

PENHILL BEACON

Penhill Benefice Church Magazine



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.

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St Oswald's: Vacant

St Margaret's: Patrick Earle (622467)

St Mary's: Vacant

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Vicar's Letter

Tom writes:-

In the marriage service, there's a phrase in the prayers offered for newlyweds that looks forward through time and asks 'that they may come at last to the end of their lives with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven'.

I sometimes reflect on that phrase as my life proceeds and ask what those words "with hearts content" look like in lived experience.

We may talk about being happy – and recognise that *happiness* relates to what's *happening* currently for us, which may not be the best. Conversely, we can be in troubled waters and yet still have a sense of contentment and of peace.

The apostle Paul, who faced immense challenges and persecution, could write, "I have learned to be content no matter what happens to me..."

(Philippians 4.11).

The world is a troubled place – and despite the beauty all around us, we can find contentment elusive. Even as the weather brightens in an early summer's day, a cloud may hang over our hearts, dampening our spirits and threatening our contentment.

Will there be wider war in Europe? Why is society so fractious and divided? What's my future, and my family's future? What of climate change

It's not surprising therefore that some people are returning to explore faith, and to find contentment in a restored relationship with God through worship.

Our churches are visited all through the week by people who are seeking peace, who are standing where previous generations have raised up wonderful sacred spaces for prayer – and where today's congregations still meet regularly to sing, pray and hear of God through the Bible.

If contentment is something that you find slips through your fingers – is hard to find and harder to retain – then try praying: and if it's hard on your own, join others on that journey at a Sunday service and rediscover a living faith!

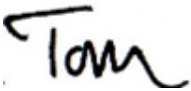
Another good resource is a free national telephone service set up by the Church of England called 'Daily Hope'. You're quite anonymous as you dial **0800 804 8044** any time or day and follow the menu options provided.

We also have our own telephone service on a Sunday morning at 9.30. To join in the conference call, phone 0333 0110 946 and enter room number 61337190# with PIN 7450# - speak to Christine in the office to be sent the little order of service we use.

So if you find you are missing out on a contented heart, here's a challenge and an invitation for you ... it may be God prodding you to reconnect!

We are not to be passive, waiting for God to appear – rather the Bible urges us in the Psalms:- 'seek peace, and pursue it' ... (Psalm 34.14)

May God grant you peace and contentment as you walk with Him!



Ascension Day

We welcomed Bishop Anna to Jervaulx Abbey for the Ascension Day Service , with warm weather and a good congregation.

We also raised **£591** for Christian Aid.

Deadline for Aug – Sept 2024 edition of the Penhill Beacon is
Thursday 4th July 2024

Please Email articles to: penhill.benefice@btconnect.com or post
to:

The Coach House Office, Swinithwaite, Leyburn, N Yorks DL8 4UH



Dates for your Diary...

Church Coffee Morning

10.30am -12 noon, Redmire Village Hall

Wednesday 5th June

Wednesday 3rd July



St Andrew's Church Drop in for Coffee Morning

10.00am-12 noon, Rose Cottage, Carperby

(at the west end of the village) **Wednesday 12th June,**

Church Afternoon Tea

2-4pm, Redmire Village Hall

Wednesday 19th June

Wednesday 17th July

Benefice Prayer Fellowship

7.30pm, Aysgarth Institute

Tuesday 25th June

Tuesday 23rd July

Wensleydale Filling Station

7pm, **Friday 14th June** Thornborough Hall, Moor Road, Leyburn DL8 5AB

Speaker: Chris Bennett

from Alexandra Road Congregational Hemel Hempstead

7pm, **12th July** with **Speaker Peter Dunn**

Contact: 07714 204024 mikehirst3@gmail.com

Swaledale Festival Concert

St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth

Wednesday 5th June at 7.30 – 9.30pm

Event No: 44 - Raphael Wallfisch and Friends: Quartet for the End of Time

Adults £25; Under 25s £3

Thursday 6th June at 4pm – 5pm

Event No: 46 - John Law and Jon Lloyd: Naissance

Uplifting, ambient jazz piano and saxophone

Adults £16; Under 25s £3

For tickets and enquiries please contact: enquiries@swalefest.org

Office number: 01748 880018. Box office: 01748 880019.

Prayer Topics For June and July

Life is Fragile. Handle with Care!

Life is Fragile. Handle with Prayer!

Lord God, living in this finite and fragile world can be scary at times.

Help us to look to you when we are feeling troubled and frightened.

Help us to see the good things around us. Who doesn't delight in seeing new lambs born so fragile yet quickly turn in to bands of playful youngsters running up and down the fields. We are thankful for the farmers who tend their flocks. For the many hours they work to help maintain our countryside environment.

Help us who are blessed with knowing Jesus as our Saviour, share with those who do not yet know You or how to reach out to you in prayer. Forgive us if we take You for granted at times and forget to give You the praise and glory in every day things.

Help us to live a life that illustrates the message of Jesus. We are the only hands and feet Jesus has on our fragile earth. Let us seek to serve people with prayer in the power that is in His name.

Suggestions for topics through the week

Mondays Lord Jesus we pray for all the visitors that are around this week. Let them enjoy their time away and prompt us to smile and give them a warm welcome.

Tuesdays For those who are, for any reason, feeling sad today. Ask God to guide you to a person who needs cheering up.

Wednesdays Remember the young people who are taking exams at schools or colleges this month. We ask that they keep calm and recall all they have learned so they can be confident and do their best.

Thursdays For our families, friends and loved ones. May God protect them and keep them safe as they go about their day.

Fridays For ourselves as we perhaps go to the market and meet friends and regulars on the stalls and in the shops. Let's be God's Blessing to those we meet today. We have the Good News to share after all!

Saturdays Take time to think about those who work hard on this busy day in our area. Remembering all who tend holiday cottages, those employed in the many cafes and hotels, shops and attractions.

Sundays Give thanks for all those involved in bringing services of worship to us in our many churches in the Dales.

Give thanks for the many people in the background who work daily to keep the buildings clean and tidy. The flowers and arrangers. Those willing to play music to help us sing. We pray especially for those who lead the services, that they may be inspired by God to speak the message He wants us to hear.

Father God give us listening ears. **Amen**

St Andrew's Working Party

On one Saturday morning in early May, an enthusiastic and energetic collection of people formed a working party to carry out a number of tasks at St. Andrew's Church in Aysgarth. We concentrated on the immediate surroundings of the church, clearing drains, removing vegetation, scraping moss off walls and steps and generally making it tidy.



*The Churchyard working party
was never seen again.*

Word had gone round the local villages and eighteen people responded by grafting away at rather tedious and unglamorous jobs for two hours, with only a short break for coffee and cake. No-one worked harder than our vicar, who spent the morning removing a collapsed bench and hauling out the concrete blocks it was set in. By lunchtime the group had made a considerable impact on the church environment.

The guidelines we followed came from the recommendations of last year's Quinquennial Inspection Report. There is more to do, so further working parties will be needed, but Aysgarth PCC is pleased with the progress made so far and very grateful to everyone who gave up a whole morning to help. Well done and thank you very much.

Wensleydale Concert Series

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

Saturday 15th June

Daniel Grimwood & Yasmin Rowe

A four-hand piano recital featuring works by Franz Schubert and Anton Rubinstein and featuring Stravinsky's wild and dramatic *Rite of Spring*

Friday 21st June

Nazrin Rashidova & Daniel Grimwood

A Violin and Piano Recital with works by Arvo Pärt, Grieg, Godowsky, Moszkowski, Szymanowski, Émile Sauret and Ethel Barns

Saturday 6th July

Benjamin Frith & Heidi Rolfe

A husband and wife four-hand piano recital including music by Field, Satie, Schubert and Brahms and featuring *Rimsky-Korsakov's - Scheherazade*

Saturday 27th July

The Herschel Trio

Named after the famous astronomer, and North-East composer, the Herschel Trio (flutes, harpsichord and viol) is bringing us a baroque performance entitled "Baroque Britannia!" including works by Handel, Arne, Purcell and Finger with traditional airs by Oswald, O'Carolan, together with Welsh airs and a North/North-East connection with Avison, Garth, and Herschel.

Saturday 17th August - Ashley Fripp, piano

Saturday 7th September - Tango Siempre

Saturday 21st September - Vitaly Pisarenko

Tickets are £20 or £1 (for under 18s and full-time students) at the door or £18/£1 when purchase in advance.

Programmes cost £1.50 at the door - please bring correct change if possible.

Full details of concerts and ticket purchased can be found on the website:

www.wensleydaleconcertseries.co.uk

Telephone: 0333 666 3366 (quote date, artist name(s))

Parking is £1.50 at the Pay and Display carpark (there is limited disabled parking at the church – please let us know on 01969 663026 in advance.)

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 June 2nd

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

Sunday June 9th

- 9.30 am Telephone Service
- 10.30 am Holy Communion Penhill Together Service,
St Andrew's Aysgarth
Revd Jude Smith, Director of Church Revitalisation will speak
about The Barnabas Encouraging Confidence Project

Sunday June 16th

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

Sunday June 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
- 4.00 pm Evening Prayer, Thornton Rust Mission Room

Sunday June 30th

- 9.30 am Telephone Service
- 10.30 am Holy Communion Penhill Together Service
St Bartholomew's, West Witton

June Mid-Week Services: Holy Communion at 9.30am
on Thursday 6th & 20th June at St Bartholmew's, West Witton

Sunday July 7th

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

Sunday July 14th

- 9.30 am Telephone Service
- 10.30 am Holy Communion Penhill Together Service,
St Mary's, Redmire

Sunday July 21st

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

Sunday July 28th

- 9.30 am Telephone Service
- 9.30 am Holy Communion, St Bartholomew's, West Witton
- 11.00 am Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Aysgarth
- 4.00 pm Evening Prayer, Thornton Rust Mission Room

July Mid-Week Services: Holy Communion at 9.30am
on Thursday 4th & 18th July at St Bartholomew's, West Witton

Revd. Jude Smith is our preacher on June 9th (see above)

"Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence" ...

...is the way in which the Diocese of Leeds wants to support churches to move forward in mission, ministry and sustainability – in a way that is prayerful, intentional and, within the grace of God, possible.

Barnabas offers local churches resources and support, helping us work towards the diocesan vision of "Confident Christians, Growing Churches, and Transforming Communities...".

...See leeds.anglican.org and search 'Barnabas' for much more!

Notes and Tales from a Jobbing Organist

Instead of “Hymns and their Tunes” it was suggested that we might have a break this month and have a lighter weight contribution about the machine responsible for at least the “tunes” bit of our regular articles.

We organists have plenty of experiences verging on horror stories when we’d just like to die. Failing to switch the machine on and trying to play it is one example; forgetting how many verses the hymn has; stopping playing too early or playing a non-existent verse when the congregation is already sitting down. (One organist who used to play with a piece of string across the manual (keyboard) with numbered cardboard pegs on it and which he flicked over in turn at the end of every hymn verse. What a great idea!)

At one funeral some years ago insufficient service papers had been produced and hymn books handed out to late comers. The hymn was “All things bright and beautiful” and the hymn book had one more verse than the paper. The funeral party finished first. I’d realised that there were two versions going on and decided to go with the “tall trees in the greenwood”. In retrospect the wrong decision, but the vicar and I now carefully swap notes to ensure there’s never a recurrence if hymn books are needed as a supplement!

Never have a hymn tune in three beats (waltz time) as a processional or recessional hymn. My vicar at Shrewsbury Abbey always had “Christ is made the sure foundation” to start a festal event and the sight of the Abbey choir in a quick-slow bobbing up-and-down motion would have been hilarious had these not been such serious occasions.

One of my most embarrassing experiences, though I was only aware after the event, was when deputising at Shrewsbury Abbey one evening. Alf, a lovely but highly eccentric bass, had realised that at the end of Choral Evensong I was having a stab at the Bach D minor Toccata and Fugue. Recessing, he veered left to the south porch and barred the way of the departing congregation, telling them quite firmly that they were not allowed to leave the Abbey until I’d finished. I would have been mortified had I known.

My most cringe worthy experience was arriving to play at a funeral in Witney and finding the hearse empty and the first hymn already over. I had been given the time of the cemetery interment and not the funeral service but nevertheless I felt utterly dreadful.

But to end on perhaps my favourite story. It concerns Thomas Walmisley (1814-1856), organist at Trinity College Cambridge and, to put it kindly, patronised the college wine cellar. One day there was a terrible noise from the organ loft and a little choir boy was sent up to investigate. The lad investigated and reported back to the Dean of Chapel: "Doctor Walmisley is very drunk, sir, and he's sitting on the organ keys". The noise must have been deafening! *Geoff Hirst*

A Grape, a Well, a Spark, a Seed

Lord, how much juice You can squeeze from a single grape.

How much water You can draw from a single well.

How great a fire You can kindle from a tiny spark.

How great a tree You can grow from a tiny seed.

My soul is so dry that by itself it cannot pray;

Yet You can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers.

My soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;

Yet You can draw from it boundless love for You and for my neighbour.

My soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy;

Yet You can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.

My soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;

Yet by Your power my faith grows to a great height.

I thank You for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith;

Let me always be prayerful, loving, joyful, faithful.

By Guigo the Carthusian (d.1188)

Using Rest to Pray

Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

One of the great verses in the Bible says this: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still. When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful, and God is very near. Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer, if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

An essential part of resting is to breathe slowly. Christian tradition has always made a connection between prayer and breathing. You can learn to pray to the rhythm of your breathing, using chosen prayer words to focus. As you breathe in, you might say 'Abba', and then as you breathe out, add the word 'Father'. Choose words which are meaningful to you, deliberately slowing your breathing so you become relaxed and peaceful.

Perhaps you have a favourite chair where you are able to unwind easily. For a few moments sit and do nothing. Simply become aware of the present moment, reminding yourself you are in the presence of God. As you feel yourself relax, bask in the knowledge of God's love and acceptance of you. Sense His smile of approval upon you. You don't have to do anything, just 'be' for a moment. This too is prayer.

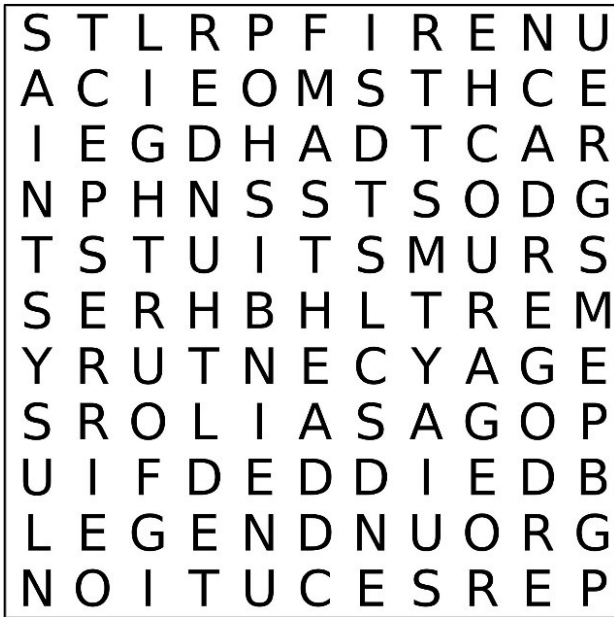
Sometimes we are forced to rest by circumstances... illness, disability, growing older and so on slow us down and we can't rush around like we used to do. Never mind. Don't fight against your circumstances. Enter into the place of rest that God is giving you. He loves you for who you are, not for what you do. Turn your thoughts into prayer and offer them to God. You don't need to advise God as to what He should do; simply hold people before Him, leaving the outcome to Him.

Prayer should be a natural expression of our relationship with God. Sometimes we have words, sometimes silence is enough. We don't need to impress God with our fervour. We can relax and be rested, even as we pray.

PP Tony Horsfall.

Erasmus, patron saint of sailors

Do you like messing about in boats? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's Fire. It is the light that is sometimes seen on mastheads of boats after storms at sea. St Elmo is another name for St Erasmus, a fourth century Syrian bishop who was not afraid of violent storms. Legend has it that one day when Erasmus was preaching outside, a thunderbolt hit the ground right beside him. That might have distracted modern bishops, but not Erasmus – he just kept on preaching. His courage won him the respect of sailors, who made him their patron saint. Erasmus finally died during the Diocletian persecutions in 300AD, and his feast day is 2nd June.



Boats	Elmo	Fire	Light
Storm	Sea	Fourth	Century
Legend	Preaching	Thunder	Ground
Masthead	Bishop	Respect	Courage
Sailors	Saints	Died	persecution

Telephone Directory

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