



# The Benefice of Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme

14<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Second Sunday after Trinity

## Call to worship

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
Let us recognise his presence with us.

*Silence is kept.*

As God's people we have gathered:  
**Let us worship him together.**

Faithful One, whose word is life:  
come with saving power  
to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Confession

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

*Silence for reflection*

God of mercy,  
We acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.

For the sake of Jesus who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past,  
and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

May God who loved the world so much  
That he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
Forgive us our sins  
And make us holy to serve him in the world,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,  
**there is no end to his greatness.**  
One generation shall praise your works to another  
**and shall declare your power.**  
All your works praise you, Lord,  
**and your faithful servants bless you.**  
They make known the glory of your kingdom  
**and speak of your power.**  
My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:  
**let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.**

Collect

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

### First reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.'

### Second reading: Matthew 9:35-10:8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.

You received without payment; give without payment.

The village of Cullingworth has been in mourning these last few weeks because of the death of a young girl. She had an incurable brain tumour that normally kills the person in a short time. She survived a lot longer than most. The medical team supporting her may have gone through the pain of anguish as they thought they were finding a cure for the cancer, only for it to not respond. The village opened its heart in support of the girl and her family. As a church family we will support them as they grieve, one step removed yet experiencing similar pain and anguish; we will help them where possible, be there when needed and give space when asked. We hold up to Christ's arms the family and all the families of all those experiencing baby or child loss.

There's a lot of pain in the world today. But you don't need me to tell you that. It's an everyday reality; physical, emotional, spiritual, and the systemic pain of violence, injustice, poverty, racism, to mention just a few. We read about in the news. We see it in the tears of others and hear it in their voices on radio and TV. Each one of us could tell a story about pain we have lived through and pain we are living with today, whether it's our own, a loved one's, or a stranger's. That pain, Jesus says, is like a harvest waiting for labourers to show up. But the labourers are few. When it comes to pain there always seems to be more harvest than labourers. What do we do with the pain of the world?

Instead of turning away from our pain or the pain of another, let it be our teacher? Pain as we think about it may not be physical, it can be mental, feeling you are not appreciated, not getting a job or promotion you think you deserve. Here's why I think all this matters. We often misunderstand God's kingdom as an escape from the brokenness and pain of life. That's not the kingdom. The kingdom is a deeper engagement with and a response to the brokenness and pain. If the kingdom of heaven is to come it will come through us and our response to the suffering and pain of the world, this benefice, and one another. I think we often misunderstand God's kingdom as an escape from the brokenness and pain of life. That's not the kingdom. I think that's why when Jesus sent the disciples to "cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons," he told them, "As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'"

The kingdom shows up when with compassion we feel and suffer with another's pain and reach out to offer relief, to heal, and make a difference.

There are many cures for pain, some medical, some psychological, but the one thing I learnt whilst working for the court services occasionally watching people entering, sometimes having cans or bottles of alcohol or in one case narcotic drugs taken off them. They claimed they needed these to ease their usually mental pain for whatever reason. Alcohol and drugs are not the answer to any problem; they are just an unreliable crutch. The power of prayer transcends all.

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen**

Hallelujah – Jesus is Lord, what a wonderful name it is, what a wonderful name it is. The name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thank you so much Jesus for who you are and for what you have done for us on the cross. Thank you that you are a God who answers prayer and cares about every person and their own situation.

Thank you that you said, “Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find.

We thank and praise you for your love and faithfulness to us and how you take care of us.

We pray for Alison, as she grieves Ellerie, that you would hold and comfort her as she continues to minister to the family.

We also pray for Liz, our church wardens, and all those who are helping during the interregnum to be guided by your Holy Spirit.

We pray for Daniel and his family as they prepare to join our fellowship. And for the Lord’s anointing on Daniel as he leads us into Spiritual growth and maturity.

We lift our Monday homegroup to you Lord as we learn and grow in your word and in relationship with you and each other.

Jesus, we lift Henry Nowak’s family to you and friends as they grieve his tragic death, and for the perpetrator that he will be remorseful and repent. Lord, please would you comfort and bless them all. We also pray for policing in this kind of situation that you would give wisdom, clarity, honesty and understanding.

We thank you for our young folks who are taking important exams, please would you help them in their revision, rest and that they remember what they have learned and enable them to their best as they prepare for the future.

We continue to pray for the troubled and war torn areas of the world. Especially Sudan and lift our brothers and sister in the Lord to you for strength and hope in their time of persecution.

Just thinking about a lady from Gaza who was on the radio the other day sharing her anxieties about life there with her children who can't go out. Have mercy Lord on these devastating situations that war brings and the horror of people's lives who are innocent. Bring about peace Lord we pray so that people can live their lives, and children grow up to be educated and get jobs.

We lift our nation to you, the government and parliament, councillors, and all who are involved in running the country. That they would work to the best of their ability and make changes for the good of all.

We pray for the royal family and ask for protection and guidance as they carry out their duties.

We thank you for 30 years of blessings on Christians Against Poverty and for John Kirkby as he said yes to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to set up a company to help people who are struggling with debt. We thank you for your goodness and faithfulness as you equip church people to participate in this tremendous ministry. And for all those who have come to faith in Jesus with CAP's help. We pray that you would continue to bless them as they work to fulfil their vision of a debt free nation.

We lift the Ebola outbreak in the Congo to you Lord and thank you for people putting their own lives at risk to save others. Protect and keep them and bring about healing.

Lord Jesus, we pray that you would give us the desire to share your gospel with all who we come into contact with. Please anoint us to live our lives to the glory of your name.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
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 for ever.  
Amen.

## The Peace

Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

## Closing prayer and Blessing

Almighty God,  
We thank you for the gift of your holy word.  
May it be a lantern to our feet,  
a light to our paths,  
and a strength to our lives.  
Take us and use us  
to love and to serve  
in the power of the Holy Spirit  
and in the name of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

May God keep you in all your days.  
May Christ shield you in all your ways.  
May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.  
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you  
and pour upon you blessing and light.

We go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory.