

Newsletter

21st February 2021

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCHES:

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:

OUR CLERGY:



Facebook.com/BramhamBenefice



@ stmarybostonspa

www.bramhambenefice.org

email:

bramhambenefice@outlook.com

Priest in Charge—Rev. Nick Morgan

revnjmorgan@gmail.com

Rev. Trish Anslow, Assistant Priest

Parish Office: 01937 844402

Mon-Thurs 9.30am-12.30pm

Fr. Ken Gabbadon Priest in Charge

St Luke's, Clifford e-mail: kqabba7036@aol.com

A Lenten note from Rev'd Nick

You may well be feeling as if last year's Lent has seamlessly run throughout the whole of last year to join with this year's. There has been a sense of giving up so much that is life-enhancing over the past year for so many people, that our English custom of focusing on "giving things up for Lent" perhaps needs to give way to other aspects of Lent tradition this year.

I'm not telling you not to give something up for Lent. Rather, I encourage you to keep Lent a little differently this year, perhaps focusing more on two other Lenten traditions: giving alms to the needy, and prayer and devotions.

"Giving alms"

Why not set aside an amount each week of Lent to give to the Christian Aid appeal later in the year? These can be dropped off in the wall box at St Mary's Church, or pushed through the Parish Office Letterbox.

If you prefer to focus locally, you might like to make a financial donation to support the work of the Wetherby and District Foodbank, or to Helping Hands who are meeting the needs of homeless people and have an Amazon Wishlist of items they know are needed - <https://tinyurl.com/3vkkyqlr>

See the article later in the Newsletter for more about what Helping Hands are doing.

"Prayer and devotions" - a few ideas.

Join in Morning Prayer, Mondays to Thursdays on our Facebook page (either live at 7am or play it as a video at a time to suit you later on).

Follow our "Psalms for Life" devotions which appear on Tuesday evenings on Facebook throughout Lent. Each week for around 25 minutes, three Psalms are first sung to Gregorian chant, then read in a contemporary translation, then reflected upon. These devotions, led by Rev'd Nick Morgan are presented in association with Christians Together in Boston Spa, Bramham, Clifford, Thorp Arch and Walton, and features The Reverend Steve Jakeman as the reader of the Psalms.

Use our "Sackcloth and Ashes" as a prayer reminder throughout Lent.
Or the following Lent poem in the shape of a cross. (over page)

However you keep Lent, find a way to turn your attention to prayer, to the world's needs, to your own mortality and need of God's grace. But do so with all of this seen in the context of a journey to the cross where all austerity, suffering, need and sin was conquered. We journey onwards in hope - a hope greater even than vaccines and roadmaps: the hope revealed in Jesus Christ who walks with us in all life's joys and sorrows.

Turn, O child
of dust:
renounce sin.

Forsake this world's comforts: its power and glory.
Seek God's forgiveness, and walk the way of the cross.

Follow
in the
footsteps
of Christ,
and be
baptised
into his death,
that you may
ever live in the
light of his
resurrection.
Turn, O child
of dust.

Psalms for Life



The Book of Psalms is a wonderful, Divinely-inspired collection of poetry, drawing on honest and heartfelt human experiences of a life of faith. The Psalms lie at the heart of Christian worship and continue to inspire, teach and guide. The Rev'd Nick Morgan offers four online reflections, each centred upon three psalms with a common theme.

The reflections are live at 7pm on Tuesdays and may also be watched at any time thereafter on the Bramham Benefice Facebook page.

Join Psalms for Life at www.facebook.com/BramhamBenefice or at www.BramhamBenefice.org at 7pm on the following Tuesdays:

23 rd February	Psalms in Times of Trouble	Ps. 12, 18 & 20
2 nd March	Psalms of Trust in God	Ps. 27, 91 & 146
9 th March	Psalms of Penitence	Ps. 32, 51 & 130
16 th March	Psalms of Redemption	Ps. 15, 126 & 138

Each reflection begins with an introduction to the theme and some thoughts on how the psalms we shall hear deal with those themes. The Psalms are sung in a traditional language translation, then after a pause, read in a modern translation. A time of silence follows, concluding with a short prayer. It is anticipated that these reflections will each last around 20 minutes.

If you do not have a Facebook account, the sessions are also livestreamed on the homepage of www.BramhamBenefice.org. All four sessions will remain available for viewing on the Bramham Benefice Facebook page indefinitely after the livestream has finished.



LIVING GENEROUSLY THROUGH LENT

IDEAS TO HELP US DO LENT DIFFERENTLY

1

TAKE UP THE 40ACTS CHALLENGE

*40 days, 40 challenges, 40 ways
to make a difference. A creative
way of doing Lent differently.*

2

DONATE SOMETHING EVERY DAY

*Find a charity who would
benefit from donations - this
could be clothing, toys or food.*

3

COMMIT TO PRAYING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

*You could commit to giving thanks for
the generosity of your community, and
discern what mission you are being
called to use with that resource.*

4

SIGN UP TO VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING

*This could be a spiritual
discipline in committing your
time to serving others.*

5

SET ASIDE MONEY FOR MISSION

*In addition to your regular planned
giving commitment, set aside an
additional gift amount each day or
week for a missional project.*

6

PRACTICE GRATITUDE

*Commit each day to writing a thank
you message to someone, or to
making a note of three things you
are grateful for.*

*Generous
Giving*





Living Generously Through Lent

Ideas for individuals to take a journey of generosity through Lent.

Traditionally, the season of Lent is a time of spiritual internal examination as we journey through the forty days, in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Historically many Christians used this time for fasting, following the example of Jesus who fasted for forty days in the wilderness. Today, some people choose to use the season to commit to a Lenten discipline - giving something up or taking something up - as a tool to reflect on how we can better live Christ's story and grow to become the people God creates us to be.

As generosity is the outpouring of a lived-out faith, we have come up with a few suggestions of Lenten disciplines which you might like to commit to during the season of Lent.

1. Take up the 40acts challenge.

40acts, created by Stewardship, presents a different challenge each day to practice generosity in your life. This is a really creative way of doing Lent differently. In 2019, more than 100,000 people took the challenge, creating a wave of over 4 million generous acts in 180 countries around the world. 40acts.org.uk

2. Donate something every day.

Find a charity or a selection of charities which you can donate to each day throughout Lent. You could include giving supplies to a local Food Bank, or put aside clothes and toys to post to a charity shop who are accepting donations.

3. Commit to praying for your community.

You could commit to giving thanks for the generosity of your community each day in Lent, reflecting on the gifts of money, time, hospitality and other means. You could also prayerfully discern what mission your church is being called to use with that resource.

4. Sign up to virtual volunteering.

Commit to giving your time to volunteering with a charity. Due to COVID restrictions this could be done virtually, and there are plenty of opportunities for this, such as the Crisis Text Hotline, Help from Home and Help a Hero.

5. Set aside Money for Mission.

In addition to your regular planned giving commitment to your church, you could set aside an additional gift amount each day or week, in order to resource mission. You might want to have a particular ministry in mind for this, or generally to bring glory to God.

6. Practice gratitude.

Giving springs from the attitude of a grateful heart. Gratitude is a spiritual discipline rooted in the belief that everything good that happens around us is given from God out of love for us, and this discipline will help to recover a Christian theology of thanksgiving. Our giving is the fruit of and an expression of gratitude. Commit to giving thanks each day, either by sending a message to someone or by making a note of three things you are grateful for each day.

#LIVE LENT



God's Story Our Story



LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story invites each of us to reflect on our own story of God and how we might share it through our everyday lives as part of our Christian witness.

It encourages us to take a fresh look at evangelism, exploring how Jesus and his first followers communicated the good news of God's love by inviting, listening and responding creatively to others.

For each of the 40 days of Lent, this booklet includes a short Bible passage, a reflection and a prayer. The daily reflections follow weekly themes - each with an accompanying action - drawn from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021.

Booklets cost £2.00
(large print copy £4.00)

To order your copy contact The Parish Office on 01937 844402 or put a note through the Parish Office letter box, stating your name, number of copies required and a contact number so we can let you know when to collect, and payment.

Bramham

OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Daily 9am - 3pm St. Mary's, Boston Spa

Daily 10am - 4pm All Saints', Bramham

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL GUIDELINES, WEAR A MASK, SIGN IN,
MARK WHERE YOU HAVE SAT AND SANITISE YOUR HANDS

ONLINE SERVICES

can be found at:

www.BramhamBenefice.org

www.Facebook.com/BramhamBenefice

PHONE CHURCH

see newsletter for more details

If you would like any more information or would like to borrow a Book of Common Prayer for the Phone Church Service please contact:
The Parish Office on 01937 844402

St Mary's Church
Boston Spa

100 Club

2021

February 2021 winners

1st	51	Jeremy Oxley
2nd	70	Kennedy Family
3rd	37	Janet McBride

Congratulations

**100
CLUB**

Fredo Scarr - 01937 842297
Margaret Barker - 01937 844953

Services across the Benefice

Join us at:
facebook.com/BramhamBenefice
OR
www.BramhamBenefice.org/online-services

10.00am WEDNESDAYS - Online Service

All Saints' Church, Thorp Arch

St. Peter's Church, Walton

ONLINE SERVICES

ONLINE SERVICES

All Saints' Church, Bramham

St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa

ONLINE SERVICES

ONLINE SERVICES

Sunday Readings

21st February

Genesis 9.8-17
1 Peter 3.18-end
Mark 1.9-15

28th February

Genesis 17.1-7,15-16
Romans 4.13-end
Mark 8.31-end

7th March

Exodus 20.1-17
1 Corinthians 1.18-25
John 2.13-22

14th March

Exodus 2.1-10
Colossians 3.12-17
John 19.25b-27

How do you watch our online services? Facebook? Website?

It is now possible to view our Facebook livestreamed services on the website. On the main page of the website www.BramhamBenefice.org in the middle of the page whenever a live service starts, a window will appear on the screen. You may have to refresh your browser for this window to appear. To make that window bigger on your screen, hover your mouse over it and click the "Full Screen" icon which looks like 4 arrows pointing outwards. If you can't hear the sound, hover your mouse and check the sound is not muted in that window. We hope this means more people can access our live services easily. Please spread the word about this feature, especially to those who are less confident in accessing our services on Facebook - this should make it much easier for them.

In addition to our online worship we are now offering a 'Phone Church' Service



PHONE CHURCH



Traditional Language (BCP) Service

Join our service on the phone on

Sunday mornings 11.00am

Joining instructions

Using your telephone (landline OR mobile) dial:

0333 0164 757

See if you can put your phone on 'speaker' or 'hands free' so that you can move it away from your ear. This isn't essential but might make it easier for you.

You will hear a woman's voice saying "Welcome to Whypay (and a short marketing message)" then, "Please enter your conference room number followed by the hash key". So using your keypad type in:

66657450 # this is the Room Number

You will then hear the same voice say "Please enter your Guest Pin followed by the hash key" So using your keypad type in:

4086 # this is the Guest Pin

When you are connected if you are the first on the line some music will play, when someone arrives you will hear a tone, just say hello to each other and when everyone is there we will begin.

Please phone the Parish Office 01937 844402 to request a copy of the Book of Common Prayer

PLEASE HELP US PRAY FOR:

St. Mary's Email Prayer Group
If you would like to include someone
on the Prayer list please contact Niki on:
stmarysprayer18@gmail.com

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Brian Hardy
Terrence Carroll

OCCASIONAL OFFICES:

WEDDINGS:

BAPTISMS:

FUNERALS:

Terrence Carroll
St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa
23rd February 2021

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

We offer various activities for families,
children and young people. For more
information contact The Parish Office:
bramhambenefice@outlook.com

Visit our website for more details.

**Most of our children and youth
groups are suspended.**

**Young Life will go ahead via
Zoom,
please contact Revd. Nick for
more information.**

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME
AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**

MON 12.00-1.00pm Yoga

MON 3.45-4.45 Meditation in the
Christian Tradition held at 197 High
Street, Boston Spa

2nd & 4th TUES 7.30pm Bell Ringing
at All Saints' Bramham

**All held at St Mary's Church, unless
otherwise stated.**



St. Mary's Email Prayer Group

If you would like to include
someone
on the Prayer list
please contact Niki on:
stmarysprayer18@gmail.com

Services can be viewed at:
[facebook.com/BramhamBenefice](https://www.facebook.com/BramhamBenefice)
www.BramhamBenefice.org/online-services

LCC Local Welfare Support Scheme.

0113 376 0330

This is the first port of call number for all Covid-19 related needs as part of the LCC Local Welfare Support Scheme. It feeds into all the other support networks, including Mark Dobson at WiSe (our local area hub co-ordinators). Anyone needing one of Penny's local volunteers would be referred to Penny, and Citizen's Advice and all sorts of other bodies are in this system too.

So, the number is to give to anyone with needs such as:

- referrals to the foodbank
- help with gas / electricity top ups
- needing white goods
- needing items for babies
- help with shopping
- up to date info for anyone put into the shielding group
- emergency food parcels
- prescription delivery



Helping Hands is a very small handful of people that have themselves previously been homeless or in addiction and forced into deprivation and have managed to get help or help themselves and are just trying to give something back to a life they know too well.

They are a non profit humanitarian project that rely totally on donations for their outreach project and recently they have been using the Parish Room at St Mary's Church to store and sort items to prepare them for distribution. This is a temporary arrangement while our parish room stands idle and they arrange their own longer term storage.

With recent plummeting temperatures, it is a sad fact that many people still sleep rough in Leeds and elsewhere in our region, and the outreach of Helping Hands is literally lifesaving, though sadly some of their clients have not survived recent wintry weather.

They are doing amazing work, not only in providing hot food, clothing and other essentials, but they are restoring some kind of human dignity to people who have fallen off the edge of our society's support systems. I believe they deserve our support. Helping Hands have an Amazon Wishlist of items which would be especially welcomed at the moment, and you can find this online at <https://tinyurl.com/3vkkylqr> and please select Nichola Noble as the recipient at Checkout.

Note that at present, due to Covid restrictions we are not collecting items at St Mary's - it is not a public drop off point, so please use the Amazon wishlist which will deliver things to the right place if you select Nichola Noble as the addressee. If you have items you wish to donate, please get in touch with Rev'd Nick or the Parish Office and you will be put in direct contact with a member of Helping Hands who can advise how to get items to them. Their Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/homelessinleeds>

St Mary's Churchyard Memorial Grove

You may recall back in January 2020 we asked for sponsorship for trees to implement the start of the St. Mary's Churchyard Memorial Grove development. We are pleased to say ten new mountain Ash (Rowan) trees are now planted alongside reinforced grass paths and the new ashes burial plots. Thank you to all those who have helped to fund this tree planting work.

As we are about to bring the grove into use, we wish to complete the planting scheme with shrub and herbaceous perennial planting to give further structure to the grove. The shrubs will cost approximately £300 and the herbaceous perennials £500.

Would you like to contribute to help fund the Memorial Grove?

The evergreen shrubs will be planted over the winter and include 8no. Osmanthus x burkwoodii at £9.95 each and 15no. Sarcococca confusa at £14.95 each. Osmanthus has small white flowers in Spring and Sarcococca the same in Winter. The white flowering herbaceous perennials will hopefully be planted in the spring and include approximately 55 plants of the following species: Anemone x hybrida 'Honorine Jobert' at £12.95 each, Geranium clarkei 'Kashmir White' at £8.95 each, Gaura lindheimeri at £8.95 each, Helleborus niger at £8.50 each and Ceanothus denudatus at £8.95 each.

They will be planted around each ashes burial plot. Not only will it help us to create a peaceful and attractive Memorial Grove but it will also contribute to the existing natural beauty of the churchyard and surrounding area which is enjoyed, used and appreciated by so many of us in our daily lives.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the shrub and perennial planting please contact the Parish Office on 01937 844402 or email: bramhambenefice@outlook.com for more information.

If you would like to make a donation please ensure cheques are made payable to: St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa and the envelope is clearly marked with your name and the words 'Memorial Grove Fund'.



Osmanthus x burkwoodii



Sarcococca confusa



Anemone x hybrida
'Honorine Jobert'



As part of our Children of Light Festival, we are running an [art competition](#) which is open to all the children and young people in York diocese. This is an opportunity for you to be part of our festival in a creative way. Winners in local competitions will be entered into a Diocesan wide competition - winners of the Diocesan wide competition will have their work exhibited around the Diocese and will be invited to afternoon tea with the Archbishop of York at Bishopthorpe Palace.

[Who can enter?](#)

There are 3 age groups for this competition:

Key Stage 1 (school years 1 - 2)

Key Stage 2 (school years 3 - 6)

Key Stage 3&4 (school years 7-11)

[What can I do?](#)

We want you to create a piece of art on the theme of 'Being Light in Difficult Times' This can be anything at all - we encourage you to get as creative as you like! It must be no larger than A4.

If you choose to create a sculpture or 3D model, please submit an A4 photograph of this, rather than the sculpture itself.

[Where do I send it?](#)

Please send your artwork clearly labelled on the back with your name, year group and school to:

The Parish Office
St Mary's Church
High Street
Boston Spa
LS23 6DR

[When do I need to send it by?](#)

The deadline is: **18th June 2021**



WHEN & WHERE

Date
10-14 August, 2021

Location
Peterborough Arena

Are you looking forward to summer yet?

Well, on the basis that it's good to have things to look forward to, I am offering to take a group of 13 - 18 year olds (plus adult helpers) to a five day youth event called "Satellites" between Tuesday 10th August - Saturday 14th August. Any young folk in that age bracket are very welcome to join this group booking whether they are currently involved with our Young Life group or not (but they will need to register with us in advance for safeguarding and insurance reasons).

WHAT IS SATELLITES AND WHO IS IT AIMED AT?

Satellites is a new five-day Christian youth event from the team at Youthscape, it's aimed at 13 - 18 year olds, and will take place during the school summer holidays in Peterborough.

The programme will be very diverse and contains a mix of Christian teaching and worship activities, alongside many opportunities for sport, entertainment, and relaxation. The accommodation is camping, and the cost if you book in advance is £95. Of course, it may be that a physical event can't happen over the summer after all, and I am assured that there is a Plan B involving online and blended participation if that happens, but let's think positively! This looks like an excellent chance for teens to get their heads round life and have a great time.

To find out more about Satellites, visit <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/satellites> and then please contact me via email for instructions as to how to register as part of our group booking.

Revd. Nick Morgan - revnjmorgan@gmail.com



BRAMHAM BENEFICE

FOOD COLLECTION



SUPPORT WETHERBY
FOOD BANK



COLLECTION POINTS

All Saints Church, Bramham 10am - 4pm

St Mary's Church, Boston Spa 9am-3pm

Your continued support
is vital.

HELP US, HELP OTHERS



ITEMS REQUIRED

CUSTARD

SPONGE PUDDINGS

DEODORANT

LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE

COFFEE

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

UHT MILK

PASTA

SOUP

BAKED BEAN

CEREAL

WETHERBY IN SUPPORT OF THE ELDERLY – WISE:

Founded in October 2003, they offer a wide range of services for the residents of Wetherby and the surrounding villages – you may have used the Boston Spa Cafe.

If you feel that you could befriend an old person – it involves a weekly telephone call - then please contact the organisation. You may find that this is of help to both the recipient and the caller.
Contact: Wetherby in Support of the Elderly - tel 01937 588994



WiSE

Wetherby In Support of the Elderly

SUPPORT OF THE ELDERLY – WISE:

We are urging residents to remember they are not alone and to support those who are shielding, vulnerable or needing help.

If you need help or know someone who could do with help
call 0113 3760330.

THORP ARCH LITTER PICK: The Village Society will hold a "socially distanced" litter pick Sunday 21st February, Lady Hastings School car park, 2pm. Some high visibility tabards and long handled picks are available, but please provide your own gardening gloves.



THORP ARCH - CAN YOU HELP: Note from the PC: In the current PC plan for 2021 we will be putting up a new village sign at the Walton end of Thorp Arch, similar to the one at the Wood Lane entrance. We would like to have a similar metal sign as the light blue one on the current entrance signs. We are trying to source a new metal sign and would appreciate any knowledge as to who did the last ones or indeed who locally might be able to create a similar one. If you have any ideas could you let me or the Parish Clerk know? That would be much appreciated! Thanks. Steve O'Loughlin. SOTAPC@outlook.com or clerk@thorp-arch.org.uk

ROAD SURFACE ON BOSTON SPA HIGH STREET:

Comments particularly from motorists and cyclists are mounting about the dangerous state of the High St road surface. The PC is also frustrated by the lack of action from Leeds Council who had promised to deal with the matter some years ago. Well, good news: Boston Spa High St. to be resurfaced week commencing 15 March – Hampole Way to Pine Trees Ave. I am sure houses on the High Street will receive notification to move their cars



Services can be viewed at:

[facebook.com/BramhamBenefice](https://www.facebook.com/BramhamBenefice)
www.BramhamBenefice.org/online-services

or you can

Phone Church on a Sunday Moring at 11am

Why online donations?



Churches rely on the generosity of their communities to enable their mission and ministry. Whilst our church buildings are closed and we are unable to receive cash offerings, it's important that we offer alternative ways for people to give. Online giving is a good mechanism to enable one-off donations from people and to act as an alternative way to give for those who regularly donate by cash or for occasional and new givers.

To help our Benefice and donate please visit our website.

BramhamBenefice.org and follow the online giving link at the top of the page.

If you would like to donate to one particular church please contact The Parish Office on 01937 844402

Thank you for your continued support.

BOSTON SPA
VOLUNTEER
ACTION
GROUP

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

IF YOU ARE SELF ISOLATING AND NEED SUPPORT?

WE CAN COLLECT PRESCRIPTIONS, PICK UP SHOPPING OR JUST BE A FRIENDLY VOICE ON THE END OF THE PHONE

PLEASE CONTACT PENNY STABLES IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OR IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

penny.stables@gmail.com
07941979902

Bramham Benefice

IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES REMEMBER TO KEEP IN TOUCH

IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES TO PICK UP THE PHONE. SAY HELLO. HOW ARE YOU? LISTEN AND CHAT YOU MIGHT MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY