

Cross Talk



May 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 4th May, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 11th May, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with coffee and croissants</i>
Sunday 18th May, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 25th May, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>followed by refreshments</i> <i>Everyone very welcome</i>



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 4th May, 11am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 18th May, 11am	Family Service <i>followed by refreshments</i> <i>All are most welcome</i>



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Sunday 4th May, 8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
6.30pm	Choral Evensong <i>followed by pre-supper refreshments and wine</i>
Thursday 8th May, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>with refreshments and fellowship</i> <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 11th May, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>
Thursday 15th May, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 18th May, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 15th May, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>with refreshments and fellowship</i> <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>
Sunday 25th May, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>
Thursday 29th May, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>with refreshments and fellowship</i> <i>led by Revd Dawn Ward</i>



May Reflection - Richard Byas p.4

Knaresborough Castle - Richard Byas p.6

Village News – p.8

Readings for the 3rd Sunday of Easter to 7th Sunday of Easter

(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)

Sunday 4th May, 3rd Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained
by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and 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.

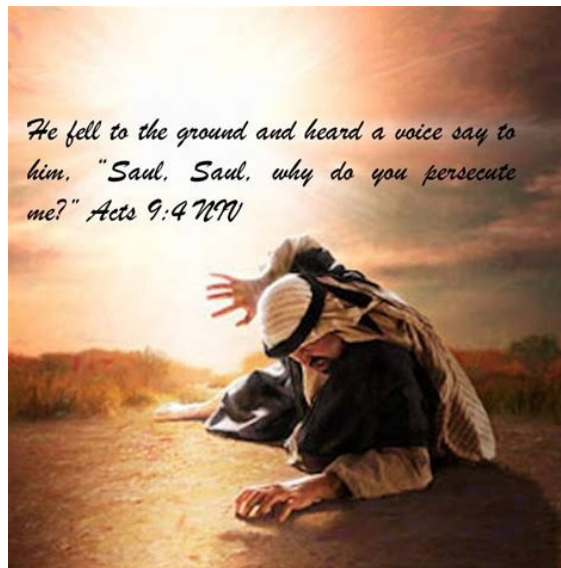
Readings (p902)

Acts 9.1-6, [7-20]

Psalm 30

Revelation 5.11-14

Gospel: John 21.1-19



Sunday 11th May, 4th Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings (p905)

Acts 9.36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7.9-17

Gospel: John 10.22-30



Sunday 18th May, The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (p908)

Acts 11.1-18

Psalm 148.1-6, [7-14]

Revelation 21.1-6

Gospel: John 13.31-35

Sunday 25th May, The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
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 (p911)

Acts 16.9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21.10, 22-22.5

Gospel: John 14.23-29 or John 5.1-9



Thursday 29th May, Ascension Day

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son
our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings (p914)

Acts 1.1-11 or Daniel 7.9-14

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1.15-23 or Acts 1.1-11

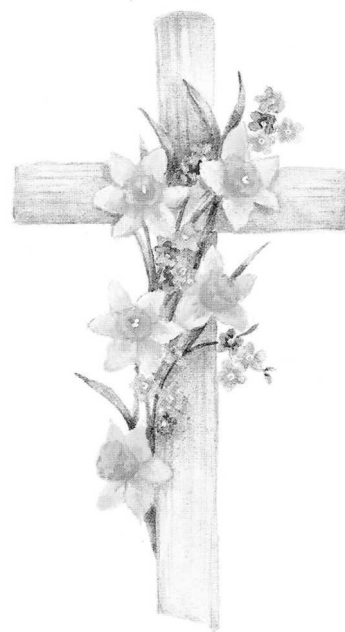
Gospel: Luke 24.44-53

Sunday 1st June, The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Collect

O God the king of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place

where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (p911)

Acts 16.16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Gospel: John 17.20-26

Reflection May 2025

Listening to the news recently, it would seem that the new American government believes that money can be used to solve every problem – or at least the 47th President of the United States does.

Tariffs on imported goods, the American public are being told, will help solve the country's trade imbalance with other countries and bring manufacturing jobs back to the USA. It will also substantially increase the government's income. In reality tariffs will put up the cost of products to American consumers in the short term and if industry does start to make more products in the USA they will still be more expensive than the imported products – cost was the main reason production went abroad in the first place as well as the citizens of the USA not wanting factory work, if recent polls are to be believed.



A treaty with Ukraine for the USA to harvest Rare Earth Minerals is seen by the American government as a way of guaranteeing Ukraine security after the war as 'Russia would not dare attack areas where American citizens are working'. A business solution to a 'Special Military Operation' whose main aim was to replace the current Ukrainian government with one that would do Russia's bidding.

When well used, money can be a blessing; when it is seen as the sole answer to complex problems, we may find that the power of money is less than the present President of the USA believes.

In his first letter to a young church leader called Timothy, the apostle Paul says, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil”. It is a part of a passage where Paul is warning about the dangers of becoming obsessed by money and making getting rich the focus of life, rather than living well with God and with other people by learning to be content with having enough for the necessities of food and clothing.

And yet even the Church of England seems to focus so much time and effort in encouraging parishioners to give more money to support the church’s work. It is true that how we choose to use our money gives us an insight into our hopes and fears, our dreams and our priorities. And whilst as Christians the church should be a priority, we can see God’s work being done by so many individuals and organisations. Hence we need to carefully consider how we use what money we have available to donate, for the best outcome to do the work Jesus would have us do to support the poor and marginalised. As Jesus put it, ‘where our treasure is, there our heart is also’.

We do, however, also need to acknowledge that the less well-off we are, the fewer our choices, and that conversely the more resources we have the greater our choices and the greater our ability to reflect our values in the way that we live from day to day.

Getting a right perspective on money is important, because not only can money be a cause of great anxiety, it can also give opportunities for great blessing. And whether it is the church or worthy charities that are asking for our financial support, we can be made to feel guilty if we are not able to support them as we would wish.



When I was in charge of the Stewardship Committee at the church I attended in York, we made a simple request to church members every year ‘please pray about the level of your donations to church and charities’. The answer to the prayer, we pointed out, may be that you can afford to increase your giving, you may be led to leave your level of giving at the same level as now or you may need to reduce your giving because of changed financial circumstances. After prayer, all these answers are correct, the important thing is that you have prayed and sought God’s guidance.

The second part of Stewardship is the use of Time and Talents. There are many opportunities to serve in the church and the community to help others. Again, if you look at, and review what you do on a yearly basis, you may increase, decrease or not change the time you give to support church and community with whatever talents God has gifted you.

We can use money, time and talents to make a material difference in the lives of others through our open-handedness with the resources and talents with which God has blessed us, and in so doing we can be a sign, much needed in this anxious and fearful world, that it is God rather than money that solves the problems and makes the world go round.

Richard Byas

Knaresborough Castle

With superb natural defences on a rocky promontory high above the river Nidd stands Knaresborough Castle. There has been a castle in Knaresborough for over 900 years during which time it has had quite a turbulent history.

Little is known about the castle's origins but there may have been an Anglo-Saxon fortification in 'Chednaresburg'. Burg is an Old English word for a defended enclosure, and it could refer to a bank and ditch surrounding a settlement here.

The Normans built the earliest castle having recognised the superb natural defences of this rocky promontory and the first written evidence of a castle in Knaresborough in financial records dates from the reign of Henry I and shows that £11 was spent in 1129 to 1130 on strengthening the 'King's Works at Knaresborough'.

In the 1170 Hugh de Moreville and his followers took refuge at Knaresborough Castle after they had murdered Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury.

In 1204 King John took possession of the Castle and the Forest of Knaresborough as a base for his favourite sport of hunting. It was also a well-placed stronghold from which to control the rebellious barons in the north of England. Between 1204 and 1216 King John spent £1,290 to turn Knaresborough Castle into a military fortress. The castle also developed as a munitions centre; its forges were one of the country's most important manufacturers of crossbow bolts.

The castle that we can see today dates from the early 14th century. Knaresborough had become strategically important to King Edward I in his campaign against the Scots.

After the death of King Edward I, rebuilding work was completed under his son, King Edward II. His reign saw friction between powerful factions and ever-increasing raids by the Scots into northern England. This led to rebellion against the King and in 1317 Knaresborough Castle was seized by supporters of the rebel Earl of Lancaster. Records show that the King's Constable spent £55 to lay siege and eventually recaptured the castle three months later.



The next year raiding Scots advanced as far south as Knaresborough and burnt much of the town, including the parish church and priory. Knaresborough Castle, though, was not taken and remained the only point of refuge in the town.

In 1372, Knaresborough Castle came into the possession of Queen Philippa's youngest son John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster but when John of Gaunt died in 1399, King Richard II confiscated the Lancaster estates, including Knaresborough Castle. John of Gaunt's son and heir Henry Bolingbroke was disinherited and banished. Henry returned to England to claim his inheritance, a confrontation that eventually led to the downfall of King Richard II who was deposed and imprisoned. Richard spent a night as a prisoner in Knaresborough Castle, most likely in the King's Tower, before he was taken to Pontefract, where he died under mysterious circumstances.

When Henry Bolingbroke was crowned King Henry IV, the lands of the Duchy of Lancaster were brought under the control of the Crown and Knaresborough was a Royal Castle once again.

In August 1642, at the start of the Civil War, Sir Henry Slingsby put in his own garrison to secure Knaresborough Castle for King Charles I but following the Battle of Marston Moor in July 1644 when Royalist forces were defeated, Knaresborough Castle came under siege. The castle finally surrendered on 20th December 1644 when Parliamentary cannon breached the castle walls. The castle was not destroyed during the siege, but in 1646 Parliament ordered the destruction of many castles to prevent any future use by Royalist forces and by 1648, demolition had started, and Knaresborough Castle was blown up.

However the Courthouse had continued to be used, and the Keep was often used to hold prisoners, so the townspeople petitioned Parliament and complete demolition was halted. All usable stone, lead and timber from the roofs and windows were sold off to raise money for the Treasury. Many town centre buildings were built of 'castle stone'.

The castle's dramatic setting and picturesque ruins have been popular with tourists and artists since the 18th century and at the end of the 19th century the castle grounds were landscaped to form pleasure gardens to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

The castle grounds are now open to the public, free of charge, throughout the year and offer incredible views over the River Nidd and railway viaduct but there is a charge for entry to the interior remains and the Courthouse which now houses a museum. The property is owned by the monarch as part of the Duchy of Lancaster but is administered by North Yorkshire Council.



Opening hours: Summer Opening (Apr - Oct) Tuesday to Sunday: 09.30-16.30

Richard Byas

Yorkshire Humour

Young Johnnie had swallowed a shilling.

'Send for the doctor' said his mother

'No, we'll send for the vicar' said his father, 'He's the best one round here for getting money out of folks'.

Baldersby St. James Church Events

Coffee and Chat

Every Tuesday morning between 10am and 12 noon. Lots of chat with Sheilagh's yummy cheese scones. On the last Tuesday (27th May) we have the Jigsaw Swap.

Easter Services – We thank everyone who took part in our Easter Day Service, it was a very happy morning.

Windows – We have had our lower windows on the north side of church checked by York Glaziers and will soon have a detailed report so that we can apply for a faculty (permission to repair them) and research for available grants.

Susan Brown, Baldersby St James PCC

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

The new short **Thursday Morning Prayer Service** at 11am led by Rev Dawn Ward is proving popular. An opportunity for fellowship followed by chat and refreshments.

The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting will be held on Monday 19th May at 7pm in St. Columba's Church. The meeting is open to members of the Church of England and other Anglican churches on the Electoral Roll. Being on the Roll provides the opportunity to elect the churchwarden(s) and vote in the appointment of church representatives and officers for the year.

Evensong at Christ the Consoler, Newby, Thursday 22nd May at 6.30pm.



St. Columba's Church Choir will be singing evensong at this Grade 1 listed church which is in the grounds of Newby Hall, but accessible via Skelton-on-Ure village. The church was built as a memorial to commemorate the death of Frederick Vyner, brother-in-law of George Robinson, 1st Marquess of Ripon, who had been taken prisoner by Greek brigands near Athens and murdered by

them in April 1870. The church was built in the Early English style and the interior elaborately decorated using the substantial funds raised, and part paid, as a ransom to the brigands. The church was completed in 1876 and was used as the village church until 1991, but the building was made redundant and is now vested in the Churches Conservation Trust. It is well worth visiting for its magnificent architecture.

Columbatide Events. You are invited to the Choral Eucharist led by Revd Robert Williamson on Sunday 8th June at 10.45am followed at 1pm by a barbecue and trips up the church tower during the afternoon. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

Dalton Church and Village Events

Fashion Show – There will be a Fun Pop-up Shop and Fashion Show in Dalton Village Hall on Thursday 1st May, hosted by the Friends of Topcliffe School, starting at 6.30pm. For tickets and more information please contact Karen on 07875 331277. Free glass of fizz on arrival.

Pop-up Pub – on Friday 2nd May in the village hall from 7pm onwards. There will also be a pop-up pub on Friday 23rd May, when the Cherry Tones will be singing.

Future Dates for your Diary

Strawberry Teas will be held in church on Saturday 21st June, 2-4pm. There will be a selection of sandwiches and cakes as well as strawberries and cream. Come along and enjoy a lovely summer tea and chat with friends and neighbours.

Dalton Fest This year's Dalton Fest will be held at the village hall on Saturday 28th June from 2pm onwards. Many groups will be playing throughout the afternoon and evening. The bar will be open and there will be food available. Tickets will be available via the Dalton Village Facebook page or from Eleanor on 07841 036340.

Dalton Village Gala will be held on Saturday 26th July at the village hall. There will be a bouncy castle, face painting, ice cream van, kids races, kids drawing competition, a baking competition, including men's and children's categories. The bar will be open. A fun day out for everyone.

St John's Autumn Lunch will be held on Sunday 14th September, 12 for 12.30pm in Dalton village hall. Tickets will be £14, under 5s free, available from Judy on 01845 5777607.

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