

Cross Talk



October 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 4th October, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 11th October, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with croissants & coffee</i>
Sunday 18th October, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 25th October, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Friday 2nd October, 6.30pm	Harvest Festival <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 4th October, 11am	Family Service <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 18th October, 11am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Thursday 1st October, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 4th October, 8.30am 6.30pm	Said Holy Communion (BCP) Choral Evensong <i>followed by refreshments and wine</i>
Thursday 8th October, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 11th October, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 15th October, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>



Sunday 18th October, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 22nd October, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 25th October, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Thursday 29th October, 11am	Midweek Morning Prayer <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 1st November, 8.30am	Said Holy Communion (BCP)
6.30pm	All Saints Service <i>followed by refreshments and wine</i>

Harvest Reflection – Revd Dawn Ward – p.4
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Readings for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity to the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity *(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)*

Sunday 4th October, The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting 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 Proper 22 related (p323)

Isaiah 5.1-7

Psalms 80.7-14

Philippians 3.4b-14

Gospel: Matthew 21.33-46

Sunday 11th October, The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
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 23 related (p330)

Isaiah 25.1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4.1-9

Gospel: Matthew 22.1-14

Sunday 18th October : The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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 24 related (p335)

Isaiah 45.1-7

Psalm 96.1-9, [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

Gospel: Matthew 22.15-22

Sunday 25th October : The Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they maybe cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
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.

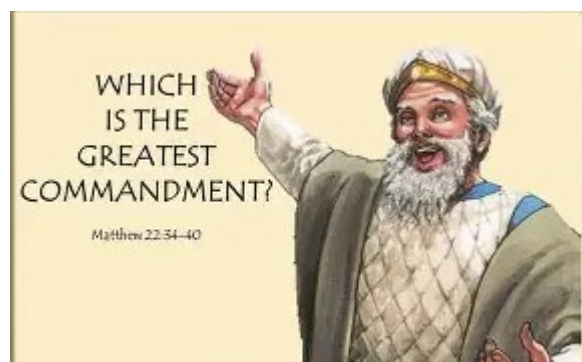
Readings Proper 25 related (p340)

Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

Gospel: Matthew 22.34-46



Harvest Reflection



Our churches have been enjoying celebrating harvest. But have you ever wondered why the Church picks specific dates to give thanks for the harvest?

Did you spot the harvest moon on Saturday 26th September? It gets its name from being the full Moon closest to the Autumn equinox. September's full Moon is traditionally associated with the harvest, because historically, the additional moonlight after sunset was useful to farmers gathering crops.

It is however fair to say that our experiences of Harvest will vary according to where we live and what we have known growing up. It may also be that our understanding of Harvest has changed over time.

One of my recollections of Harvest is watching the combine cut the corn. On one farm it was an old red Massey Ferguson with a platform on the side where the farmer's wife stood and bagged the corn. My father would often be called upon to help with repairs if it broke down. So far removed from the amazing machines of today, which need I understand a mechanic and a computer to be repaired. Around tea time someone came with big bread trays of sandwiches and cakes, work stopped and everyone was invited to join in and share. Our local farmers would allow people to glean the pea crops after the main crop had been picked by hand, which was a huge help to the poorer families in the community.

So traditionally, Harvest was a time of the community gathering to work hard at bringing in the crops which had been carefully tended throughout the summer. This would be followed by the opportunity to celebrate everyone's endeavours with a church service and a feast.

For those living in rural areas, or who work in agriculture, or even perhaps those who grow fruit and vegetables in their gardens or allotments, Harvest will continue to mean much the same. Growing produce is no mean feat, as many have discovered this year, and those who live and work on the land very much know the delicate balance of the right weather, good soil and careful timing which results in a successful crop.

This year our farmers have struggled with turbulent weather patterns, giving unseasonal bouts of wet and dry, hot and cold that have paid havoc with the growing crops and in some cases resulted in failure. I understand that the corn has come in early this year but with lower yields. Live stock farmers are already using winter feed because of the lack of grass. A bountiful Harvest therefore is a true cause for celebration, for both the work of the farmers and the providence of God.

Those who are less connected to how our food is grown and produced, will experience Harvest differently. Food is generally bought in a shop, with minimal knowledge of those whose energies have gone into producing it. Equally the ability to ship produce across the globe, means we are not always bound by what crops are in season and whether the weather has been kind this year. Some have argued that Harvest Festivals are less relevant these days, however, I disagree. I think it's very important to consciously take time to pause and give thanks for the food we so often take for granted, and those who have laboured to produce it, whether that be in this country or abroad.

Harvest Festivals have evolved quite a bit in recent years, perhaps with a greater emphasis on bringing non-perishable packets and tinned goods rather than the fat marrows, potatoes and cauliflowers of yesteryear, but the principle remains the same: to give thanks for our food, for those who have worked to produce it and for God's goodness in providing it.

Of course, our proper response to God's generosity to us is to be generous to others. Traditional Harvest Festivals included giving to the poor and needy. Today we do the same as we share our food with our Food-banks and other charities that help those who are vulnerable.

But as we give thanks for the Harvest, let us take time to reflect and give thanks for our farmers and farming communities. We are fortunate to live in an area bordered by the North Yorkshire Moors and the Yorkshire Dales. We must also remember that it is our farmers who are stewards of our beautiful landscapes, planting the fields and tending the live stock. It is the farmers who cut the hedgerows and grass verges and let us not forget snow plowing in winter.

Let us Pray

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the farmers who nurture the land and provide for our needs. Bless them with favourable weather, fruitful harvests, and the strength to endure challenges. Grant them peace in times of uncertainty and renew their spirits as they care for Your creation. Surround them with supportive communities, and may they feel Your presence in their labour. We pray for their families, their health, and their livelihoods. May Your provision overflow in their lives as they continue their faithful stewardship. Amen.

Reverend Dawn

Kilburn and St. Mary's Church

Kilburn has a long history that goes back before the Scandinavian invaders arrived in the 9th century, and there are signs also of an earlier Roman presence. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Chileburne.

The name itself probably comes from a combination of 'kil', a Celtic word for a cell or religious house (or alternatively from the Old English word 'ciele' meaning cool) and 'burn', the Anglo-Saxon term for a stream.

Interestingly, with this one exception, the smaller watercourses in the Vale of Mowbray east of the River Swale are all called 'becks', a word of Scandinavian origin.



When William the Conqueror's commissioners surveyed Kilburn in 1086, they recorded a manor held by Hugh, son of Baldric. Before the Conquest, in the time of King Edward, it was held by Arnketil. The settlement was assessed at 6 hides for tax. There was land for 3 ploughs. The recorded population was 1 head of household (so the settlement's true population was several times larger). The manor was valued at 6 shillings in 1086, down from 10 shillings in 1066.

Henry I granted the manor to Rouen Cathedral in France, but after the Dissolution of the Monasteries it ended up with the Archbishop of York. A hermit, Robert de Alneto, a monk from Whitby Abbey, lived in a hermitage at Hood Grange, 2 miles from the village. In 1138 Robert de Mowbray converted it into a Cistercian abbey, which later moved to Old Byland and then moved again to Byland 2 miles away, where the abbey ruins can still be seen.

Kilburn was historically a township and parish in the wapentake of Birdforth in the North Riding of Yorkshire. After 1837 it was part of the Thirsk and Helmsley Poor Law Unions. The parish, which covered 5,900 acres, comprised Kilburn, Oldstead, Thorpe-le-Willows, and Wass, of which Kilburn had the largest population.

The 1881 UK Census recorded the population as 387. The 2001 UK Census recorded the population as 180, of which 162 were over sixteen years old and 84 of those were in employment.



Today Kilburn is famous as the home of woodcarver Robert Thomson, the 'Mouse Man of Kilburn', and for the chalk figure of a white horse carved into the hillside above the village. The village consists of High Kilburn, situated on a hillside, and Low Kilburn in the valley on the banks of a stream.

Robert Thompson (1876-1955) was one of the most famous British woodworkers of the early 20th century. Thompson was the son of the village's carpenter and stonemason. He was sent away to become a trainee engineer at a young age but soon returned with a greater understanding of design and took

over the running of the family business after the death of his father. He was inspired by the splendid medieval carvings at Ripon Cathedral to create his own oak furniture in the British vernacular tradition. He accepted his first of many ecclesiastical commissions in 1919 from the church at Ampleforth. He 'signed' almost every piece with a small carving of a mouse. The symbol apparently came about in 1919, when Thompson joked to a fellow carver that he was 'as poor as a church mouse'. 'Mouseman' furniture has been in production for over a century and is still made by the family-run firm today, employing many of the traditional techniques used by Thompson.

Kilburn is also famous for the White Horse. The White Horse is a figure cut into the hillside to the north of the village, and visible for many miles around on a clear day. It was created in November 1857, and some accounts state that it was done by schoolmaster John Hodgson and his pupils, together with local volunteers. However, a tablet erected at the car park below it reads:

The Kilburn 'White Horse' -- This figure was cut in 1857 on the initiative of Thomas Taylor, a native of Kilburn. In 1925 a restoration fund was subscribed by the readers of the Yorkshire Evening Post and the residue of £100 was invested to provide for the triennial grooming of the figure.

Most accounts agree that thirty-three men were involved in cutting it, and 6 tons of lime were used to whiten the exposed rock.

During World War II the horse was covered over to prevent it from becoming a conspicuous navigation landmark for German bombers.

The parish church, St Mary's, was built about 1120-1130 and restored in the Victorian period though it remains very much a Norman building. It is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the district being older than both Rievaulx and Byland abbeys. The chancel arch is 12th century, and there are two 13th century grave slabs at the entrance to the north chapel. There are many items of interest in the church; a medieval window at the side of the priest door in the south wall of the chancel was probably originally dedicated to Thomas of Canterbury. The tower was added in 1667. There are 17th-century pews in the north aisle, and an 18th century memorial to eight children of Christopher and Elizabeth Sturdy. There is also a 'Breeches' bible of 1601 in a showcase made by the 'Mouseman' workshop. The Geneva "Breeches" Bible, named for its distinctive translation of Genesis 3:7, is an early modern English Protestant Bible translation. The first full edition of this Bible appeared in 1560.



The church is open every day for private prayer. Services are held at St Mary's at 10:30am every 3rd Sunday of each month and the congregation joins with local sister churches for worship on the other Sundays of the month.

Richard Byas

Many were present at the funeral today of the oldest and unfunniest comedian.
In tribute, the vicar read out one of his jokes, and the congregation had two minutes silence.



Richard Byas

Village News

Baldersby St. James Church

After a very busy few months with repairs, fund raising and services October will be a quieter month.

Book Sale

Once again, many thanks for everyone's help. We made a brilliant £5,000 which with "Gift Aid" (tax refund on giving) will give a final total of approximately £6,000. It is very rewarding that so many people wish to help keep our beautiful church in good condition.

Church Ceiling

Netting the ceiling was finished just in time for the Book Sale. It does look very inconspicuous. And will hold small pieces of plaster if any come away. The final cost was £12,701, and along with some very generous donations we have applied for a grant to Yorkshire Churches Trust, so fingers crossed we will be successful! Most importantly it means that the church is open again every day for visitors and anyone wanting to have a quiet moment with a cup of tea.

Drop In and Chat

Every Tuesday morning from 10 till 12 noon we meet in church for coffee, scones and a chat. We are open for anyone to come along and join us. If you have any fruit, veg or baking spare then do bring it along and we sell it for church repairs. Also Jigsaws to borrow if you like completing them over the winter.

Susan Brown, PCC Member

Dalton Church and Village Events

Village Autumn Lunch, organised by St. John's Church

This will be held on Sunday 11th October in Dalton Village Hall, 12 noon for 12.30pm. Cold meats, quiches, salads and potatoes will be served, followed as always by many, many delicious home-made pud's! Tickets are £14, available from Judy on 01845 577607.

Coffee Morning

October's Coffee Morning will be held in the village hall, 10.30 until 12 noon, in aid of the RNLI. There is no set charge, but donations will be gratefully received. Come along and enjoy a chat whilst enjoying coffee and cake

130 Club results for September

£15 – John Wagstaff (No.75); £10 – Bron Moorhouse (No.116), £6 – Fern (No.111)

Future Dates for your Diary

November's Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 18th 10.30 until 12 noon, with all proceeds going to Water Aid.

Dalton Christmas Fair will be held in the village hall on Saturday 28th November 10am until 12 noon, a week earlier than our usual date. There will be various stalls, tombola, a visit from Santa for the children, and bacon butties on sale. Come along and get the Christmas festivities started.

Sylvia Binks

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Farewell Address to Padre Henry

Rev Dr Henry Afful CF, Chaplain to the 4th Regiment, Royal Artillery, Topcliffe Barracks.

I am afraid that the chair of Topcliffe Parish Council Jamie Moores is unable to be with us today and so I have been asked to say a few words in his stead.

I first met Padre Henry in the run up to Christmas 2024 when I found him loitering in his Landrover outside St Columba's church. We had been without a vicar for more than four years, so when he got out of his car and I saw he was wearing a dog collar this was definitely a man of interest, and that was before I saw his trademark smile! He wanted to make contact with our vicar, which of course was not possible, so I offered myself...and the rest is history.

He was very keen to improve and deepen relationships between Topcliffe village and the Barracks and so one idea was to have the Barracks Armistice Day Service for 2025 at St Columba's, which proved to be a wonderful occasion with the church full to overflowing, the Barracks personnel having arrived on foot, in very wet conditions, and so were seen to be marching through and around the village on this important day – something I had never witnessed before in my time here.

In the run up to this working parties from the barracks were deployed on a number of occasions to do various jobs tidying up the churchyard and village. One of those was painting all accessible metalwork around the church and graveyard and I have never seen so many people make so much black paint disappear so quickly. They seemed to discover metal I knew nothing of, which could then be discovered gleaming darkly in the undergrowth.

Seeing personnel in their fatigues out and about in the village was certainly a great boost to village/barracks relations and it was a great privilege for me to be able to work with them and get to know some much better. Somehow, maybe divine providence, working parties always seemed to take place on Wednesday mornings, which meant that on the dot of 12 they could down tools and join the 'Warm Hub' lunches being served in the village hall – definitely creating more positive village/barracks interaction as well as an opportunity for them to enjoy hot food and cakes.

Padre Henry's enthusiasm seemed to know no bounds, and he was always ready with a new plan to run by me. I'd get the phone call 'John are you free to meet sometime?', to which my reply would be 'Yes of course', to which the Padre would say 'Well I'm in the car just outside your house!'.

Henry, it has been a real pleasure working with you and in doing so getting to know you as a friend and colleague helping you work through your schemes. So on behalf of Topcliffe and St Columba's we would all want to wish you and your family all the very best and a future busy with purpose and full of the infectious joy that you always spread. I should add that Jamie Moores said to me this morning that if the Village had a Key he would definitely have wanted to present you with one!

John Phillips

Church Roof Repairs

Donations of approximately £10,000 have been received, and other sources of funding are being sought.

Service for All Saints

Our Service for All Saints will be held at 6.30pm on Sunday 1st November, followed by a Bring and Share supper with finger food and wine.

A Compline Service for All Souls will be held on Monday 2nd November at 7pm.

BENEFICE DIRECTORY

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

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