



Church News for 12th December 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent Worshipping With Us

We are delighted to return to a more normal pattern of worship across our six churches and are ready to welcome you to join us in all our buildings. PhoneChurch will continue to be offered at the 09:00 service each Sunday joining the congregation at Spennithorne and Patrick Brompton on alternating weeks. To join in simply call 03300 945 940 then at the prompt Room number: 55017514 # and use Guest PIN: 3885 # please see below for more detailed information. As more folk are joining us for gathered worship, the printed copies of PewNews will be available at the Sunday services and then delivered during the week to those who have requested them. We hope this will save time, effort, and expenditure. Please do let us know if you no longer require a posted/delivered copy. The Benefice Magazine will be restating shortly - more info soon!

Sunday 12th December Advent 3

09:00 [Morning Prayer](#) - St Patrick's Patrick Brompton
 09:00 [Holy Communion](#) - St Michael's Spennithorne & PhoneChurch
 10:45 Family Service - St Mary's Hornby
 10:45 [Morning Prayer](#) - St Gregory's Crakehall
 14:30 WI Carol Service - St Michael's Spennithorne
 17:00 [BCP Evensong](#) - St Andrew's Finghall

Readings Zephaniah 3.14-end, Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6, Philippians 4.4-7, & Luke 3.7-18

Collect O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

BCP Collect O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

During the week

09:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday - [Morning Prayer](#) - PhoneChurch
 09:30 Tuesday - [Morning Prayer](#) - St Michael's Spennithorne
 16:00 Tuesday - Crakehall School Christmas - St Gregory's, Crakehall
 19:00 Tuesday - RABI Carols at the Mart (Leyburn)
 10:00 Wednesday - [Holy Communion](#) - St Gregory's, Crakehall & PhoneChurch
 18:00 Wednesday - Hunton School Christingle - St Patrick's Patrick Brompton
 17:00 Friday - Carols around the village - Patrick Brompton
 14:00 Saturday - Baptism - St Oswald's Hauxwell
 18:00 Saturday - Lessons & Carols - St Gregory's, Crakehall
 20:00 Saturday - [Advent Compline](#) - PhoneChurch





Beer & Carols

Queen's Head Finghall

Fri. 17th Dec. 20:00

The Old Horn Spennithorne

Mon. 20th Dec. 19:30

Hackforth Village Hall

Tue. 21st Dec. 18:30

The Bay Horse Crakehall

Wed. 22nd Dec. 19:00

Come and join us
as we get the Christmas
festivities off to a great start
with Carols & Christmas Songs



At the heart
of Christmas



Lower
Wensleydale

Sunday 19th December Advent 4

09:00 [Holy Communion](#) - St Patrick's Patrick Brompton & PhoneChurch

09:00 [Morning Prayer](#) - St Michael's Spennithorne

10:45 [Morning Prayer](#) - St Mary's Hornby

10:45 Simply Together Christingle & Nativity- St Gregory's Crakehall

17:00 Lessons and Carols with - St Oswald's Hauxwell

Readings Micah 5.2-5a, Canticle: Magnificat, Hebrews 10.5-10, & Luke 1.39-45[46-55]

Collect God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

During the week

09:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday - [Morning Prayer](#) - PhoneChurch

19:30 Monday - Beer & Carols - The Old Horn, Spennithorne

18:30 Tuesday - Beer & Carols - Hackforth Village Hall

10:00 Wednesday - [Holy Communion](#) - St Gregory's, Crakehall & PhoneChurch

19:00 Wednesday - Beer & Carols - The Bay Horse Crakehall

16:00 Thursday - The Sound of Christmas - St Andrew's Finghall

Christmas Eve

16:00 Friday - Crib Service - St Michael's Spennithorne

18:30 Friday - Lessons & Carols - St Mary's Hornby

23:30 Friday - Midnight Mass - St Oswalds Hauxwell

23:30 Friday - Midnight Mass - St Patrick's Patrick Brompton (with incense)

Christmas Day

09:00 Saturday - [Holy Communion](#) - St Mary's Hornby

09:00 Saturday - [Holy Communion](#) - St Andrew's Finghall

10:30 Saturday - Family Holy Communion - St Gregory's Crakehall (Christmas Jumpers encouraged!)

Sunday 26th December **St Stephen's Day**

10:00 [Holy Communion](#) - **St Patrick's Patrick Brompton & PhoneChurch**

Readings 2 Chronicles 24.20-22, Acts 7.51-60, & Matthew 10.17-22

Collect Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Merciful Lord, we thank you for the signs of your mercy revealed in birth and death: save us by the coming of your Son, and give us joy in honouring Stephen, first martyr of the new Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

During the week

09:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday - [Morning Prayer](#) – **PhoneChurch**

10:00 Wednesday - [Holy Communion](#) - **St Gregory's, Crakehall & PhoneChurch**

Sunday 2nd January **The Second Sunday of Christmas**

09:00 BCP Holy Communion - **St Oswald's Hauxwell**

09:00 Family Service - **St Patrick's Patrick Brompton & PhoneChurch**

10:45 [Holy Communion](#)- **St Gregory's Crakehall**

18:30 BCP Evensong - **St Michael's Spennithorne**

Readings Jeremiah 31.7-14, Psalm 147.13-21, Ephesians 1.3-14, & John 1.[1-9]10-18

Collect Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, now and for ever.

BCP Collect Almighty God who didst wonderfully create man in thine own image, and didst yet more wonderfully restore him: Grant, we beseech thee, that as thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ was made in the likeness of men, so we may be made partakers of the divine nature; through the same thy Son, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end.

During the week

09:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday - [Morning Prayer](#) – **PhoneChurch**

10:00 Wednesday - [Holy Communion](#) - **St Gregory's Crakehall & PhoneChurch**

18:00 Thursday - Epiphany Holy Communion - **St Patrick's Patrick Brompton** - with Chalking! (and incense)

PhoneChurch is working well, but please remember it is live and unless you mute the microphone on your phone everyone can hear anything that is happening at your end of the line. We are still learning how to best use this system and whilst responses during the service are working well, communal singing is causing problems - so for the moment please just listen to the music as it plays rather than singing along.

Ice - Snow - Wind - Flood!

If we have to cancel a service due to extreme weather a notice will be put up on the Church if possible.

We will also change the message on the Benefice phone line.

Please call 01677 937 124 before travelling if concerned.

And join us on PhoneChurch

03300 945 940 then at the prompt

Room number: 55017514 #

and use Guest PIN: 3885 #



For the latest update from the Church of England please visit

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

With the introduction of 'Plan B'

Our approach here in Lower Wensleydale for the moment is

Masks are required when inside the building except when leading or singing a part of a choir.

Spacing out by using alternate pews is a simple way to help others.

The Peace will continue to be shared from where we sit or stand.

Communion also continues in the same format as we have used during the restrictions with the Priest bringing the consecrated wafers to the congregation.

Hospitality at the end of services continues to be suspended, however, we hope to be able to reintroduce this in September.

Test & Trace continues in line with best practice advice.



Meetings

We continue to hold phone discussions for Churchwardens, PCC Secretaries, & worship leaders. Our next meetings are on 15/12/21 and 22/12/21 at 16:15 on the PhoneChurch number.

Our next Service Leaders meeting is on Monday 9th January at 09:45

Rev'd Chris will be on leave from Monday 27th December til Tuesday 4th January.

Our monthly Wensley Deanery Prayer meeting is at 11:00 on Wednesday 26th January at **St Mary, Wath - all are welcome**

The [December Newsletter from The Diocese of Leeds](#) is now available.

No Oasis - Please!

From Lisle Ryder, St Patrick's Environment Representative.

In the light of banning by the Royal Horticultural Society at its shows, please would those arranging flowers not use floral foam usually sold as Oasis. Through its use of microplastics, it causes serious pollution to the environment. Disposal of remains should not be added to compost, and particles should not be allowed into drains. Alternatives include glass beads or chicken wire scrunched into a vase.

For more info please see this article - <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/24-september/news/uk/bishop-backs-campaign-for-more-sustainable-approach-to-flower-arranging>

Parish Lunch

Thursday the 16th of December at The Queens Head, Finghall 12:00 for 12:30.

Wednesday the 9th of January at The Old Horn, Spennithorne 12:30 for 13:00.

Thursday the 16th of January at The Bay Horse, Crakehall 12:00 for 12:30.

Please book in with the Pub for Spennithorne - 01969 622 370

Please let Myra know by the Monday for Finghall and Crakehall- 01677 427 970

The two-course lunch will cost £11.



All Are Welcome (from any Parish!)

Come and join us on Zoom for a time of Lectio Divina

Tuesday afternoons at 16:00 - Lectio Divina is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. It dates back to the early centuries of the Christian Church and is a way of praying the scriptures that leads us further into God's word. It is listening with the 'ear' of the heart that allows scripture to speak to us in new ways while also deepening our relationship with the Living God.

For further information and the Zoom link please contact:

Penny Johnson: 01677 450082 pennyj.johnson5@gmail.com or
Sue Bianco: 01677 450009 susanbianco54@gmail.com

Events at Constable Burton Reading Room Christmas Celebration Saturday 18th Dec 21

Constable Burton Reading Room is the venue for mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas carols on Saturday 18th December 2021 from 14:00 til 17:00. Weather permitting this will be outside so 'wrap up warm'! Santa will be in his grotto from 16:00 til 17:00. The cost per child will be £5. Advanced bookings for Santa are advisable through Hilly Dobson on 01677 450 460. There will also be a Christmas Cake Competition and a Christmas Raffle.

The community of Constable Burton look forward to greeting you there and wish you all a Very Happy Christmas! For details and other events please see the village website <https://constableburton.org/> or see the village noticeboard.



Christmas Card Tree

The Christmas Card Tree will once again be out next week in St Gregory's Church, ready for you to put your cards on to your church family instead of individual cards. The money you save may be dropped into the post box for charity.

There is a similar idea in St Patrick's Church, where you will find a large card for everyone to sign to that church family. There will be a collection box for donations.

This year we are supporting [Friends of Mettupalayam](#) that is a charity that provides poverty relief and rural development in and around the village of Mettupalayam in Tamil Nadu, South India. It has been supporting this work for over 30 years, having been started by two local primary school teachers to support an Action Aid project. When Action Aid withdrew support they started to fully fund all the project's work.

Currently, they finance two primary schools, the Crakehall Primary School, Mettupalayam and the Nambikkai Primary School Pazanadukuppam; providing education for around 150 children, together with a balanced mid-day meal and much more.

At one stage over the last 18 difficult months, they were providing weekly food parcels, for 1250 needy families.

There will be much more information about [Friends of Mettupalayam](#) to be found in both churches.

Thank you for your support.

Myra



Liberia News



Simon and Grace Stretton-Downes Simon is a dentist leading a team at a clinic at the Eternal Love Winning All (ELWA) Hospital in Monrovia. Grace is a nurse and will support Simon as well as seeking God's direction for her role in the mission field. The couple are sent by St Gregory's Church, Crakehall and are working for Serving In Mission (SIM) **Rosemary Gaven** is our local contact and keeps us update with the news they send. The latest news from Simon and Grace is that they have had many power outages in recent weeks with power and water going off at unplanned times day and night, often for a few hours at a time. They are currently at the warmer time of year when heat and humidity are at their highest. This can drain their enthusiasm!

Due to the Covid-19, Omicron variant, flights to South Africa are currently suspended and assuming they could go there is currently a compulsory week's quarantine on returning to Liberia at a government facility. While they appreciate that there are many people facing much worse situations, they feel frustrated and upset.

Professor Rob Witton from Plymouth University will be with them as he arrived on Friday 3rd December and this will be a busy time as they discuss the new Dental School and meet with the Health Minister and others concerning this new project. They are hoping that there will be harmony and agreement between all the parties concerned.

Grace has had several meetings in the last few weeks as part of the search team for their new SIM Liberia Director. Simon has been part of the team deciding and interviewing people for the new Hospital Board over the last 6 months and both consider it a privilege and responsibility to be asked to be part of these important discussions.

There is still no word on Wannie and they are still waiting to pay for and ship the panoramic X-ray unity. They keep the faith and hope in God and thank you to those who pray for them.

And Finally

From Rev'd Chris

To Mask or not to Mask - That is the question

Once again we have updated guidance from Downing Street and whilst that is clear for most situations it has left churches and more specifically incumbents (on whom solely the local decision rests) with difficult decisions to make.

I have read and re-read the government regulations and the Church of England guidance and feel that we should try as best we can to live up to the intention or 'spirit' of Plan B. Therefore, I am asking that like in shops and other public spaces Masks are worn whilst attending church. The person leading the service and Choir members may unmask to lead worship but will continue to mask at other times.



For the best part of the last two years, we have become used to changes in the way that we live and interact with one another. I was an early adopter of masking in public and I remember vividly the odd looks that I received walking around Bedale whilst doing my shopping. I have noticed too how the church is both ridiculed for introducing restrictions and pilloried when we don't. The poet John Lydgate is quoted as saying "*You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time*" For some the closure of the churches will always be a black mark against us for others it will be the reintroduction of masks, for yet others, it will be that we are open at all! It would be tempting to say that we can not win, except this is not a race or a game, winning was never an option. We or in this case I should say I am trying the best I can with the information I have to proclaim God's Good News to as many people as I can. So my hope, my prayer on the eve of Gaudete Sunday is that you rejoice - wherever you are - however you can as we prepare for the most amazing gift ever - **God With Us**