

Link

Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Parish Magazine








May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'

Romans 15:13

The Link

The **Link** is the magazine and noticeboard for the Parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale, sharing news, reports and items of interest from the churches and our community. If you have something to contribute, please email it to your local correspondent or to the editor.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month.

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-  Kettlewell with Starbotton: David Nelson - DavidNelsondave@aol.com

The Link is distributed free to every household in the parish, and is also available on the Parish website at <https://www.upperwharfedalechurches.org/news-and-views.html>

If you would like to receive a copy of the Link by email, please contact the Editor at smithiwho@gmail.com

The Link is financed by advertising from local businesses, and gifts. If you would like to make a gift towards the publication of the Link, you can do so through the Parish website at www.upperwharfedalechurches.org or by scanning this QR code. Your donations to parish funds help towards publication of the Link and the upkeep of our churches.

Thank you for your contribution.



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Vicar: Revd Tom Lusty - 01756 761 072 or 07779 990279

Methodist Minister: Revd Andrew Webb – 01756 691057

Roman Catholic Priest: Fr Christopher Angel – – 01756 699000

Congregational Minister: The Revd Peter Thomas – 01756 753848

The Parish Administrator: Andrew Hitchon – 01756 380237

A Dales Prayer

May the Father's grace abound in you
as the flowing water of the beck.

May the Son's love and hope invigorate you
as the rising slopes of fell and dale.

May the Spirit's companionship be with you
as the glory of the golden meadows.

Amen

From the Vicar...

What difference does being a Christian make in our lives? Here are three suggestions. Christianity should touch us with a strange freedom, a deep liberation of heart and mind. Then a paradoxical joy, often in the face of deep sorrow. Freedom, joy ... finally, the thing that particularly concerns us at the start of a new year: hope, a deep-rooted hope.

When you share joy, you don't get less joy when you share it, it grows. The same is true of hope. As a spiritual exercise in different settings, I have encouraged people to write down three things that made them hopeful and three things that made them fearful. To think about them at the same time and to see what happens – and to discover what St Ignatius found each time when he did this. That you move on the continuum away from despair and towards hope. A hopeful trajectory: the fears diminish, the hopes increase. Try it for yourself.

What makes you fearful; what makes you hopeful? This is what Bishop Nick has to say about hope in his book *Freedom is Coming*: *"In our times we have to make the case for God as the ground of our hope. It is good to resource ourselves as we go about this task, spreading the hope"*.

The following words were said by Stephen Cottrell when he was appointed Archbishop of York:

"The one thing we should never be guilty of in the Church is being without hope. There are more reasons than ever to be hope-less today. But Christian hope isn't optimism that things may get better but confidence that the victory has already been won. The light of Christ is shining. It is close at hand. It's a new way of inhabiting this life. It doesn't mean that the terrible sorrows and the degradation and cruelty of this world have gone. It means that we approach them in a new way. Because in Christ there is a light which never goes out."



Tom

From the Churches & Villages

St Mary's, Kettlewell

January Rotas

Sidespeople

7 Pauline Thompson

14 No one required

21 No one required

28 Dave Nelson

After Service Tea/Coffee

7 June Appleton

14 No one required

21 No one required

28 Sue Nelson

Cleaning

Jaynie Smith

Flowers

Sue Nelson

church bingo evening. Thanks go to them too. Although the event was primarily a social evening, after costs £341.33 was raised for church, which was a superb achievement. Once again thank you for supporting this event and all the events we have held in 2023, and we wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year 2024.

St Mary's, Conistone

January Rotas

Sidespeople

7 Philip & Kathryn Butterfield

14 Allison Clarke & Philip Butterfield

21 Hilda Dibb & Jo Foster

Feb 4 Philip & Kathryn Butterfield

Flowers and Cleaning

7 Kathryn Butterfield

14 Kathryn Butterfield

21 Jane Pighills & Michelle Parkin-Vaughan

28 Jane Pighills & Michelle Parkin-Vaughan

Feb 4 Reem Aboulhosn

Open Church w/c

1 Jane Pighills & Michelle Parkin-Vaughan

8 Philip Butterfield

15 Lewis Adams

22 Allison Clarke

29 Jane Pighills & Michelle Parkin-Vaughan

Feb 5 Philip Butterfield

Many thanks to all those who helped to decorate the church so beautifully for Christmas and to those who contributed greenery and flowers. The donations towards the cost of flowers were also very much appreciated.

St Michael & All Angels, Hubberholme

January Rotas

Sidesperson

14 J Cowpe & S Kilvington

21 J Yarrow & L Hird

28 H & K Jeddere-Fisher

Flowers & cleaning

7 S Lusted

14 S Lusted

21 A&A Falshaw

28 A&A Falshaw

Hubberholme Church Fundraising

On behalf of the Hubberholme Church Action Group can we thank everyone who contributed and supported in any way the Christmas Bingo held in the Buck on December 5th. 39 people had supper and played 6 games of bingo. It was a fun occasion with some lovely prizes and warming supper. The Buck staff also ran a raffle and donated the raffle takings to the

January Rotas

Opening church w/c

7 Sally Smith

14 Elspeth Miller

21 Sarah Paul

28 Rebecca Ward-Dooley

4 Feb Hilary Follows

Sidesperson

7 Hilary Follows

14 Elspeth Miller

21 Not needed

28 Sally Smith

4 Feb Sarah Paul

Coffee

7 Hilary Follows

14 Elspeth Miller

21 Not needed

28 Rebecca Ward-Dooley

4 Feb

Cleaning

Elspeth and Michelle Miller

Flowers

Sally Smith

Labyrinth of a Still Mind*'I stop thinking, swim in silence, and the truth comes to me'*

Albert Einstein



KETTLEWELL CHURCHYARD MEADOW LABYRINTH

To walk a labyrinth is to step into an ancient space for the soul. Take a moment to unburden yourself of expectation. Become aware of the present moment, then ...

walking in - allow your conscious mind to rest. Walk in openness to whatever deeper awareness might come

in the centre - and along the path, open your heart and mind to receive what is there for you

as you return along the same path - what images and feelings are with you as you leave to take your place again in the world around you

The **Supermobile Library** will be in Buckden Car Park on Wednesday, 17 January from 10.00am until 12 noon.

Buckden's 2024 **Whist season** starts on Wednesday 10th and Wednesday 24th January in Buckden Village Institute. Doors open at 6.15pm and play starts at 6.45pm. there is an entry charge of £3.50 per evening which includes light refreshments and prizes. For further information please contact David Lusted on 760877 or info@dalegarth.co.uk

Kettlewell with Starbotton

Service of Thanksgiving for Julia Queen

Geoff and family repeat their sincere thanks to all who have been in touch and/or offered help. Julia was cremated at a private event in early December but a Service of Thanksgiving for her life will take place in Kettlewell Church on Saturday 2 March 2024 at 1.00 pm, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Pie, Peas, Pudding & Quiz Event**Saturday 10 February**

Kettlewell Village Hall, 7.15 for 7.30. Bring your own drink, glasses provided. Teams of six if possible or come on your own and make a team with others. Please don't be put off because you haven't five others to come with. Adults - £10, children under 16 - £5. Please state any dietary requirements when buying your ticket - available from Sue Nelson 760887 or Kathryn Butterfield 752975. Any profit for Church Funds.

Kettlewell & District Horticultural Society

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Meeting Room of Kettlewell Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 26 February. The themes for the

Photographic Section of The Show in September are 'Monuments', 'Creatures of the Yorkshire Dales National Park' and the usual 'Any Subject.' Photographs not to exceed 7" x 5" before mounting.

Kettlewell Lunch Club

Kettlewell Lunch Club will meet on Thursday 18 January at 12.30 for 12.45 in Kettlewell Village Hall. If you didn't put your name forward at the December lunch please ring or text (I prefer these modes of communication, please) Sue Nelson, 760887 land line, 07765506738 mobile, by 4pm on Sunday 14 January to reserve your place. If she's not at home when ringing her landline, you can always leave a message. The cost is £6 for two courses plus coffee/tea. Wine is available by donation. If, for any reason, you need to cancel your meal between Monday 15 and Thursday 18 January or are an absentee on the day, the meal will still need to be paid for as provisions will have already been ordered or purchased. The Lunch Club is open to anyone who is over 55 and lives in the Parish Council area of Kettlewell with Starbotton. If you are able, it would be helpful if you could assist with clearing. Thank you.



Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival Results

The Scarecrow Festival in 2023 was a great success and we have been able to give grants totalling £38,000 to local good causes.



These include the Friends of Kettlewell School, the Church and the Village Hall, as well as lots of clubs and activities that keep our village so vibrant including the cricket club, table tennis club, chess club, coffee mornings, New Year's Eve firework and

Christmas light displays, flower displays, the playground and other children's activities.

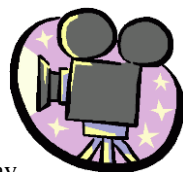
We had a fantastic array of scarecrows this year and our visitors had a wonderful time. We had lots of great feedback about the beauty of our village, the calibre of the scarecrows and the quality of the cakes in the village hall. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with the scarecrows, the car parking, the refreshments in the village hall, the stalls and in publicising our event. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to run such a successful and well-organised spectacle. We hope that many of you will be willing to support the Festival next year.

At our recent AGM, we confirmed dates for 2024 which are 10-18 August. We will be announcing the themes for next year's Festival in the New Year.

Scarecrow Festival Committee

Kettlewell Film Night

A new year, and another set of films for Kettlewell Film Night at the Village Hall. The January film is 'Wild' starring Reese Witherspoon on Saturday 13th at 7.30pm. "Driven only by sheer determination after personal tragedy, Cheryl hikes more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, alone. Wild captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddens, strengthens, and ultimately heals her."



Look out for 'The Old Oak' in February. We are also showing in February a children's film 'Elemental'. There will be two more films before the summer break; 'Wild Rose' and Michael Caine's last film 'The Great Escaper'. Hopefully something for everyone.

Due to the rising cost of the films, we are having to put up the prices to £6. But

hopefully it's still good value for money. As usual bring your own drinks and nibbles. Ice creams for sale in the interval. We look forward to welcoming you in the New Year.

Kettlewell Primary School

We've had a fantastic half term leading up to Christmas holidays. Class One have been



learning about Alaska this half term and made some wonderful Alaskan scenes, looking at human and physical features in them. Class Two have been making some fanatic boats and developing pully systems to use with them.

The whole school enjoyed a trip to Harrogate theater to watch Dick Whittington. It was a fantastic performance, and everyone enjoyed it and behavior brilliantly.

Class Two have been looking at gasses in science. They had a fun lesson learning about whether gasses weigh anything using balloons. Class One have been sewing again, they are busy making water bottle holders and decorating them using arctic colours.

We had an exciting day when we wore our Christmas jumpers and raised money for Martin's House Children's Hospice. We

had a delicious Christmas lunch cooked by our school chef Mrs. Huck. We went to a care home where Harvey and Bells's great grandma is to sing carols and read poems for everyone who was there. It brought a big smile to all the residents faces and the children enjoyed showing off their singing talents.

Everyone walked into Kettlewell to sing carols at the maypole and then in the school playground. Thank you everyone who came to watch, the children have been practicing lots, meaning it was a great performance. Well done everyone.

Thank you everyone who supported our Christmas raffle which we held at the village hall Christmas party. We had some amazing prizes donated and lots of tickets sold, we raised just over £400.

Charlotte Facer

What is an AED and do I need one??

Hopefully you won't need one, but you do need to have one readily accessible, and you must know how to use it!



An AED is an automatic external defibrillator, and it saves lives! There are more than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests every year in the UK, but fewer than one in 10 people survive. Immediate CPR and defibrillation can more than double the chances of survival, but public access defibrillators are used in less than 10% of cases.

Kettlewell with Starbotton parish council is organizing a **defibrillator training** at Kettlewell Village Hall on 22 January at 7.30pm. Do take this opportunity to learn how to use an AEDs – you could save someone's life. All are welcome including people from outside the parish. Free of charge.

Littondale

Amerdale Hall Events

Coffee & Chat

Saturday 13 January 10.30am – 12 noon

Our monthly coffee morning & opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. Coffee (or tea) and homemade baking. Payment by donation.



Coffee & Chat

The BIG Littondale Quiz

Friday 19 January, doors/bar open 7pm

The BIG Littondale Quiz is back with hot supper and bar. Teams of 4-6 people. Tickets £10 per person. Please book by Monday 15 January for catering purposes. Contact; Mark Houston (770419), Ruth Cowan (770293), Sarah Paul (770282) or Gill Scott (07920 766272).



Littondale's Got Talent 2024!

Saturday 24 February

It's time to get your act together & register your interest in Littondale's Got Talent 2024. If you wish to take part, please let us know by Saturday 3 February. See contact details above. Audience tickets £10 per person. Book now to avoid disappointment!

Parish wide & beyond

Friends of the Dales

Here are the latest FREE online talks from environmental campaigning charity, Friends of the Dales

Online Talk: Access the Dales

Wednesday 17 January 4.30pm

Since becoming a wheelchair user in 2011, Debbie North has campaigned tirelessly to break down barriers and promote

countryside accessibility for all. Founding the charity, [Access the Dales](#), whose motto is 'making the inaccessible accessible', it has fund raised to now offer nine 'free to borrow' all terrain wheelchairs available from designated sites across the Dales. Debbie was also appointed Cabinet Office Disability and Access ambassador for the Countryside in 2022. This talk offers a unique opportunity to learn about the successes and improvements Debbie's campaigning has achieved, along with the challenges still to surmount.

Online Talk: Breeding Waders of the Yorkshire Dales

Wednesday 21 February 4.30pm



Photo: Anne Shadrake

In this online talk, Ian Court, Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, will outline the status of the key upland breeding wader species and how important areas such as the Yorkshire Dales National Park are for them. He will also look at the current threats, detail the habitat requirements that waders need and summarise some of the conservation work that is being undertaken to protect them. Finally, insight will be offered into how the Authority's Nature Recovery Strategies will help to benefit a wide range of habitats and species including breeding waders.

To book Friends of the Dales events, go to: www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/events You can also sign up for their free e-newsletter on the website homepage.

Funk Wire Dates 2024

Still fortnightly (except for March) at 2pm in Conistone with Kilnsey Hall.

- Thursday 15 February
- Thursday 29 February
- Thursday 14 March
- Thursday 4 April
- Thursday 18 April

Settle Orchestral Society

Our Spring concerts will take place in Skipton and Settle as follows:

- Saturday 16 March at 3.30 pm, Christ Church, Skipton
- Saturday 23 March at 3.30 pm, Settle Parish Church

NB Both concerts will be in the afternoon rather than the evening this term!

We will be playing:

- Weber Der Freischütz Overture
- Grieg Peer Gynt Suite No. 1
- Elgar Cello Concerto, soloist Bob Buller

Why not come along to one of them, to enjoy an exhilarating evening, support local musicians and help keep live music alive? Full details of future concerts and contacts are on our website at www.settleorchestra.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Rainfall for November 2023

Arncliffe: 219.7mm/8.65ins

November rainfall over last 10 years

10-year avg: 196mm/7.72ins

Highest: 498.3mm/19.6ins (2015)

Lowest: 123.8mm/4.87ins (2021)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION	
<small>(Notice 2: This notice is for publication in local newspaper if Certificate C or D is completed)</small>	
Proposed development at:	
Name or flat number	
Property number or name	Town Head Barn
Street	Buckden Wood Lane To The Ghyll
Locality	Buckden
Town	
County	
Postal town	Skipton
Postcode	BD23 5JA
Take notice that application is being made by:	
Organisation name	National Trust
Applicant name	Title Mrs Forename Natasha
	Surname Rowland
For planning permission to:	
Description of proposed development	
Change of Use of Town Head Barn to accommodate residential or holiday accommodation	
Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted:	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Local Planning Authority address:	Planning services , Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL83DL
Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.	
Signatory:	
Signatory	Title Mrs Forename Natasha
	Surname Rowland
Signature	
Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	30/11/2023
Statement of owners' rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.	
Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.	
'Owner' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.	
'Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.	
This notice is for publication in a local newspaper.	
<input type="button" value="Print Form"/>	



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neil@burn-safe.co.uk



Hope for Gaza

Many people are seriously concerned about the situation in Gaza. Violette Mubarak is the director of The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, an Anglican project offering practical help and hope to children in Gaza. The Centre works with two programmes, one from West Bank and Gaza, the other in Jerusalem and Israel supporting access for Palestinian children from West Bank and Gaza to health care. It's a community-based rehabilitation centre, with two programmes that support the work; an outreach programme in the West Bank and Gaza and a mother and family empowerment programme, which teaches mothers to be the therapist for her own child and so continue treatment through her.

Violette and others working with the Anglican Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City are offering hope in this time of crisis. Following a recent call with the Anglican Health & Community Network, she sent a message describing the situation.

“Indeed, we live in a dire situation, and it is beyond imagination. Most of the Gazan people are suffering and including our staff at Al Ahli hospital in Gaza. Please pray for the safety of the people and the children in Gaza and also for the wisdom of the governments during this period of time.”

Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem has been reporting regularly on the situation in Israel and Gaza

“The barbaric attack on Israel on 7 October and the subsequent intense military response against Hamas in Gaza has resulted in the deaths of more than 10,000

people. The shock experienced by Israelis can't be underestimated. The attacks were the largest number of Jews murdered in a single day since the Holocaust. And, as we write, more than 200 people captured in the attacks are still being held hostage.”

“The trauma suffered by innocent Palestinian residents of Gaza can't be underplayed either. Homes, hospitals, schools and basic infrastructure have been destroyed or seriously degraded. Basic supplies like water, food, medicine and electricity are scarce. Our own al-Ahli Arab Hospital, which just before the war signed an agreement with the Lutheran World Federation to increase its capacity for cancer treatment, has also been badly damaged as missiles fly back and forth between Israel and Gaza.”

“Please continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and peace, justice and security for all the peoples of the Holy Land, and also do all that you can to promote and support the international joint appeal for al-Ahli Arab Hospital, which will need a significant financial boost to enable it to continue supporting the people of Gaza in the weeks, months and years ahead.”

Following a mission to the Al Ahli Hospital on 9 December to deliver medical supplies, assess the situation in the hospital, and transfer critically injured patients to a hospital in the south, WHO issued a statement on the situation in the Al Ahli Hospital and called for protection of humanitarian space in Gaza.

Sally Smith, Anglican Community Health Network



A Hopeful Place

As I write this, as I look out my study window, which is covered by scaffolding, as it has been for quite a while this year. There have been some major refurbishments here at Scargill to the Old House and the Marsh Lounge as well as a new woodland car park and sewage system. I am sure many of you have been aware of the many vans and lorries that have been coming up and down the lane so it will be our delight to invite you up to Scargill House in the Spring to celebrate with us. The building work is going to be finished in January, for which I am very glad! It is tiring having builders on site for over six months, however wonderful they have been. Yet the building refurbishment is not an end in itself; our renewed buildings will help us in our service of hospitality to all.

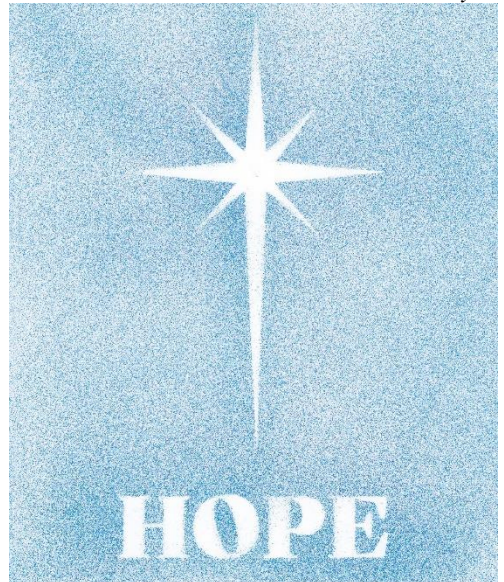
Scargill over the last sixty years has been a hopeful place. Why? you may well ask...I think it is about trying our very best to keep Jesus Christ at the centre of who we are. Community life is about relationships – relationships with each other, the many guests who come through our doors every year because at our heart is ‘lives shared-lives transformed’ with Jesus at the centre.

Loving open relationships within our own communities will bring us hope and courage as we enter into this new year. Where we see hearts and attitudes hardening, where we see ‘reckless hate’ in conflicts round the world, it is the transforming love of God that brings me hope. Terry Eagleton, a theologian and serious thinker, writes: "what is most fearful about God is his love. God is a shattering, traumatic, sweetly intolerable force who breaks and remakes human subjects by offering them something of his own frighteningly unconditional friendship."

And hope is very different from optimism. Optimism is, in one sense, wishful thinking - a belief that things will get better. Hope goes deeper and is more realistic. Hope doesn't depend on a set of circumstances working out but keeps us constant whatever the circumstances life throws at us. That's why Christian hope is rooted in the character and person of God, not in a formula for a successful life - a former Bishop of Durham put it beautifully and succinctly ‘God is. God is as he is in Jesus. So there is hope.’

What's my hope for 2024? Time for deepening relationships, courage to share our fears and hopes, time to consider the love of God as St Paul puts it, ‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit’ Romans 15:13

*Revd Canon Phil Stone, Scargill
Community*





Hope in the Parish

Over the last 40 years Judy Burgin and Sue Nelson have served as churchwardens at Kettlewell and Parochial Church Council (PCC) members for the churches at Kettlewell and Conistone, and more recently, the four churches that make up the united parish of Upper Wharfedale and Littondale. Judy's grandfather, Ernest Cumberland, served as a PCC member and church warden at Kettlewell from the 1950s to the 1970s, so it's perhaps not surprising that she was invited to join the PCC in 1983 shortly after she moved to Kettlewell. Sue also has a long history in the village, having joined the Scargill community in 1968, she left in 1971 after marrying at the chapel, and returned in 1975 to live in Kettlewell. Judy recently stepped down from the PCC, and Sue will be doing the same next year, so we took the opportunity to hear some of their reflections on the last 40 years, and their hopes for the future of the parish.

What was the church like when you first joined in the 70s and 80s?

Judy. It was different then; when I first started attending Kettlewell church, I won't say the church was full for the Sunday service, but there would've been a reasonable number of people, perhaps 30 people or more in the congregation. There was an active choir of half a dozen children and perhaps another six ladies and perhaps six men. There was also a regular monthly family service at Arncliffe, and we would also take our children there, encouraged to do so by the vicar, Ernest Blanchard.

Sue. There was a Sunday School at Kettlewell when John Potter was vicar, and David (Sue's husband) was a Sunday School teacher. David was asked to be Father Christmas on one occasion, and I remember Susan Potter coming away from Father Christmas saying, "That's not Father Christmas. That's my Sunday school teacher!" We also had Alpha Groups in some of the villages – the one in Buckden was hosted by Tim and Gwen Berry. Gwen was in a wheelchair so couldn't get out a lot. We used to do Bible study together and sometimes folks would come up from Grassington – there was a good Churches Together group based around Grassington in those days.

If you were to pick out a few highlights over the last 40 years, what are some of the main events in the life of the church that come to mind?

Sue. I remember ringing the bells for the millennium. We all met in the church tower, and everyone had a turn. We've got the Ellacombe chime system in Kettlewell church, so it's easier to ring them. We all met in church on New Year's Day and rang the bells for the new millennium.

Judy. Another highlight that I remember was the Bible Reading Marathon. I think it went on for a week, and we read the whole Bible. All sorts of people came and read – probably about 50, and they each had a 20-minute slot. Sometimes there might only be the person who was reading and the organizer on that day in church, but at other times it was full of visitors listening to the readings.

You have both played important roles in the church and parish as PCC members over a long period of time. What is the role of the PCC, and what advice would you give to someone considering becoming a member?

Sue. It's responsible for everything related to church life organization of services, forms of worship, church groups, such as

Lent groups, church social events and fundraising, but also the buildings, which consumes quite a bit of attention, and the church yards. It meets once every two months.

Judy. It's a challenging role, because if you're on the PCC, you're expected to take some responsibility or some position such as disability rep or secretary or safeguarding. It's a challenge in that respect, but it's very rewarding because you're at the heart of what's happening in church. I'm no longer at the heart of things. And it does seem different. It's rewarding knowing what is happening and being involved and though you're a cog in a bigger wheel, you know you are doing your bit for the church and the community.

Sue. Yes, for instance, recently, four of us got together to plan the Carol Service as a way of helping Tom. I felt very fulfilled in doing that as part of my role as a PCC member – it's different from the day to day running of the church – I must spend at least half an hour at church every day! I think my advice to someone first joining the PCC would be to take time to learn - don't take up any responsibilities for 12 months until you are sort of established within the PCC, but then expect to take something on.

What are your hopes for the parish and church, and how can the church be relevant and effective in its witness and in its service in the community in the years ahead?

Judy. We've been hoping and praying that active church people would move into the village and help us in number. But I think what's more important really is that the people who are already here see some

relevance in having a functioning church and church community. And in today's climate, many people, including my own family who were brought up as churchgoers, don't see how the church is relevant to them. I thought perhaps Covid might change things because people had a lot to pray for and a lot to bring them closer to faith. But that doesn't seem to have made a difference to our situation here, though it may well have done in other places.

Sue. We must be prepared to go to the people because the people certainly are not coming to the church. And folks look at the church building as the church, whereas in fact, it is the people who are the church; we need to be out there among the people. I have fears for the church buildings because unless people come forward who want to help with maintenance and everything else that's involved in keeping a house going, the building will close. But the church will still be relevant within the community. It may be meeting in a village hall, it may be meeting within a home, but the church will still be relevant because there'll still be Christians who are out there involved with the people.

I think we're entering a great period of change, and my sincere hope is that through that change, the church will survive. Which I think it will because it's made up of people. My hope is that the Christian faith continues within these villages, but it may be within homes, it may be within village halls. There will be pockets of Christians within the Dales, but they may not necessarily be meeting within a church building. They'll still be church, but not as we know it.

Hope in Bereavement

A memorial service for Professor Nick Hitchon, who was born and brought up in Littondale before emigrating to the USA, was held at Arncliffe church on 11 December. It included the following remarkable readings on hope in bereavement from two eminent scientists.

Creation Matters to God

Let us reflect together on the basis of our trust in divine faithfulness. If there is a God who is faithful, if there is a God to whom the patriarchs mattered once, then they will matter to that faithful God forever. They will not just be thrown aside at their death as if they were broken pots, cast on the rubbish heap of the universe.

If you and I matter to God once, and we do, we shall matter to God forever. In other words, the hope of a destiny beyond death doesn't lie in anything that is purely human; it lies in the everlasting faithfulness of God. If that is the case, and if there is such a God, then it is indeed a sure and certain hope. In fact, it seems to me that all creation will matter to God.

Science by itself will never be able to get beyond the brick wall of mortality, but if we believe there is a faithful God, then our hope will leap over that wall.

Just as you and I will have a destiny beyond our death, so the universe itself also has a destiny beyond its death. The universe is not just there to be the backdrop of the human drama taking place after an overture lasting fourteen billion years. The whole of creation must matter to God.

John Polkinghorne ©

You want a physicist to speak at your funeral

You want a physicist to speak at your funeral. You want the physicist to talk to your grieving family about the conservation of energy, so they will understand that your energy has not died. You want the physicist to remind them about the first law of thermodynamics; that no energy gets

created in the universe, and none is destroyed. You want them to know that all your energy, every vibration, every bit of heat, every wave of every particle that was you remains with them in this world.

And at one point you would hope that the physicist would step down from the pulpit and walk up to those who mourn and tell them that all the photons that ever bounced off your face, all the hundreds of trillions of particles whose paths were interrupted by your smile, by the touch of your hair, have raced off like children, their ways forever changed by you. And as your widow rocks in the arms of her family, may the physicist tell her that all the photons that bounced from you were gathered in the particle detectors that are her eyes, and that the energy from those photons created constellations of electromagnetically charged neurons that will go on forever.

And the physicist will remind the congregation of how much of all our energy is given off as heat. And he will tell them that the warmth that flowed through you in life is still here, still part of all that we are. And you will want the physicist to explain to those who loved you that scientists have precisely measured the conservation of energy and found it accurate and verifiable and consistent across space and time. You can hope your family will examine the evidence and be satisfied that the science is sound.

And that they'll be comforted to know your energy's still around. According to the law of the conservation of energy, not a bit of you is gone; you're just less orderly.

Aaron Freeman

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey;
The ways deep and the weather sharp.
The very dead of winter.'
'Journey of the Magi' by T S Eliot

Epiphany, twelfth night, also called Three Kings' Day, falls on January 6th and rounds off the festive season with the commemoration of the arrival of the gift-bearing wise men. Though the symbols surrounding this are redolent of an illuminated journey, the days and weeks in between Christmas and the coming of spring, can feel like the longest and darkest of the year, and it can be difficult to get outdoors and connect with nature.



It is useful to seek a purpose to the act of going outside and noticing, and I find that taking myself (and my naughty pug dog) on a photography walk, can feel creative and interesting when searching for things of beauty in a slumbering landscape. I'm lucky enough to have a decent camera on my phone (if I don't want to be laden down with

my big camera), and like to experiment with different settings, taking photos of berries, layers of multi-coloured fallen leaves, or a frost furred seed head. A phrase I read recently resonated: 'notice the beauty left behind' and I think this sums up winter well as nature's steps out of the clothes of summer and autumn, casting them aside for us to notice and appreciate.



Though a very quiet time of the year, it's rewarding to practice listening as well as seeing. I can always hear the reliable machine gun rat-a-tat-tat call of the wren hopping from one moss laden stone to another, and the rush of the river. The sweet song of the robin and blackbird always feels like a true gift at this time of year and causes me to stop and peer to see if I can locate the one singing its honeyed song.

There is something particularly satisfying about seeking colour, light and beauty 'in the very dead of winter' and it's definitely there to be found if we look hard enough.

Rebecca Ward-Dooley

Reflection - 'Just One Thing....'

I don't know if you have ever listened to Dr Michael Mosley's radio programme 'Just One Thing...'? In the series Dr Mosley offers a series of things that we can start doing straight away that will improve our physical health in ways we might not expect. "If there is just one thing", he says, "that you can do today to improve your health what would it be?"

In a recent episode the 'one thing' that he suggests that we might try doing is walking backwards. "Retro-walking" as it is also known, has several health benefits. For instance, because we use different muscles to the ones we use when walking forwards, this takes more energy and so burns more calories, a whopping 30% more, than we would use when walking forwards.

That was something that sounded really good to me as someone who is trying to lose weight at the moment. I was listening to the radio in the car and thought I would try walking backwards as soon as I got back to the vicarage at Kettlewell. So I cleared some space in a few of the rooms and corridors and got cracking. I have even tried – tentatively and carefully – walking

backwards up and down stairs. I will attempt to do a little walking backwards each day if I can for the next month or so. It is a great activity for the winter months as it is something that you can do indoors even if the weather outside is dreadful.

Backwards walking doesn't have a high impact on your body when compared with walking forwards as the first part of your foot to touch the ground isn't your heel but your toes, so it's a nice low-impact activity like swimming. Walking predominantly on our toes improves stability – and it also loosens the hamstrings which is good for back pain. So it reduces your waist line, improves your balance *and* reduces back pain. All these health benefits just by walking backwards... amazing!

Imagine a rival series of radio programmes also called 'Just one thing...' but *this* was specifically about our *spiritual* health. If there is just one thing that would improve our spiritual health, what would it be? Just as backwards walking might have huge benefits to our physical well-being, what *one thing* might transform our spiritual well-being?



Reading the parable of the talents in Mathews gospel recently got me thinking about what that ‘just one thing’ might be when it comes to a God-given talent that we might have. It is a shame that some persist in reading the parable of the talents literally. Margaret Thatcher famously read this parable as showing how Jesus was interested in how we capitalise upon our material wealth. Which when you stop to think about it is really funny, given that the person who told people this parable was born into poverty, was an itinerant preacher wandering around the Galilean countryside for three years without a job or a fixed address before ending up being crucified.

The talent that Jesus talks about in this parable was indeed a big lump of silver. But if Jesus was using parables to convey spiritual truth, then perhaps Jesus is far more interested in our spiritual wellbeing. The parable seems to suggest that if we don’t use our God-given spiritual capital, we might end up losing it. Thinking about that ‘just one thing’ can really concentrate the mind, can’t it? The thing that we feel compelled to do, because we know it is God who is asking us to do this.

I would like, in the role of a spiritual Dr Mosely, to suggest just one thing that is comparatively easy to do – and that is to ask yourself a question. And the question I would suggest you ask is ... ‘what’s the good news?’ Try asking it when you read the newspaper, or look at the view, or go shopping, or talk with a friend, or read a book. Is the answer good news that you can share with someone else? Is the good news something that you need to make happen? Or is the good news something to give thanks to God for?

The other subversive thing that this parable points us to is that it is never just one thing. Just like Dr Mosley’s radio show. The one who is given five talents is given five more. The one who is given two, gets two more. Once you have identified “just one thing”, the following day you will end up thinking of just *one more* thing that will improve your spiritual health. Like drinking a cup of tea, or having a bath before going to bed, or regularly standing every half an hour improves our physical health. We may start with just one thing, but just *one* thing will always lead to *just one more*.

The Chinese have a saying “100 steps backwards are better than 1,000 steps forwards”. They were no doubt referring to the physical health benefits of walking backwards. They could also have been referring to the spiritual health benefits of walking metaphorically backwards through our own lives, retracing our steps of ‘where we have come from’ in life? Perhaps in walking backwards through our lives that might also help us to discern the ‘just one thing’, the God-given talent that we can exercise.

I’ve been thinking about my walking backwards. I may get good at it if I do it enough. I might even develop a real talent for it. But however good I get, there is no denying that I will always look silly doing it! But that’s no reason for not doing it. Our spiritual health is at stake. It’s about our ongoing relationship with God. And Jesus is very interested in that.

So don’t hide your talents, don’t bury them, be talented, be brilliant. Let the light shine, let *your* light shine!

Revd Tom Lusty (from a sermon preached at Kettlewell church on 19 November)

Community Directory

Upper Wharfedale & Litchdale Directory of Local Organizations

Clubs and Associations

Clubs and Associations	Contact Person	Telephone/Email
Buckden Art Group	Angela Falshaw	01756 760259/angela.falshaw@gmail.com
Buckden Singers	Anne Vetch	01756 760882/anne@vetch.co.uk
Friends of the Dales	Victoria Benn	victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk
Funk Wire	Ron Norman	uwalsociety@gmail.com
Grassington & District Peace Group	Richard Hargreaves	01756 770346/strand@hawkswick.net
Kettlewell & District WI	Jane Welsh	07718 218630/ janeawelsh@googlemail.com
Kettlewell Chess Club	Melanie Thornton	melaniethornton@live.com
Kettlewell Cricket Club	Sally Horner	01756 760834/sallyandcolin@yahoo.com
Kettlewell & District Horticultural Society	Sue Nelson	01756 760887/sueamercottage@aol.com
Kettlewell Lunch Club	Sue Nelson	01756 760887/sueamercottage@aol.com
Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival		kettlewellscarecrow@gmail.com
Kettlewell Table Tennis Club	Di/Clare Blakey-Williams	01756 761864/canddaway@gmail.com
Kettlewell Toddler Group	Charlotte Facer	charlie_facer@hotmail.com
Litchdale Cricket Club	Jack Hirst	jackhirst38@gmail.com
Settle Orchestra	Jill Gates	jillgates100@gmail.com
UW Arts and Literature Society	Geraldine Norman	uwalsociety@gmail.com
UW Field Society		https://uwfs.org.uk/
UW Refugee Support Group	Stella Perrott	stella@stellaperrott.com
UW Runners		upperwharfedalerunners@gmail.com

Village Halls

Amerdale Hall	Sarah Paul	01756 770282/carrfarm2021@gmail.com
Buckden Village Institute	Peter Vetch	01756 761155/hall@buckden.org
Conistone with Kilnsey Village Hall	Liz Hall	Kilnseyvillagehall@gmail.com
Kettlewell Village Hall	Maggie McLellan	kettlewellhall@gmail.com

Parish Councils/Meetings

Arncliffe	Michael McKenzie	michael@bluescarfarm.co.uk
Buckden	Nicola Mansfield-Smith	buckdenclerk@gmail.com
Conistone with Kilnsey	Liz Hall	liz.hallconistone@gmail.com
Halton Gill	Amelia Wilman	earl.amelia@googlemail.com
Hawkswick	A Nettleton	alnettleton7@gmail.com
Kettlewell with Starbottle	Laura Jowett	kettlewellstarbottleclerk@gmail.com
Litchdale Parish Meeting	Andrea Lund	andrea.lund@btinternet.com

Local Services/Organizations

Grassington Medical Centre	01756 752313
Grassington Dental Care	01756 753782
Grassington Pharmacy (Boots)	01756 752338
Kettlewell Primary School	01756 760280/kettlewelladmin@uwfp.n-yorks.sch.uk
Scargill House	01756 760500
UW Bus	01756 636161/info@upperwharfedale.org
UW Fell Rescue Association	secretary@uwfra.org.uk
Yorkshire Camps	01756 753227/info@yorkshirecamps.org.uk

If there are other voluntary organizations in Upper Wharfedale & Litchdale that could be included in this directory, please contact the editor at smithiwho@gmail.com

Community Events

The following events have been announced and details are inside the Link, however, please confirm with the organisers, as the situation may change.

THIS MONTH

Sat 13 Jan	Coffee and Chat, Amerdale Hall
Sat 13 Jan	Film Night, <i>'Wild'</i> Kettlewell Village Hall
Wed 17 Jan	Supermobile Library, Buckden
Wed 17 Jan	Online Talk; Access the Dales
Thu 18 Jan	Kettlewell Lunch Club, Kettlewell Village Hall
Fri 19 Jan	The BIG Littondale Quiz, Amerdale Hall

FUTURE EVENTS

Sat 10 Feb	Pie, Peas, Pudding and Quiz, Kettlewell Village Hall
Wed 21 Feb	Online Talk; Breeding Waders of the Yorkshire Dales
Sat 24 Feb	Littondale's Got Talent, Amerdale Hall
Mon 26 Feb	Kettlewell & District Horticultural Society AGM
Sat 16 Mar	Settle Orchestral Society Concert, Christ Church, Skipton
Sat 23 Mar	Settle Orchestral Society Concert, Settle Parish Church
Aug 10-18	Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival

REGULAR EVENTS

What	When	Where
Chess Club	1 st and 3 rd Tues, 7-9pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Play Table Tennis	Wed 3.15-4, 4-5.30, 5.30-7.15pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Funk Wire	Thur -fortnightly 2pm	Conistone & Kilnsey Village Hall
Whist Evenings	Alternate Wed, 7pm	Buckden Village Institute
Buckden Singers	Thurs – 7.30pm	Buckden Village Institute
Indoor Bowls	Wed 1.45-3.35pm	Kettlewell Village Hall
Coffee Morning	Thurs – weekly 10.30-12.00	Halton Gill Reading Room



The following schedule of church services in our parish is planned for this month, however, please check the parish website for confirmation at www.upperwharfedalechurches.org

Wednesday 3 January		
18.00	Kettlewell	Healing Service
Sunday 7 January		
09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Iona Communion
16.30	Conistone	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 January		
09.30	Arncliffe	Morning Prayer
11.15	Hubberholme	Holy Communion
16.30	Conistone	Holy Communion
Wednesday 17 January		
18.00	Kettlewell	Sanctuary@6
Sunday 21 January		
11.00	Grassington Town Hall	United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday 28 January		
09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Morning Prayer
18.30	Hubberholme	Evening Prayer
Sunday 4 February - Candlemas		
09.30	Arncliffe	Holy Communion
11.15	Kettlewell	Iona Communion
18.30	Conistone	Holy Communion
Holy Mass is celebrated on Sundays at 9.00 am at St. Margaret Clitherow's R.C. Church, Threshfield		



*in our villages,
towns and cities*