

Diary Dates (it is important to check with the weekly pew sheet for any changes)

February

Sun 08	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue 10	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea followed by Evening Prayer at 3.45
Sun 15	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
	10.45	Parish Communion
Wed 18	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion
Sat 21	11am	Thanksgiving service for Mike Elvy
Tue 24	7pm	Lent Course starts (see page 7)
Sun 22	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion
	5pm	Navigate

March

Sun 01	9.30am	All Age Worship
	4pm	Iona style Service
Sun 08	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue 10	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea followed by Evening Prayer at 3.45
Sun 15	Mothering Sunday	
	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
	10.45	Parish Communion
Sun 22	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion
	5pm	Navigate
	6.30pm	The Way of the Cross
		Service of Hymns, Anthems and Readings for Passiontide
Sun 29	10.45am	Palm Sunday Benefice Service at St Michael's
Mon 30	10.30am	Holy Communion
Tue 31	10.30am	Holy Communion

April

Wed 01	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thu 02	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
Fri 03	Good Friday	CTSR events in the Market Place
Sat 04	tba	Easter Vigil
Sun 05	9.30am	Easter Day Family Communion
Sun 12	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue 14	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea followed by Evening Prayer at 3.45
Sun 19	9.30am	Rise and Shine informal family service
	10.45am	Parish Communion
Sun 26	9.30am	Lego church during Parish Communion
	5pm	Navigate

May

Sun 03	9.30am	All Age Worship
	4pm	Iona style Service
Sun 10	9.30am	Parish Communion followed by the APCM
Tue 12	2.15pm	Tuesday Tea followed by Evening Prayer at 3.45

Thank you to all contributors to this newsheet. Contributions for the next one, which will be out in May 2026, would be very welcome! janetcritten@aol.com



St Michael's, Malton

Parish News

Volume 6
Issue 1

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

February
2026

Keep an eye on the pew sheet nearer the time for any changes or additions to the following services and events already planned:

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February, with a Communion Service with Ashing at 7.30pm, followed by a Lent Course on Tuesday evenings. (Details on pages 6-7)

On 1st March there will be an Iona style service for Lent at 4pm.

On 15th March there is Rise and Shine followed by Parish Communion for Mothering Sunday



On 22nd March, Alison is planning a service of hymns, anthems and readings to lead us into Passiontide.

Palm Sunday will be a joint service at St Michael's (more details on p2)

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week there will be a said service of Holy Communion at 10.30am.

On Maundy Thursday there will be the traditional Last Supper Eucharist at 7.30pm followed by the Gospel of the watch.

On Good Friday CTSR are organising events in the Market Place.

There will be something special on Holy Saturday so look out for details of a service to welcome Easter.

On Easter Day there will be a Family Communion Service at 9.30am.



Prayer Partners

If you would like to take part, take a form from the back of church, fill in your details and place it in one of the plain, un-marked envelopes provided, and put it in the marked box. The box will be at the back of church before, during and after Sunday & Wednesday morning services.

On or before Sunday 15th Feb or Wed 18th, take an envelope from the box and then pray for the person named throughout Lent. If you pick out your own form please let me know and I will swap it for you.

You may like to bring a small gift for the person you have been praying for to a service at Easter or soon after.

Trish Atkinson



This year **Ash Wednesday** falls on 18th February. There will be a communion service as usual at 10.30am and a communion service with hymns at 7.30pm

Tuesday Tea

Held on the second Tuesday of each month from 2.15 to 4pm. Followed by Evening Prayer. Join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake. Why not bring a friend along too!



World Day of Prayer

This year's service will be on Friday 6th March. Check the pew sheet nearer the time for further details. The Program has been written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria and is based on Matthew 11:28-30

Palm Sunday

Following the success of last year's Palm Sunday, Owen the donkey is keen to join us again for our procession. He will lead us around the Market Place at the start of our service as we remember Jesus' walk into Jerusalem. This year it will be a Benefice service so we will be joined by our friends from St Mary's as well as from the Methodists. 10.45am on 29th March.

Thursday 2nd April is Maundy Thursday, commemorated by sung Communion at 6.30pm with the Stripping of the Altars and the washing of feet.

Easter Day will be celebrated both on the evening of Saturday 4th April with sung Eucharist for the Easter Vigil, and on Sunday 5th April with a Family Communion service at 9.30am. The augmented choir and choristers will lead the worship.



Finally, the choristers have been working on their Light Blue RSCM Award. George decided to complete the award as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award. I am delighted to say that I have just signed off the Light Blue level for him. George will be presented with his award medal in the near future. Alison

One of the best loved Passiontide hymns is number 112

My Song is love unknown.

The words were written by a clergyman, Samuel Crossman and included in a book of 'Sacred poems upon select subjects and scriptures' which he published in 1664. The verses tell the story and also comment on it.

The tune was especially written by John Ireland (1879-1962) for the Public School Hymnbook in 1919 and has since become a much loved setting of the words.

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.

O who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?

Sue Wright thanks everyone who has donated a crème egg. She now has enough to make cosies and will be selling them for church funds at £2 each.



Notes from the Choir

As I write this report, Candlemas is fast approaching: the last month has raced past. I shall be highlighting forthcoming dates and services to you, but before I do this, I want to reflect on the Advent and Christmas music and services.

The now-established Advent Processional service started the season off with a candlelit church and appropriate repertoire, including my arrangement of "The Cherry Tree Carol". The following week, the choir led the singing at the Civic Carol Service (complete with brass band). Richard's Installation and Licensing service happened next, with a packed church and superb singing from both the choir and congregation. Richard had requested Darke's "In the Bleak mid-winter". The soloists, Sarah and Martin, the choristers and the adult augmented choir deserve praise for their rendition (despite a slightly stressful rehearsal on the Thursday!). The Nine Lessons and Carols drew its own large congregation and augmented choir. Again, the joint choirs sounded excellent, singing a range of familiar and not-so familiar repertoire. My grateful thanks go to every member of the choirs; the readers; Richard and Bob; and not least Ian Little, who is always in high demand throughout the area over Advent and Christmas.

Passiontide and Easter are now on the horizon.

Wednesday 18th February is Ash Wednesday. There will be a sung Communion service in the Evening, with the imposition of ashes. My advanced thanks to Janet Patten for agreeing to play for this service as I am away.

Sunday 22nd March is Passion Sunday. Eucharist will be at 9.30am. In the evening, we have the Way of the Cross service at 6.30pm. This service incorporates choral music, congregational hymns, poems and readings from Scripture to trace and commemorate our Lord's journey to the cross. Repertoire will include: 'If ye love me' by Tallis, 'God so loved the world' by Stainer, Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus', Purcell's 'Thou knowest, Lord' and plainsong. In previous years, members of the congregation have remarked upon the moving atmosphere of this service. Please do come along and experience this for yourself.

Sunday 29th March is Palm Sunday, complete with a donkey led procession (hopefully). The congregations of both St Mary's and our Methodist friends will join us for this event.

(Continued on p 11)

Rise and Shine and All Age worship

Children's work at St Michael's

We are delighted to have Richard on board with our work with children and young families.

As a team we are meeting with him regularly to review what we currently do and plan for the future. Watch this space, exciting times ahead!

Once again we had a very busy Christmas season with a Light and Sparkle Party for Advent, an All Age Christingle, Christmas Rise and Shine and our annual fun filled, chaotic Crib Service. Once again we had over 200 people at the service. It is a blessing to us all that so many families want to come to church to celebrate Christmas.

Calling all pancake lovers, young and old,
you are warmly invited to

St Michael's Pancake Party

on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th.
Drop in anytime between 5pm and 7pm
in church.

There will be piles of pancakes, toppings,
refreshments and fun for the children too!



We look forward to Lego church on the fourth Sunday of each month during the Parish Communion service!

Regular family services at 9.30am on:

1st Sunday All Age worship

3rd Sunday Rise and Shine

Navigate for older children and teens, meets at 5pm on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Eco Church

'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'

The beginning of a New Year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the previous year and see what we can do personally in the coming year to safeguard the integrity of Creation.

Our individual voices and efforts seem small but when combined with others their effects can be considerable. This February we can join with others to show our love for God's wonderful creation.

The Climate Coalition (organisations wanting to combat climate change including Christian Aid, Wildlife Trusts, National Trust etc) is urging people to 'Show the Love' we have for our environment to our MPs on 14th February by sending them a Green Heart, with your name and postcode, in a letter, postcard or email. It can be a simple green heart or an amazing piece of art work which illustrates the nature you love. We need to show our politicians that they have our support for actions that clean up and protect our environment.

Put a Green Heart in your window to show your neighbours that you care for God's Creation.



Good News on Renewable Energy

China's CO2 emissions have not increased since March 2024. In the first half of 2025 solar energy capacity in China was increasing by the equivalent of installing 100 solar panels per second! China has pledged to have its emissions falling by 2030.

Continued on p5



**The next Iona style service will be on
1st March, at 4pm**

Tea and cake afterwards

Every month we have a quiet, reflective service using material from the Iona Community. You may like to know what this community is.

The Iona Community was founded in Glasgow in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace.

The Iona community is:

- An ecumenical movement of men and women from different walks of life and different traditions in the Christian church
- Committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to following where that leads, even into the unknown
- Engaged together, and with people of goodwill across the world, in acting, reflecting and praying for justice, peace and the integrity of creation
- Convinced that the inclusive community we seek must be embodied in the community we practise

Coffee Stops

on Saturday mornings February 7th and March 7th
then every Saturday from 4th April. 10 - 12 noon.

The charity we will be supporting from April
onwards is to be decided at PCC.

If you can help please contact Heather.



If anyone would appreciate a home visit and/or Home Communion
please contact Connie Clark on 07544 380163.

WYDALE

York Diocesan Retreat Centre
“A Prayerful Community Renewing the Church’s Mission”

I am sure that most of you will know of Wydale, which is situated half a mile past Snainton on the A170. It is a magnificent house, with the oldest part built in 1780. It has 29 rooms, all with ensuite facilities in the Hall and family accommodation in the Emmaus Centre. There are also 5 self catering flats/ rooms for use by individuals or couples wishing to stay in the area maybe to enjoy walking the many footpaths in or just to relax in the extensive grounds and gardens.

I have been going to Wydale for many and varied retreats and other activities since 2008. I first started to volunteer on the Retreat and Repair week several years ago and have continued ever since. The volunteers are allotted various tasks as diverse as wallpapering in the Emmaus Centre to clearing ivy from trees in the woodland. It is a week of hard work in the mornings but also free time and fun in the afternoons. The day always starts with morning prayer and reflection and closes with compline at night.

I also volunteer on the gardening days which take place in Spring and autumn. This year I helped decorate the Hall for Christmas and had the privilege to be a ‘waitress’ three times serving the people who had booked and enjoyed a splendid Christmas lunch during December.

If you are interested in visiting Wydale to attend one of their Retreat Days or longer Retreats you can find all the details on their web site looking for Events 2026.

If you are interested in volunteering in the garden, with general maintenance, catering, special events or pastoral work you can telephone on 01723 859270 or email admin@wydale.org to discuss with Mark or Helen what roles are available.

I always enjoy my time at Wydale be it taking part in a Retreat or working, why not see if there is something there for you?

Trish Atkinson

RIP Mike Elvy

former churchwarden and lifelong member of St Michael’s.

There will be a Thanksgiving service for the life of Mike Elvy on Saturday 21st February at 11am. All are welcome to attend.

Good News for Oceans

The Global Ocean Treaty entered into force on 17th January and the UK Government has now introduced a bill to ratify it. Currently only 1% of the high seas is protected. The aim of the Treaty is to set up Marine Protected Areas which will protect 30% of the high seas by 2030 in order to help marine life recover from over exploitation.

Recent Important Advice from the RSPB

To help reduce the spread of diseases among wild birds, please Use hanging feeders rather than bird tables which are difficult to keep clean. Clean all bird feeders weekly.

Heather Williams

Project News - Lottery Bid

On Christmas Eve, literally, our Bid was submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund at a project cost of some £430k. This is for the repairs only to the south wall. We asked for a grant of £250k which is the maximum within the small projects bidding process. Since then I have received acknowledgement and subsequent acceptance of the papers (i.e. everything they wanted was included!) and we now wait in competition with others for about eight weeks. Helen Shaw has also been able to obtain the Faculty for the repairs which was as complicated as making the lottery bid!

In the meantime two things are progressing.

We are working with our consultants, Irving-Patrick, to prepare to bid on other funding bodies for grants to supplement Lottery money..

Secondly Andrew Boyce is finalising the improvements to the West entrance area with automatic doors, better insulation and lighting and easier all round exit and entrance. We hope to have these plans and costs before the PCC shortly. This will be the subject of a separate Faculty, but included in any tender and grant funding applications. Leaving this work out of the main bid has kept it simpler (!) for the Lottery process.

If you would like any further information please speak to any member of the project group (Alan and Tracey, Helen, Heather, Rob or myself).

John Patten 31.01.26

Vicar's Newsletter

'In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.'

Psalm 22:4-5

I can't quite believe that it's nearly two months since we arrived in Malton and what an eventful time it has been. Thank you for the warm welcome that has made our move so much easier and enabled me to adjust to the ministry here at St. Michael's and St. Mary's. Christmas was a wonderful time of the year to arrive and enjoy the festivities with you all.

As the winter storms roll in, so too the seasons of the church year reorientate away from joyful exuberance towards reflection and self-examination. In the next few weeks, we will take our first steps into the season of Lent. Looking at the lectionary readings ahead, I sense the challenge of the scriptures that are coming our way. Lent does not disappoint in its determination to confront us with the frailty of our humanity nor the enormity of the grace of God for our vulnerabilities. Lent is a journey of life: the temptations, the promises, the challenge to grow in faith, the moments when revelation breaks through, the times of hardship and the stunning examples of God's deliverance. When I consider the times that I have needed the most help, it has been from the Psalms that I have found direction, and rays of hope have so often shone. Above, I've quoted a few lines from Psalm 22. These echo a significant theme in scripture: that the Lord knows our frailty and calls us to build a life of trust in him that we may experience his salvation, deliverance and joy. So, I hope that our Lent course entitled *Psalms for Salvation* will provide some direction with which to navigate this season. Each Tuesday evening, we will examine a different Psalm held in a short time of worship, with teaching, visuals, guided questions and group work, learning more of how the Psalms can be a foundation for our lives. Our Psalms are closely grouped, mixing both the familiar and the less well known with a title to help frame a question that we might bring to the text.

Tuesday 24 February	Psalms for Salvation: The God who gives Wisdom - Psalm 19
Tuesday 3 March	Psalms for Salvation: The God who Delivers - Psalm 20
Tuesday 10 March	Psalms for Salvation: The God who Hears - Psalm 22
Tuesday 17 March	Psalms for Salvation: The God who Guides - Psalm 23
Tuesday 24 March	Psalms for Salvation: The God who Vindicates - Psalm 24

I hope that as many people as possible will be able to join us at St. Michael's each Tuesday evening from 7pm onwards. There is reward in opening the scriptures together and this year as we reflect on the Psalms my prayer is that we will encounter God's grace in a way that helps our Christian pilgrimage.

Blessings from Richard

Weekday services

Said Communion Service on Wednesdays at 10.30am,
Evening Prayer on Tuesdays at 3.45pm

Advance notice

This year the **APCM** will take place after the service on May 10th. All parishioners are encouraged to attend if possible.

Men's Breakfast

We meet at 8am on the last Saturday of the month in St Michael's church - come along and join us for a free coffee and breakfast!

Andrew Watson