**CROSS TALK – the Benefice Magazine**

Dear Friends

**There has been a lot of sadness in the villages this last month, as we have said Goodbye to a number of people who have been very close to the heart of community life. We shall miss them all – but give thanks to God for the lives that they have shared with us, and for all that they have contributed to make our lives ‘whole’.**

**And in the midst of sadness, and the dark days, there is the miracle of new life emerging. We have welcomed some new babies recently … and the lambs are beginning to arrive … the snowdrops are out and the daffodil shoots are just appearing. And the heralding of spring reminds us that Lent is just around the corner. It begins on Ash Wednesday, 26th February, and we will mark the occasion with a service at Baldersby St James – a Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes, that reminds us that we are ‘all but dust, and to dust we shall return’, but gives us the opportunity to ‘turn away from sin, and turn to Christ’. Do come, if you can. It is a very special service.**

**Lent, of course, points us forward to Easter, this year on 12th April. This will be my seventh Easter in these parishes, and now feels the right time to be making a move into the next phase of ministry, before I get too old to find it easy to start all over again. So at the end of April I will say Goodbye too, and move up to County Durham, to the cottage that Keith and I had bought for our retirement, and see what God has in store. But that’s not until the end of April: until then, life goes on as usual!**

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

**Susanne**

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

**Don’t forget, details of the parishes, services and events can be found**

**on the various Church websites. Search the internet for**

**‘A Church near you’**

From the Parish Registers

**Baptism**

**22nd December Baldersby St James Katie Bella Rose Burell**

**29th December Dalton Olivia Rose Spence**

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

**Wedding**

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

**Funeral**

11th December Topcliffe  **Herbert Samuel (‘Bert’) Ogden**

15th January Topcliffe **Raymond Watkin (‘Gus’) Storah**

17th January Baldersby St James **Anthony Roe**

25th January Topcliffe **Helen Clark (‘Lyn’) McMillan**

31st January Topcliffe **Elizabeth Jane Goddard**

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

**Remembering Jane Goddard**

*Joan Blair writes of her friend:*

We were all deeply saddened at the death of Jane Goddard on Saturday 18th.Jan.  For 30 years Jane lived in Asenby and was a staunch supporter and PCC member at Topcliffe Church. She latterly downsized to Bagby but continued to worship regularly at Topcliffe, the last time being the Carol Service in December.

Jane was a true countrywoman at heart, a keen walker, lover of the Yorkshire Dales and Moors, and all the natural world. She had a strong and independent spirit, and after a career of nursing and caring for others, she found her own diminishing health towards the end, difficult. She will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

**Service Times and Details**

**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

**Services during March 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.*

**1st March** **Lent 1**

 9.15am Dalton Holy Communion

10.45am BSJ Holy Communion

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

***Readings***: *Page 87 Purple*

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

**3rd March** Tuesday

 7.30pm Skipton Compline

**5th March** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**8th March** **Lent 2**

 9.30am **Queen Mary’s School, Baldersby Park**

**Benefice Service of Holy Communion** *no other services this day*

***Readings***: *Page 90 Purple*

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

**10th March** Tuesday

 7.30pm BSJ Compline

**12th March** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**15th March Lent 3**

 9.15am BSJ Prayer Breakfast, Rainton

10.45am Topcliffe Holy Communion

 6.30pm Dalton Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 93 Purple*

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

**17th March** Tuesday

 7.30pm Topcliffe Compline

**19th March** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**22nd March** **Mothering Sunday (Lent 4)**

 9.15am Skipton Holy Communion

10.45am BSJ Holy Communion

10.45am Topcliffe Matins (Book of Common Prayer)

***Readings***: *Page 102 Purple*

1 Samuel 1:20-28 Psalm 127:1-5 Colossians 3:12-17 John 19:25b-27

**24th March** Tuesday

 7.30pm Dalton Compline

**26th March** Thursday

11.00am Topcliffe Mid-week Communion

**29th March Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)**

***Readings***: *Page 49 Purple*

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

**31st March** Tuesday

 7.30pm BSJ Compline

Ash Wednesday – 26th February

Service of Holy Communion

with the Imposition of Ashes

Baldersby St James, 7.00pm

Compline (Night Prayer)

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*Half an hour of peace and quiet*

*Time to rest in God : Time to reflect*

**7.30pm on Tuesdays during Lent**

 3rd March Skipton church

10th March Baldersby church

 17th March Topcliffe church

24th March Dalton church

31st March Baldersby church

 7th April Skipton church

*All welcome*

By the kind invitation of Mrs Carole Cameron and the community of Queen Mary’s:

Benefice Service

at Queen Mary’s School,

Baldersby Park, Topcliffe

Sunday 8th March 2020

9.30am

followed by breakfast at Queen Mary’s

and a Parish Walk – anyone any suggestions?

*No other services in any of the churches that morning*



**Women’s Faith Group**

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

A select group of us began our meetings for the year reflecting on Psalm 91. The theme of the psalm is God’s protection in the midst of danger or facing the unknown. We celebrated a birthday with delicious fresh scones, sang a song from Taize and shared ideas about what makes us fearful and how the Psalm encourages us to: dwell in, rest in and trust in God.

Our next meeting is at

2pm on Thursday 6th February,

16 Willow Bridge Lane, Dalton.

All are welcome.

Jill Bailey

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

Wednesday Lunches

at Topcliffe Village Hall

**First Wednesday of every month**

***(Wednesday 5th February 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*

**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

**Congratulations to Dishforth School** – rated ‘Good’ at the recent OfSTED Inspection

Following the OfSTED inspection at the end of last November, the Report was recently published, and Mrs Brooks, Headteacher, issued the following letter:

*We are delighted that the report recognises the outstanding qualities of the school, in*

*particular the support that all staff at Dishforth Church of England School give to pupils’ physical and mental well-being, describing the school’s programme for personal development as*

*exceptional. The report also highlights the happy, inclusive ethos of our school where*

*children flourish and have a positive attitude to learning. Inspectors were impressed with*

*the children’s levels of empathy, understanding and engagement. We are very proud of all*

*our children’s achievements.*

*We are delighted that the inspectors have recognised the strengths of our school, the good*

*teaching and learning and the work being undertaken to improve and enrich the curriculum*

*further.*

*In September 2019, Ofsted brought in a new tough inspection framework and have rightly*

*judged that children here get outstanding personal development and that the school has all*

*the right priorities so parents can be confident of even further improvement.*

Kirstie Lowe and I, as Foundation Governors, are extremely proud to be connected with the school and offer our congratulations. Well done, everyone. The full Inspection Report can be found online on the school’s website.

**Calling all (would be) Gardeners**

Baldersby St James School has four largish raised beds that they haven’t the capacity to use at the moment. Would anyone out there like to take one (or more) of them on?

If you’re interested in finding out more, please contact either me or Mrs Brown at the School (01765 640277)

Thomas (aged 10, Anne and Jeremy Alston’s grandson) was asked to write a prayer to read out in assembly.

This is what he wrote:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the choice

to take a different path in life

and to choose our own way to live.

Thank you for giving us a push in the right direction

when we need it most.

We thank you always.

Amen.

Thank you, Thomas, for a prayer that we can all use.

*Susanne Jukes, Foundation Governor, Topcliffe, Baldersby St James and Dishforth Schools*

# '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, 10.00-12.00noon

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.)

Mums and Tots

Meeting every Friday 9.30am – 11.00am

Dalton Village Hall

A warm welcome to all – just come along

LENT LUNCHES

arranged by St Columba’s Church



(Soup, bread, cakes, tea, coffee, etc)

TOPCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Wednesday 4th March, Friday 13th March

Wednesday 18th March, Wednesday 25th March,

Wednesday 1st April

FREE LUNCH

(but donations to the Christian Aid would be welcome, and

we are also collecting dried/tinned foods and toiletries for Thirsk Clock)

*Everyone is welcome to the Lunches*

*Friendly and efficient service by the children of*

*Topcliffe Church of England Primary School*

**Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

These are the annual meetings that each parish has, to elect Church Wardens, hear a report of the last year, and to elect members of the Parochial Church Council for the year ahead. The meetings for elections are then followed by the first meeting of the newly-elected PCC. (They are three separate meetings, but each one is short and they run one after the other.)

Anyone who lives in the parish is eligible to vote for Churchwardens; anyone who is on the Electoral Roll is eligible to stand for election to the PCC and to vote for members of the PCC.

The dates of the meetings this year are:

Dalton Wednesday 18th March 7.00pm in Church

Topcliffe Monday 23rd March 7.30pm in Church

Skipton on Swale Monday 30th March 7.00pm in Church

Baldersby with Dishforth Wednesday 1st April 7.00pm in Church

Those who make reports at the Meeting (Church Wardens, Treasurer, Electoral Roll Officer, Safeguarding Representative, Foundation Governor, Deanery Synod representative) are asked to prepare a short succinct written report on the last year, to be tabled at the Meeting.

Formal notice of the Meetings and Nomination Papers (to be completed and sent to the Vicar *before* the Meeting) will be available shortly via the PCC Secretary or at the back of Church. Please contact me directly if necessary.

Everyone is invited to these meetings. Please do come. The Wardens and PCC Members will have significant opportunity to shape the future of the Benefice in this coming year.

*Susanne Jukes,* Vicar

