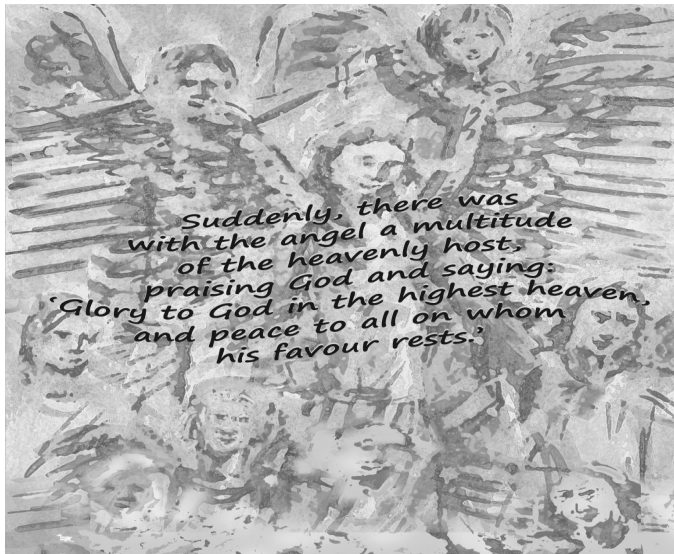
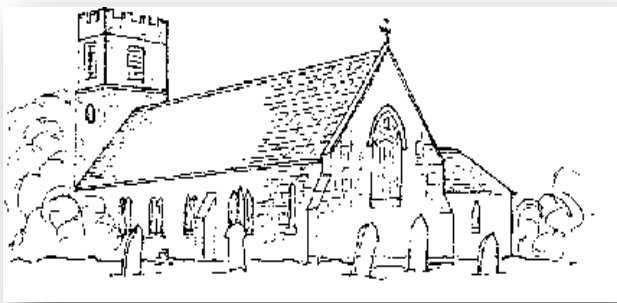


December 2021/January 2022

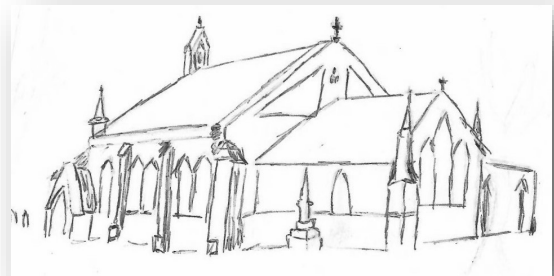


Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE PARISH NEWS with St Thomas Harelaw and Annfield Plain



St. John's Church, Burnhope



St Thomas Church Harelaw



50p monthly or £5 per year

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

Priest in Charge – The Revd Lesley Sutherland

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Curate The Revd Stephen Martin

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Doreen Park, 10 West Terrace 438564

Burnhope
Ann Sinclair, Reader Emeritus
Stephen Burt, Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

First and Third Sunday services

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Second and Fourth Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30 am Service of The Word

6.00 pm Evensong

Wednesdays 9.45 am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -

by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st and 3rd Sunday 9.15 am Said Eucharist

2nd Sunday and any 5th Sunday joint (All Saints)

4th Sunday 9.15am Service of the word

Café Church at The Community Centre every second Tuesday of the month

CHURCHWARDENS

Robert Matthews 7 Prospect Terrace 771044

Sue Smith The Deanery Cottage 520031

Doreen Park 10 West Terrace Burnhope 438564

Pauline Hall 21 Broadoak Drive 520393

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Delves Lane 505448

ACTING TREASURER

Jane Makepeace jane.makepeace100@gmail.com

HON. SECRETARY PCC

David Baggott, 14 Woodlands 520646

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

David Baggott, 14 Woodlands 520646

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PARISH ROOM SECRETARY

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Maiden Law

CHURCH FLOWERS

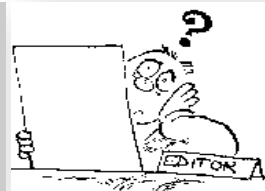
Barbara Sproat, 37 Greenwell Park 520247

MUSIC GROUP and CHOIRMASTER

Craig Davies, 33 First Street Bradley
Cottages Leadgate 07894515112

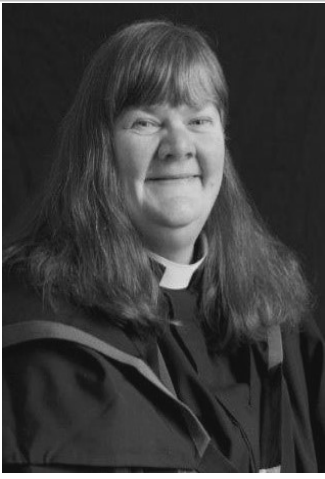
MEN'S FORUM See noticeboard or pew sheets for notifications and details

**Contributions to
the Church
Magazine are
always welcome.**



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

**The copy deadline for the
February issue is
Sunday January 23rd**



We do not know when the first stone was laid.

Perhaps some shivering Saxons in a smoky hall one long Christmas Eve decided to build a church to the glory of God; and on a wet winter's morning brought the first stones from the Roman encampment down the hill to find a pleasant site in the valley. And maybe the next year, the first rushlight flared into light at midnight, as the Saxons gave thanks. Those first rushlight were soaked in tallow from the beasts killed for the table, and they were noxious and smoky; but they were enough to light the night for many Christmases to come, until the new church was being built on the bones of the old.

The new church was splendid, vaulted and arched, and it took many candles and great expense to light it; but at Christmas the work of the parish bees over the past year was enough to pierce the darkness at Midnight and allow the priests of the college to see their

missals as they read from the Gospel according to Saint John, and reflected on the meaning of light.

The candles, too, flickered and went out, and were chancy in the draughts from the clerestory windows, but for centuries their flames guided the faithful to divine service in the darkest of times and gave hope for the coming year. And the years turned, until the discovery of coal gas by one William Murdoch made gas mantles possible; a single gas mantle emitted 12 times as much light as a candle. And then the miracle of electricity made light available at the mere flick of a switch, and the windows of the ancient church blazed at midnight with an invitation to come, and see, and celebrate.

No-one really knows whether we were born with an instinctive fear of the dark, or whether we acquired it gradually as a result of the myriad awful dangers that emerged after night fell. The darkness was the realm of the hobgoblin, the sprite, the will o' the wisp, witches, Satan himself; and it was, too the realm of the criminal, the thief, the murderer. The pre-industrial night was regarded with dread and fascination in equal measure. Some of us still do not relish going out in darkness, when our fears are somehow magnified and sometimes irrational. Outside in the darkness swirl new myriad awful dangers; food shortages, redundancy, economic disaster, illness, long term disability, death... But the light has not gone out.

The stones of All Saints have seen plague. They have seen war between nations, and war between peoples. They have seen hardship and hunger. And each year the light has flickered into being at midnight, in rushlight and candlelight and gaslight and electric light, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the darkness has not overcome it, will never overcome it, because the light that we share is much more than the light from an LED or a tungsten bulb. The light we share is the light of the incarnate word, the glorious light of love as God leaps laughing from heaven down a stair of angels to find a place amongst us, in the muck and the mess and the disappointment and despair, coming to ignite the light in each one of us.

And the darkness will not overcome it, not even the thick darkness of fear and disease and death, because it spreads like wildfire in the stubble of mown fields, and the sparks ignite and swirl out on the wind, and from the embers the whole world catches fire in love.

For 'See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.'

On Christmas Eve, God leaps laughing down a stair of angels to find a place among us.
The first things have passed away
Let us open our hearts
And let us shine with His light.

Wishing you and yours every blessing for a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year!

Lesley

From Revd. Stephen Martin

From the past to the future

I love November to December because it is a time of real contrast as we remember the past and look to the future. We remember with sadness those we have loved and lost, and we remember the sacrifice of those men



and women who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. Christ the King, celebrated on 18th November, it reminded us of Jesus taking his seat at the right hand of God in His Kingdom. Then we look forward to advent as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, a baby which offers us so much more than we can ever imagine.

For many, looking to the future after losing someone they love seems like an impossibility, and often makes us think about our own mortality. Working as funeral director for many years has given me some insight into the way people deal with death and how they think about their own mortality. I remember a gentleman I went to meet to prepay his funeral; he didn't want to think about his own death because the unknown frightened him. How could he be certain about what lay beyond this life, if anything at all, living in the moment had been enough for him. I asked him what had changed his mind. Surely something had, because I was sitting with him planning his funeral. Hopefully, the plan wouldn't be needed for some time. He told me about a poem he had read written by John Bell of the Iona Community called 'I Never Wanted to Be Born' that had made him think differently, it had brought the hope we find in the birth of the Christ child.

I NEVER WANTED TO BE BORN

by John Bell (from the book "He Was In The World" – Meditations For Public Worship, GIA, Iona 1995, pg 18-19)

(Read slowly and deliberately allowing time for the words to settle)

I never wanted to be born.

The older I grew, the fonder I became of my mother's womb and its warmth and its safety.

I feared the unknown, the next world, about which I knew nothing, but imagined the worst.

Yet, as I grew older, I sensed in my soul that the womb was not my home forever.

Though I did not know when, I felt sure that one day I would disappear through a door which had yet to be opened and confront the unknown of which I was afraid.

And then...it happened. In blood, and tears, and pain, it happened.

I was cut off from the familiar; I left my life behind, and discovered not darkness, but light. Not hostility, but love. Not eternal separation, but hands that wanted to hold me.

(Pause for a minute of silence and reflection)

I never wanted to be born. I don't want to die.

The older I grow, the fonder I become of this world, and its warmth, and its safety.

I fear the unknown, the next world, about which I know nothing, but imagine the worst.

Yet as I grow older, I sense in my soul that this world is not my home forever.

Though I do not know when, I feel that one day I will disappear through a door that has yet to be opened.

Perhaps having come so safely through the first door, I shall not fear so hopelessly the second.

So, as we move forward through Advent, preparing for Christmas, the birth of Jesus let us do it in confidence that our past, present, and future are found in this baby and the second door whenever it opens is not so scary after all if we approach it with faith and hope.

**Yours in hope,
Stephen**

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped celebrate my 90th birthday (which incidentally [due to the british summertime ending] was 25 hours long- not many people will have that privilege). I was greeted very warmly as we walked into Church and then by the Choir, it felt really special. I would particularly like to thank Peter Jackson for his kind words and for his very moving prayer for Stephen and myself. Also to all the congregation for the singing of 'Happy Birthday.' I felt very overwhelmed and very humbled, but truly grateful. Thank you too for the cards I received. Every kindness helped to make the day special and a time to remember.

Margaret Burt



Lanchester and Burnhope

Funerals

6th November Linda Austin aged 54

17th November Maving Walter Taylor aged 90

26th November Terri Lovell aged 89 (at All Saints RC Church)

9th December Olive Trusswell aged 86

15th December Margaret Howard aged 82 (at St Thomas Harelaw)

'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'



Be kind to your neighbour

This Christmas, why not make an extra effort to be kind to your neighbours? It seems that neighbourly distrust has grown more than fivefold since the summer of 2020, with one in five of us now saying that relations in our community have soured.

On the plus side, there are still 25 per cent of us who report greater trust in our neighbourhoods. But on the debit side, now 22 per cent of us, up from just four per cent, have reported a deterioration.

The research was carried out at University College London (UCL), who found that one in five of us now feel less cohesive with our neighbours, feeling that we have fewer shared values with them.

As one researcher put it, "Much has changed over the last 18 months, with limits to our freedom, how we interact with other, and changes to how we shop and travel. Perhaps these restrictions have caused some to feel less satisfied with life in their community."

Proverbs 11:12 advises: 'Whoever derides their neighbour has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.' Proverbs 27:10 advises: 'Do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you— better a neighbour nearby than a relative far away.'

Source The Parish Pump

Children's Aprons for Sale

*Lovely cotton fabrics
Ideal Christmas present*

3 sizes (excluding straps):

16 inch length for 2-4 year old £2.50

20 inch length for 5-7 year old £3

24 inch length for 8-12 year old £4

*All proceeds to Church Funds
Ring Margaret on 521214*

St. John's Church

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER

SATURDAY | 4th | 2-4PM

Burnhope Community Centre

Craft stalls, Cake stall, Tombola & Raffle

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester

Our next meeting is on 14th December, 2.00pm and is our Advent Service. Members will meet in the Chapter House before going into Church for the service. After the service refreshments will be served in the Chapter House. Would those members who are giving a small gift for patients in Lanchester Road Hospital, bring them to this meeting. Please remember to add the letter M or F to the back of your gift tag and we will arrange to deliver them in good time for Christmas. Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th January and will be our Wave of Prayer and possibly an Enrolment Service. Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Eileen Matthews

Mothers' Union Burnhope

Our meeting was held on Monday the 1st November. After reading a letter from Jean Carleton, we had a discussion on Domestic Violence - one never knows what goes on behind closed doors! May we wish you a healthy and peaceful Christmas.



Muriel Molloy

Christmas Card Stand

The Christmas Card Stand is now once more available in the church. Each year many cards have been displayed and a charity selected by the PCC has benefited from your donations. Many of you will appreciate the opportunity to post a single card and in this way to send Christmas greetings to other members of the church family, while at the same time helping others. This year the PCC would like the donations to be given to Willow Burn Hospice in memory of Steve Bailey. Gift Aid envelopes are available. Please place your donations and any completed Gift Aid envelopes in the Donations bag on the stand. Alternatively you may wish to make a private donation to another charity of your own choosing.

David and Pam Baggott

Material

If anyone has any spare new unused fabric, cotton or polycotton, patterned or plain, I would be very grateful for it. Polycotton sheeting is perfect for mask linings. I would be very happy to collect. Please ring Margaret on 521214. Many thanks.



Margaret Walters

The Language of Flowers Foresight - Holly- *Ilex aquifolium*

A holly hedge around a house or field was believed to keep out evil influences. It was protection against poison, the evil eye, storms and fire. The custom of using holly as a Christmas decoration seems to stem from the Roman Saturnalia celebrated in December. Medieval Monks called it the Holy Tree, and as described in the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy' the spines represent the Crown of Thorns, the white flowers purity and the Birth of Christ, the red berries drops of blood and the bitter bark the Passion. Legend has it that the Holly first sprang up under the footsteps of Christ when he trod the earth. Almost all parts of the Holly have been used for healing purposes. Folklore has a barbaric sounding cure for chilblains - thrashing the affected area with Holly twigs (ouch). January is a lean month for new flowers and the ever-green Laurustinus (*Viburnum Tinus*) with its clusters of pink and white flowers is a welcome sight. In the woodlands and hedgerows winter Heliotrope and aconite can be seen, as can the Christmas rose (*Helleborus Niger*) dedicated to St Agnes (January 21), a Roman Martyr who died in 304 AD when she was little more than a child.



"Over the land freckled with snow half thawed,
The speculating rooks at their nests cawed,
And saw from elm-tops delicate a flower of grass
What we below could not see, Winter pass."

Edward Thomas (AN)



Audrey Newton

Church Flowers November

12th December G Smithem
C Morcombe
R Barker (white)
Mrs Penfold
19th December N Rafferty
D Oram
26th December P & J Smith



100 Club

On 21st November the final draw of the year took place in the Chapter House following the service, by Sue and Rob, with prizes totalling £295.00 (we have been able to donate £600 to Church funds in 2021)

The top prize of £100 went to one lucky winner.

In January 2022 we will begin collecting subscriptions for the new year. The first draw will be in February 2022.

£10 gives you a number and entry into 10 monthly draws. (We have a holiday in January and August.)

New members always welcome.

If you already subscribe how about increasing your chances with a further number.

Enquiries to Sue or Olga. You've got to be in it to win it.

The winning numbers are

£100 No 72, £50 No 121

£30 No's 103, 89

£20 Nos 125, 62 £15 No 136

All £5 Nos 150,129,11,70,166,54

Sue Smith and Olga Walker



Churchyard Tidy up



Thanks to all who turned out on Saturday 20th November for the annual Churchyard tidy up. We enjoyed good weather for once, and joyfully cleared leaves, cleaned gutters and drainage channels and left the area around the Church in good stead for the oncoming winter months. Plenty of leaf mould for those who wish to collect it.

The Churchwardens

Brenda's Books

I still have copies of my latest book 'Eleanor's Secret Revealed' (not to be confused with 'Eleanor's Secret' (the new book is a sequel to 'Eleanor's Secret' which came out last January) The new book is £6 and all the money from purchasing the book goes into church funds.

Brenda Craddock

Church Wives

Christmas, that magic word is not too far away.

All kinds of Christmas gifts are on display.

You need lots of money is what they say

In order to enjoy your Christmas Day.

Why? when the Greatest Gift for us all is free.

No money changed hands, we must agree.

Put CHRIST in your Christmas is what you must do

Then LOVE in abundance will be there for you.

JESUS CHRIST in your heart and mind

Is what God wants for all mankind

Wives Christmas party is on the 9th of December

It is always a night for us to remember.

On the 13th of January it is our Christmas meal

An occasion when we eat and chat a great deal.

Jan. the 27th follows in the New Year

Another good evening for us to share.

Meanwhile a blessed Christmas to every reader,

From Church Wives and of course their leader

In John's Gospel Chapter 13, after Jesus had shared His Last Supper with the disciples He said,

'And now I give you a new Commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

This month along with many others I lost a dear friend, Olive Truswell who was a true disciple of Jesus and a faithful, loyal friend of All Saints Church. She showed her love for our Lord in so many practical and thoughtful ways because being a disciple of Jesus was very important to her. She did what Jesus wanted her to do and showed love for all those with whom she came in contact. In Chapter 15 verse 14 of John's Gospel Jesus said "You are my friends if you do what I command you". For Olive Jesus was a friend, and she in turn was a friend to so many people by whom she will always be remembered. Jesus knew the value of friendship in our lives and I think we all appreciate having friends. I came across a quotation on one of the gifts in Fenwick's Christmas Department which I liked very much. A friend is one of the nicest things you can have and one of the nicest things you can be. I wonder how many people will read that in Fenwick's Christmas store. They may not be aware of its biblical significance but it could lead into an awareness of the value of friendship and above all to the friendship and Love of God's only Son for them. I like to think so anyway. Olive has passed to an everlasting friendship with the Lord whom she served so well on Earth. Thank you for your friendship Olive when you lived on Earth among us.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

I have collected in 23 boxes and taken them to the collection point in Consett. The last day for this was Mon 22nd November. A big "Thank you" to all those who filled boxes for third world children.

Steve Craddock



Bell ringing resumed at the beginning of October for Sunday morning services and we thank you for your kind words of how good it is to hear the bells sounding out across the village. As most of you are well aware, it takes one person to ring a bell, so in order to ring eight bells we need eight ringers. At the moment on a Sunday morning, we do well to have six ringers. Therefore, in the not-too distant future we will have to recruit new ringers, so if you are by any chance a lapsed ringer living in the village or you feel you might like to learn to ring our bells, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself, Olga Walker or Craig Davies our telephone numbers are in the Church Magazine. We practice most Friday Evenings from 7.30pm – 9pm. Recruiting will probably start from January 2022.

Going forward we will continue to adhere to the current covid recommended guidelines, and adjust practices, training and service ringing accordingly.

Olga Walker



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Just to make everyone aware we are still selling Traidcraft items from our unit in the Chapter House. I had hoped to have had a table at the back of church, but due to some recommendations being brought back in for Covid it has not been feasible. We should have a fairly decent display of stock to purchase at the Advent Fair on Nov 27th and the Christmas Fair at Burnhope on Dec. 4th, including Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, chocolate, Tea, coffee, biscuits and much more. In the meantime I hope you will visit us in the Chapter House after Wednesday or Sunday morning service, come to browse, or have a coffee or a cup of tea.

Olga Walker

Advertisement

Chutneys, jams and marmalades still on sale.
Ring Margaret 521214
or Jen 520498.



The Annfield Plain Angel

An angel landed overnight in Annfield Plain in the last week in November, bringing a message of peace, goodwill and joy to the community.

Four schools in Annfield Plain, Greencroft and Catchgate collaborated with St Thomas' and a newly opened business to celebrate hope in the week before Advent.

Every child at Annfield Plain Infants, Annfield Plain Juniors, Catchgate School and Croft Community School has decorated a paper feather with a wish, a hope or a prayer for the future. Once delivered to Anna's New Life Furniture, a new home décor and coffee shop on New Front Street, Annfield Plain, the feathers were put together as two angel wings and unveiled on 20th November. Rev'd Lesley said; 'Our children and young people are the hope for our villages as we work together to recover from the events of the last eighteen months. It's very fitting that the Annfield Plain angel is a symbol of hope for all of us as we look forward to the angels' message of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Working on the Angel has been great fun, and has helped us to make new links with all the schools in the parish. We're looking forward to welcoming the children into church for Christingle services and we're leading Carol Services in the schools too.'

Lesley



The Editor would like to wish all readers a Happy, Healthy and safe Christmas and a happy, Healthy Peaceful and safe New Year.

Thank you for all who have contributed articles throughout the year.

I am most grateful.

Rob



Looking for Mrs Livingstone

"Let us now praise famous men" - Ecclesiasticus 44.1a

Reading the item about Henry Morton Stanley in last month's magazine, I was reminded of a book which I had recently read - "Looking for Mrs Livingstone" by Julie Davidson. Mary Livingstone is a sadly neglected part of the great man's life, and yet he admitted himself that without her he could have accomplished little. Her courage and stoicism were critical to his career.



Livingstone met Mary Moffatt, the daughter of missionary Robert Moffatt and his wife Mary in 1844, and they married the following year. He wrote of her as "a plain, not a romantic a little, thick, black-haired girl, sturdy and all I want." She had been born and lived her early life at Kuruman, and expected that Dr Livingstone would have a similar settled mission - but she was wrong. He had an explorer's heart and they moved around a lot starting and abandoning several mission stations. Mary went with him on journeys which were fraught with hardship, hunger, thirst and disease. They crossed the Kalahari desert twice - she was the first white woman to see the upper Zambesi valley. On their first gruelling expedition Mary fell seriously ill, and their newborn daughter died. When she arrived back at her parents' mission - gaunt, emaciated and partially paralysed (it is likely that she suffered a stroke) - her mother was so shocked she begged Livingstone never to make such a journey with her again. Conditions became so bad over the years, that Livingstone realised that a second trek over the desert would be too much for his family and sent Mary and their four surviving children. He sent them to stay with his parents near Glasgow, but to this woman, used to the heat and brightness of Africa, the cold, damp British climate proved worse than the privations of the desert. The separation was supposed to last two years, but dragged on to nearly five. Mary didn't get on with her in-laws, and with her children lived in penury in various boarding houses until he finally returned in 1856. He then spent two years lecturing and writing - and when he went back to Africa, Mary refused to stay behind and went with him, leaving their three oldest children with friends. She soon discovered that she was pregnant again, and had to return to Scotland. As soon as she was able she left the two youngest children with Livingstone's relatives and rejoined her husband in his mission - it broke her heart to do so, but she felt her place was by his side. Tragically she contracted malarial fever after only three months and died. She was 41.

Many of Livingstone's acquaintances were unimpressed by her. A Dr Kirk described her as a "coarse, fat and vulgar woman with a liking for the brandy bottle", an opinion which seems to have been shared by several people - but Livingstone considered her his greatest asset, and there was a deep affection between them. Her death left him devastated. He confided to a friend "I loved her when I married her, and the longer I lived with her the more I loved her." Livingstone was heartbroken, not only because of her death but because hardships and disappointments had seemed to undermine her faith. He was consoled when he found a prayer among her papers: "Accept me, Lord, as I am, and make me such as thou wouldst have me be."

Their story is one of two devout Christian people- flawed, as we all are, but sharing a love and a faith which drove them to do what they could to make Christ's word known. It is sad, though that while he was lauded and held in great acclaim, she was often treated contemptuously, because she did not fit the Victorian wifely ideal of the "Angel of the Hearth". She was much more rooted in southern Africa than her husband: she spoke a number of African languages and was a vital part of his mission - but while he has a tomb in Westminster Abbey, Mary has an obscure and crumbling grave on the banks of the Zambezi, beneath a baobab tree, in a destitute region of Mozambique.

So "Let us now praise famous men" - and remember that but for their wives, their achievements would be less. I will finish with the poem which Mary wrote to Livingstone, when he returned to her following her long exile in Scotland - and to think he thought her "not a romantic".

*"Do you think I would reproach you with the sorrows that I bore?
Since the sorrow is all over, how I have you here once more.
And there's nothing but the gladness, and the love within my heart.
And the hope so sweet and certain that again we'll never part"*

Pauleen Meek



From the Archives

An Extract from the Parish Magazine of December 1900

My dear Friends,

We have now reached the last month of the year and of the century; may the few weeks that remain be a time for deep searching of heart for all of us, as we are reminded by the season of Advent that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

On October 24th there was a quiet but nevertheless a pretty wedding at the Church, the bride was Miss Aynsley, who for some years lived in our village, and the happy man was Mr. William Forster, of Stanley; the honeymoon was spent in London, where they had the good fortune to witness a unique spectacle – the return of the C.I.V. (*City of London Imperial Volunteers from the Boer War*)

Friday, Oct. 26th, will not readily be forgotten; a more terrible day and night it would be hard to imagine, rain and snow and wind; apparently the storm was confined to the N.E. part of our land, and the accounts of the havoc it wrought were indeed serious; the village street was turned into a river, whilst the houses at the mill were inundated to a considerable depth.

A Special Meeting was held on Nov. 14th, to consider three further points of improvement in the Church- the erection of a New Font worthy of the edifice; the razing to the level of the floor the Clavering vault, at the North door; replacing with stained glass the Tower window; this, Mrs. Hedley is doing in memory of her husband who did so much for the Church; the ceremony of dedicating the window is fixed for the first Sunday of the New Year, and is to be performed by Canon Body. We are sorry to find that scarlet fever, which has been in our Parish for more than two years, is still claiming its victims, although the disease has hitherto been of a mild character; no doubt the unhealthy weather has a good deal to do with it.

The Churchwardens, in answer to an advertisement for a Sexton and Caretaker for Church and Schools, have received more than 50 applications in four days; only two of the applicants reside in our own county; an evidence of the good work and high wage that is to be obtained in Durham.

Christmas Day this year falls on Tuesday, there will be Holy Communion at 8.30, and also at noon; Morning Service at 10.30 as usual.

Yours faithfully

GEORGE JEPSON Vicar and Surrogate

Peter Smith

Facemasks still for sale
Minimum donation £1 each
Various fabrics

All proceeds to church funds

Ring Margaret 521214 or Jen 520498

From The Wardens

It seems to be a little more normal in church as we take a cautious approach to the services within our Churches. We have seen good numbers returning and we trust that the efforts that are made to ensure our congregations are safe, are seen to be working. It is encouraging to see that the after-church refreshments appear to be gathering momentum with good numbers staying for a cuppa and a chat. Mask wearing is still (due to the still circulating virus) required in church and hand sanitiser, wipes and masks are provided in church as the current norm. The Wardens are continuing to support Lesley as she balances her roles between the three Churches and other duties in the community.

We can report that the Church cleaning teams are now in place (two teams of four persons) who come into church every Friday afternoon. The system works extremely well.

The Churchyard clean up carried out on Saturday 20th November was well attended (12) and the churchyard looked much better at the end of the session. The lower gutters and drainage channels were also cleaned. Burnhope clean up is planned for 27th November.

It has been necessary to call in Smiths of Derby to carry out adjustments to the clock chimes which had gone out of synchronisation. All now appear to be working correctly.

The Plasterer has arranged to commence carrying out the repairs to the wall above the bureau in the North West Corner. When completed and dried we shall limewash the area. Some limewashing touching up has been started.

The electrician has been on site and replaced the control switch to the external floodlights with a simpler switch with success, however whilst checking the lights several LED units are not working (4 to the front 1 to the North side). I have asked him to give us a cost for the units) This would restore the lights as they were.

The Painter has been contacted with a view to sealing the lobby walls and starting the redecoration to the staircase. The Chapter house will follow on.

The Wardens would like to thank all who have helped and assisted over the past year. At Burnhope particular thanks to Kenny Barron and Derek Coates.

We would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and our good wishes for the coming New Year

Rob Matthews For The Churchwardens





LANCHESTER E.P(Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



It is lovely to be able to update you all once again about our school. Apologies that I missed a month – there are times when life just gets too busy!

We have had a wonderfully 'normal' term at school even with many children and staff testing positive last half term. However, this term has started off much better with only a handful of children coming down with it and as yet, no staff at all! Fingers crossed that everything stays this way!

There have been 3 Erasmus+ visits this term – staff training events for all three projects we are involved with. These are the last projects we can participate in due to Brexit which is such sad news for our school. 3 staff visited our partner school in Bialystock in Poland near the border of Belarus for training around Outdoor Learning. This was followed by 4 staff visiting our partner school near Lisbon, Portugal for training around how to use music to prevent bullying in schools. The final visit was to our partner school in Unna, Germany for 5 staff and we enjoyed training around how to keep our bodies and minds healthy. The decision was made not to travel with children this term and to begin the pupil events from January. So, the week beginning 17th January 2022, we will be welcoming around 30 teachers and children from our partner schools in Poland, Sweden, Spain and Denmark. Watch out for a real European week in Lanchester! I am also thrilled that the lights will still be on in the village – a real treat for our visitors.

We have had many visits out and also visitors into school too. Reception are heading off to Newcastle next week to the Laing Art Gallery and to visit Fenwick's Window. Year 1 have 3 forthcoming visits in the New Year while Year 2 had Pirate Ron visit school this half term. Year 3 are currently enjoying a graffiti artist, Year 4 have had a visit to the Centre for Life and Year 5 have had an overnight residential to Birmingham where they slept in our partner school and also visited the National Space Centre and Cadbury World. Finally, Year 6 have a visit to Beamish and the pantomime at the Theatre Royal to come in December! Year 3-5 have also had a visit to see Elf the Musical at the Tyne Theatre which they loved! Captain Chemistry has also worked with almost all year groups this term – he is quite inspirational!

Revd Lesley and Revd Stephen have continued to lead Worship weekly in school which has been wonderful. We are now looking forward to our Christmas services and celebrations. However, we continue to be fairly cautious about inviting large numbers of parents and carers into school and have had to make the tricky decision to have another year without parents attending nativities and the carol service. Instead, we will be recording them for parents to see in the comfort of their own homes. We are certainly not alone in doing this either.

We are holding another Winter Wonderland in school for ourselves and All Saints School and we have also decided to open the event up to the local community on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th December between 4 and 6pm. Tickets are available on eventbrite for anyone wishing to come along. Just search Winter Wonderland and Lanchester.

One of the most exciting events of the half term has to be the visit of BBC Radio Newcastle on Children in Need Day. Our school had been asked to be the face of the North-East and to record The Big Fancy Dress Sing-A-Long with Tom Grennan. They loved taking part in this in their pyjamas and then on Friday 19th November – Children in Need Day – BBC Radio Newcastle's show with Gilly Hope was actually broadcast from the Meeting Room in our school. What a wonderful experience this was for the whole school. Three staff were interviewed along with a number of children but I think just seeing them and all their equipment was enough for most. A memorable day for all.

As always, it has been a privilege to lead our school this term and I remain very proud of our strong sense of community. We have a dedicated team working with some wonderful young people. I hope you all have a lovely, busy, happy family Christmas this year and all enjoy spending time with family and friends – something which we will never take for granted again. Let's hope 2022 is a peaceful and positive-free year!

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher, Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School

Dates for your Diary December 21/January 2022

Sunday 5th 9:15 Eucharist St John's
9:45 Service of the Word St Thomas'
10:30 Eucharist All Saints
2pm Light up A Life Service with Willowburn Hospice
6pm Art in Advent-accompanied by Evensong or Compline

Tuesday 7th 11am Meditation and mindfulness Drop in Chapter House

Wednesday 8th 9.45am Holy Communion All Saints

Thursday 9th 7.30pm Church Wives Christmas Party All Saints

Sunday 12th 8am Eucharist All Saints
9:45 Eucharist St Thomas'
10:30 Service of the Word All Saints
11am Family Service Burnhope Community Centre
6pm Art in Advent-accompanied by Evensong or Compline

Mon 13th 2pm Julian Meeting All Saints

Tues 14th 10:30am St John's Burnhope School Nativity in Church - invitation only
11am Meditation and mindfulness Drop in Chapter House
2pm Mothers Union Advent Service All Saints Church
6pm Café Church Carols! Community Centre, Burnhope with mulled wine and mince pies

Wednesday 15th 9.45am Holy Communion All Saints
7pm All Saints Blue Christmas- a gentle reflective service for those who find Christmas difficult

Thursday 16th 6:30pm St Thomas' Light up a Life Service with Willowburn Hospice

Friday 17th 10am EP school Carol Service (school only)

Saturday 18th Christmas Christingle Club! Burnhope Community Centre 10am-12:30pm; Crafts, Carols, Christingle making and free lunch, for children from 3-11

Sunday 19th 8am Eucharist All Saints
9:15 Eucharist St John's
9:45 Service of the Word St Thomas'
10:30 Eucharist All Saints
2:30pm Christingle Service Burnhope Community Centre
6pm Lessons and Carols, All Saints

Monday 20th 5pm Christingle Service All Saints

Tuesday 21st 11am Meditation and mindfulness Drop in Chapter House
5pm Christingle Service St Thomas'

Wednesday 22nd 9.45 am Holy Communion All Saints

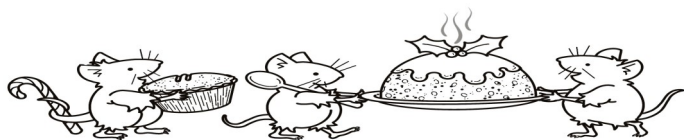
Friday 24th 10am Carols and Communion St Thomas'
2pm Carols and Communion St John's
11pm Midnight Mass All Saints

Saturday 25th Christmas Day 10am Festal Eucharist All Saints

January 2022 Advance News
Tuesday 11th 11am Meditation and mindfulness Drop in Chapter House
2pm Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Chapter House/Church

Thursday 13th Church Wives Christmas meal

Thursday 27th Church Wives All Saints Chapter House



Tearfund campaigns for Covid vaccines

The coronavirus pandemic has pushed an estimated 120 million people into poverty. Most of these will have to wait until at least 2022 to receive their vaccine.

Tearfund says: "The only way out of this pandemic is to recover together – no country is safe until all countries are safe. People who are going hungry now can't wait; they need urgent practical assistance. As well as providing this, Tearfund is campaigning for everyone in every country to have access to an approved Covid-19 vaccine.

"Our local partners are advocating for governments around the world to include vulnerable groups, such as refugees, in their vaccination programmes. And we are asking the UK government to do even more to support lower-income countries."

Tearfund is also helping to prepare communities for the rollout of a vaccine, including equipping church leaders to share accurate information about Covid-19 vaccines. If you would like to support this, please go to: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/recover-together>.



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)

Please don't forget those who depend on the foodbank at this difficult time. Lanchester All Saints is on service days, 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 00022928

Cheques for Consett foodbank should be made payable to Consett Food 4U, and posted to Durham Christian Partnership, Unit 7/9, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH2 1AG (0191 303 8623 / 07758 400128)

The new location for Consett foodbank is at Consett Methodist Church, Station Road, Consett DH8 5RL Their opening times remain unchanged. We keep opening times / closures and locations up to date on

<https://durham.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

News from St Thomas

St Thomas Mothers' Union



We were looking forward to meeting Cyril Robinson from the Methodist Chapel in Annfield Plain who visited the Mothers' Union on 1st November. He did not disappoint us with a fascinating talk on his memories of the past, including tales of the Boys Brigade and the local pits. On December 6th at 2pm Stephen Martin will be speaking about his journey.

Well done Marc

My son came to the UK from Dublin during September and October. While he was here, he completed four half marathons, two full marathons, and three 5Km runs. He raised £285 for St Thomas Church funds.

He is a very keen runner and before Covid did runs including New York, Chicago, Vancouver, Boston, Rome, Tokyo, Portugal, Barcelona, New Orleans, Ethiopia, and Reykjavik.

Edna Convery

Leprosy Mission boxes



Edna would like all Leprosy Mission boxes in please for emptying. If you don't have a box but wish to donate please give the money to Edna. If you would like a box for next year can you also let Edna know thank you.

Poppy Appeal 2021



During the poppy appeal members of St Thomas, the Annfield Plain Methodist church and the Womens Institutute worked together to sell poppies and raise money for the British Legion in our local Tesco at Annfield Plain.

Jane Makepeace



St Thomas Memorial book

Pauline Meek has recently amalgamated the memorial books of St Thomas and St Aiden. During her research of these books she found an entry of great interest, as James Purvis was awarded the George Cross for his actions

Account of Deed: On 17th May 1929 a colliery deputy was injured during blasting operations. An overman set off down the pit and, collecting James Purvis and another lad* at the bottom of the shaft and a tram and stretcher, went in search of the deputy. They were joined by two hewers. Meanwhile five other men had attempted a rescue, but four of them were overcome by gas while the fifth managed to crawl out just in time. The overman organised his party and by repeated efforts they succeeded in extricating the five men, of whom three were dead. The rescue party were all affected by the fumes. For an hour, during the whole of which time the atmosphere was thick with smoke and gas, the overman with James Purvis and his other three helpers, knowingly and repeatedly risked their lives in determined efforts to save the lives of their fellows, and there is no doubt that but for their courageous action the death-toll would have been heavier than it was. (*See also entry for BAKER, J. T.)

Posted 3 July 2008

No. & Rank at the Time of Action:

Pit Boy Unit/Occupation:

South Garesfield Colliery, Durham

Date and Place of Birth: 2nd July 1904,
Northumberland

Family: Two Sons

Early Life: Attended Leazes School, Burnopfield

Hymns for the road

If you MUST speed on the road during this Christmas season, at least sing these hymns loudly as you go:

at 45 mph.... 'God Will Take Care of Me'

at 55 mph.... 'Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah'

at 65 mph.... 'Nearer My God to Thee'

at 75 mph.... 'Nearer Still Nearer'

at 85 mph.... 'This World is Not My Home'

at 95 mph.... 'Lord, I'm Coming Home'

at 100 mph.... 'Precious Memories'

Book Reviews



Be Still – a simple guide to Quiet Times

By Brian Heasley, SPCK, £9.99

In this easy-to-read guide, Brian Heasley explores the multitude of rhythms of Christian prayer and devotion available to every believer. From memorising scripture and prayer, running to noticing beauty everywhere, he demonstrates how we don't need to be static for our hearts to be still, and how even in the midst of a full, busy life, we can spend quiet times with God. Packed full of ideas for different ways to pray and tips and advice for how to build prayer practices into everyday life, Brian's book may change the way you think about prayer and devotion and help equip you with all the tools you need to deepen your relationship with God. This book can accompany the 24-7 Prayer's new *Be Still* prayer course. It also makes a great resource for youth leaders looking to help teenagers cultivate daily rhythms of prayer.

Brian Heasley

Be Still.

A Simple Guide to Quiet Times

24-7 PRAYER

Prayer Tip for the Month

Think about the people who have shared your life journey and influenced your understanding and growth, and give thanks for them.



Smile Lines

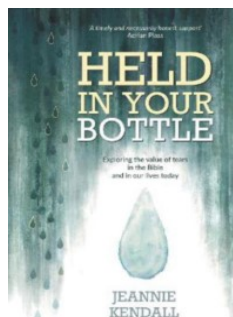


Held in Your Bottle

By Jeannie Kendall, Authentic, £9.99

This book looks at the many reasons why we cry, and why these tears are important to our wellbeing and to God. Whether we are crying tears of regret, loss, gratitude or anger, the Bible says that God holds them all in His bottle. We can draw comfort from the fact that no tear goes unseen by Him.

Each of these emotions is explored by a modern-day story mirroring a retelling of a relevant Bible character's experience. The book may enable you to look at the Bible in a fresh way and help you accept and understand your emotional life.



Christmas Rush

That time again, my trolley's full
Buying all the Christmas fare,
A turkey crown, a rib of beef,
Crisps and nibbles, lots to spare.

Christmas crackers and serviettes,
Paper for wrapping and cards to send,
Nuts and oranges, figs and dates
The list goes on, there seems no end.

In all this rush it's good to pause
And think about that special Day,
When shepherds watched and angels sang
As a Baby lay in a bed of hay.

By Megan Carter





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