**CROSS TALK – the Benefice Magazine**

Dear Friends

**This year, December will no doubt be busier than ever for some people – and, with the General Election being on 12th December, especially for those who have a political involvement. In a very basic way, that should be all of us. We are all members of a ‘polis’, a ‘city’ (even though our ‘cities’ are small villages) and so we are all political people. And the Church is at the heart of the ‘city’, and so very much involved in ‘city’ life, too – in politics.**

**So what does the Church have to say about the forthcoming elections?**

**Just, simply, words of encouragement to look at the person of Jesus and the things he stands for, and to make a voting choice based on who, regardless of religious affiliation, you think promotes the values of God’s Kingdom, as revealed in Jesus.**

**This month we will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, and with it God’s incarnation in this world. Jesus said, ‘I have come that you might have life, and have it in all abundance,’ and the way he demonstrated this abundant life was**

* **to heal those who were sick, in body, in mind and in spirit;**
* **and to build bridges so that those who were ostracised and marginalised could be brought into community life – for the community is not complete without everyone being accepted;**
* **and to see God’s Kingdom as being the whole of his creation.**

**It’s not always an easy or comfortable calling to do this, but it was by living out these principles and putting them in action in daily life, that Jesus showed what it means to be The Prince of Peace – the Prince of Shalom, of right relationships – and to be the Light and Life of the World.**

**As you are thinking about who to vote for, maybe consider who it is who has the bigger picture, and who is committed to those things that bring healing to individuals and to communities.**

**As you prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace and Light of the World, may you increasingly know peace in your own life.**

**Do join us, if you can, for Christmas worship, the details of which can be found on the following pages. Our worship is not complete without *you*.**

**May the peace of the Lord be always with you and especially this Christmas and in the year to come.**

**With all good wishes and every blessing,**

**Susanne**

**The Rev’d Susanne Jukes, Vicar (contact details on back page)**

**Posada** – the tradition of taking the nativity figures of Mary and Joseph round the homes of the locality during the latter part of December, and giving them hospitality for a night, before they arrive at church for the birth of the Christ-Child.

Will you take part? Posadas are happening at Dalton and Skipton-on-Swale this year. See last month’s Cross Talk (paper or on-line) for full details.

Contact:

at Dalton – Jill on 01845 595925 or at the Christmas Fair;

at Skipton – Julie on 07852 205564

**Service Times and Details**

**Services during December 2019**

**Churches:**

**Topcliffe** – St Columba’s Church, Church Street, Topcliffe YO7 3PA

**BSJ** – St James’ Church, Wide Howe Lane, Baldersby St James YO7 4PU

**Rainton** – Mission Room, Sleights Lane, Rainton YO7 3PH

**Dalton** – St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton YO7 3JA (follow signs to Sessay)

**Skipton** – St John’s Church, just off the A61 by the post-box, Skipton-on-Swale (Skipton Bridge) YO7 4SB

*Page numbers refer to the blue Common Worship Lectionary; we now begin* ***Year A*** *of the three-year cycle of readings. The new Church’s Year begins on Advent Sunday, and the ‘colour’ changes to purple in recognition of this being a season of penitential preparation for a major festival – Christmas. Once Christmas comes, we change the colour to white, in celebration.*

**1st December**  **Advent Sunday**

9.15am Dalton Holy Communion. Preacher: Rev’d Mary Rolls

10.45am BSJ Holy Communion. Preacher: Rev’d Mary Rolls

6.30pm Topcliffe Choral Evensong for Advent Sunday (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 3 Purple*

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-end Matthew 24:36-44

**3rd December** Tuesday

3.00pm BSJ Queen Mary’s Christingle Service

**5th December** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**8th December** **Second Sunday in** **Advent**

9.15am Skipton Holy Communion

10.45am Topcliffe Holy Communion

***Readings***: *Page 6 Purple*

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

**12th December**  Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**15th December** **Third Sunday in** **Advent**

9.15am Rainton Prayer Breakfast

10.45am Topcliffe Holy Communion

**6.30pm Topcliffe Service of Nine Lessons and Carols** *sung by St Columba’s Choir*

***Readings***: *Page 9 Purple*

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

**18th December** Wednesday

2.00pm Topcliffe Topcliffe Academy Carol Service

6.00pm BSJ Baldersby St James Academy Nativity/Carols

**19th December** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**7.00pm Skipton Family Carol Service**

**20th December** Friday

9.30am Dalton Mum’s n Tot’s Nativity (in the Village Hall)

1.15pm BSJ Dishforth CofE School Carol Service

**22nd December**  **Fourth Sunday in** **Advent**

9.15am Skipton Holy Communion

10.45am BSJ Holy Communion with Baptism

10.45am Topcliffe Matins (Book of Common Prayer)

**4.00pm Dalton Family Carol Service by Candlelight**

***Readings***: *Page 13 Purple*

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-end

**24th December**  **Tuesday, Christmas Eve**

**2.00pm Topcliffe Crib Service**

**6.30pm BSJ Carols by Candlelight**

**10.00pm Dalton Christmas Communion**

**11.30pm Topcliffe Midnight Mass**

*for Readings, see below*

**25th December Wednesday, Christmas Day**

**9.00am Topcliffe Christmas Morning Worship**

**9.15am Baldersby Mission Room Christmas Communion**

***Readings***: *for Midnight Services and Christmas Morning. Set III Page 26 white*

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14

**26th December** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe *No* Mid-week Communion *this week*

**29th December First Sunday of Christmas**

**5th Sunday United Benefice Service**

10.00am Skipton Holy Communion

12.00noon Dalton Baptism

***Readings***: *Page 13 white*

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148:4-14 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

**Christmas Celebrations 2019**

**at Baldersby St James *and* Baldersby Mission Room**

*at Baldersby St James Church*

**Carols by Candlelight** Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December 6.30pm

*at Baldersby Mission Room*

**Christmas Morning** Christmas Day

**Holy Communion** Wednesday 25th December 9.15am

**Christmas Celebrations 2019**

**at Dalton Church**

**Mums’ and Tots’ Nativity**  Friday 20th December 9.30am

*in the Village Hall*

**Carol by Candlelight** Sunday 22nd December 4.00pm

**Midnight Mass** Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December 10.00pm

**Christmas and New Year Celebrations 2019**

**at Skipton-on-Swale Church**

**Carol Service** Thursday 19th December 7.00pm

**Christmas Communion** Sunday 22nd December 9.15am

**End of Year Service** Sunday 29th December 2019 10.00am

**Christmas Celebrations 2019**

**at Topcliffe Church**

**Nine Lessons and Carols** Sunday 15th December 6.30pm

**Crib Service** Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December 2.00pm

**Midnight Mass** Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December 11.30pm

**Christmas Morning** **Worship** Wednesday 25th December 9.00am

From the Parish Registers

**Baptism**

*We are children of the same heavenly Father: we welcome you.*

**Weddings**

*Those whom God has joined together, let no-one put asunder.*

**Funeral**

13th November Baldersby St James  **Geoffrey Hall** aged 85

*Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace.*

**News from the Schools**

Topcliffe Church of England Academy Baldersby St James Church of England Academy

Dishforth Church of England Primary Queen Mary’s School

You are invited to join our schools at their Christmas services and events:

Saturday 30th November 7.00pm **Queen Mary’s** School Candlelit Concert Baldersby St James’ Church (£5)

Friday 6th December 1.30pm **Baldersby St James Academy** Christmas Crafts Afternoon in School

*Do come along and join the children in making traditional Christmas decorations that will be used to make the School look festive.*

Wednesday 18th December 2.00pm **Topcliffe Academy** Carol Service Topcliffe Church

6.00pm **Baldersby Academy** Nativity and Carols Baldersby St James’ Church

Friday 20th December 1.15pm **Dishforth** School Carol Service Baldersby St James’ Church

*Susanne Jukes, Foundation Governor*

**Women’s Faith Group**

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.’ 1 Thess. 5 v. 11*

We had a good meeting on 6 November where a group of us met to share our reflections on Psalm 23. Sharing our experiences of faith in practice. We will meet again

5 December

at 16 Willow Bridge Lane, Dalton

at 2 pm.

We offer a warm invitation to all ladies to come and join us as we seek to encourage each other in our faith.

Jill Bailey

*For more information, contact Jill, or Susanne on 01845 578513*

**Services during January 2020**

**Churches:**

**Topcliffe** – St Columba’s Church, Church Street, Topcliffe YO7 3PA

**BSJ** – St James’ Church, Wide Howe Lane, Baldersby St James YO7 4PU

**Rainton** – Mission Room, Sleights Lane, Rainton YO7 3PH

**Dalton** – St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton YO7 3JA (follow signs to Sessay)

**Skipton** – St John’s Church, just off the A61 by the post-box, Skipton-on-Swale (Skipton Bridge) YO7 4SB

*Page numbers refer to the blue Common Worship Lectionary; we are now in Year A of the three-year cycle of readings. This month we continue with the Christmas/Epiphany season, and in celebration the church ‘wears’ white.*

**2nd January** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe *No* Mid-week Communion *this week*

**5th January** **Epiphany**

9.15am Dalton Holy Communion

10.45am BSJ Holy Communion

6.30pm Topcliffe Evensong for Epiphany (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 39 White*

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:10-15 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

**9th January** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**12th January** **Baptism of Christ**

9.15am Skipton Holy Communion

10.45am Topcliffe Holy Communion

***Readings***: *Page 43 White*

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-end

**16th January** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**19th January Epiphany 2**  Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

9.15am BSJ Prayer Breakfast, Rainton

10.45am Topcliffe Holy Communion

6.30pm Dalton Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 46 White*

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42

**23rd January** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**26th January** **Epiphany 3**

9.15am Skipton Holy Communion

10.45am BSJ Holy Communion

10.45am Topcliffe Matins (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 49 White*

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1,4-12 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

**30th January** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**Services during February 2020**

**Churches:**

**Topcliffe** – St Columba’s Church, Church Street, Topcliffe YO7 3PA

**BSJ** – St James’ Church, Wide Howe Lane, Baldersby St James YO7 4PU

**Rainton** – Mission Room, Sleights Lane, Rainton YO7 3PH

**Dalton** – St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton YO7 3JA (follow signs to Sessay)

**Skipton** – St John’s Church, just off the A61 by the post-box, Skipton-on-Swale (Skipton Bridge) YO7 4SB

*Page numbers refer to the blue Common Worship Lectionary; we are now in Year A of the three-year cycle of readings. This month the season of Christmas and Epiphany comes to an end with Candlemas. We then have a couple of weeks of ‘ordinary’ (green) time, before we start Lent with Ash Wednesday on 26th, and move into the 6-week purple season of penitential preparation for Easter.*

**2nd February** **Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**

9.15am Dalton Holy Communion

10.45am BSJ Holy Communion

6.30pm Topcliffe Evensong for Epiphany (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 56 White*

Malachi 3:1-5 Psalm 24:7-end Hebrews 2:14-end Luke 2:22-40

**6th February** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**9th February** **Third Sunday before Lent**

9.15am Skipton Holy Communion

10.45am Topcliffe Holy Communion

***Readings***: Proper 1 *Page 62 Green*

Isaiah 58:1-9a Psalm 112:1-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20

**13th February** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent**

9.15am BSJ Prayer Breakfast, Rainton

10.45am Topcliffe Holy Communion

6.30pm Dalton Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 72 Green*

Genesis 1:1-2:3 Psalm 136 Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 6:25-end

**20th February** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**23rd February** **Sunday next before Lent**

9.15am Skipton Holy Communion

10.45am BSJ Holy Communion

10.45am Topcliffe Matins (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 77 Green*

Exodus 24:12-end Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-end Matthew 17:1-9

**26th February Ash Wednesday** *purple*

**7.00pm BSJ Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes**

**27th February** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**Have you ever wanted to go? Now’s the time to be booking!**

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

*Now may be your opportunity of a life-time!*

Next year, the Rev’d Dianne Gambol, Priest-in-Charge of the Hillside Parishes (Knayton, Leake etc) and The Rev’d Derek Simpson, Vicar of Thirsk, will be leading an 11-day trip based in Jerusalem and Galillee.

The trip is organised through McCabe Pilgrimages, who are a respected and well-established tour company.

The dates: 19th – 29th October 2020. The cost: £2,345

Further details and a booking form can be found at the back of church, via the Vicar, or by contacting Dianne on 01845 537253 or Derek on 01845 574742

Wednesday Lunches

at Topcliffe Village Hall

**First Wednesday of every month**

***(Wednesday 4th December this month)***

**12.00noon until 1.00pm**

**soup and cake**

Donations will go towards

the installation of a new accessible path to St Columba’s

and for other improvements.

*All Welcome*

**Dalton Christmas Fair**

Saturday 7th December

10.00-12.00noon

in the Village Hall

Come and join the fun

and meet Father Christmas!

*And sign up for Posada!*

Thank You

St John’s Skipton-on-Swale

**Open Church Days**

Thank you to everyone who has organised and/or supported these events over the summer and autumn. They have been lovely occasions of fellowship and have helped considerably in boosting our finances.

St Columba’s Topcliffe

Christmas Fair

**16th November 2019**

Many thanks to you all for supporting the Fair

It was a lovely occasion and raised a fantastic amount –

just short of £800.

**Dalton Church’s Sunday Lunch**

**Sunday 17th November 2019**

Over 100 people sat down to a

lovely Sunday Lunch.

Thank you, everyone.

An amazing £1340 was raised.

Decision-making was difficult

sometimes, though!

# 

# 'Come and See' Mission

The Northern Bishops' Mission to the Diocese of York,

12-15 March 2020

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,

and as he watched Jesus walk by,

he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them,

‘What are you looking for?’

They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’

He said to them,

‘Come and see.’

*John 1:35-39*

*Susanne*

‘Come and See’ is an opportunity for us to unite in local mission and evangelism: we pray, we invite, we celebrate and we offer hospitality, all in the power of the Holy Spirit, telling the Good News of Jesus Christ. Archbishop Sentamu, together with the Bishops of the Northern Province and their teams, will be working in our Diocese from Thursday to Sunday, 12-15 March 2020. We anticipate being joined by about 30 Bishops each with a small team of lay people, children and youth workers and clergy. Each Bishop will be allocated to a deanery. In our Deanery of Mowbray, we will be joined by Bishop Paul Bayes (of Liverpool) and Bishop John Flack and their teams.

So what is being planned?

In our benefice we are looking at:

Lent Lunch at Topcliffe Village Hall on Friday 13th from 12.00noon-1.00pm

Charlie Chuck’s Guide to the Universe at Baldersby St James church on Friday 13th at 7.00pm

Open Church at Skipton-on-Swale church on Saturday 14th March, 10.00-2.00pm

Messy Church at Baldersby St James church on Saturday 14th March, 2.00-4.00pm

Messy Church at Dalton church on Sunday 15th March, 2.00-4.00pm

The idea is that these are events that we can *invite people to,* so that together in the name of Christ we can build community and make Christ known in the world; and at the end of each event, that there is an opportunity to invite people to ‘come and hear the next part of the story’.

**Please**:

PUT the dates in your diary;

PRAY for this event – and especially for the people you might invite to come with you;

THINK about whether you could help, especially with the Messy Churches. (As there are probably going to be a number of these happening in the Deanery, it is likely that there will be one central planning team that will cascade ideas to the various local groups.)