

THE ANVIL

Magazine for The Benefice of The Wiske

*Great Smeaton, Appleton Wiske, Danby Wiske,
Birkby, East Cowton and North Cowton*

DECEMBER 2021



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £4.00

DECEMBER

St Eloy's Gt. Smeaton	St Mary's Appleton Wiske	St Peter's Birkby	Parish Church Danby Wiske	All Saints East Cowton
Benefice website: www.wiskebenefice.org				
Churchwardens				
Appleton Wiske	Mrs Angela Carlin		Tel: 01609 881817	
Danby Wiske	Mr Ian Pattinson		Tel: 01609 777577	
	Mrs Sue Rayfield		Tel: 01609 773337	
East Cowton	Mrs Christine Johnson		Tel: 01325 378481	

YOUR CLERGY: Contact Details

Rev David Bartlett, The New Rectory, Great Smeaton,
Northallerton DL6 2EP - *Benefice of the Wiske.*

01609 765323 (07780512398)

<https://www.facebook.com/Vicar-of-the-Wiske-106020598239091>

<https://www.wiskebenefice.org>



But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

Job 12:7-10

Christmas Stuffing

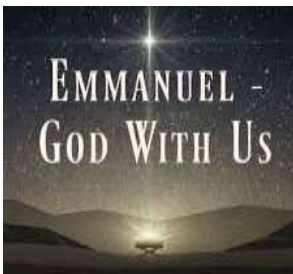


They've started already, the Christmas adverts. They will have you believe it's all about the "stuff". Stuff to give, stuff to eat and drink, and stuff you need as life is not perfect without it.

We've just been through Cop26 and if we learnt anything, it's that a lot of stuff they are trying to sell to us is made using the limited resources of the planet Earth, using lots of other stuff to transport it around the world (*and apparently that's not working very well so, there may be a shortage of some stuff, so you had better buy it now!*) adding to climate change.

And stuff seems to be so addictive, we discover very quickly that it only satisfies for a short while and then we feel the need for more new stuff. And a lot of the stuff we buy is designed not to last too long! So, we need to go out and buy more (and you can even do that painlessly now days, just go online and using electronic payment, we hardly need think about it!).

Yet as I think about the last couple of Christmases, the thing I really missed the most was the people. Spending time with family, relaxing, laughing (ok occasionally, it is stressful as well) meeting up with friends and spending time together, meeting up with people at church and at community events. It's the people that make a good Christmas really.



At the heart of the Christmas story is that simple idea that God, in Jesus, comes to live with us. To love us and share life with us, to laugh and cry, to join in the ordinary, the mundane, the extraordinary and the wonderful. One of the words used to describe Jesus is Emmanuel, literally 'God with us'.

God's Christmas gift to us wasn't something but someone. His present is his presence with us. My prayer is that you will have a peaceful, joyful Christmas and that you can share it with lovely people and know the blessing of Jesus's presence with you.

Christmas Blessings.

Davi

Christmas Services round the Benefice

5 th Dec	Appleton Wiske	Christingle 5pm
	Great Smeaton	Christingle 5pm
	Danby Wiske	Christingle 4pm
19 th Dec	Great Smeaton	Carols 11am
	Appleton Wiske	Carols 5pm
	East Cowton	Carols 6.30pm
24 th Dec	Danby Wiske	Carols 7pm
	East Cowton	Crib Service 4pm
	Danby Wiske	Crib Service 4pm
	Birkby	Carols 7pm
25 th Dec	Great Smeaton	Christmas Communion 9.30am



To all you farmers out there

(many thanks to my brother, a sheep farmer up at Bowes on the A66, for sending this in)

As a livestock farmer, I worry I may be getting a paranoid persecution complex. I imagine an ‘environmentalist’ surveying the landscape. There is rampant urbanisation, thousands of houses being built everywhere, there’s a busy airport and high-speed rail link under construction. Container ships are docked in ports full of goods made in China, with power derived from burning coal, some of which is hauled from Australia. Fleets of lorries travel on ever more congested roads to huge distribution depots, where swarms of vans are leaving to make deliveries.

The environmentalist’s attention is drawn to a distant hillside, where sheep are grazing. They make an announcement: “I’ve seen the solution – the sheep have GOT to go!”.

Antony Holyoak

“Every single individual makes an impact every single day”

Jane Goodall

(Cop26 advocate speaking on behalf of nature and the planet)

Accepting What Is or Changing our Mindset?

“Faced with the recent facts highlighted at November’s Climate Cop26 in Glasgow, we have choices:

- We can be indifferent, do nothing, and hope the problem goes away;*
- We can despair, and plunge into paralysis;*
- Or we can become STUBBORN OPTMISTS, with a belief that no matter how difficult, we must and we can rise to the challenge this world faces. It means changing our mindset to transform the reality we are given into the reality we want.*

Optimism is not blindly ignoring the realities around us – that’s foolishness. It’s not a naïve faith that everything will be alright if we do nothing – that’s irresponsibility. This decade is a moment of choice and opportunity. A moment for Stubborn Optimism”.

(spoken by Christiana Figueres, an internationally recognized leader on global climate change. She was Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2010-2016.)

*Can two wonderful Greek words from the New Testament help us with this? Firstly, ‘**metanoia**’, often translated in Christianity as ‘repentance’, originally signifying a fundamental change of the mind and heart leading to a complete change in thinking and living. In other words, changing how we look at things, our worldview. And secondly, ‘**splagchnizomai**’, (splang-nid'-zom-ahee); being moved as to one’s bowels, hence to be moved with compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity). (SH)*

FROM THE REGISTERS

East Cowton Baptism of Tobias Robinson-Lee, 7th November.
East Cowton Funeral of Peter Metcalfe, 25th November, burial at South Cowton.
Appleton Wiske 21st November The Baptism of Charlotte Ferrie

In the Buddha's most essential teaching of the Four Noble Truths, he shares his discovery that suffering is a part of life, and there is no escape from it. This is the first Noble Truth and acknowledging it can help us to suffer less. If we can accept where we are, and not judge the disruption in our life as wrong or bad, we can touch great freedom.

Kaira Lingo, a young Buddhist nun, struggled with a particular exercise, which was, "Breathing in, I dwell in the present moment; breathing out, I know this is a wonderful moment." She found herself stuck when she did this practice, questioning how we could truly affirm it was "a wonderful moment" with all the violence, hatred, inequality, and preventable tragedies that are happening in the present moment all over the world. Then she realized that there are also many beings that are supporting others in the present moment. There are many hearts of compassion, opening to relieve suffering, to care for others, to teach, to show a different way. There are people who are courageous and standing up for what they believe is right, protecting our oceans, cleaning rivers and beaches, advocating for those who are oppressed. There are those in every corner of the planet who are quietly doing the things no one else wants to do: caring for the forgotten people, places, species, and doing what needs to be done.

They're all here, coexisting in this moment. So, indeed, we live in a wonderful moment.

Father Richard Rohr

If you follow the yearly 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative from Lambeth Palace, you will be interested to know in their Impact Report for 2021 that Christians in more than 170 countries, from across 80 different denominations and traditions, united in prayer for friends and family to come to faith in Christ, during this year's Thy Kingdom Come.

thykingdomcome@lambethpalace.org.uk

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News in the Villages

PLEASE CHECK THE BENEFICE WEBSITE FOR ANY UPDATES:
www.wiskebenefice.org (all Anvil adverts are now also on this website)

Diary Dates for DECEMBER at a glance		
For Christmas Services please see page 4		
Thur 2 nd	10.15am	Advent Group East Cowton Annexe
Fri 3 rd	6.30pm	Appleton Wiske lighting of Christmas tree
Fri 3 rd	7.30-9pm	East Cowton Youth Group in the Annexe
Wed 8 th	7.30pm	Appleton Wiske YCA ,Christmas Concert ,Ukulele Group
Thur 9 th	day	'Living Rooms' Open Day in Northallerton
Thur 9 th	10.15am	Advent Group East Cowton Annexe
Wed 15 th	tbc	Appleton Wiske Pre-school Nativity in St. Mary'
Thur 16 th	10.15am	Advent Group East Cowton Annexe
Fri 17 th	7.30-9pm	East Cowton Youth Group in the Annexe
Wed 22 nd	6.30pm	Carol singing round Appleton Wiske
Wed 22 nd	6.30pm	Carol singing round Danby Wiske
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Danby Wiske Crib Service
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	St. Mary's Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	9.30am	St. Eloy's Holy Communion

APPLETON WISKE

The Village Shop is taking food orders, offering free delivery to your door and a medicine collection service. Contact Jackie on 07823 333075. Iain and Diane at the Lord Nelson are offering a takeaway service from 6-8.00pm for Fri & Sat evenings, please ring 881351 to order. Sunday lunch as normal.

The minibus leaves every Wednesday morning at 9.15am from the village bus shelter and returns from Applegarth carpark at 11.30am.

Christingle

Christingle Service this year in St Mary's to support the work of the Children's Society, is planned for 5.00 pm on Sunday 5th December.

Invitations will be sent to all children of Primary School age in the Village but "Grown Ups" are welcome too!



Carol Service

The Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 5.00 pm on Sunday 19th December. Refreshments will be served after the Service – All Welcome

Bonfire Night

The Village Bonfire and Fireworks raised over £1500 for the Pre-School. Many thanks to all those who prepared for, and supported, this most popular event – an enjoyable evening for all.

Bags to School

Many thanks too for the response for clothing and soft furnishings that raised £245.10 for the Pre-School

Appleton Wiske Y.C.A presents A Christmas Concert

Stokesley U3 Ukulele Group Wednesday 8th December
Appleton Wiske Village Hall. Wine and chocolate raffle. Tickets £5.00.

Carol singing around Appleton Wiske Wednesday 22nd Dec

Let us know by Sunday 19th if you would like to be visited by the carol singers. (via Village Shop, Chapel or Church)

Meet at St Mary's **6.30 pm**. All ages and stages are welcome to join in with all or part of the carol singing. We finish with soup at the chapel. For seating and catering purposes please let us know if you intend being at the soup supper.

METHODIST SERVICES IN DECEMBER, APPLETON WISKE

All services are 30minutes and start 10.15am except in bold.

At time of writing there are no social restrictions in place.

Because of possible changes however, it would be helpful to know if you intend coming along. Thank you.

Karen Portsmouth (serving as steward) 07890 478533

Sunday 5th Messy Church - Kathryn Walker

Coffee/Breakfast from 9.30am

Sunday 12th Communion - Revd Arthur Harbottle

Sunday 19th Nativity service – local arrangement

Friday 24th Christmas Eve – Revd Arthur Harbottle **4.15pm**

Saturday 25th Christmas Day Celebration! – local arrangement

Informal service followed by refreshments and fellowship **9.30am**

GREAT SMEATON

Great Smeaton and Appleton Wiske will be supporting the Salvation Army Toy Appeal for local children. Please take a NEW unwrapped toy to St. Eloy's, St Mary's, Chapel or Appleton Wiske PO for any age, baby to 16 years. Last week in Nov-1st week in Dec. Thank you.

Fellowship Meetings 2022

The Fellowship hopes to start again on Monday 17th January, 2.00pm in St. Eloy's Church. All welcome.

Contact Mary Elliott 881411 for further details.

There will be a Christingle Service at 5pm on Sunday 5th December in St.

Eloy's, Great Smeaton. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Everyone welcome.

Carol Service 11 am on 19th December in St. Eloy's

A service of readings and carols for everyone to enjoy.

A good way to begin your Christmas week celebrations.

Christmas Day Communion Service in St. Eloy's at 9.30 am. All welcome.

EAST COWTON

East Cowton Youth Group has started up again. If you know of young people 10 and over why not let them know. Meeting on Friday 3rd and 17th 7.30-9.00pm in All Saints Annex.

Advent Bible Study group. This will start on Thursday 25th November, and following 2nd, 9th and 16th December, 10.15am in the Annexe at All Saints. We will be looking at "Advent for Everyone" by Tom Wright. You are welcome to join for as many of the sessions as you can. Contact Christine Johnson for more details.

LOVESOME HILL

Bridge Group - A very friendly and social group meets every Monday evening in Lovesome Hill Village Hall.

DANBY WISKE

Christingle Service

The Christingle service will be held in Danby Wiske Parish Church on

the 5th December at 4 pm. Please note change of time, we thought it would be a preferable time for little ones. A very informal service for children of all ages. The collection will go to the Children's Society as usual.

Carol Service

The Carol Service will be held on Sunday 19th December at 7pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. This is always a lovely start to the festivities, do come and join us and the choir.

Crib Service

The Crib service is held on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 4pm. This is a lovely very informal service for little ones and children of all ages, could be a bit chaotic as excitement mounts for the big day!

Carols on the Green

Wednesday 22nd December at 6.30, Carol sheets will be provided. Gathering on the Village Green to sing Carols, 30 minutes at the most, please dress for all eventualities of the weather! Mulled wine to warm us up, orange juice and mince pies will be served. A bucket collection is for the Salvation Army in Darlington to benefit the homeless.

The Anvil

As this month's Anvil covers December and January, please be aware that the annual subscriptions of £4 for the Anvil are now due. Please use the envelope provided and either give to Sandra Janney or Sue Rayfield. If anyone who receives an e-copy would like to give a donation, please feel free to give to Sue or Sandra also. If anyone who receives a hardcopy would like to change to an e-copy, please send your email address to Sue at mgandsjrayfield@gmail.com.

Alistair's Quiz will be happening again on Saturday 5th February 2022 in the Village Hall. Tickets will be getting printed and on sale very soon, it is always popular and a sell-out very quickly so contact Village Hall committee members to reserve tickets.

Happy Christmas to Everyone from Danby Wiske Church and all the very best wishes for 2022

Miscellaneous observations on modern life

*I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.
Humans are about 60% water. Basically, we are ice cream with anxiety.
A lot of money is tainted – It taint yours and it taint mine.*

NEWS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Act locally to have an impact globally.

Plan for a less wasteful Christmas. How can we celebrate God's creation rather than deplete its resources in a season of excess?

Let's make sure our goodwill extends to our planet this Christmas.



Gift your community a tree – 'I Dig Trees' are giving away over 7,000 free community tree packs for distribution to community groups.

Wrap presents with kindness for the environment. Shiny, foil wrapping paper can't be recycled and goes straight to landfill. When it comes to wrapping, steer clear of foil gift wrap and anything with added glitter. The 'scrunch test' will tell you if you can recycle it: crumple a piece of wrapping paper in your hand – if it unfolds when you open your hand, it can't be recycled. Paper that stays scrunched up in a ball is safe to put in the recycling. Try wrapping in beautiful seasonal scarves, or decorating reusable cloth bags, or use ribbons or hessian round newspaper or brown paper. Glittery Christmas cards aren't recyclable either. The 'no glitter' rule applies to greetings cards and Advent calendars, too. When you recycle them, tear off the portions with glitter, remove ribbon, badges and other embellishments and take out batteries from musical cards – these should be recycled separately.

Start an annual, earth-friendly, Christmas family tradition – Decorate a tree for the birds, go on a family nature hike, try to identify and count every bird you see on a Christmas Day [Bird Count](#) or participate in a nature restoration activity such as planting a small tree together to symbolise the value of God's creation. Think prayerfully about the season ahead and consider how you might be able to give back to the earth and instil the values of sustainable living to your children, friends and community.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL YOU LOVELY ANVIL READERS
AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022**

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OF THE WISKE DECEMBER 2022

	Appleton Wiske	Birkby	Danby Wiske	East Cowton	Great Smeaton	Readings
5 th December Advent 2	Christingle 5pm		Christingle 4pm		9.00am Holy Communion Christingle 5pm	Malachi 3.1-4; Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6, Luke 1.68-79
12 th December Advent 3	Holy Communion 9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00 am		Holy Communion 11.00 am		Zephaniah 3.14-20; Isaiah 12.2-6 Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18
19 th December Advent 4	Carols 5.00 am		11.00 am Holy Communion 7.00 pm Carols	6.30 pm Carols	Carols 11.00 am	Micah 5.2-5a; Luke 1.46b-55 Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-55
Christmas Eve	11.00pm Midnight Communion	Carols 7pm	Crib 4.00 am	Crib 4.00 am		
Christmas Day					9.30 am Christmas Communion	Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20
26 th December Christmas 1						1 Samuel 2.18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is. – Athanasius

FEBRUARY 2022 – ANVIL All articles, dates etc by 15th of preceding month to Sarah Hurhangee, Kirroughtree, Hornby Road, Appleton Wiske, DL6 2AF, 01609 881680, e-mail: sarah.hurhangee@gmail.com