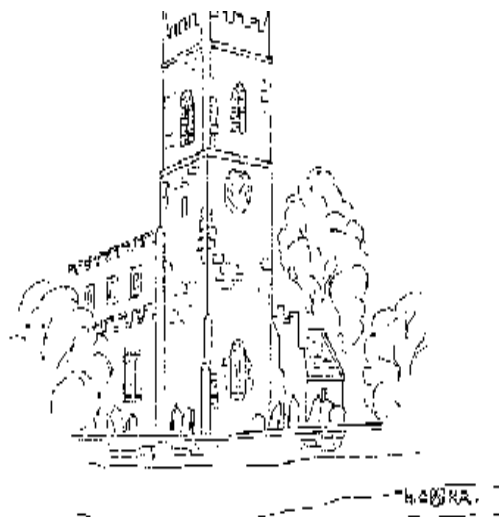
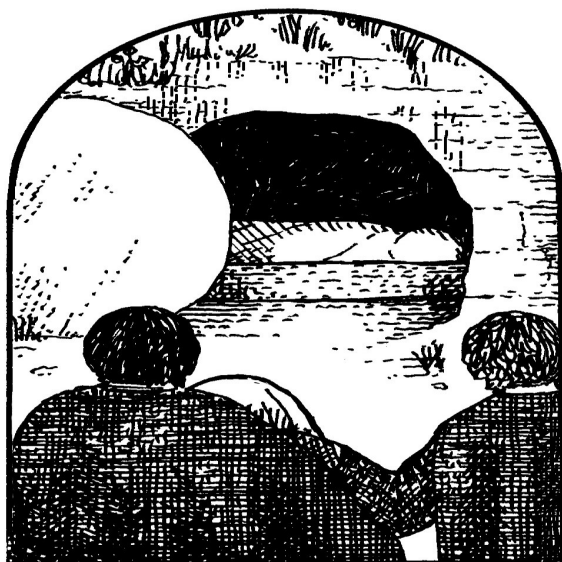


April 2021



Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE PARISH NEWS



St. John's Church, Burnhope



**40p monthly
or
£4 per year**

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

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Ann Sinclair, Reader Emeritus
Stephen Burt, Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

Due to the Current situation the Church is currently closed the usual service pattern will return when we are able. First and Third Sunday services will be a Eucharist.

2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30 am Service of The Word
Wednesdays 9.45 am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -
by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

Currently closed during Lockdown

1st and 3rd Sunday 9.15 am Said Eucharist
2nd Sunday and any 5th Sunday joint (All Saints)
4th Sunday Service of the word

2nd Thursday of the Month Café Church at The
Community Centre (Suspended during current
lockdown)

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MEN'S FORUM See noticeboard or pew sheets
for notifications and details

Contributions to
the Church
Magazine are
always welcome.



Copy preferably, be sent by E-mail to:
robmatthews48@hotmail.com

The copy deadline for the
May 2021 issue is
April 18th



Some of the earliest and longest lasting Christian communities can be found in the forests of northern Ethiopia. The Bible itself tells the story of an Ethiopian man who meets Philip, one of Jesus' disciples and, after hearing all about Jesus, immediately asks to be baptised.

As far back as the 4th Century these communities built their brightly coloured churches in the forest and from the forest. They used the wood to build, the earth to render, the bark and leaves and berries to decorate, and, so the saying goes, the surrounding forest to 'clothe their churches in the Garden of Eden'.

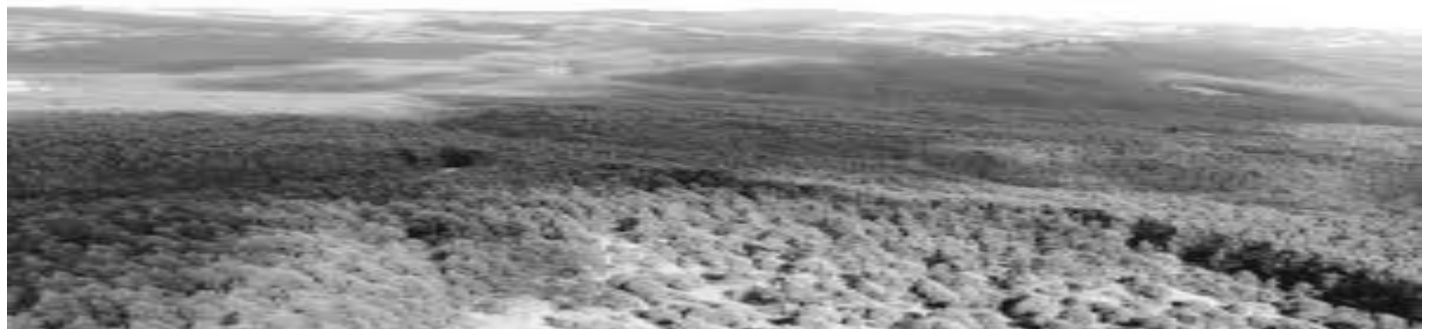
Some of the churches are a thousand years old, and the forests could be twice that. Sadly, intensive farming and the effects of climate change mean that over the past century most of the Ethiopian forest has disappeared, but not all of it. The forests around the Churches have been protected and are vital lifelines for both biodiversity and spiritual refreshment.

The images of these ancient 'Church Forests' are stark and powerful, but they are also hopeful. Scientists call these 'refugia', places of shelter where life endures in times of crisis. From these small pockets of sanctuary entire forests can re-emerge.

We are now a year into this pandemic, and our lives have had to find their own forms of 'refugia'. We have found new ways of working, of worshipping, of connecting, of living, to sustain us through this time of crisis. For many of us this has meant that our worlds, like those Ethiopian forests, have shrunk. And now, as we begin to contemplate our collective re-emergence, we may wonder whether the world will ever be the same again, whether the forest will ever return.

One of the metaphors that Jesus uses to talk about hope and resurrection is that of a seed planted in the ground. It may look dead and dormant, but it is in fact its own little 'refugia', clinging on to life and hope and ready to spring back when the time is right.

It is fitting that after a year of great disturbance, when our Church buildings have been closed more than they have been open, our first full week of opening this year will be Holy week, culminating on Easter Day, the day when we remember and celebrate the power of hope and life over darkness and death. The forests of Northern Ethiopia will one day return and those barren fields will be filled with life once more, and so will our churches, and so will we.



Praying for God's blessing upon us all this Holy Eastertide

Lesley

John: 2-13-22 A Reflection

Eli was arguing with a dove seller when it all kicked off, so I missed whatever got the prophet into such a rage in the first place. We just heard the shouting and the animals bellowing, and ran to see what it was all about. Eli told me, "Stop here, woman!" But I wasn't going to miss this, so I pretended I hadn't heard. I recognised that lad of Mary's, Jesus - he's always been a law unto himself - and he was going crackers! He'd made a lash out of a length of rope and he was laying into the money changers like a dog into a bowl of broth! "You cheating, lying wasters! This is the TEMPLE! You've made it into a thieves' kitchen! You're skinning genuine worshippers! Robbing the poor of their money! Pretending to be oh-so-holy - you're the enemies of God!"

It was hilarious! I mean, shocking, but hilarious! All the tables of coins over, children - and not just children - grabbing the money and running off! All the animal sellers laughing and jeering at the moneychangers. "Go on, Jesus!", "You sort them out, son!" - but they didn't laugh and jeer for long, because he turned on them, too, lashing at them with his rope - he was blooming strong for a skinny bloke, I can tell you!

And then he started chasing the animals out. They'd been frightened to start off with - the smell of the blood from the sacrifices always unsettles them - and it only took a few clips with the lash to send them from frozen terror to sheer panic! The first bull charged and broke the barrier, and the rest just stampeded after it, and everybody just threw themselves out of the way, and there was just this great wave of bulls and calves and sheep just sweeping out, trampling everything in front of them, and smashing through the cages of birds, and kicking over more tables - and the racket! And all the animals and the people were skidding all over on the - well, I'm sure I don't need to go into details about what they were skidding on. . . you know what a lot of terrified animals will leave behind.

And he just stood there, Mary's lad, out of breath, sweat pouring off him. I don't know where the Temple guards were while he was kicking off, but a couple of the younger priests finally got the bottle to go up to him. "How, man, settle down. What gives you the right to go on like this?" "Destroy this temple!" he said. "Destroy THIS Temple and I'll raise it up in three days!" And then all the men started going on about how long it takes to build a temple, and Eli was putting HIS two-penn'orth in, but I just stood and looked at young Jesus. He was nowt to look at, to be honest. I'd barely noticed him before - he was just a lad who brought his mother grief in my book - but now I saw there was something about him - something that was more - Oh - I don't know . . . more REAL than anything or anyone around him. And I just thought of the way he said it. "Destroy THIS Temple, and I'll raise it up in three days." I just couldn't get those words out of my mind.

I looked around me - at the mess and the filth and the panic and the greed, as people scrabbled in the muck to try to grab as many coins as they could - and I looked at him - calm and assured and somehow SOLID, and I just thought of what the prophets were always saying - that the Lord our God is in each and every one of us - and when you think, that makes us all Temples of the Lord, doesn't it? And I looked at the arguing, angry people, and the naked greed on their faces, and I thought, "What sort of temples are these for the Lord of all the World?"

Eli had lost interest by then, and he dragged us away. But I kept looking back at Mary's lad. He was that calm by now. Eli was talking but I didn't hear what he said. I just kept thinking, "What about me? I'm only a woman. Is God in me? Am I a Temple? And if I am - is the Temple of my body a house of prayer, or one that's an insult to the Lord like the Great Temple has become? Were the enemies of God lurking inside me, too?" And I knew the answer.

After that day, whenever I could, I followed Jesus. I listened to what people said about him. When he was speaking near us, I went to listen to him. I heard what he said about neighbours, and enemies, and money, and turning the other cheek, and yes - about women, and outcasts, and sinners. And afterwards - when that poor, gentle man . . . when . . . but I can't think about that. But I heard the stories of what happened after . . . and I know what I believe.

I believe he kept his promise and raised that Temple. And I believe that we, too, are Temples; that inside us all is a place where we can go to meet God. But we're little village shrines, while Jesus - he's the Inner Chamber of the Great Temple. He's the Holiest of Holies - he's the Ark of God's Covenant. The place where God lives. He is where God's Holy Word created all things. He's all of this and more. So I do my best to follow his path to God. It isn't easy, and I make mistakes but I try hard, and I think - I hope - that every day I am cleansing my own Temple with his help. Making it a place where God will want to live. A place where I'll be proud to welcome the Lord. A truly holy place of living worship.

Amen



Pauline Meek

**Parish Registers
Lanchester and Burnhope**

Deaths

Dorothy May 'Babs' Maskery aged 89

Marjory Godfrey aged 73

Jean 'Jenny' Laydon aged 92

Colin Edward Gleave aged 79

'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'



All Saints Parish Church

**Phone
Church**



During this lockdown we're trying something new to help keep in touch. We're using a telephone conferencing system that doesn't cost us anything to run- it simply costs those of who use it the price of a low cost call, or calls may be included in your telephone package. And it's easy to use. Just call the main number, type in the conference room number when prompted and then the guest PIN number. That will get you into our 'room.' Say hello when you come in , and you will be able to hear one another. You can join in the service with the responses, and afterwards you can stay on the line to catch up- virtual coffee time !

The numbers you need are

Dial 03330164757

Room Number 11718226#

Guest PIN 2468#

**Phone church for St Thomas, All
Saints and Burnhope is at 10am
I'm really looking forward to hearing
your Voices**

All Saints Parish Church
We can't hold an Easter Fair, but we can have
an

Easter Raffle!

Prizes will be a variety of hampers and
the draw will take place on 5th April
MORE PRIZES-NEW NUMBERS!



If you'd like to help All
Saints by buying a
number, message
Lanchester Parish
Church Facebook Page
or ring Ross on 01207
654035.

Payment can
be made by
bank
transfer,
cash or
cheque.

Lottery Licence no; LOTSP0061

PRIZE LIST

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Easter hamper | 2. Chocolate hamper |
| 3. Easter hamper | 4. After dinner hamper |
| 5. Easter hamper | 6. Oil Painting Cathedral |
| 7. Easter hamper | 8. Ringtons hamper |
| 9. Emerton's Fruit basket | 10. Hanley's meat voucher |
| 11. Be Happy Flower Arrangement | 12. Kaffeehaus Amadeus voucher |
| 13. Lilydale pet hamper | 14. Photographic book |
| 15. Bottle Whisky 1 litre | 16. Toiletry hamper |
| 17. Bottle Vodka 1Litre | 18. Liberty's Cushion |
| 19. Children's Puzzle | 20. China Teapot Set |
| 21. Toiletry hamper | 22. Picnic hamper |
| 23. Lanchester Apron | 24. Toiletry hamper |
| 25. Ceramic bird feeder | 26. Lanchester Hardware gift |
| 27. Ginger candle | 28. Bottle Prosecco |

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

It is now one year since we hosted a Quiet Afternoon with members from our Deanery. It was the last time of meeting for many months due to lockdown.



It has been a hard time for most of our members and congregation, but we have tried to maintain contact with most of our Mothers' Union members. It is lovely to be able to speak to one another, but it is not the same as meeting face to face. We were able to have two meetings in church last autumn, but sadly lockdown again. We were relieved to learn that Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day services will be held. We hope and pray that numbers of Covid cases continue to fall, and that in the not too distant future we can resume our regular meetings and can join with Deanery members again. We have been asked if we could write to our M.P. regarding free school meals for those in need. I have information from the Children's Society and a draft letter which can be used. I am happy to print out copies of this information if you would like to support this cause in a time of increased unemployment and furlough.

Although this will have past by the time of reading I finish with a prayer for Lady Day:

'Lord, make us into the people you want us to be, and forgive us when we fall short. Teach us to be generous in judgement, bold in commitment, and sensitive in listening. Where we find no love, let us bring love, and make us more like you.'

Amen

Eileen Matthews

Gardeners!

60 Briardene

Spare plants in pots on circle in side garden.

Please help yourself.



**Donation to church funds please.
Contact Margaret 521214**

Free replacement for any plant which did not survive the winter!

April Flowers and Spring Showers

Primroses and cowslips brighten the hedgerows, and the blossom bursts into life on the fruit trees. The woods are full of bluebells, or harebells, dedicated to St George (April 23rd) "On St George's day when blue is worn, the blue harebells the fields adorn. My wild field catalogue of flowers, Grows in my Rhymes as thick as showers. Tedious and long as they may be to some, They never weary me."

John Clare.



Robert Burns, in his poem 'The Posie' wrote of Hyacinths as a constancy with its unchanging blue.

William Wordsworth wrote 'I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o'er vales and hills.

When all at once I saw a crowd
A host of golden daffodils.
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.'



A lovely verse we all remember—
what is your favourite spring colour?
Enjoy the spring flowers.

Stay safe and stay well.

Audrey Newton

Church Flowers

April

4th April (Easter Sunday)
J Osborne, M Burt,
A Hunter, O Walker

18th F Hunter, J Wilkinson
M Taylor

25th J Jobling, P Reed



A Smile Line

Seen on a notice on a church in France

When you enter this church It may be that you hear the "call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phone. If you want to talk to God please come in, chose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him in person send Him a text while driving.

100 Club

We are back ! The numbers for the second draw of the year were drawn by Sue and Rob (socially distanced)

The winning numbers all of £5.00 are
60, 08 , 50, 107, 32, 86.

Sue Smith and Olga Walker



My books.

I have ordered 20 more of my latest book Eleanor's Secret. If anyone else would like to buy one, £5 for church funds, then I can supply them with one. Thank you to all those who have already done so.

Brenda Craddock.

Benny Retires.

Dear Friends,
I have missed you all so much this last year during lockdown, especially my cuddles and bits of sneaked biscuit in the chapter house. Now I retire this week without being able to say a proper doggy "goodbye" to you all. I did plan to have a retirement party for you all to come to, but nasty covid says I can't do that either. So I thought I would write to you instead.

I am going to spend my retirement with Mum, Dad & Helen, so I will be able to see you out on my walks. Hopefully the new whippersnapper will arrive during the summer, and it will be my job to train him/ her up properly, and teach it proper church manners. Vicar Lesley says I can go on coming to church, to make sure the youngster does it all properly, stands for the Gospel and the creed, and does not bark at the organ. I have loved serving at the altar in your beautiful church, and thank you all so much for making me so welcome. Perhaps we will be able to have a party to welcome the new youngster when he/she arrives. That would be good. Meanwhile I send a cheery "Woof"!

Benny Armstrong.



Church Wives

April again and the season of Spring,
When we can see change in everything.
The wonders of nature are clearly seen,
The world is beginning to look very green.
Our spirits lighten after a year of gloom.
Our normal lives could return very soon.
Everything may have changed during this last year-
But God has never changed, He is always there.
He cares for us and loves us as we live each day,
Never too busy to listen to what we have to say.
Sometimes we are up and sometimes we are down,
It does not matter which it is, God never wears a frown.
Enjoy Easter, 'JESUS IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD'
And what greater words could ever be said.
He has conquered death so now where is its sting?
God is in control of every single thing.

Love from Brenda to all Church Wives Members.

Brenda Craddock

Everybody, Somebody Anybody and Nobody

This is a story (not original) about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but nobody did. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it but nobody realised that Everybody would not do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done. (Confused? I am)

It makes you think! In our church Everybody likes to help and never just leaves Somebody else to do it. Anybody could do that, but Nobody ever does. Everybody works together for Everybody's good and that is just how it should be.

Brenda Craddock.

For Sale at £2 per jar

Beetroot Chutney

Seville Marmalade.

Red and black currant jam

**Contact Margaret on
521214**



The good news about your forgetfulness

You know the scenario – you go into the lounge, and then wonder what you wanted. Or you need to make a phone call but can't find the phone. You go to the cash point and forget your pin number. Or your car keys are lost in the kitchen, but even when you find them and go shopping, you forget stuff on the list. If at times you find yourself living in an annoying brain-fog, the good news is that it is not because you are ill or getting old. To varying extents, everyone does it.

A recent study at the University of Edinburgh has found that forgetfulness is as common in people in their 20s as it is in people in their 50s. Although some of the people in the study were worried about getting dementia, a neuropsychiatrist at the university reassured them: "People think that if you are starting to forget things – something like misplacing your keys – that is something to worry about. But it is normal."

Good reasons for forgetting things range from the fact that too much was happening in your life at the time, you were stressed about something, not paying attention to what you were doing, or just too busy thinking about something else entirely.

Source The Parish Pump



The pain of Covid on our youngsters

Five pupils in every classroom are now reckoned to be in need of some clinical support, due to lockdown mental health deterioration.

A recent study by Cambridge University has found that the number of youngsters with mental health problems has increased from one in nine in 2017 to one in six in 2020. Another by Oxford University has found that half of people aged 16-to-25 were reporting mental health problems, with one in four 'unable to cope', according to the Prince's Trust.

Prof Ellen Townsend of the Self-Harm Research Group at Nottingham University said: "young people have really been neglected in this crisis." Combined with the drop in education, the effects of the past year are going to be 'life limiting.' She warned that anxiety, depression and self-harm have increased substantially, and that eating disorder referrals have trebled. NSPCC child abuse referrals have risen 43 per cent and domestic violence calls were up by 49 per cent.

Source The Parish Pump



Archbishops in the Spectator: Church in changing times

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have recently written an article for the Spectator magazine, responding to the recent media coverage asking: 'Where is the C of E?'

The Archbishops say: "Let us offer an answer. ... the Church of England has been a bedrock of faith, love, hope and compassion in this country for centuries through wars, plagues and pandemics — we still are, and we will go on being just that."

"You can imagine our shock, then, when we read in the media about what is supposedly happening... That the parish system, with its beautiful vision of serving every inch of the country and every person in it, is being systematically dismantled. That clergy are being made redundant. That there are plans to somehow centralise everything and for services, even beyond Covid, to be online rather than in person."

"So let us try to set the record straight. There are no plans to dismantle the parish network. We are committed to our calling to be a Christian presence in every community."

"...Yes, there are hard decisions currently being made across many dioceses. Overall some stipendiary posts will be lost. ...But the aim is to make each parish and each Christian community sustainable. If that doesn't happen, there really will be no Church of England."

"...There are rascally voices around who want to undermine the church — it was ever thus. But the real story is that we so believe in that vision of serving every inch of the country, and every person in it, that we are having to expand what it is to be the church."

Source The Parish Pump

Mars Bar Cake

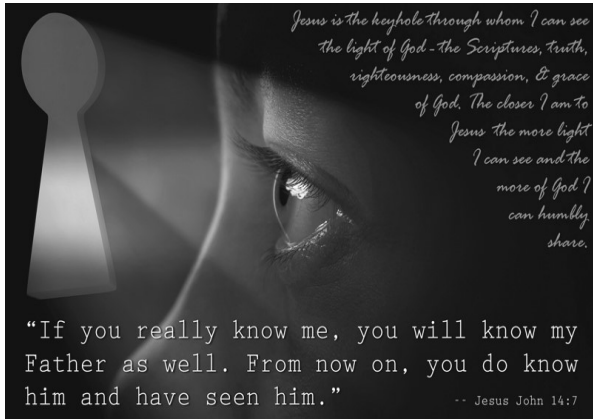
This quick and easy cake is a favourite in many families. We are not saying that it is good for you!



Ingredients: 3 Mars bars; 150g butter; 150g rice crispies; 150g chocolate

Method: In a pan, slowly melt the Mars bars and butter together. Remove from the heat and add the rice crispies, a little at a time, until they are covered with the mixture. Spread mixture onto a baking sheet and place in the fridge until hard. Melt the chocolate and cover the mixture with it. Return to the fridge for a further half an hour. Cut into pieces.

The Way



Come, still your hearts, let troubles go
For you believe in Me,
And I am with you, I will show
The way ahead of thee.

My Father's house has many rooms
You know my words are so!
My Spirit and my Word illumines
The way that you shall go.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life
Believe and you shall see
The way through tempest and through strife
To My eternity.

By Nigel Beeton

LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

I felt I had to put pen to paper to pass on our heartfelt thanks for the most wonderfully kind, thoughtful and generous gifts and cards we received into school today. I was quite emotional at the love and care shown to us all by yourselves.

The thought that has so obviously gone into the words on the cards actually meant more to us than the absolutely delicious treats! Each card was so carefully and beautifully written with such meaningful words – we will treasure them forever. They will certainly last much longer than everything else as I think every single member of staff enjoys their food and has a sweet tooth!

I have said every week to our parents and children that there are so many wonderful, positive things to have come out of this pandemic – however hard and challenging it has been. The special partnership and role both our school and church play in this community is huge and I am so very proud to be part of it. I feel it has only been strengthened this last year.

Thank you each and every one of you from every single member of staff at Lanchester EP School.

Jane Davis

Thank You Project EP and Burnhope schools.

Report on our visit to EP School

Members of the congregation were asked to show their appreciation to the teachers and staff of Lanchester EP School for their sterling work during the past year during difficult and unprecedented times. Over the course of a couple of weeks Lesley took donations of tea, coffee, hot chocolate, biscuits and fresh fruit. Thank you cards and Cards of prayer and support were included. Three hampers of items were collected and artistically arranged into three baskets by Ross and Emma. On Friday 19th March, Rob and Sue collected them from Ross and took them across to the school. We had booked a "slot" with Mrs. Davies but she didn't know why. This also coincided with "Mad Hair Day" at the school and Mrs. Davies was indeed having a Mad or Bad hair day. We presented the baskets to her on behalf of everyone at church in acknowledgement of their continued hard work for all of the children in the school and with the hope that we will soon be able to resume our usual school services both in school and in church as well as our messy Church events. Not only do we miss church worship but also the valuable contribution our children play in our church lives. Mrs. Davis was quite teary and thanked us for our unexpected presents. She too is keen to resume our worship links with the children. At this stage a group of very small children paraded through the hall, all with their own Mad Hair efforts; from multi coloured rainbow hair to one young lady whose hair had been artistically arranged to look like a spider. Very impressive. Well done to all of the school staff whose work must have been doubled and more. May I also acknowledge the invaluable input by the children's parents and carers as they too must have been on a very steep learning curve, not only Home schooling but in many situations, maintaining their own full time work alongside.



We Salute you and THANK YOU.

NB (Revd Lesley and Doreen will visit Burnhope school during W/C 22nd March to deliver similar parcels. Thanks for all the donations and support for this project and Lesley for the wonderful idea.)

Sue Smith



An extract from the Lanchester Parish Magazine of March 1902

My Dear Friends,

The past month marks a time that will long be remembered in the annals of our Parish, through the completion of the new Clock and Chimes in the Church; on the afternoon of Saturday, February 15th, the works were formally set in motion by Mrs. Clark, nee Walton, the donor of the Clock, and by Mr. Logan, who presented the Chimes and Transparent Dial; the brief ceremony took place in the Nave of the Church, and consequently nothing in the form of votes of thanks was permissible. But no doubt this deficiency will be made up within the week, when the Bishop is to preach on the occasion of the Dedication, which he most kindly promised to do as far back as December.

THE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL TO QUEEN VICTORIA

This Memorial will take the form of endowing, for ever, the Institute for Queen's Nurses, to which Queen Victoria gave £70,000; a few words will show what a splendid undertaking this is; the Nurses provided by the Institute nurse and tend to the poor in their own homes, after receiving at least two years' training; were this noble charity properly endowed, there would not only be 900 nurses now working in the United Kingdom, but no parish that desired a nurse would be without one; an opportunity for contributing towards this splendid scheme is being offered to everyone in this Parish, especially to women, and I am sure we shall not be behindhand in doing our part to further this most excellent cause.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW ILLUMINATED CAMBRIDGE QUARTER CHIME CLOCK

The above Clock strikes the full musical four Great St. Mary's of Cambridge Quarter Chimes on four bells, and the Hours on the large or Tenor Bell, and is constructed on the solid horizontal cast iron bed frame, cast all in one piece, from the solid, and planed perfectly flat on the top and bottom surfaces.

The time is shown upon one skeleton cast iron dial, to form the circles, figures, and minutes, glazed with the white opal glass for illumination, 6ft. in diameter. The Clock also shows the time inside the Church, on the old inside dial. There is also an apparatus for pulling off the hammers during the time the bells are rung for Service. The whole of the clock work has been executed by Messrs. Wm. Potts and Sons, Clock Manufacturers, Leeds, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Since the ceremony named above, we have learnt that the Clock is erected in memory of Mr John Walton, and the Chimes to the memory of Mr. John Cumming, and not to our late beloved Queen, as has been supposed from the first, and never contradicted. **George Jepson Surrogate**

Peter Smith

From The Wardens

Hopefully we are seeing light at the end of a seemingly endless tunnel as vaccination programmes continue and we look forward to Easter services back in our churches, and hopefully onward into summer. As ever we have been supporting Lesley as she has been taking us through Lent with 'The Big Story' and her regular streamed worship via our Facebook page and 'Telephone Church' on Sunday Mornings.

In Church we have been attending to the aftermath of the burst Chapter house boiler, which at the time of writing we are still taking 2-3 litres per day of water via the dehumidifiers. Most of the water now is from the thick rubble construction walls of the Church which form the North and East curtilages of the corridor to the Chapter house. This will of course require redecoration when the walls are dry.

We have now received the quinquennial report which is due to be discussed at PCC.

Quotations are initially being sought to deal with the immediate items noted relating to roofing and pointing works of a minor nature to ensure our building is watertight.

Other works relating to window stonework repairs and other items will need discussion to enable the work to be dealt with within the next 2-3 years for which funding will be sought.

Hopefully as I said earlier as we look forward to returning to Church, the Wardens are planning to clean out the loft when we are able to do it safely. It was not an easy task climbing through all the stored stuff desperately trying to find the source of a burst pipe among the piles of boxes and stuff stored up there.

We all look forward to seeing as many of you that are able, to welcome you back in Church at Easter.

**Rob Matthews
For The Churchwardens**



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LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



It is wonderful writing this with the sun shining outside whilst listening to a playground full of laughing, happy children. What a difference a few weeks makes! It is quite strange thinking back to this time last year and the fear of the unknown and wondering what was to come. Saying goodbye to the children and closing the school on Friday 20th March for the majority of children, was one of the hardest things I have experienced professionally. I think, for me, it was the fear that our children were possibly going to experience bereavement and trauma and yet there was nothing at all we could do to help, support or prepare them.

However, we now have all our children back to school and the building is now full of life, spirit, fun, laughter and learning. You will notice that I put the learning at the end of that list – this is simply because our current priority is the well-being of our children. We are very aware that our children have experienced significant trauma due to the events of the last year so we are concentrating our efforts initially on their well-being, ensuring that we have a nurturing environment and just teaching them how to socialise and play with each other again. These are life skills that have just been alien to them for too long now due to the lockdowns and which we need to ensure are in place before we can begin their academic journeys again.

We have tried to keep spirits up amongst our families during these challenging times and the Senior Leadership Team excelled themselves at the end last half term! We decided to re-write the words of Abba's wonderful song, 'Mamma Mia' and entitled it 'Coronavirus, Here We Go Again!' We then had great fun dressing up, singing and acting it all out to music at the end of the school day once all the other children and staff had gone home for the day.

This was followed by a wonderful Jump for Joy challenge that we set for the whole school – this was put to S Club's Reach for the Stars with brilliant participation from both children and parents.

Our final video of the pandemic is currently in progress and will be released on the final day of the term. This is one is anticipating what is to come and will be set to The Beatles song, 'Here Comes the Sun' so please watch out for this on our website and social media. We hope that, following this, life will start returning to some kind of normality and that there won't be the need to provide such entertainment!

We have a week of activities planned for Easter before we break up and whilst we are missing out on coming to church for our annual Easter Service for the second year running, we will be sharing Worship in school with Revd Sutherland as usual as well as sharing the joy that Easter celebrations bring.

We are also all looking forward to, hopefully, a little more normality and warmer weather to come. Hopefully, it is going to be a very different summer to the one we all experienced last year.

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher, Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School

Chelsea Flower Show moves to the autumn

For the first time ever in its 108-year history, Chelsea Flower Show will not be held in the Spring, but in the Autumn.

The 2021 Chelsea Flower Show will now take place from 21st to 26th September. The Royal Horticultural Society, the show organisers, will still hold it at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea.

The hope is that by September, millions more people will be vaccinated, so that mass outdoor events will be able to happen safely. 140,000 people are predicted to attend this year's Chelsea, over the six days.

Sue Biggs, RHS director general, says: "We believe many designers and nurseries will look forward to working with different plants that would not be available or at their best in May. We will do our utmost to deliver a beautiful, uplifting and different RHS Chelsea safely in September 2021."

Source The Parish Pump



100 years of the PCC

It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an *ex officio* member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the Agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.

If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC - congratulations - you are a hundred years old this year!

Source The Parish Pump

Dates for your Diary April / May 2021

Every morning throughout Lent follow the 'Big Story' at 9am on the Lanchester Parish Church Facebook page.

Service of the word Sunday Mornings at 9am on our Facebook page and Phone Church which will be run by Revs Margaret and Adrian Armstrong 10am for All Saints, St Johns Burnhope and St Thomas Harelaw (see page 5 for details)

Sunday 28th March 10.30 am Church Reopens

Friday 2nd April 2.00pm Good Friday Service

Sunday 4th April 10.30 am Easter Morning Service

Monday 5th April 12 noon Live draw of Easter Raffle on All Saints Facebook Page

Tuesday evening 25th May Annual Parochial Meeting will be held in church.

Foodbank

Please don't forget those who depend on the foodbank at this difficult time. Lanchester All Saints is not open for you to leave donations at present and we have liaised with the Foodbank in Consett to see how we can help. Lanchester donated over a ton of food in the year before lockdown, and many people would struggle without that generosity of spirit.

As it is difficult to collect food for the food bank we have spoken to them and they are happy for us to circulate their bank account details if anyone wants to make money donations on line.

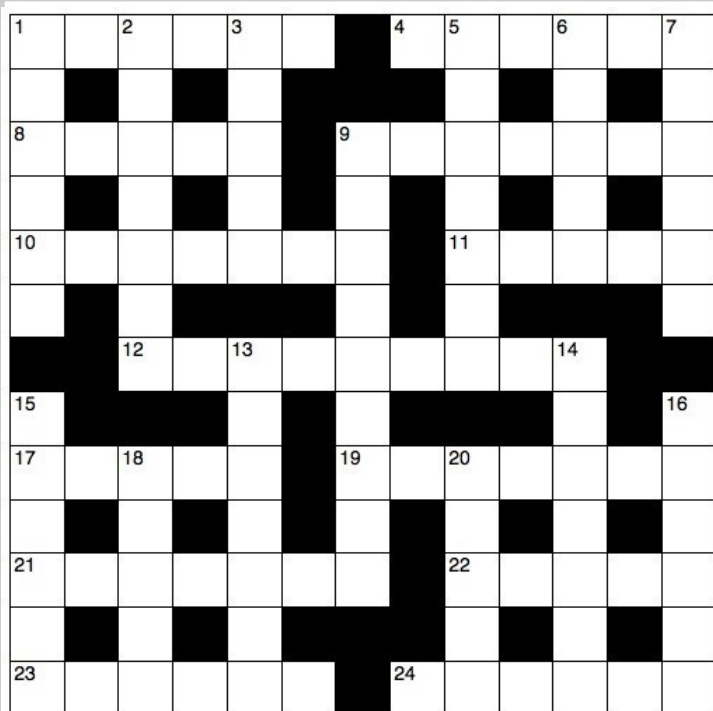
Sort code 40-52-40 Account number 00099102

Cheques for Consett foodbank should be made payable to Consett Food 4U, and posted to Durham Foodbank, Durham Christian Partnership, MILE House, Bridge End, Chester le Street, DH3 3RA

THINK FOOD BANK

As a church we are committed to supporting the Food Bank in Consett (There are now 29 Food Banks operating in the Durham Diocese)





Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
 12 Repossessed (Gen 14:16) (9)
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Ex 34:29) (7)
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)

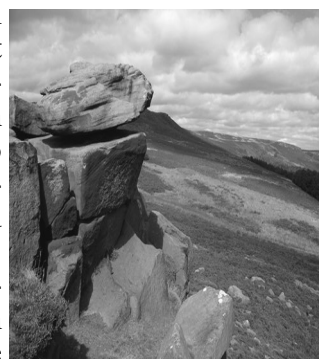
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Our first ever National Park

Seventy years ago, on 17th April 1951, the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first national park, and it was formed partly as a result of a mass trespass on Kinder Scout — the highest point of the park — just under 20 years earlier, which helped gain open access to moorland that had previously been in private hands and closed to walkers.

The precise effect and extent of the trespass, in which Young Communists were prominent, is still widely disputed by rambling associations.

The Peak District is mostly in Derbyshire, but includes parts of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. It is usually split into the higher Dark Peak and the gentler White Peak, in the centre and south of the district. Altogether it covers 555 square miles: it is reckoned that 20 million people live within an hour's journey of it.



It contains only one town — Bakewell — but several others, such as Buxton, are on the fringes. It is now the fifth largest of the 13 national parks in England and Wales. The land within it is a mixture of public and private ownership, and there are many planning restrictions imposed by the national park authority to prevent inappropriate development.

Source The Parish Pump

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, De-
 iliah. 10, Falwell.
 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant.
 21, Centaur.
 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.
DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy
 war. 6, Moist.
 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons.
 15, Psyche.
 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

Book Reviews



Easter: the Greatest News

By Paul Williams, 10Publishing, £2.99
(discounts for packs)

We don't like to think about death. It's morbid and uncomfortable because if we're honest, deep down, many of us are fearful about what will happen when our time comes.

But what if there was one who could take us through the door marked death with confidence? The story of Easter contains the greatest news – the answer to our biggest problem that will bring peace, assurance and freedom.

Easter means that death can be the doorway to the beginning of the most wonderful experience of our lives.

Slow Down, Show Up and Pray

By Ruth Rice, Authentic, £9.99

Looking after our mental health has never been so important. Many of us want to find simple ways to help our wellbeing that we can fit into our everyday life.

After suffering her own mental health crisis, Ruth Rice set up the Renew Wellbeing charity, which helps churches to open safe spaces to help communities attend to their mental and emotional health.

Packed full of personal stories, resources and practical guidance, this book will enable you to maintain your own wellbeing. Be present. Be prayerful. Be in partnership.

Stuck in the Mud? – stories of Hope for When You're Stuck By John Prockter, Monarch, £8.99

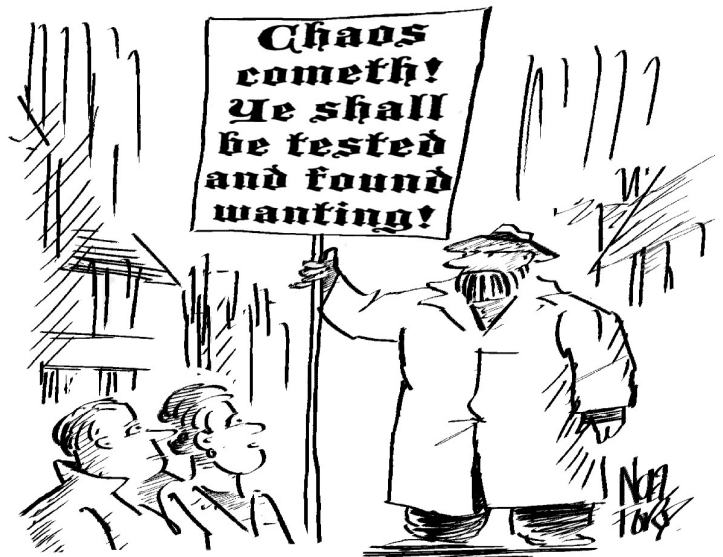
At times of difficulty or transition we can often feel unable to move forward. Framed around 12 real-life sticking points in John Prockter's life, this book offers hope in a faithful God and a pathway through difficult times. This could be helpful for those wanting to engage in the ups and downs of discipleship.

Prayer Tip for the Month

Imagine that Christ is walking towards you. He reaches out his hand and you take it. As you walk, tell him all your fears and dreams then listen to him.



Smile Lines



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden

Easter Prayer

Dear generous, loving Father,

How can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him?

We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth – and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve.

Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah! Amen.

Daphne Kitching



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