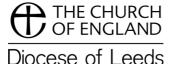


Penhill Benefice Church Magazine





February – March 2025

The Penhill Benefice is committed to show the love of God and the saving grace of Jesus. We share together as the body of Christ, in prayer, worship, ministry and fellowship. In the power of the Holy Spirit we are called to mission and outreach and to be a support and comfort in the community.

#### **Churches of the Penhill Benefice**

St Andrew's, Aysgarth. St Oswald's, Castle Bolton. St Margaret's,
Preston under Scar. St Mary's, Redmire. Holy Trinity, Wensley.
St Bartholomew's, West Witton and the Mission Room at Thornton Rust.

Vicar: Revd. Tom Ringland - Tel: 01969 663235 The Vicarage, Carperby, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 4DQ

**Associate Vicar:** The Revd Canon Penny Yeadon - Tel: 01969 663505 Dale Cottage, Aysgarth, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3AB

#### **Churchwardens**

St Andrew's: Liz Piper (663747)

St Oswald's: Vacant

St Margaret's: Patrick Earle (622467)

St Mary's: Vacant

Holy Trinity: Contact the office with any queries.

St Bartholomew's: Jeremy Gard (624542)

Cherie Miles (623939)

Contact for Thornton Rust Mission Room: Lynda Denny (662774)

### **Penhill Benefice Office**

Administrator: Christine Gard, The Coach House Office, Swinithwaite,



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#### Vicar's Letter

I write as the last of the early January snowfall is clinging to the tops – and it's a couple of weeks before we head into February.

Some people are glad that February is the shortest month – often a grim, bleak and grey time, either mucky or frozen, and best when it's gone. Alternatively, we can look for the positives and it can be entertaining to look up some February celebrations. While on 2nd February the churches will be marking Candlemas, 40 days since Christmas, it's also National Hedgehog Day – the European equivalent of the American 'Groundhog Day'. Hopefully our hedgehogs will sleep a little longer before risking our roads for another season! February 17th is apparently Random Acts of Kindness Day (see randomactsofkindness.org) three days after a better known festival...

February famously has Valentine's Day at its mid-point. A day to celebrate those we love and make them feel special. Love, whether romantic love or in its wider expression is deeply spiritual as it takes us out of our preoccupation with ourselves to notice the other.

Jesus agreed with a man who summed up all the law of God in saying the greatest commandment is to love God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. That little word 'as' teaches that we should indeed love and care for ourselves – but that we should love others equally ... and this all comes into focus as we live our lives loving and honouring God.

The man to whom Jesus spoke then responded, 'And who is my neighbour?' – leading Jesus to tell a famous story we know as 'The Good Samaritan' (see Luke's Gospel, chapter 10 from verse 25). The story affirms that anyone we see in need is our neighbour.

As February gives way to March, the first month of meteorological spring, so the church calendar leads us into Lent. Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) is on March 4th, leading to Ash Wednesday on 5th. You will read elsewhere in this issue of our opportunity to show concern for our neighbours internationally during Lent in our support for Christian Aid and their partner

organisations on the ground in such countries as South Sudan, Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories and Gaza. Their comprehensive website shows the breadth of their work and as Penny writes, we are very glad to have the Chair of Trustees of Christian Aid, the Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally leading our service and preaching at St Andrew's church at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday March 9th.

Love expressed in practical help is something that will be written about in various ways in the Beacon during 2025. In a world too often blighted by selfishness and personal aggrandisement surely it must be our Christian response to counter this by choosing generosity and support for others as the part we can play to make the world a better place.

So, do enjoy February and its progression into March as we rehearse the great commandment and demonstrate love for all – whether strangers through Christian Aid, sweethearts, hedgehogs or in other acts of random kindness!

Tom

## **Aysgarth Gift Day**

The total donated for St. Andrew's Gift Weekend is £3,365.

The PCC thank all who contributed.

Money raised for Charities from Christmas Services

A total amount of £476.65 was collected for The Salvation Army from
Thoralby, Thornton Rust and Aysgarth services.

Preston under Scar raised £200 for The Children's Society.

Redmire Christmas Services raised **£500** for St. George's Crypt.

West Witton Carol Service raised **£154.70** for The Children's Society and **£186** from the Crib Service for The Bungokho Rural Development Centre.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the charities.

Posada Journey and Living Advent Windows

Some people in West Witton once again hosted a very successful

Posada Journey and Living Advent Windows during December.

Thank you so much to everyone who joined in, sent photos

and wrote comments in the Posada book.



## Dates for your Diary...

## **Church Coffee Morning**

10.30am -12 noon, Redmire Village Hall

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March



#### **Church Afternoon Tea**

2-4pm, Redmire Village Hall Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

## **Benefice Prayer Fellowship**

7.30pm, Aysgarth Institute **Tuesday 25**th **February** 

We pray together for the Benefice, the wider church, local, national and international issues, and for personal concerns and each other.

We begin with a Bible Reflection and short discussion.

Everyone is welcome.

# Lent 2025



**Begin Lent with us** at St. Margaret's, Preston Under Scar, at 7.00 p.m **on Wednesday 5**<sup>th</sup> **March** in a service of Holy Communion, with the invitation to receive the imposition of ashes as a sign of both our frailty and penitence.

Lent Lunches for Christian Aid Soup & Cheese Lunch with Coffee and Tea No fixed charge, donations to Christian Aid 12 noon until 1.30pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March - Redmire Village Hall Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Thoralby Village Hall Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March - West Witton Village Hall

Friday 28th March - Carperby Sports Pavilion



# **Food for Thought in Lent**

West Burton Village Hall Time: 6.30 for 7.00 pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March Speaker - Bishop John Pritchard



### Tuesday 1st April

### Speakers - Revd Ian and Revd Dr Linda Robinson

Book in for two enjoyable evenings with a supper and inspirational speakers!

Bishop John will open up the question "Who am I – now?".

Our identities change over time:- from our employed status to retirement ... from single to married – or married to single again ... gifts and abilities evolve, new opportunities emerge.

So "Who am I now? - Identity and role in the different chapters of life".

Ian and Linda will take this forward by looking at our place in a world which is confusing and troubled. Can we be champions of hope or are we also fearful? Thus:- "Where are we headed? Finding hope in a time of crisis".

The menu and cost for each evening is to be confirmed. Please check our website and pew sheets or for further info please contact penhill.benefice@btconnect.com /telephone 01969 663097/624542.



A short time of worship and reflection each evening from Mon 14 April to Maundy Thursday – April 17<sup>th</sup> in different venues around the benefice ... followed by a pilgrimage around the villages on Good Friday. For further info see next issue of the Beacon and website.

#### **Easter Lilies**

If you wish to buy a lily for £5 in memory of a loved one, please give your details to
Dayle Williams (01969 625094 West Witton)
or Liz Piper (01969 663747 Aysgarth)



**by Thursday 10th April.** The Churches will use the lilies to decorate their altars with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of life everlasting.

## **Prayer Topics For February and March**



We are blessed in this country to have seasons, meaning that there is a rhythm to the year, and the darkness of winter which many people find difficult begins to slowly dissipate in

February with the early signs of Spring as bulbs start pushing up, and soon there will be lambs in the fields around us. It's perhaps a good time to re-set our individual and collective prayers, not only for ourselves but also for each other. Here are some suggestions:

**Mondays:** Be thankful. Take a little time to think about what you have – not just the material things but the people who are an important part of your life. How blessed do you feel by their friendship, their presence, their love? Perhaps you could tell them?

**Tuesdays:** Be thoughtful. What might you do for others? Could you offer to share some of your skills with others? If you think you have no particular skills ask a friend – you may be surprised by the response, because others sometimes see talents that you don't see.

**Wednesdays:** Be compassionate. It's easy (and understandable) to have compassion fatigue — we may feel that there is so much needing to be done for others that what we can offer is just a drop in the ocean. Remember what St David said — do the little things and remember that what we do for others we also do for God.

**Thursdays: Be honest.** No-one is a paragon of virtue. We are human and we make mistakes. We can't learn from those mistakes unless we admit them and forgive ourselves. It's liberating.

**Fridays:** Let go. Try not to hold a grudge or keep thinking about something said to you that was hurtful. If you feel able, why not tell that person calmly how hurt you feel? If you can't, try to forgive (which in itself is healing).

**Saturdays: Be loving.** Jesus told us to love one another as we are loved. He didn't say it would always be easy because people aren't always easy. I think he felt that we should try...

**Sundays: Feel peace.** Sometimes there is so much going on in our lives that it feels that there is no time to just simply be. Cultivate the habit of taking some time to have a quiet conversation with the Lord and feel 'the peace of God that passes all understanding'.

#### The Work of Christian Aid

Over the coming months we will have various contributors looking at the work of the charities that we support across the Penhill Benefice.

This month it is the work of Christian Aid.

Many of us support this charity as individuals, but it is also supported, by the Penhill Benefice throughout Lent, via the Christian Aid envelopes and through the Lent Soup lunches in Carperby, Redmire, Thoralby and West Witton Villages. (Please see further information on page 5).

As an organisation, Christian Aid, have existed for over 75 years, founded in 1945 when British and Irish churches sought to help refugees following the Second World War.

They now work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, standing up for dignity, equality and justice, believing that voices and actions are stronger together.

They work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

One of the countries they work in is South Sudan, where challenges seem never-ending, stories of hope shine brightly. Daniel Ayuen is the programme manager for at Smile Again Africa Development Organisation (SAADO) who works to bring hope and change to those struck by crisis. Daniel's personal journey is one of resilience determination and empathy. Born and raised in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya where he spent 12 years, Daniel experienced the hardships of displacement firsthand. Today as programme manager for food security and livelihoods at SAADO, Daniel is transforming lives. He writes "I was born and raised a refugee in Kakuma camp, where I spent most of my childhood. I understand the struggles these people face because I lived them myself. It helps me connect with the refugees and give them hope that this situation isn't permanent.

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. You can find more about their work at <a href="https://www.christianaid.org.uk">www.christianaid.org.uk</a>

Or join us at our **Benefice Service on Sunday 9**<sup>th</sup> **March at St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth at 10.30am** where the Chair of the Board of Trustees for Christian Aid, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, The Bishop of London, will be joining us to speak firsthand about the work of Christian Aid.

**Church Services:** In case of bad weather, please check our website penhillbenefice.co.uk/services for updates. **Phone services** - dial 0333 0110 946 and enter room number 61337190# and PIN 7450# (local charges apply)

### Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> Candlemas

9.30 am	Telephone Service	
9.30 am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Redmire CANDLEMAS	;
9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Margaret's, Preston under Sca	ır
11.00 am	Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Aysgarth	
11.00 am	Holy Communion, St Bartholomew's, West Witton	

### Sunday February 9th

9.30 am	Telephone Service
10.30 am	Holy Communion Penhill Together Service,
	St Margaret's, Preston under Scar

### **Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>**

9.30 am	relephone Service
9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Mary's, Redmire
9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Margaret's, Preston under Scar
11.00 am	Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Aysgarth
11.00 am	Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, West Witton

#### Sunday February 23rd

9.30 am	Telephone Service
9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Bartholomew's, West Witton
11.00 am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Aysgarth
3.00 pm	Evening Prayer, Thornton Rust Misson Room

**February Mid-Week Services:** Holy Communion at 9.30am on Thursday  $13^{th}~\&~27^{th}$  February at St Bartholomew's, West Witton

#### **March Church Services:**

## Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup>

9.30 am	Telephone Service
9.30 am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Redmire
9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Margaret's, Preston under Scar
11.00 am	Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Aysgarth
11.00 am	Holy Communion, St Bartholomew's, West Witton

Wednesday	March 5 <sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday	
7.00 pm	7.00 pm Holy Communion, St. Margaret's, Preston under Scar	

### Sunday March 9th

9.30 am	Telephone Service
10.30 am	Holy Communion Penhill Together Service,
	St Andrew's, Aysgarth.

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, The Bishop of London, will speak firsthand about the work of Christian Aid.

### Sunday March 16th

9.30 am	Telephone Service
9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Mary's, Redmire
9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Margaret's, Preston under Scar
11.00 am	Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Aysgarth
11.00 am	Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, West Witton

### Sunday March 23rd

9.30 am	Telephone Service
9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Bartholomew's, West Witton
11.00 am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Aysgarth
3.00 pm	Evening Prayer, Thornton Rust Misson Room

## Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday

9.30 am	Telephone Service
10.30 am	Holy Communion Benefice Service,
	St Bartholomew's, West Witton

March Mid-Week Services: Holy Communion at 9.30am on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March at St Bartholomew's, West Witton

# Note: clocks go forward on Sunday March 30th





The 4th Sunday in Lent is celebrated as **Mothering Sunday.** Originally families would get together for a special service at the 'mother'

church, often at the local cathedral. Today Mothering Sunday is celebrated as a family day, a time to say 'thank you' to our mothers and to all who look after us.

The Preparation Of A New Church Electoral Roll For 2025 Every six years each parish is required to compile a new electoral roll and 2025 is the year that a new one will be prepared.

The electoral roll is the list of a church's membership. All members are eligible to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Everyone (both current members and new), who wishes to be on the roll need to fill out an application form. To request a form or for further information please contact one of the Parish Electoral Roll Officers: Margaret Ferguson, Aysgarth. Jayne Foster, Bolton cum Redmire. Hilary Grisewood, Preston with Wensley and Cherie Miles, West Witton or contact Tom, Penny or Christine.

## **Wensleydale Filling Station**

7pm at Thornborough Hall, Moor Road, Leyburn DL8 5AB

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February Speaker: Stuart Dawling from Masham.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March Speaker: Gerard Charles from Sheffield.

Contact: 07714 204024 mikehirst3@gmail.com

## **Deanery Prayer Meetings**

11am - 12noon, East Witton Parish Room

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Everyone is warmly invited to come.

### **Prayer and Praise Live!**

7pm at Chantry Hall, North End, Bedale, DL8 1AF Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Everyone welcome! For more information email lindajc54@outlook.com

## Deadline for April/May Penhill Beacon - Thursday 6th March

Please Email articles to: penhill.benefice@btconnect.com or post to: The Coach House Office, Swinithwaite, Leyburn, N Yorks DL8 4UH

## **Flourishing Families**

Some of you attended the Benefice Food for Thought Evening during Lent last year (2024) in Swinithwaite, when Richard and Liz Thomas spoke about the Flourishing Families initiative in Leeds helping the poorest families, through the schools across the city, in a variety of practical ways.

In November the Aysgarth PCC agreed to send a donation of £250. Geoff Hirst received a letter of thanks from Richard Colbrook, Trustee, in which he wrote: 'Last year we gave our poorest families a Christmas hamper which meant they had food on the table over the holidays. This year we plan to give each of their children a stocking to open on Christmas Day; a day which would otherwise be present-less for them.' Their original target was to feed 120 families, but the response from their supporters was so great they were able to feed around 170 families. We are asked to pass on heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Benefice who contributed, however indirectly.

Richard invites anyone would is interested and would like to receive the Flourishing Families Newsletter to email him at richardc@flourishingfamiliesleeds.org.uk You can also find more information on their website: www.flourishingfamiliesleeds.com *Margaret Ferguson.* 

#### **JOURNEY WITH MAF**

It was 80 years ago when an RAF fighter pilot, Murray Kenyon, was convinced that planes could be used to reach the millions of people who lived impoverished and fearful in the world's most isolated places.

He recruited a few experienced and like-minded ex RAF personnel to found MAF – Mission Aviation Fellowship. In January 1948 pioneers Stuart King and Jack Hemmings took off from Croydon in a flimsy Gemini aircraft to survey parts of the African the continent using little more than a map and a compass.

MAF's earliest African landings identified Sudan as a nation with great difficulties. Since the first airstrip was carved out in 1950, MAF planes have

been serving the country's poorest and remotest people except for the years when they were forced out because of civil war. On 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 South Sudan became a new independent country with its capital in Juba. The problems of transport, climate and isolation remain. Roughly 60% of the country cannot be reached by road. MAF's planes based in Juba now reach the most isolated and poorest with the help, hope and healing they need to survive. The UN identified 5 million in urgent need of help including a million children with acute malnutrition.

MAF today flies into 56 airstrips in South Sudan carrying up to 6,000 passengers each year. It works with 173 partner organisations. South Sudan is a country the same size as France but has only 124 miles of paved road. The rest of the routes are potholed or muddy tracks and travellers are frequently attacked by bandits.

South Sudan's climate is very hot all the year round and most people do not have access to clean water so MAF partners with other organisations to provide boreholes for drinking water and sanitation schemes.

Malaria is a killer. 2 million cases are reported each year. Remote clinics can only keep running because MAF planes deliver medicines, doctors and volunteers to help the sick. Survivors of the civil war conflict are flown to Bor Hospital. Pastors are flown in to Aweil and Yida to train people in spiritual healing to help villagers recover from horrific trauma. MAF pilots assist with a broadcasting station near Tonj from which local people hear the Good News of Jesus in their own dialect.

Mission in South Sudan would not be possible without MAF, as its planes supply tons of relief cargo and personnel movement throughout the region. Norwegian MAF pilot, Elvind Lindtjorn made two trips in a Cessna Caravan aircraft to rescue 50 children, victims of the war, being cared for in an orphanage east of Juba. The orphanage was under attack again but with MAF ground crew working quickly with the pilot they brought the children to safety.

As MAF's work in South Sudan continues please remember to pray – for safety for pilots and for the MAF team and partners so that many more lives can be saved through MAF's work.

Ciim e cin God bless you. (Dinka local dialect)

### **Palm Sunday**

### Sunday 13th April

After breakfast in Redmire Village Hall at 9am the church congregation will set off with palms aloft to St Mary's church, for the **Palm Sunday Family Service for all ages at 10.30am.** Remembering Jesus' triumphant journey into Jerusalem. Do come and join us!



## **Wensleydale Concert Series**

All concerts are at St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth at 7.30pm.

For full details please see the website

https://www.wensleydaleconcertseries.co.uk/

Or call 01969 663026 for queries. **TICKETS** are £18 per person in advance, £20 at the door. For under 18s and anyone in full time education tickets are £1. Season tickets are £95 and need to be ordered by **17th May 2025**. For under 18 and full time students season tickets can be purchased for £8.

## This year all concerts are on a Saturday

·	
17 <sup>th</sup> May	14th June
New London Chamber Ensemble	Lyad Sughayer
28 <sup>th</sup> June	12 <sup>th</sup> July –
Fenella Humphreys & Emma Abbate	Ben Cruchley
26 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> Aug
James Gilchrist & Anna Tilbrook	Mark Bebbington
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept Jeremias Fliedl
Fitzwilliam String Quartet	& Callum McLachlan

### **Telephone Directory**

Psychotherapeutic Counsellor Level 6 DIP. <a href="www.julieivesontherapy.com">www.julieivesontherapy.com</a>
Email: <a href="mailto:julieivesontherapy@gmail.com">julieivesontherapy@gmail.com</a>
Mob: 07825467508. In person at Leyburn Arts & Community Centre, The Old School House, Richmond Rd, Leyburn DL8 5DL. Online via Microsoft Teams or Telephone. I offer a safe and confidential space to explore your personal issues.

**J ROBERT FOSTER Coach Operator,** Swan Farm, Redmire, Leyburn, DL8 4HA Tel: 01969 622 331/07811 385 392. For all your private hire requirements, parties, day out and weddings. 24 seater to 56 seater coaches.

JONAS CENTRE Redmire, Leyburn, DL8 4EW; Tel: 01969 624 900; <a href="https://www.jonascentre.org">www.jonascentre.org</a> A Christian residential centre and holiday venue just by the village of Redmire. Our vision is people knowing God more, so we welcome all to share in a beautiful place, set aside for resting, seeking and engaging with God. Come and stay for a holiday retreat, or bring a group on a residential break.

**CLARKSONS** Thornborough Hall, Leyburn, DL8 5AB. Tel: 01969 624999. <a href="mailto:www.clarksonsaccountants.co.uk">www.clarksonsaccountants.co.uk</a> email: info@clarksonsaccountants.co.uk Whatever your accounting or business needs, we offer a personalised service to help make life easier and support you in fulfilling your business's potential.

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**WEST WITTON VILLAGE HALL,** Tel: 01969 623 813. (Peter Sadler). Reasonable hire rates. (Table Tennis played every Wednesday evening) Do you need to hire a village hall for a party, dance or other special event? West Witton Village Hall is your venue!

J ROBERT FOSTER Approved Coal Merchant, Swan Farm, Redmire, Leyburn, DL8 4HA Tel: 01969622 331/07811 385 392 Selling quality house coal and smokeless fuel.



**HAMILTON'S TEA ROOM,** Yoredale House, Aysgarth Tel: 01969 663 423 <a href="www.yoredalehouse.com">www.yoredalehouse.com</a> <a href="mailto:info@yoredalehouse.com">info@yoredalehouse.com</a> Open 10.30am to 4.30pm February to November. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Licensed village tea room. Homemade food. Breakfast, light lunches and clotted cream teas.

**W.S.HARTLE FAMILY BUTCHER,** West Burton, DL8 4JN Tel: David 01969 663 302. <a href="www.hartlebutchers.co.uk">www.hartlebutchers.co.uk</a> Free local delivery and freezer orders. Best Quality Meat, West Burton Spring Lamb, Homemade Sausages and Burgers.

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www.whiterosecandles.co.uk whiterosecandles@btinternet.com Open Feb to Oct Wed-Sat: 10am-4.30pm. Nov/Dec: Wed-Sat 10am-Dusk until Christmas. If making a special journey it is wise to ring and check details. Church candles are one of our specialities, also dinner, pillar and aromatherapy candles. All made in Wensley. Commissions accepted.

**WENSLEYDALE STORAGE SOLUTIONS LTD** Hazel Oliver Tel: 01969 663179 / 07866804601 <a href="mailto:hazel@wss-docs.co.uk">hazel@wss-docs.co.uk</a> www.wss-docs.co.uk Document Storage and Shredding of Confidential Waste.

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