

No. 534

January 2021

Link



Upper Wharfedale and Littondale Parish Magazine

www.upperwharfedalechurches.org

This Month... *Winter*

About... *The Weather Forecast*

Remember: ... *Mother Goose & the Blizzard!*

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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.*



Epiphany for today

This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: *'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'* (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

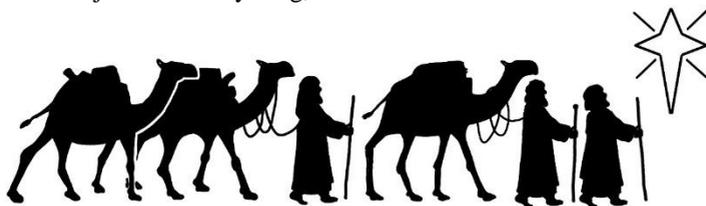
The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king,

but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?

Canon Paul Hardingham

'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.' ('We Three Kings').



EPIPHANY

From the Churches & Villages

Parish News

New Beginnings! As we greet a new year many minds will be focused on new beginnings - and possibly one fresh start in particular. The search for a new Vicar for our Parish is due to enter a crucial phase, with shortlisting and interviews scheduled to take place during the opening months of the year.

The job vacancy was advertised by the Diocese of Leeds in December, and the closing date for applications is Sunday, January 17. The shortlist of applicants is due to be drawn up at a meeting on Thursday, January 28, and interviews are scheduled for Monday, February 8.



At present we have few further details about the interview day because we do not know what coronavirus-related restrictions may be in place at that time, but we will seek to keep readers posted as we firm up the arrangements.

The Gathering

Virtual links have allowed the Parish's prayer group to keep 'meeting' during the coronavirus crisis. The group, known as The Gathering, was set up shortly after the new Parish was formed, with members meeting at each other's homes to pray for the needs of our Dales.



The pandemic and the restrictions associated with it put a stop to the actual meetings, but at a time when prayers were so clearly needed the group swiftly switched to online technology to ensure its work continued. The Gathering now meets by Zoom once a month. The next meeting is on January 17, when the topic for prayer will be vulnerable and isolated people, especially those at the mercy of the weather: the elderly and those living alone; those with mental illness; people travelling on the roads; and the bereaved. The group will also pray for specific topics of concern at that time and will remember people who are known to be in particular need.

The group is open to all. Anyone who is interested in either joining in prayers with The Gathering or who would like to ask for prayers should contact Andrew Hitchon at the Parish Office by emailing upperwharfedale@leeds.anglican.org or phoning 01756 380237.

The Children's Society



A huge thank you to all those kind people who gave a donation to the Children's Society as we were, sadly, unable to hold the Fold Farm Christmas Coffee Morning or collect the house boxes this year. Taking advice from the society, Barbara plans to make up for this by collecting the boxes in April and, following Corona rules, holding a fundraising Spring/Easter event instead. £200 has been sent to the Children's Society to help with the wonderful work they do to assist disadvantaged young people.

Barbara Lambert

St Mary's Kettlewell

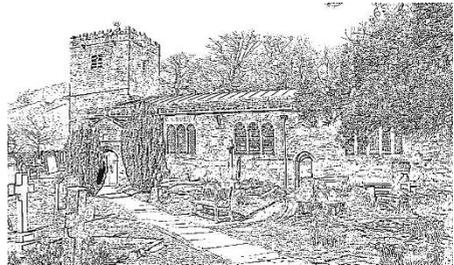


The Christmas & Preserve Stall held in the Lychgate of St, Mary's, Kettlewell on Saturday, 5th December raised £680 for Parish Funds. Many thanks to all who contributed to the event in any way and made it such a worthwhile occasion. It was good to see folk, **in person**, from the

village, up the Dale, down the Dale and over the hill from Littondale. Thank you.

Sue Nelson

St Michael and All Angels, Hubberholme Church



Our thanks go to everyone who helped to decorate the yew trees outside church for Christmas and the limited decoration inside. Revd. Rod Geddes is sincerely thanked for his early Christmas Communion service which brought a feeling of some normality during these unusual times. We hope that all our supporters had a peaceful and joyous time.

In January we are hoping to hold two services in church, weather permitting. These will be at 11.15am on Sunday January 3rd & January 17th. On Sunday January 10th, 24th & 31st church is open for Private Prayer from 10am to 2pm.

According to our January sidesperson rota, Mrs. Halsall & Mrs E. Hird are on duty on January 3rd, and Mr & Mrs K. Jeddere-Fisher on January 13th to welcome people. Readers at these services will read using their own Bibles. If you are on any of the rota lists and feel unable to help during Coronavirus restrictions, then please ring Deirdre 01756 760296.

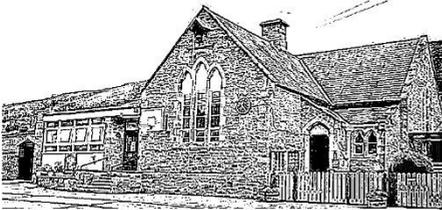
We continue to try to open our church for those of you who feel comfortable

about meeting in a public place following the guidelines. For others we hope some

of the online services help you to feel part of the larger community.

Village News

Kettlewell Primary School



And so Christmas arrived at Kettlewell! It was done slightly differently, but remained special, more so in these strange times.

A Christmas Concert was held outside in the playground, with parents attending, all socially distanced, standing by their designated cone. The children sang songs, danced and rang the school bell. Parents also danced and wagged their ears to the song, *Dominic the Donkey* [note: parents may need more rehearsals next year!].

Christmas Nativity was held indoors with no audience, but it was all filmed and DVDs made available to parents. The school's elderly Christmas tree finally gave up the ghost, so an appeal to the community to donate Christmas trees was quite simply, overwhelming. Thank you to Kettlewell and Starbotton parish council, to Paul and Tessa Dyer, to all the parents and grandparents who donated decorations and to Jonathan Lawes for his beautiful real tree that will be planted in the new year. We are truly blessed with a supportive and generous community.

School organised a Secret Santa present-buying service, ran a Christmas postbox, made Christmas dinner, had Christmas jumper day and held a

Christmas party. Rev David Macha gave all the children an activity book and iced biscuit and created an online Christmas assembly discussing the Christmas story.

Many things have gone online, and Kettlewell were the first school in North Yorkshire and possibly the UK to have online safety sessions delivered by the police. It's important that children receive this training as they inevitably spend more time on their computers and tablets during lockdowns. The children entered a competition for an online safety poster as well as a new 50p piece design. Congratulations Jack for creating the winning design!

But it's not all been online, Children experimented with robotics and electronics, making them from scratch, wrestled with Ordnance Survey maps, and a new Book Club is to be launched in January.



And then there was the owl! Mrs Addyman found a baby owl in the road on her journey to work and brought it in. It was remarkably cute and was named Sargeant Bean. The owl was suffering from concussion, so after a quick trip to

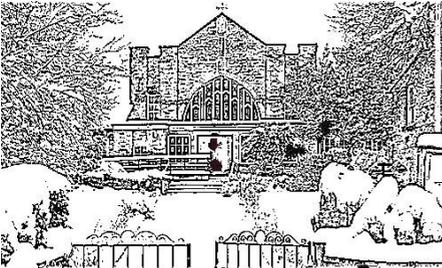
the vets and a bit of rest, it was released back into the wild at exactly the same spot that it was found. A happy tale to start the new year!



The primary school admissions' deadline is 15th January. We'd love to see your little one in our happy, nurturing school in September 2021! School restarts on 5th January 2021, so if you have any questions, please contact us and we'd be happy to help.

Sara Cooper

Kettlewell Village Hall



Following the success of the film "Military Wives" we intend to show another one in January. This will be the

film we intended to show in November "The Runaways" but couldn't due to Covid restrictions.

After their home life is turned upside down, three children and the family's donkeys escape across the backbone of Northern England, confronting both the harsh landscapes and what it means to be siblings.

The date is Friday 15th January with an option for Saturday 16th January if oversubscribed. Due to the current Covid regulations we can only accommodate 15 in the hall socially distanced. Perhaps one or two more depending on family bubbles.

Tickets £5 adults, £2.50 under 19, available from Zarin's café from 10.00am-3.00pm, Friday-Monday, or by email zarinabelk@gmail.com to arrange collection. Payment is by contactless or exact money in an envelope. No tickets on the door. Again, this may have to be cancelled at short notice depending on Government restrictions applying at the time.

Kettlewell & District Horticultural Society Show

Plans are afoot to hold this year's Show on Sunday 12th September when the Committee is hoping life will be getting back to a form of normality. The Society will NOT be holding an AGM this year as the accounts etc are in exactly the same position as at the AGM of February 2020. In the meanwhile, the themes for the Photographic Section are to be the same as those chosen for last year - 'Spring', 'Bridges' and, of course, the usual 'Any Subject'. No photograph to exceed 7" x 5" before mounting. *Happy snapping!*

Rainfall for November 2020

Arncliffe: 201.0mm/7.91 ins

Litton: 246.88/9.72 ins

Here are some excerpts from a sermon on rain preached by William Shuffrey, the vicar of Arncliffe, in the late 1890s/early 1900s.

“We have lately been visited with an extra quantity of rain during the last few weeks, so that no less than 11 inches of rain fell in the month of November, and 1,100 tons of rain fell on each acre, at Halton Gill only 9 inches, at Settle only 7 inches. Our rainfall being heavier than either of these because we lie on the lee side which is on the rain side of the two great hills of Penyghent and Fountains Fell.

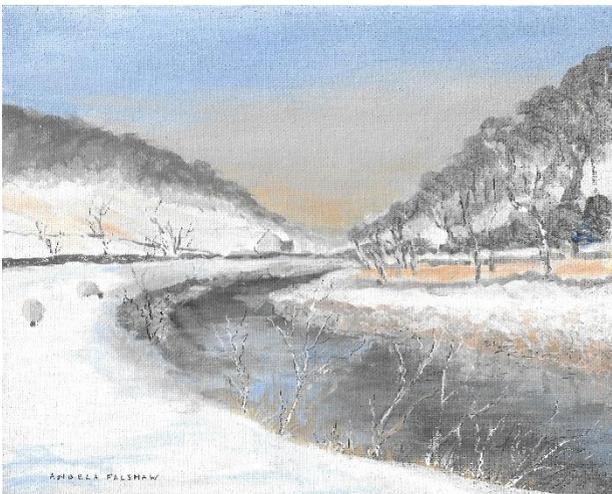
When we turn to the Bible, we find that rain is frequently spoken of but the people in those countries had it under conditions which are very different from those with which we are acquainted. Some of the spiritual teachings which rain suggests are these:

It is a blessing which comes from above, a blessing, for all the fertility of the earth would perish without it, and it

comes from above. Many seek for blessings from below, and tried to find them in the productions, the wealth, the inventions which this lower world brings, but the rain, which is the greatest gift God has given to us and without which we could not enjoy his other blessings, comes from above, so the most valuable spiritual gifts are from above, the gift of Jesus Christ, the doctrine, the righteousness which he brings.

Let us not forget to beseech God to pour down upon us the abundance of his mercy, the dew of his blessing; and may he pour into our hearts such love towards him that we may obtain his promises which exceed all that we can desire.”

Lessons from the Dale. WA Shuffrey



The Wharfe In Winter
Angela Falshaw
Buckden Art Group

🔗 ABOUT...the weather forecast

The September Link included an interview with Elsbeth Miller about rainfall records - her family has been measuring rainfall in Arncliffe for over 40 years. It led to a conversation with Richard Paul, who pointed out that farmers in the Dales were more interested in what was coming, and they followed the weather forecast closely. We had a follow up conversation with him and heard a little more about the importance of weather forecasts for sheep farming in Arncliffe.

We tend to get the sheep up onto the hills for the winter, so that the fields in the valley can have a rest period, the grass can green up and start to grow. The sheep can be put on to graze the bottom fields when they've lambed in the spring. Heavy snowfall can be a problem, as there's little shelter on the tops, and sheep can get blown to the sides where huge drifts build up against the drystone walls, trapping the sheltering sheep under several feet of snow. If we know bad weather is coming, we can move them down to a more sheltered field. Remarkably, sheep can survive even in these conditions, and it's not unusual to have to go out, probing the drifts with a long pole to find them and dig them out.

Heavy winter frosts are also a problem, as water pipes often freeze up in farm buildings, as they are not lagged. Livestock need water, and you can spend hours trying to defrost pipes if you haven't done



something to prevent it from happening. If you know a hard frost is on its way, then leaving the tap dripping or running very slowly can help prevent it freezing up.

Rain at lambing time is not ideal but heavy snow can be disastrous. Many farmers lost lambs in the spring snows of April 1983. Sheep can tolerate dry, cold and windy weather, but they look miserable when they have a cold, wet, heavy fleece.

We keep a close eye on the forecast in the summer as bad weather can play havoc with haymaking and silage. Hay needs four or five days of hot sunny weather for the hay to dry before it can be

baled. Silage can be harvested the day after its cut, so it's not such a problem, and haylage – half way between hay and silage – needs a couple of days of good weather following cutting and 'tedding' – shaking and turning – the grass.

There is nothing as disheartening as seeing it rain on your crop of hay. And baling it a day too soon, perhaps due to a change in the forecast, makes the hay unpalatable.

(For another fascinating article on farming in Littondale by Richard, go to <https://golittondale.co.uk/farming-in-littondale/>)



REMEMBER...Mother Goose & the Blizzard!

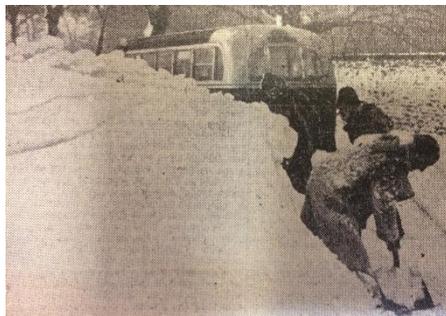
In the first week of February 1947, Craven was hit by the worst blizzard to hit the district since January 1940. What started with the abandonment of weekend sporting events, developed into something far more serious. Heavy and widespread snowfalls blocked roads, isolated villages, cut off electricity supplies and impeded work in factories. Gangs of roadmen, with the help of German Prisoners of war, still in the area following the end of World War Two, worked hard on the arduous task of clearing roads, after many were obstructed by drifts and abandoned cars.



Skipton's gas supply was threatened, stocks of coal became dangerously low and it looked like gas would have to be cut off in the town at certain periods to preserve stocks. Half term school holidays were brought forward, although 30 boarders remained at Ermysted's Grammar School, although they were allowed to play out.

Farmers on the North Craven fells had to dig sheep out of snow, with one rescuing 46 from a snowdrift. It was

feared that once the thaw came, it would close air holes to sheep stuck in drifts and seal their fate. Buses couldn't get through, and many of the roads were blocked either with drifts or abandoned cars.



Members of the Littondale Young People's Guild, drawn from Arncliffe, Hawkswick, Litton, Halton Gill and outlying districts, set off for Bradford to see Mother Goose, despite the already poor conditions - after all, they had already paid up, and did not want to lose their money.

By all accounts, the party had enjoyed a fine time at the panto, had a meal in Bradford and all had gone well. The party of 60 men and women, accompanied by the Rev G G Lane, Vicar of Arncliffe, had reached the outskirts of Skipton on the return journey to Arncliffe when their path was blocked by a vehicle which had been stranded in a deep snowdrift. After being told the road was impassable, they returned to Skipton, where they spent the night in the ballroom of The Devonshire Hotel, being made as comfortable as possible by the then licensee.

In the early hours of the morning, three of the party, Mr and Mrs J

Metcalfe, of Arncliffe Cote, and Mrs J Spencer, of Hawkswick, who were anxious to return to their farms in time for milking, set out to walk home and after a tiring and hazardous journey reached their destination at around 8.30am. They however sent word to their friends back at the Devonshire to stay put - because of the deep snow drifts on the way. Some stayed with friends, and others booked into hotels and pubs, but a few more men decided to risk the reported ten-foot snowdrifts and walk home to get back to their farms.

Three days after being stranded in Skipton, ten women, some wearing 'court shoes and silk stockings' set off to walk the 17 miles home, with just 20 remaining until the bus service was reinstated to Grassington.



Dick Ratcliffe, who lived in Grassington, but whose company, the Craven Motor Company, was based in Skipton, rode his horse, Jimmy, the nine miles into Skipton. He was accompanied by his daughters, Sheila, 17, and Mollie, 14, mounted on their own ponies, and it took them three and a half hours. They arrived in Skipton in the early afternoon, after a journey which at times had meant them being forced to dismount and

scramble over six feet snow drifts. At 4pm, they began the ride back to Grassington taking with them mail and newspapers which had been accumulating in the town for two days.



Littondale itself, remained pretty much cut off for two weeks. Towards the end of February, the road between Kilnsey and Arncliffe, via Windbank and Hawkswick was reopened to vehicles, and a van arrived from Skipton with provisions. Before then, the only means of transport had been by convoys of horse drawn sledges.

One such convoy had made the journey to Kilnsey to pick up bread, flour, meat and other essentials, while 30 prisoners of war were brought in to help with the difficult job of opening the Litton to Halton Gill road and the main road from Arncliffe to Kilnsey Lane End.

With thanks to Lesley Tate for permission to reproduce this article from the Craven Herald of 1 Feb 2018

Crossword

Across

1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)

3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)

8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)

9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)

11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)

14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)

15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)

17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)

20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)

21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)

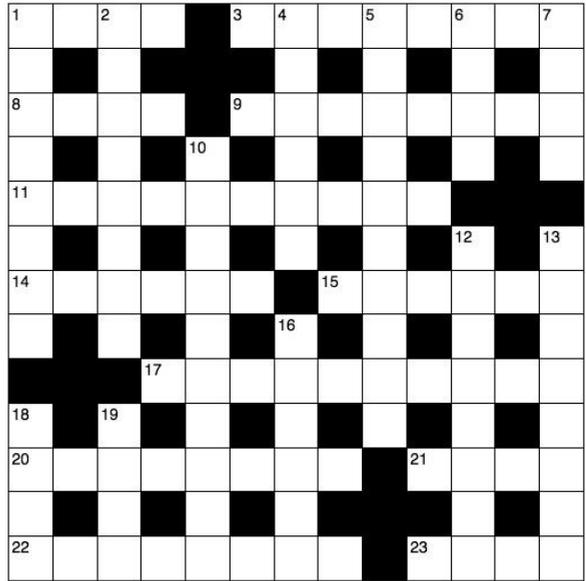
22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)

23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)

2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)



4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)

5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)

6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)

7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)

10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)

12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)

13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)

16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)

18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)

19 Pans (anag.) (4)

Solution on next page!

Answers to Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

The Link

The **Link** is the magazine and notice-board 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 by the 10th of the preceding month.

-  Editor: Ian Smith - smithiwho@gmail.com
-  Buckden: Ric Halsall - ric.halsall@aol.com
-  Conistone & Kilnsey: Kathryn & Philip Butterfield - philip.butterfield@talk21.com
-  Kettlewell: David Nelson - DavidNelsondave@aol.com
-  Advertising Manager: Nicky White - nickyjwhite2000@gmail.com

Church Contact Telephone Numbers

-  **The Area Dean:** Revd Ruth Harris, 01756 793612
-  **The Methodist Minister:** Revd Andrew Webb -691057
-  **Roman Catholic Priest:** Mgr Andrew Summersgill -793000
-  **Congregational Minister:** The Revd Peter Thomas – 753848
-  **The Parish Administrator:** Andrew Hitchon – 380237



Swaledale, Joyce Mitchell, Buckden Art Group

Due to uncertainty over our service rotas at present we are unable to provide the list of services for the coming month that we previously published in The Link. Please check the posters at our churches for details of forthcoming services and also the What's On section of our website at www.upperwharfedalechurches.org

You can also listen to our online services, prepared by members of our church communities, by going to the Home Page of our website.

**Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort,
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



Floral Beauty, Maureen Parker, Buckden Art Group