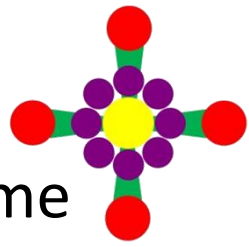


The Benefice of

Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme



Letter from Suzy

I am hoping that you are all still well and still able to find pleasure in the beauty of our wonderful world. I thank God for the gift of the beautiful weather and the joys of Spring. I am astonished by how much traffic is still coming past The Vicarage at all hours – there is no point when I feel safe recording in the garden because of the noise from the road and the lovely sound of happy children either in the recreation ground (yes it is closed but people still go through it) or walking up to the entrance to the Northern Trail. There are a lot of people enjoying our beautiful area by walking, cycling, running or driving through it. I pray that God will keep them all safe.

Unfortunately, their presence is why I had to abandon the plan to journey with you from the garden....

Facebook Video service

We have been trying to serve you by keeping in touch through the media of Facebook and recorded services, telephone and calling round to deliver the paper news sheets to those who are unable to access them on computers. We really hope that you are all feeling in touch and part of your church family still! If you are aware of someone who does use email on their computer, tablet or phone, but is not on Facebook and would like to see the video materials that we are posting – most recently Stations of the Resurrection, BCP Evening Prayer for Sunday and regular Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline – then we would be happy to send out a link to their email address. Please would you let Helen have the names and email addresses for anyone who wishes to be sent the link for our recorded resources and we will send a link each time a new upload appears on the Facebook page. All the resources are on the Facebook page called:

Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme Benefice

Then once you are on the Benefice Facebook page just click on videos to see what we have been doing!

Children's Activities

I am sending out a weekly letter to families who took part in the Roots After School Club. If you would like to receive it, please let me know and I will add you to the list. The letter is a suggested 'Roots' session for parents to run at home with activities and suggestions to support a bit of Christian teaching in the home.

Please be aware that the BBC is now showing worship at 10.45/11 on Sunday.

May God bless you and keep you this week. I hope to join with you in worship:
Mon – Fri Richard at 8.00am and 5.00pm or Suzy at Compline at 9.00pm.
Sunday at 10.30 for our written service or with Suzy at 6pm for Evening Prayer.

Midweek worship led by Liz:

Take a moment to be still. God is with you and unites his church by His Spirit.

Almighty God,
Unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today's Reading: John 6: 30-35

So they asked Jesus, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Reflection:

Food, glorious food! Have you noticed how many conversations recently have been about food? Topics have ranged from shortages of certain foods to interesting recipes which have been concocted using items lurking in the depths of cupboards, from pleasure gained from spending time preparing dishes from basics to more pressing concerns about the needs of an increasing number of people for supplies from foodbanks. So much to think about, to savour or to chew over!

Many of the set readings in the last week have referred to Jesus' declaration, "I am the bread of life." John obviously viewed it as a vital aspect of Jesus' ministry as he referred to it

several times in his Gospel writings, so even though the idea was explored last week, it feels appropriate to continue reflecting upon it.

In many parts of the world, bread is a staple part of the diet. It nourishes and sustains people of all ages. It may come in various forms, brown, white, with or without bran, seeds or gluten but for many people it underpins their diet and contributes to their physical wellbeing. It is similar to the manna mentioned in our Bible reading which was important for physical nourishment. Yes, we need bread to feed us, but we are far more than receptacles for storing and processing food.

But Jesus tells us that he is the bread “of life.” He feeds, nourishes and sustains much more than our physical life. He promises us life in all its fullness, a life made complete as it is filled with the love of God, a life of hope in the promise of an everlasting future in God’s presence.

I wonder if there have been times in the last few weeks when you have reflected on what really matters to you in your life, on what gives your life meaning. In an interview on the news last week, a person recovering from Coronavirus said that it had really made him think. He has realised that even though a fancy car and holidays are very nice, they are just trinkets compared with what he knows to be important – the love of family and friends and the blessings each new day brings.

One of the blessings which has been so noticeable through this time of lockdown has been to see how the light and love of God has shone through the actions of so many people. So many acts of kindness and thoughtfulness from children making pictures to decorate windows, to people caring for others by shopping, by collecting prescriptions or by keeping in contact. Small actions making a big difference.

As God’s love feeds you in these difficult times, may you continue to be a channel of that love and compassion for others.

Prayers:

Take time to remember the ways in which God enriches your life, the people and other blessings which make your life more meaningful and give thanks.

Take time to remember before God, all those who are struggling in these difficult days – the lonely, the bereaved, those struggling financially or struggling to feed their families – and all others who are on your heart and mind at this time.

Take time to remember those who have been channels of love and light in your life and ask for guidance in how you may be a channel of God's love to others.

You may like to use this prayer from Christian Aid.

May your love that never fails
strengthen the weak
encourage the fearful
calm the anxious
heal the sick
through your people –
your washed hands
and feet on earth –
distant but still present
virtual but still connected
apart but still helping.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Amen.

And we draw all of our prayers together using the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen

May you receive the love of God
May you know the love of God
May you find the love of God in friend and stranger
May you share the love of God with your neighbour

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

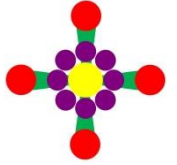
Information:



Follow our Benefice Facebook Page. Search for:

“Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme Benefice”

There are lots of uplifting things in our Facebook community and there will be more regular features in this time when we cannot meet as we normally do!



If you, or anyone you know, requires any kind of support then please contact the Council Contact Centre on 01274 431000.

This is a central number for the Bradford area, making it easy for anyone to find the help they need. Requests for support taken through this number will be responded to by our local Community Support Centres. It may well be a volunteer from our churches who brings the support requested!

The clergy, ministry team and pastoral team are also ready to respond to calls for help and support, whether it be for food, prayer or a chat.



Congratulations to Beatrice and Emily Overend who were TV stars on Monday! Emily and Beatrice are part of the Community Support Provision in Wilsden and were on Look North as Harry's Heroes!! Keep up the good work!!!

Edna Weatherhead in Harden celebrated her 90th birthday last Sunday. She said: “I give special thanks and praise to the Lord, for bringing me this far”.

Edna highlights some words from Psalm 27:

“The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear. The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid.”

Our churches are as busy as ever in serving our congregations and our communities, but as we are not meeting together in church we are not able to take our usual collections! If you are able to make donations electronically or can send us a cheque, then this will help our cash flow and enable us to continue our good works.



We have set up a dedicated email for prayer requests. Please let people know about it! Any requests can be sent to: say14me@hotmail.com and we will be able to get people praying for the things on people's hearts and minds.



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York encouraged us to light a candle and put it in a window. "It will be a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished."

Now that the nights are so much lighter, we suggest lighting a candle each evening from 8.30pm to 9.00pm

Congratulations to the Bendles, Smiths and Burges for scoring highest in the second Online Benefice Quiz last week! The third quiz will be held tonight (29 April) at 7pm. It is a Yorkshire Quiz set by Astrid tonight so will be "Reet Good Fun!"

If you would like to take part please let Helen know at:

beneficehwcd@gmail.com



May God bless you today and, in the days, ahead!