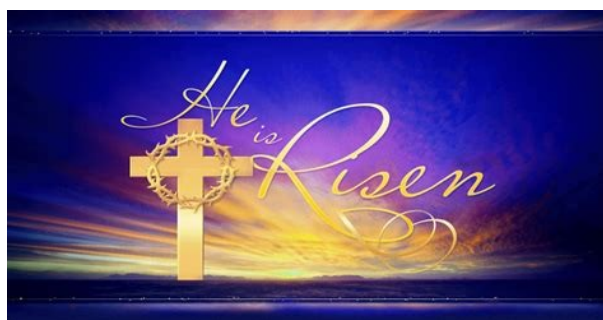
Romans 6.3-11

Gospel: Luke 24.1-12

Sunday 20th April, Easter Day

Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.



Readings (p892)

Acts 10.34-43 or Isaiah 65.17-25

Psalm 118.[1-2,] 14-24

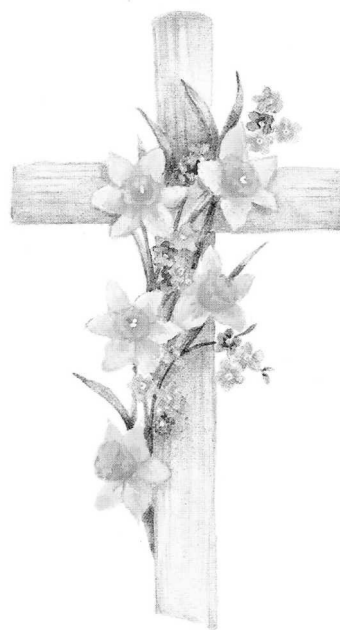
1 Corinthians 15.19-26 or Acts 10.34-43

Gospel: John 20.1-18 or Luke 24.1-12

Sunday 27th April, The Second Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (p898)

Acts 5.27-32

Psalm 118.14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1.4-8

Gospel: John 20.19-31

Reflection April 2025

We live in a hectic world and that seems to include our church life. We may have an extended build up to major festivals such as Christmas and Easter but the moment the day is passed, we then move on to what is next on our agenda. Although the church may celebrate a Christmas season, by Boxing Day society has moved on to trying to get us to book our summer holidays for the coming year and Chocolate Crème Eggs appear in the supermarkets.

Similarly, we may have taken on a Lenten discipline, either giving up something or adding something to our usual routine, but is too easy, once Easter Day is over to return to our old ways. While it is important to honour Jesus at Easter, our efforts should continue throughout the year.

In the secular world there is plenty to love about Easter; chocolate eggs, chicks and bunnies, but Easter Sunday holds a much deeper meaning as we remember the love Christ showed humankind when he gave the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. He is risen from the dead, so we truly have reason to celebrate!



So, while this special day offers a valuable reminder and reason to celebrate, it should by no means be the only day on which we show our gratitude.

The resurrection story can be told throughout the year, for this story forms the basis of our faith. We know that, in Christ, death can be defeated and give way to everlasting life. By remembering this throughout the year, we can find greater joy in the blessings of everyday

life. Christ's resurrection gives us a reason to live not only for today, but to sustain hope in our future, no matter how difficult the circumstances we currently face.



As we remember what Jesus has done for us, acts of compassion that were part of our Lenten discipline should continue as we show compassion for others. We know that Jesus loves us even though we continue to sin and fall short of his high standards and although it is impossible for us to achieve His level of unconditional love, we can do our best to copy his example, even when this proves challenging. We can also commit to continue to practice regular prayer and Bible

reading throughout the year.

At Easter, the season of spring means we are surrounded by new beginnings with lambs in the fields, bird song in the air and plants bursting into flower giving us a fresh sense of optimism. As time goes by, however, that can begin to give way to a less appreciative way of life so to celebrate Easter year-round is to keep the hope of that special day alive, even as the seasons change.

This Easter, we should go beyond the eggs and treats to find a deeper, more meaningful experience. We need to remind ourselves that we can find great hope and fulfilment in Christ's remarkable feats not only on Easter Sunday but throughout the year.

Richard Byas

St. George of England



Every nation has its own 'Patron Saint' who in times of great peril is called upon to help save the country from its enemies. St George is the Patron Saint of England, St David of Wales, St Andrew of Scotland and St Patrick of Ireland.

George is also the Patron Saint of Ethiopia, of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and is also one of the Patron Saints of the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo and of Georgia.

However, for over a period of 300 years the Patron Saint of England was actually an Englishman, St. Edmund, or Edmund the Martyr, the Anglo-Saxon King of East Anglia. Edmund fought alongside King Alfred of Wessex against the pagan Viking and Norse invaders until 869/70 when his forces were defeated. Edmund was captured and ordered to renounce his Christian faith and share power with the Norsemen, but he refused. Edmund was bound to a tree and used as target practice by the Viking bowmen before being beheaded.

It was King Edward III who made George the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350, and the cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt in northern France with Shakespeare making sure that nobody would forget St. George, finishing King Henry V's pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!'

Very little is actually known about St. George's life, but it is thought he was a high-ranking officer in the Roman army who was killed in around AD 303. The Diocletian Persecution of 303, was aimed at Christians among the professional soldiers of the Roman army and is of

undisputed historicity. The widespread veneration for St George as a soldier saint from early times had its centre in Palestine at Diospolis, now Lydda, where St George was apparently martyred.

In the Greek tradition, George was executed by decapitation on 23 April 303 (hence 23rd April being his saint's day). The story goes that a witness of his suffering convinced Empress Alexandra of Rome to become a Christian as well, so she joined George in martyrdom.

The earliest known record of the legend of Saint George and the Dragon occurs in the 11th century, in a Georgian source, reaching Catholic Europe in the 12th century. The legend tells that a fierce dragon was causing panic at the city of Silene, Libya, at the time George arrived there. To prevent the dragon from devastating people from the city, they gave two sheep each day to the dragon, but when the sheep were not enough, they were forced to sacrifice humans, elected by the city's own people. Eventually, the king's daughter was chosen to be sacrificed, and no one was willing to take her place. George saved the girl by slaying the dragon with a lance. The king was so grateful that he offered him treasures as a reward for saving his daughter's life, but George refused it and insisted he give them to the poor. The people of the city were so amazed at what they had witnessed that they all became Christians and were baptized.



In the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the Devil. When the legend came to England, the site of George slaying the dragon moved to the flat-topped Dragon Hill in Uffington, Berkshire, and it is said that no grass grows where the dragon's blood trickled down!

Belief in an apparition of George heartened the Franks at the Battle of Antioch in 1098, and a similar appearance occurred the following year at Jerusalem. The chivalric military Order of Sant Jordi d'Alfama was established by King Peter of Hungary, and by Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor. When Edward III of England put his Order of the Garter under the banner of George, in 1348, George becoming the patron saint of England was aided by the very fact that the saint had no physical connection with England, and no specifically localised shrine, as that of Thomas Becket at Canterbury or Edmund of East Anglia. As a result, numerous shrines were established throughout the country during the late fifteenth century, and as he did not become closely identified with a particular occupation or with the cure of a specific malady, he proved to be a more universal patron saint for the country than any of the native saints.

One beautiful Sunday morning the vicar announced to the congregation:
'brothers and sisters I have here in my hand three sermons....a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes and a £5 sermon that lasts one hour .

Now before I preach, we'll take the collection and see which sermon I'll deliver'.



Baldersby St. James Church Events

Coffee and Chat

Every Tuesday morning between 10am and 12 noon we meet up in church to chat and eat Sheelagh's delicious cheese scones. On the last Tuesday of the month we have a Jigsaw swap so do bring any jigsaws you have to swap.

St James' Church

Church Spire – Last Autumn Stone Tech put ladders up our Spire in order to remove the bush that was well lodged near the top. While up there they checked the weather vane at the very top, and also the pointing, and decided we needed to repoint the top three metres and also round the weather vane and put a lead capping on to prevent water seeping into the tower. In March they completed this work and we are now waterproof. The work cost £6,000 but luckily we received grants for half the cost which was brilliant.

Windows – In 2025 we are hoping to achieve grants to restore the four small windows along from the kitchen which get the worst of the weather. No doubt it will take a couple of years but we are doing very well with our repairs. Thanks are due to everyone who helps, donates and keeps our enthusiasm up – especially when we are praying for grants!!

Happy Easter to you all.

Susan Brown
Baldersby St James PCC

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Compline services continue during Lent: on Wednesdays 2nd April, 9th April and 16th April, at 7pm. Everyone is most welcome to join us for these short, contemplative services.

Good Friday 18th April at 2pm – Good Friday Reflection with Revd Robert Williamson.

Easter Eve Vigil 19th April at 7pm - Easter Vigil and Choral Eucharist for Easter led by Revd Robert Williamson.

Dalton Church and Village Events

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 19th April 11am until 3pm at Dalton Village Hall.

Family Race Night at the village hall on **Saturday 5th April** at 6.30pm. If you would like to buy a horse contact Eleanor on 07841 036340.

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