

Easingwold & Raskelf **PARISH** **MAGAZINE**

JANUARY 2026



Wishing You Every Blessing for 2026

Feast of The Epiphany, 6th January

60p



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IT'S GOOD TO SMILE

From Choristers

"Come, Come, this will never do"
said the choirmaster,
"open your mouths and sing boldly...
'LITTLE DROPS OF WATER'...
and for goodness sake ...
put some spirit into it!"

The choir was practising the anthem.
The choirmaster said to the trebles,
"Now don't forget, when the tenors reach
'The Gates of Hell', you come in".

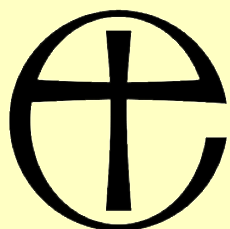
*From "Christian Crackers" compiled by Phil Mason
ISBN 0 9508934 6 3 Norheimsund Books and Cards*

Happy New Year

Here's to a new year filled with
hope, love and compassion for
our fellow beings.

It is so easy for
misunderstandings to undermine
our relationship with friends
and family.

Let us pray for help in leaving
behind any negative thoughts or
actions that we may have had or
done in the past and count our
blessings that, with God's help,
we can amend how we act
in the future.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

PARISH OF EASINGWOLD WITH RASKELF

St John the Baptist and All Saints Church,
Easingwold and
St Mary's Church, Raskelf

✉ vicar@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org



Vicar	Rev'd Richard Grant	☎ 07857 007 847
Churchwardens	Pat Allen	☎ 01347 821139
	Laura Varney	☎ 07581 213805
Retired Clergy assisting in the parish	Rev'd Robin Davill Rev'd John Hetherington	
Authorised Lay Minister/ Anna Chaplain	Sara Beaumont	

CONTACTS

Parish Administrator	Sara Beaumont	✉ sarabeaumont.church@gmail.com
PCC Secretary	Hazel Henebury	✉ pccsecretary@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org
PCC Treasurer		✉ treasurer.erac@gmail.com
Flowers - Raskelf	Lynne Price	☎ 07807 217167
Mothers' Union	Margaret Summerscales	☎ 01347 822084
Bible Reading Fellowship	Gina Smith	☎ 01347 823843
Children's Society Boxes	Ian Peel	☎ 01347 823548
Organist Co-ordinator	Peter Smith	☎ 01347 823843
Deanery Choir Co-ordinator	Peter Smith	✉ petersmith41@btinternet.com
Bell Ringing	Alizon Leese	☎ 01347 823806
Half Yearly Boxes	Diane Gallon	☎ 01347 821294
Magazine Distribution	Margaret Summerscales	☎ 01347 822084
Magazine Editorial Team		✉ magazine@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

www.easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

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From Rev'd Richard Grant



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you've had a good Christmas Day, and are enjoying the continuing Christmas season – in the church calendar we've got Epiphany next, the season of revelation – beginning with the visit of the wise men to Jesus, as well as exploring other revelations of Jesus – looking at both his humanity, and his divinity.

I don't know if there's such a genre as 'Epiphany Carols', but if there is, 'We three kings...' is a favourite for me. It works just as well for a church choir as it does in a pub (particularly when the 'O' at the start of the chorus gets longer with each verse!), and in its exploration of the Magi's gifts it really enters into the Epiphany spirit.

The gift of gold reveals Jesus as the King foretold in the Old Testament, long-awaited, and enthroned to rule forever over creation.

The gift of frankincense, temple spice, reveals Jesus as God – in existence since the beginning of creation, and forever at God's right hand.

The gift of myrrh reveals the future that awaits this baby born in a stable – a very human death despite his godly kingship. Myrrh points the way forward to the one who will suffer death, in order to conquer it once and for all.

My own 'Epiphany' came when I was a student at University, when I asked the question 'Who is Jesus?' and realised the significance of the answer.

I wonder what your epiphany was? Perhaps you didn't experience a single moment of revelation, but instead a slow growth in faith. Or perhaps, you haven't yet experienced your own epiphany...

Whatever your story, perhaps I can give you a challenge this Epiphany– to share your story. Whether that's telling someone what Jesus means to you, or sharing some of the questions you have about faith – let's share in revelation together.

With my prayers,

Richard

PS – I'm having an operation to reconstruct my ankle on 20th January, so will be on sick leave for a couple of weeks. I should be back at least to my 'phone and emails before too long but in my absence please do contact Sara, our wonderful administrator, or Laura and Pat, our fantastic churchwardens, if you need something. Your prayers for a speedy and thorough recovery will be much appreciated,

Richard

CHORAL EVENSONG

FOR THE FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

EASINGWOLD PARISH CHURCH

EASINGWOLD DEANERY
ECUMENICAL CHOIR

SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY
AT 4PM

Please contact Peter Smith at
petersmith41@btinternet.com
to confirm if you are available to sing

As well as hymns, music will include:

O Come, ye servants of the Lord—Christopher Tye
Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis— Charles Villiers Stanford
Rejoice in the Lord—Henry Purcell



The Feast of the Conversion of St Paul commemorates
the moment when Saul of Tarsus encountered Jesus
on the road to Damascus and became
the Apostle Paul.

Chaplain's Corner



*Image courtesy of
Friends of St Monica's Hospital*

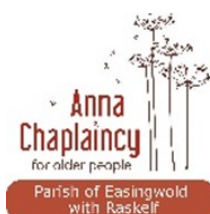
A couple of times last year I was asked by the York and Scarborough NHS Trust chaplaincy team to visit a patient at St Monica's Hospital who had asked for someone to pray with them. Following these visits one of the chaplaincy team wondered if I would consider becoming a chaplaincy volunteer for St Monica's and, after some prayerful thought and an interview via Zoom, I decided to go ahead and apply.

Then followed references, DBS check, health questionnaire, on-line training and three in-class training sessions until finally I was awarded a maroon coloured polo shirt with 'NHS' on the front and 'volunteer' embroidered in large letters across the back. But that wasn't all; I had to have two supervised visits to the hospital with clergy from the chaplaincy team before they decided I was eligible to visit independently.

It has taken several months to put all this in place but I'm delighted to now be able to share God's love at St Monica's and by being part of the Trust's volunteer team I can visit, as a chaplain, all the patients at St Monica's and not just those from our parish.

*Lord God, we bring before you the staff and patients of
St Monica's Hospital. We give thanks that this much needed
facility is here in our community and ask that it continues to
bring help and hope to all who need it long into the future.
Amen*

*Sara Beaumont
Anna Chaplain*



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**, formerly known as The Church of England Children's Society, is a UK charity, allied to the Church of England. Its aims are to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people, and to create a positive shift in social attitudes towards them. We as a parish have supported it for many years both through direct donations, and through individual collection boxes which are held by parishioners and in which loose change can be collected.

In 2025 the Society has helped more than 57,000 young people across the country, running 40 early support services, group sessions, and one-to-one support where needed, and has provided safe and welcoming spaces without the need for long waiting lists and lengthy referral processes

If you wish to support this very worthwhile cause, collection boxes are available from me, or you can donate either on line at childrenssociety.org.uk , or by calling the Society direct on 0300 303 7000. Alternatively you can do so by post to The Children's Society, Octavia House, 50 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8ST. I have donation and gift aid forms, and would be happy to forward cheques, payable to The Children's Society, on your behalf if that's easier.

For those already holding boxes, we usually collect their contents in April and September each year, so if you have money to pay in, and would like me to collect it, do please let me know. If you prefer to contribute direct to the Children's Society, again please let me have details for our records.

Ian Peel 01347 823548



Mother's Union Appeal: Thank you to everyone who gave a donation to the Christmas Appeal. £75.00 was contributed and with £25.00 from the Branch account £100.00 was sent, and the Big Give Charity doubled it. Nationally the total raised was £35,000.00. This will create a new savings scheme in rural Uganda for over 1,000 participants, mainly women.

Margaret Summerscales

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2026

Just a reminder to subscribers of the Parish Magazine, subscriptions will be due this month. No change to the price, £7.20 for 12 monthly issues.

We hope you continue to enjoy our production.

With thanks from the Editorial Team.



YOU and ME

.....bringing people together

Our next event will be

Card School

Wednesday 21st January 2026 from 2pm to 4.30pm
in the 1st Floor Function Room at the Galtres Centre
with access via stairs or lift

Come and join us - bring a friend and have a cup of tea



*Hazel, Christina,
 Caroline, Julia &
 Sara*

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2025



The shoe boxes were collected and continued their journey via the sorting centre in Leeds. Terry was most grateful for our boxes and donations, so a huge "Thank you" to all who contributed in any way.

If I hear where the boxes have gone I will let you know, but I do know that they travel far and wide and the children are thrilled to receive them.

Chris

Churches Together around Easingwold

Blessing of the Crib



It was a good crowd that gathered on the Market Place Green on the damp morning of Friday 12th December for the annual Blessing of the Crib. In his words of welcome, Rev'd Richard assured us that the sun was going to shine, which it did—albeit later in the day!

However, despite the rain, everyone was in fine voice for the carol singing accompanied by the musicians from Outwood Academy and singers from Easingwold Community Primary School. We had

wonderful renditions of "O come, all ye faithful", "O little town of Bethlehem", Ding dong, merrily on high!" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" interspersed with readings from Luke 2:1-7 and John 1:1-5,14, prayers and Reflection.

Following the final blessing, the service ended with everyone singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas" and it was particularly impressive to see the group of primary school students "signing" the words for those with a hearing impairment.



SueT

SERVICES AND EVENTS: JANUARY 2026

To contact Rev'd Richard Grant, tel: 07857 007 847
or email: vicar@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

The Vicar's day off is Friday

Children are welcome at all our services



Normal Services at Easingwold Parish Church

Sunday and Wednesday 9.00am—Holy Communion

Sunday 10.30am—Holy Communion

Sunday 4th January - Epiphany

We will be joined by the Methodists at the 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 11th January

Holy Communion at 9.00am

No 10.30am service

We are invited to join the Covenant service at the Methodist Church at 10.30am

Sunday 25th January

Choral Evensong at 4pm for the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul

Christians Together around Easingwold (CTAE)

The monthly prayer meeting will be on

Saturday 10th January at 9am at the Methodist Church

Come and join this short time of prayer for our churches, town, country and world.

"In unity God will grow his Church"



Caring and Sharing

(formerly known as the Widows' Group)

will meet again on

Sunday 4th January

after morning service in the choir vestry at the
back of the church.

Do come if you feel it will help you.

Nancy Kilburn

Services at Springhill Court, Manor Road, Easingwold

**Holy Communion
Tuesday 13th January
at 3pm**

*All are welcome, especially those
who are unable to attend Church*

ST MARY'S CHURCH, RASKELF

Sunday 4th January: Holy Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 18th January: Holy Communion at 9.30am



Children always welcome

RASKELF CAROL SERVICE

It was wonderful to see the church so full with over a hundred people including the Town Band. It was Richard's first Carol service at Raskelf as our new Vicar and his choice of a different tune (Cranford –or more well known as 'On Ilkley Moor bar t'at') for "While Shepherds Watched" was warmly received by both the band and the congregation. We also enjoyed the band playing an instrumental piece of "Walking in the air".

Thank you to all the readers and to those who donated mince pies and the mulled wine which we had after the service. A big thank you also to Easingwold town band.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 18th January to Sunday 25th January

This year's theme reminds us that the call to unity is a call to work for peace for all people everywhere

A Quiet Afternoon will be held on

Saturday 24th January

at the Methodist Church, Chapel Street



Open The Book at Easingwold Primary School

Forthcoming dates: 8th January (this and future dates TBC)

For further information please contact Andrew Neville-Smith at
a.nevillesmith@btinternet.com

Children's Church Services at Easingwold Little Seeds

**for 4 to 9 year olds on Thursdays during term time
at 3.30pm in the Parish Church**

Little Seeds will begin meeting again on Thursday 8th January

Please contact Andrew Neville-Smith at a.nevillesmith@btinternet.com
for more details or just turn up

Readings

Eucharist

4th January

Isaiah 60.1-6
Ephesians 3.1-12
Matthew 2.1-12

Epiphany

Evening Prayer

Isaiah 60.1-9
John 2.1-11

11th January

Isaiah 42.1-9
Acts 10.34-43
Matthew 3.13-end

Baptism of Christ

Joshua 3.1-8, 14-end
Hebrews 1.1-12

18th January

Isaiah 49.1-7
1 Corinthians 1.1-9
John 1.29-42

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Ezekiel 2.1-3.4
Galatians 1.1-11

25th January

Jeremiah 1.4-10
Acts 9.1-22
John 2.1-11

Conversion of Paul

Isaiah 56.1-8
Colossians 1.24-2.7

From the Registers

Baptism

7th December: Darcie Rose Jordan



Funerals

8th December: Kathleen Nancy Harrison
12th December: William Clifford Wheldon

Interments of Ashes

3rd December: Alaister MacGregor
3rd December: Wayne Gill

Anna Chaplaincy – What is it?

Anna Chaplains are out and about visiting older people in care homes, cafes, groups and in their own homes. They visit those of faith or none and will talk about anything from God to 'what's for lunch'! Anna Chaplains love to talk but are mostly there to listen.

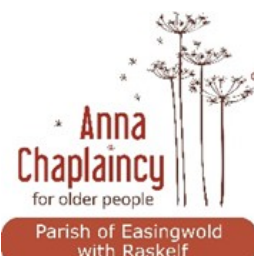
They hope to bridge gaps where other services are not able to help, to support the isolated, listen to the lonely, comfort the bereaved and sit with the dying.

They are privileged to walk alongside those in need.

If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from Sara our parish

Anna Chaplain please call 07985080161 or email

sarabeaumont.church@gmail.com



PRAYER CORNER

Prayer is at the heart of what the church offers to the community, and the prayer corner in St John the Baptist and All Saints' is used regularly. It is a space where you are able to write the names of people you would like to have remembered in the book there. At St John the Baptist and All Saints', we join with you in your prayers for family, friends and all for whom you care.



If you would like prayers for yourself or another, or for those who, at this time, are struggling with anxiety, loneliness and isolation, our small, confidential and dedicated group of people will pray for you/them. To be included in prayers, please contact Chris Peel on 01347 823548.

Please include in your prayers this month:

- ♦ All who live and work east of Crabmill Lane, York Road. and along the Stillington Road;
- ♦ Those who use, and those who work at, the Golf Club and Football Club;
- ♦ All who maintain essential services – water, gas, electric, street cleaners, refuse collectors, post office workers;
- ♦ Those who live by the Easingwold Road in Raskelf; the cricket club.

Why Not Pray?

In the parable of the judge and the widow (Luke 18:1-8) we learn something about prayer. The widow is persistent in her seeking justice and in the end the judge gives in and grants her request. If even such a disrespectful man can do the right thing in the end, how much more might our actual prayers affect the course of history, the course of our lives? Prayer changes us. If we don't lose heart, it's the way we keep seeking after God's own heart, the way we keep channels of communication open between us and God. The parable is a plea to keep praying, even when it seems we are shouting into a vacuum. It's a plea not to get stuck in hopelessness, but to keep going, keep trusting, keep praying. God is not the unjust judge. God is God, who hears our prayers and draws closer and closer to us through them. We might not know the best outcome as we move forward in life, but God does.



Nancy, Sara and Chris

BIBLE CONVERSATIONS

The next meeting for Bible Conversations will be on

Tuesday 6th January —10.00am to 11.15am

at 11 Whiteoak Avenue, Easingwold

Please arrive early so we can start promptly at 10.00am

We are discovering more about the Book of Esther.

*If you would like further information, contact Chris Peel (01347 823548) or
Sara Beaumont (sarabeaumont.church@gmail.com)*

THE VICTORIAN BUTLER

Easingwold Methodist Church is holding another January social event with Chris Cade, the actor/storyteller. Many of you will remember his emotional and funny portrayal of the Tommy soldier last year. This year's title is 'The Victorian Butler.'

It will held in the lounge on

Saturday 31st January

Doors open at 2pm for a 2.30 start

The price will be £5 for each adult and children free. Pay at the door.

Tea and cake included. Please sign up on the list at the back of church to let us know that you are coming.



Easingwold Methodist Church are seeking to appoint a Church Administrator to co-ordinate and contribute administrative support to the Minister, stewards and other post-holders notably in financial and property management, room bookings, website and meeting administration. This will be a part-time permanent post (8 hours per week, flexible). Rate of pay £15-£16.50 per hour.

For more information contact Jocelyn Pearson at info@easingwoldmethodist.org.uk

From Helen Steiner Rice

MAKE THE NEW YEAR A STEPPING-STONE TO GROWTH

Whatever the new year has in store
Remember there's always a good reason for
Everything that comes into our life,
For even in times of struggle and strife
If we but lift our eyes above
We see "our cross" as a "gift of love" ...
For things that cause the heart to ache
Until we feel that it must break
Become the strength by which we climb
To higher heights that are sublime
So welcome every stumbling block
And every thorn and jagged rock,
For each one is a *Stepping-Stone*
To a fuller life than we've ever known,
And in the radiance of God's smiles
We learn to soar above life's trials ...
So let us accept what the new year brings,
Seeing the *Hand of God* in *All Things*,
And as we grow in strength and grace
The clearer we can see God's face.

Easingwold & District u3a

**Visitors welcome: £2 or join our 363 members!
only £16 per year**

The u3a offers a monthly speaker meeting on the **3rd Tuesday 2pm** at the Methodist Church and over 30 leisure, educational & recreational activities for those no longer in fulltime work.

The next meeting is on 20th January 2026

**AGM followed by
Galapagos & Ecuadorian Adventures
by Claire Scott**

easingwold-u3a.org.uk



OASIS

Coffee Morning

Easingwold Methodist Church
Chapel Street

Friday 30th January: 0945-11.30

*Come and share good Fair Trade coffee, tea and biscuits,
with great conversation and fellowship*



Christian Meditation

**Most Fridays at 2.30 pm to 3.15 pm at the
Galtres Centre Function Room (upstairs)**

It includes periods of music and silent meditation



In today's culture this is an opportunity of being together in a reflective mood including silence. After a brief period of spoken reflection we experience some reflective music. We then enter a period of silent meditation for about 20-25 minutes. Some people use a 4-beat mantra such as "Ma-ra-na-tha" (or Come Lord Jesus), said twice, (not out loud!) breathing in and then when breathing out. After this, another period of music precedes a final prayer. It doesn't suit everyone but it is something worth trying. Sometimes we have a few comments, even laughter, afterwards! In today's busy-ness people often find this simple and yet cathartic. Even children in school use silence as a restful experience!

Perhaps, give it a try? Join us, you are most welcome.

Contact Marko Jakic - 07951 333639

PARISH PASSES FOR YORK MINSTER

Any member of the Parish may obtain a digital pass from the PCC Secretary.

It is valid for one person for one visit only.

Visiting and closure times are on the York Minster website:

<http://www.yorkminster.org> or by telephoning 01904 557275

Email: hazelhenbury@aol.co.uk or phone 01347 239178



Books and more to your door Home Library and Information Service



Operated by volunteers from Easingwold Community Library with the support of NYC, we deliver books (including Large Print and children's books), audio books, music CDs, DVDs and information to the homes of people who find it difficult to get to the library.

You may be eligible for the free home delivery service if you cannot visit the library or carry books because of ill health or disability, or if you are a carer. We deliver to people who live in residential and nursing homes, too.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please ring Easingwold Library on 01609 534584 or email ecl.generalenquiries@gmail.com with your contact details.

One of our volunteers will be in touch.

EDCCA: Easingwold District Community Care Association

What can we do for you today?



Foodbank/Foodshare: For those in need. Available 24/7 call message line 0772 44 44 7507

Befriending Scheme: For those who would like someone to chat with

Hub Club: Tuesdays & Fridays, for people living with Dementia

Charity Boutique: 71 Long Street, open 4½ days a week. Telephone 01347 820078

Monthly Citizens Advice: Minibus in the Market Place and Advisor at the office. Call for details

Wheelchair hire

Knit & Natter Club

Weekly Crossword Club

Men in Sheds: Social group for men

Shopping: You supply the list, we do the rest

Community car scheme: For those who have difficulty with public transport

Carers sitting service: A service for those caring for a friend or relative

Meals on Wheels: Two course hot meal delivered to your door, Monday to Friday

Tea and Tarts: Monthly get together with cake on **13th January!!**

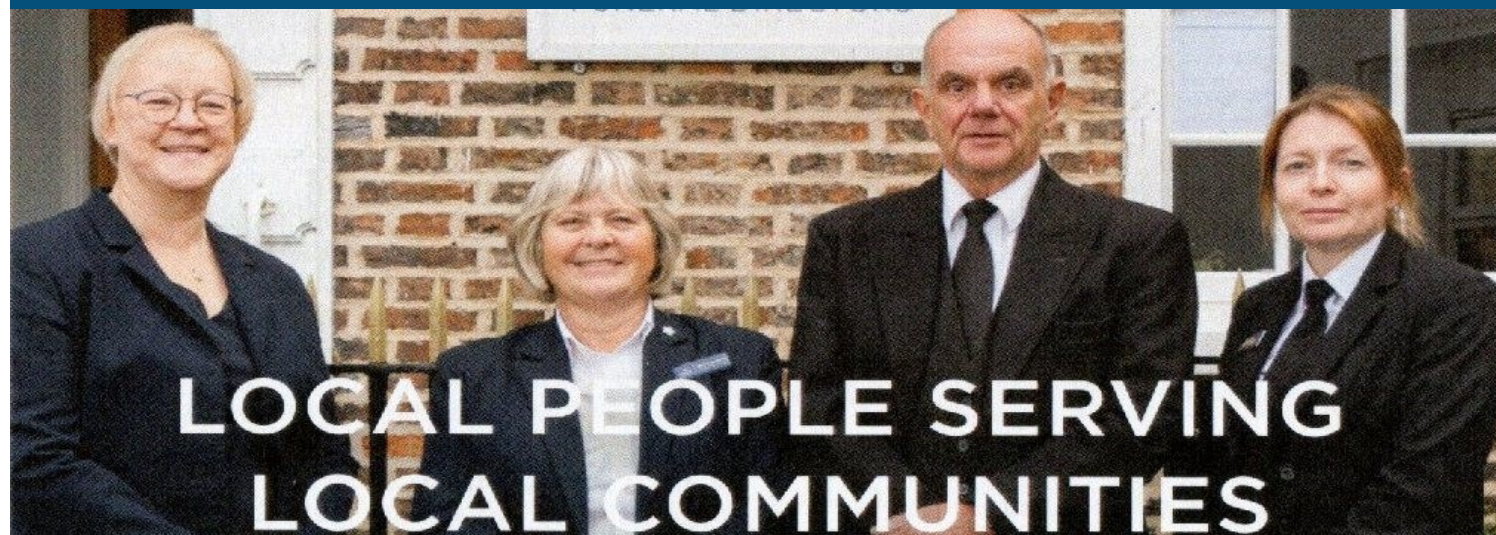
For further information on any of the above or, if you are interested in volunteering with us please contact the office or for any related enquiries.

We can be contacted by telephone on 01347 822875

or for car scheme on 01347 822598 or by email info@edcca.org.uk

Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 09.30 am to 12.30

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CHURCH SERVICES



1st Sunday:	Easingwold	9.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion with hymns
	Raskelf	9.30 am	Holy Communion with hymns
2nd Sunday:	Easingwold	9.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion with hymns (also on Zoom)
3rd Sunday:	Easingwold	9.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion with hymns
	Raskelf	9.30 am	Holy Communion with hymns
4th Sunday:	Easingwold	9.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion with hymns (also on Zoom)
5th Sunday:	Easingwold	9.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion with hymns

Weekdays in Easingwold:

Wednesday	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursday	3.45 pm	Little Seeds for 4-9 year olds in church (term time)

Contact Andrew Neville-Smith at a.nevillesmith@btinternet.com
for more details or just turn up



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