

February 2022

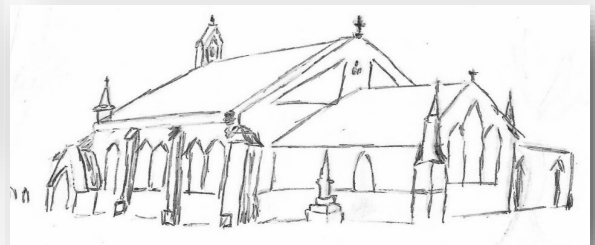


Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

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



St. John's Church, Burnhope



St Thomas Church Harelaw



CANDLEMAS

50p monthly or £5 per year

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

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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

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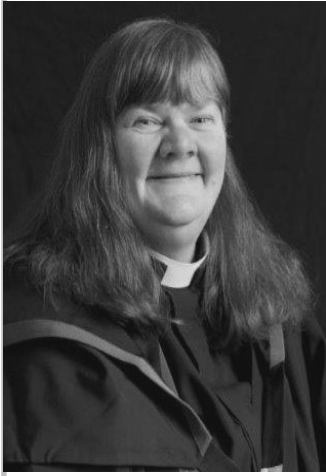
MEN'S FORUM See noticeboard or pew sheets for notifications and details

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



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

**The copy deadline for the
March issue is
Sunday February 20th**



One of the slightly more bizarre features of our modern Christmas celebrations is the advent of the new television ads for big business. Each year in November they're released, set to catchy tunes by well known artists, carefully crafted, beautifully filmed and telling little Christmas stories. They often make a lasting impression-like John Lewis' 2013 animated tale of a hare who buys its bear best friend an alarm clock so he'd wake up from hibernation in time to enjoy the Christmas festivities, set to a beautiful Lily Allen cover of Keane's Somewhere Only We Know; or John Lewis, again, teaming up with Age UK to raise awareness around loneliness, something that nearly a million older people in the country experience during the festive season with an ad titled 'Man in the Moon.' It features a young girl on earth making a connection with an elderly man living on his own on the moon, and it

reminded many to show someone outside their immediate circle that they're loved during the Christmas period.

In 2021 we had a new range of ads-I'd be surprised if you didn't see Aldi's Kevin the Carrot and Ebanana Scrooge (!), but most people agreed that the best was McDonalds' 'Imaginary Iggy.' This is the heartwarming tale of a young girl, Matilda, and her lifelong relationship with her imaginary friend Iggy. The pair bond over their love of Christmas and all the magic of the season. As the film progresses we see Matilda grow into a confident young woman and, unfortunately, Iggy gets slightly forgotten about. If you've seen Toy Story, you'll get it. The concept comes full circle when a scene in a McDonald's restaurant reminds her of her old friend once more, and Iggy literally comes back to life.

It struck a chord with me.

How many of us reconnect with the church at Christmas, over Carols and Christingles and in the glory of the Midnight Mass- and then forget that God constantly invites us into relationship with him through Jesus, and in that invitation offers us the glorious prospect of being exactly who we are meant to be? How many of us often keep our love of God and God's love for us in a box that we only open on Sundays or on special days of the year?

So here's a renewed invitation. God's love is for everyone.

Church is for everyone.

And in the season of Lent, coming fast, there are plenty of opportunities for re-engaging with church and exploring faith. We'll be offering special services, Lent courses, Confirmation preparation and the chance to deepen our knowledge of and connection with the God of love. If you're interested, please don't hesitate to speak to Stephen or myself. There's no need to wait for Christmas...

With every blessing,

Lesley

He Prayeth Well

He prayeth well, who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast,
He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

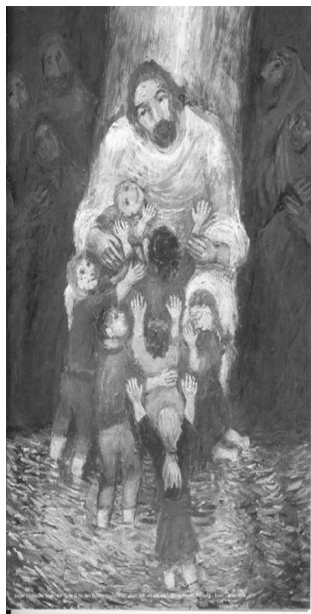
By Samuel Taylor Coleridge



From Revd. Stephen Martin

Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”



Since arriving in the parishes six months ago I have been amazed by just how much time we spend in our local schools. It is not just about the time we spend in schools but how much what we do is valued by both the pupils and the staff.

I've got to admit children make me nervous, not my own because I know what they enjoy, I know what interests them and can easily keep them entertained. It is large groups of children and young adults that make me nervous trying to engage with such diverse and unique personalities. For some youthwork comes easily for me not so, in curacy it has been one of my toughest challenges so far. Finding the courage to try things which hopefully engage and keep their interest is difficult and I take my hat off to anyone who works with children especially teachers and youth group leaders.

Sadly, children and young people are something we have few of in our churches, we celebrate numerous baptisms but few return and it is an issue many churches face and an issue for us because we lose that uncomplicated wisdom which I have come to appreciate. My bookshelves are full of theology books written by various scholars with letters after their names, these books serve me well, but they come from academic minds, ideas well thought out (or not). These books have been a necessity for my stud-

ies, they have given me a lot (including headaches), but they lack something in their overcomplicated reasoning. We naturally look to the older generation for wisdom and rightly so because we know the value of lived experience but there is a lot of wisdom in our children too. The wisdom of children comes from simple explanations, their curiosity and questioning with no fear of speaking out given the right support and encouragement. It is these things we lose without children at the heart of our church community.

The painting above is by Sieger Koder. It is vibrant, in the background are people of the past the building blocks for the younger ones as Jesus welcomes the children to himself in the foreground. I hope that we can leave behind COVID soon and as we begin our children's work again, I pray we may find the volunteers we need to enable the children to discover who they are in Christ, listen to their wisdom, vision for the future and combine both the wisdom of the generations to make God's kingdom known on earth.

**Yours,
Stephen**

Global food crisis worsens

An estimated billion people worldwide are facing malnutrition as the global food crisis worsens, with 45 million already on the brink of famine.

Of these billion people, 239 million are African. Countries such as Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are among the worst affected.

Recent studies also show that, globally, 22% of children under the age of five are 'stunted' due to lack of nourishment, and that many of these – an estimated 14 million babies and young children – are suffering acute and severe malnutrition.

Nearly a third of the world's population – more than two and a half billion people – lack an adequate supply of food. Millions of people are going to bed hungry, every single day.

In Madagascar famine has followed years of drought and other environmental disasters. Many people have been reduced to trying to eat bark from trees or cactus leaves, and many have already died.

While famine is an issue that affects all people, Christians who are already persecuted and impoverished are often among the worst affected.

Reports also indicate that famine and food insecurity only increases the likelihood of violence and conflict, which includes the anti-Christian violence experienced by believers across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. To try and help, Barnabas Fund has launched a new initiative, food.gives. If you would like to join others who are filling up their food boxes in their homes and churches, please visit <https://www.food.gives/>



Lanchester and Burnhope

Funerals

George Desmond Coates (Mountsett Crematorium)

Cassie Wright (St Johns)

'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'



Baptisms

George Peter Abbs 28th December 2021 All Saints

Jack Robson Jessica Robson 23rd January 2022 All Saints

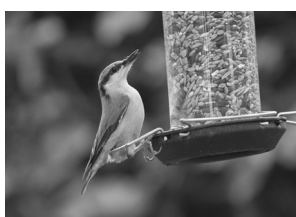
Ronnie Thompson 23rd January 2022 All Saints



"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

Beware bird flu this winter

If you are feeding the birds, please make sure that you keep their feeders very clean this winter. The UK is facing its worst ever outbreak of avian flu, and already there have been more than 40 cases around the country. The disease is thought to have been spread by migratory wild birds from Russia and Eastern Europe.



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "Everyone should take care to maintain good hygiene when feeding garden birds, regularly cleaning feeders outside with mild disinfectant, removing old bird food, spacing out feeders as much as possible and washing your hands."

Humans can catch the disease by touching infected birds or their droppings. So, the advice is to NOT approach any dead or dying birds, and to wash your hands every time you touch anything to do with your bird table.

Fortunately, avian flu mainly affects larger species than our much-loved garden birds.

Christine Middlemiss, Britain's chief vet, recently told the BBC that the disease was at a 'phenomenal level' in the UK, which in turn has 'huge human, animal and trade implications'. And meanwhile, the migratory period for birds does not end until March.

Source The Parish Pump

Children's Aprons for Sale

Lovely cotton fabrics

Over 50 sold already

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

Saving the Planet via Kitchen and Bathroom in 2022

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

Start in the KITCHEN

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste. Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help. Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills. According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

Don't forget the BATHROOM

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash. Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled. Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available. Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester



The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be on Tuesday, February 8th at 2.00pm in Church when the Revd Stephen Martin will be our speaker. We look forward to hearing about his journey in faith which brought him to our parish.

Our meeting on the 8th March is at 2.00pm in Church when our guest will be Carole Hopkinson, who is the new President of the Mothers' Union in Durham. I hope that many of our members will be able to attend.

Eileen Matthews

Mothers' Union Burnhope



Our meeting was held on Monday the 3rd January. Mrs Park read items from our Church Magazines dated July 1987.

We had a quiz based on the Nativity, which we all enjoyed.

This is our Centenary Year. We pray that this pandemic will ease, so that the Deanery will be able to join us in our celebrations.

Muriel Molloy

Ginger Wine

Thank you everyone for your support and contributions for Ginger Wine during October November for the Church Fayre. If possible the empty bottles can be returned to me or left in Church. Thank You

Hazel Gaskill (521690)

Padded mobile phone cases



*Some with cross body strap
some with belt strap
or for handbag
£2.50*

All proceeds to Church Funds

Ring Margaret on 521214

The Language of Flowers

Consolation— Snowdrop-*Galanthus Nivalus*

Snowdrops are an emblem of consolidation and hope, since they appear after Winter, cheering us with the promise of Spring. They are also dedicated to the Virgin Mary as a sign of Purity. They are said to have sprung up in a ring where an angel stood consoling Eve over the barrenness of the Garden of Eden in Winter. Fable has it that the Angel caught a falling flake of snow, breathed on it, and bade it take form and flourish



Mirth – Crocus *Fleischeri*

Dedicated to St Valentine – the crocus is one of the first spring flowers and Homer was moved to declare “The flaming crocus made the mountain glow” The Egyptians encircled their wine cups with garlands of crocus and saffron at banquets, and the Greeks and Romans used it in their perfumes and essences. Gerard tells us that it was a drug which “maketh the senses mor quicke and lively, shaketh off drowsie sleep and maketh a man merrie.”



Hope you all enjoy the stories from the Language of Flowers and that you look forward to seeing the flowers in your own gardens

Audrey Newton

Church Flowers Jan / February

9th	E Lothian
	L Kelly
16th Jan	F Hunter
	J Harrison
	A Lee
	P Reed
23rd Jan	J Jobling
	Lesley Ward
30th Jan	Mrs Alcock
	Mary Richardson
	M Gray



Your Parish Magazine

The Editor hopes and trusts that readers continue to enjoy the content in our Parish Magazine. Thanks so much to all who regularly contribute by sending articles I really am grateful. I try to add (when I need to fill out the Magazine) articles which I trust you find interesting from the Parish Pump. Should any one like to see articles on any particular item or subject regularly, I shall try to oblige. Please let me know by email.



“Getting Through” by Ruth Crofton

A very Helpful Book

During the first lockdown my friend Ruth, a retired minister of the United Reformed Church felt called to produce a poster on a relevant topic for church notice boards which would remind passers -by that even though the doors were locked the church had not gone away, She also wrote some thoughts and prayers which she emailed to church members with the posters. Interest grew and they were forwarded to friends all over the country even as far as South Africa. Ruth has gathered all sixty of the meditations into a book. It is thought provoking, helpful and an easy read. I commend it to you.

The proceeds from the book are going to the Waddington Street Centre, a charity in Durham City which provides practical and emotional support for people with mental health needs. They are currently trying to raise £40,000 to purchase a new minibus. I have copies for sale priced £1.00. I have put a sample copy at the back of church.

If you would like a copy please see me in person or telephone me on 01207 520646 or email me at pam@baggott.org.

Pam Baggott

Christmas Card Stand

Over the Christmas period a Christmas Card Stand was once again placed in All Saints church. The Stand enabled people to send Christmas greetings to other members of the church family and at the same time to support the work of a nominated charity.

This year we were delighted to send £413, some of which was gift aided, to our local Willow Burn Hospice in memory of the late Steve Bailey.

David Baggott

Thank You

I am delighted to report that my grandson Charlie was recently able to ring the bell at the Christie Hospital in Manchester to signal the end of his successful treatment for a brain tumour. I would like to thank all who held Charlie in their hearts and prayers over the last few months. It was of great comfort and very much appreciated.

Pam Hasler

Church Wives

A New Year lies ahead of us, no idea what it will bring
I sincerely wish for you all, the best of Everything.
It may be cold and miserable outside, icy and snowy,
who knows

No doubt the year will bring us highs and probably lots of lows.

Life will be a challenge and there is no easy way
We need to rise to the challenge every single day.
God is LOVE and that Love He has gifted to you and me
It gives HOPE, STRENGTH, REASSURANCE for all that is to be.

We have two very good meetings in February this year
On the 10th and 24th and I hope you will be there.

At the first Kath and Harry Gilbert have slides to show
Two people who are very good and whom we already know

‘A Journey through Eastern Turkey’ is their subject
on the night

We know the slides are going to be a very
interesting sight

At our second meeting Harold Dobson will talk about
‘The Return of the Red Kite’ fascinating without a doubt!
Anyone is welcome to all our meetings, just come along
on the night

We will find your presence there an absolute delight.

Reflecting on my words above, led me to think about another verse (not written by me) which I wrote in my diary when I was very young and which I update to my new diary every year because it is so apt for this time of year.

Gate of the Year

‘I said to the Man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
Give me a light that I might step safely into the unknown.’

And He replied,

Go out into the darkness and put your hand in Mine
That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way’

I try to take that very good advice because that way I know God is with me every step of the way in 2022.

Brenda Craddock

Julian Prayer Meetings

*2pm in the
Chapter House*



February – Monday 14th

March – Monday 14th

April – Monday 4th

May – Monday 2nd (May Day Bank Holiday -to be confirmed)

June - Monday 6th

July – Monday 4th

God in the Arts - NUNC DIMITTIS

Waiting is a common human experience. Our lives are made up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness, 'They also serve who only stand and wait' as he wondered what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had gone.

Simeon in this month's painting of the 'Presentation of Christ' had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders.

With his people he clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring this about. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning, just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the new-born child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.

Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God. It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist at a later stage. It is the aged priest and the new-born babe that impress us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open.

As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 portraits covering the span of years.

In this final painting the years have moved on as we see Simeon, mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an end, so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step out together on a new journey?

The Revd Michael Burgess

(from his series on 'God in the Arts.' Picture reprinted by kind permission of the National Museum, Stockholm.)



From The Churchwardens

The Churchwardens would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year as we go into 2022. We sadly are still concerned about the Covid Pandemic, this time around we have the Omicron Variant to worry about. However, we still continue to have good numbers attending services sticking to the rules regarding hand sanitisers and mask wearing around Church. People are still staying back for a cuppa after Church which is good to see. Hand sanitiser, masks and wipes are still being provided. It was lovely to welcome good congregations to the Christmas Services despite the fact some had to be shelved due to worries about the pandemic.

The Wardens continue to support Lesley as she tirelessly balances her role within the three Churches and community duties.

Church Cleaning teams continue to work well with the normal cleaning day on Fridays.

Works done in all Saints include the replacement of the small sink, waste and trap in the Chapter House toilet, it has been giving problems for a while leaking and flooding the floor mainly because people have difficulty turning off the hot water heater. Despite unsuccessful attempts to seal it, the decision to replace it seemed to be the best option. The corridor and staircase to the Chapter House has now been redecorated and plastering repair to the North West corner has been carried out. Arrangements to Limewash the area is in hand.

Replacement of the two emergency lights to the West end of the Nave at high level is in hand as is consideration of replacement of some of the flood-light lamps to LEDs.

As we turn on our Church's heating for services usually 2-2.5 hours before services or any event in Church (similarly the Chapter House usually 1 hour before use by groups) we may need to consider reducing these times in light of the proposed substantial increase in fuel costs? And as we look towards Carbon Neutrality by 2030 we need to consider changing our lighting gradually to LED lamps. This will be done as bulbs require changing.

We discovered over the Christmas period slipped slates found on the path at the East End of St Johns Burnhope. An inspection revealed they had come from the Vestry Roof at its junction with the main roof North Side. No evidence of water ingress although there may be several slates in the small area surrounding loose. Wensley Roofing have at our request attended to investigate fully and we await their report.

For The Wardens

Rob Matthews



A Real Christmas Cracker

Ask anyone who has had the responsibility for giving a sermon and they will tell you that there are two things they dread - “challenging” texts - and texts which are so popular, so familiar, and so (apparently) obvious that it is difficult to find anything new to say about them, or even a new way to say an old thing. We do our best to keep our sermons true to the age when the scriptures were written, while making them relevant for today; to teach people about the times Jesus and the disciples lived in, and the problems faced by the early church in the Middle East, while still acknowledging the times we live in, and the problems faced by the contemporary church in the West; to look below the surface of an apparently clear message, and see what else God might be saying to us, and to encourage others to think around the message, too; to take an old and much-loved story, repeated so often that it is in danger of becoming commonplace, and bring it to the congregation in a new and exciting way that captures the imagination and sends the listener out into the world thinking about it and eager to repeat it to others, so that the message spreads far and wide in a way that people who had stopped hearing it, hear it again - as if for the first time, and it captures and excites them in the same way that it captured and excited the gospel-writers and their audiences when it was first told.

It isn't easy . . .

But we saw this done at Christmas in our churches - and it was wonderful!

I would firstly like to say that Lesley has encouraged Stephen and myself to try different preaching styles and methods - one of these being first-person. I've done it a couple of times myself at her behest, and was thrilled to find how engaging and powerful a medium it is (though not one to be over-used), and at Christmas had the pleasure of being in the congregation as Stephen explored this method of delivery for the first time. I would say it was “magical” but that sounds a bit idolatrous - but you know . . . it really was.

As sermon time approached, Stephen disappeared into the vestry, and I thought - “Whoops! Must have forgotten his sermon notes.”. He was away a minute or two and I thought “Crivvens! Must have left them in the car - I hope he hasn't left them at home!” (I've had to do an impromptu sermon without notes before . . . it's not a pleasant experience.) Tension mounted . . . had he had to make a quick sermon plan in the vestry to help him through? . . . But no - he eventually came back in to the body of the church - and he brought a friend with him.

They say “Never work with children or animals”, but I must admit that Stephen's baby lamb, which could belong in both of these categories, was exceedingly well behaved - a delight, in fact! With a tea-towel head-dress and his “straight-lamb” as a foil, Stephen presented the Christmas story from the perspective of one of those lonely shepherds approached by the angel on that wonderful long-ago night . . .and it was marvellous!

Keeping closely to the story, but expressing it with humour and imagination (and a distinct Geordie voice), he brought to life the wonder and amazement and perhaps even a bit of the scepticism of a working shepherd caught up in the most momentous night in history. The practicalities (“Worrrabout me sheep? Ah cannat leave me sheep - the wolves'll get them” “Divvent worry about ya sheep, man. The'll be aal reet. Just gan'on an' get yorsel ti that stable”)(No surprises there. We all knew that angels were Geordie) and the humble adoration of an ordinary man presented with a wonder too great for his understanding, were brought home to us in an engaging and original way.



Obviously, I've paraphrased slightly - I was too engrossed in the storytelling to take full notes - but it was a lovely re-telling of Our Lord's birth - one which humanised and personalised a well-loved tale. I don't think that any of us who heard it will forget it - and I'm sure most of us have told others about it, too, spreading God's word far and wide.

Thank you Stephen, for a wonderful and memorable Christmas story. It was indeed a great joy!

Pauline Meek



An Extract from the Parish Magazine of February 1902

It looked as if we were to have an old-fashioned Christmas of deep snow, judging from the weather that then prevailed, but Christmas Day saw a change beginning, which has continued. Christmas Day was a bright and happy day; we had the usual Services in the Church at 8 and 10.30, with a larger number of Communicants, which was very gratifying; the decorations were light and pretty, thanks to the kindness of friends at Burnhopeside Hall. On Sunday evening, January 12th, at very short notice, we arranged a sort of Send-Off Service, the occasion being the departure of Edward Whitfield and Luke Thornton as Volunteers in the Imperial Yeomanry; the Hymns and Sermon had special application to the event, and the Service concluded by the Vicar commending them in Prayer. The above named left Lanchester the next day for Newcastle, en route for Aldershot, and received a hearty send off from a large number of friends, who raised a right good cheer as the train steamed out of the station. I should not at all be surprised if some more of our young friends catch the spirit of patriotism that is abroad, and go forth at the call of duty. We want no better answer to the peace-at-any-price party in the country than the splendid response that has just been made by the youth of England. The South African business must be closed, and these are the men to help do it, and now is the time. Besides the work connected with the new clock, other improvements have been carried out this month; the steps at the Churchyard entrance have been re-set, and the Clavering vault razed to the level of the Church floor; it contains seven coffins, three of which, consisting of lead and bearing the form of a human body, date back 200 years are in a state of good preservation.

From January 1900

The boiler, which for some 24 years has heated the Church, was found to be leaking a while back, and for two or three Sundays we learned what a cold Church was. However, as soon as the work was taken in hand it was speedily carried out and we are promised much better results from the new boiler that is now in working order.

And this from February 1898

The following extracts from an old Parish Book which dates back to 1598 may be of interest to some. April 25, 1648

Memorand: that wee of ye foure and twenty whose names are underwritten have agreed and concluded that Mr Patrick Dentyn whom wee have choosen to be our preacher and minister at Lanchester shall from henceforth receive all fees growing due for christenings, marriages and burials, viz., in ye said parish as witness our hands ye day and year first written above. It is ordered by the foure and twenty this 16th of January 1647 that because a great part of the parish(?) being seated behind the minister cannot so well heare him, therefore the pulpit shall be removed to the south side of the Quire where formerly it stood, and whereas

the pulpit now placed will take up the two seats belonging to Sir George Baker of Crooke, and to Mr Samuel Sanderson of Headleyhope it is ordered that one of the said seats shall be set on the place where the pulpit now stands and shall belong peculiarly to Mr Sanderson of Headley Hope it being a seat to hold forever and that Sir George Baker shall have a convenient seat set out unto him in some other fit place if so be the 2 seats in the first stall formerly allotted to him (as appears by this booke) do not give him content.

The position of the pulpit seems to have been a source of trouble as we find the following entry in the year 1639:- "Disbursed for shifting the pulpit and the Minister's pew, and the Clark's stall £1 6s"

Yours faithfully

GEORGE JEPSON (Vicar and Surrogate)

Peter Smith

Why you should do housework

Now here is a great reason to do some housework: older people who regularly do household chores have better memory and attention spans than those who avoid domestic duties.

Not only that, but housework is linked to superior leg strength in people over 65. That means their risk of a fall is reduced.



The study, published in *BMJ Open*, found that a combination of light housework, such as washing up, dusting, making the bed, hanging out laundry, ironing and cooking – and heavy housework, such as window cleaning, changing bedding, vacuuming, washing the floor, and chores involving sawing, repairing or painting, "was associated with higher cognitive function" among older people, who showed up to 14 per cent higher attention span scores than older people who did not do housework.

Source The Parish Pump

Fire of love

Here's to love, the only fire for which there is no insurance.





LANCHESTER E.P(Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and a very happy and peaceful New Year. I am sure the festivities all seem like a distance memory already! The new year has proven to be almost as tricky as this time last year with a definite sense of déjà vu!

I have been interviewed for both BBC Look North and ITV Tyne Tees News in the last week all to do with the difficulties of dealing with so many staff testing positive. Our year started as a challenge as we had 8 staff who had all tested positive in the last few days of the Christmas holiday. It has been tough for us all but thanks to the great team work and flexibility of the staff, we have managed to remain fully open – thankfully. Nobody wants to go back to remote learning and especially the teaching staff!

Difficulties with the omicron variant has meant that we have had to postpone some educational visits already. We should have been skiing this week and some of our European partners should have descended upon the village this week too. Our Digital Leaders were also meant to present at the Bett Show in the Excel Centre, London, this week, but this has been postponed until the end of March. Our trip to India for 16 Years 5 & 6 children has also been postponed but we are currently in talks with the British Council to try to arrange something in its place. Nothing has been finalised yet but we do hope to be able to offer the children who were so disappointed not to be going, something else! Nothing is certain any more in this world is it?

We enjoyed a wonderful end to the term with a very special Christmas service. Revd Stephen Martin joined us on the school yard on the final morning of term on the most beautiful, wintery morning. The field was covered in frost, the sky was clear blue and we had the whole school sitting on the yard in their coats, hats and gloves for a wonderful Carol Service and Christingle. There was something just so special, listening to the nativity story and singing some of our favourite carols whilst enjoying the awe and wonder of the frost and beautiful countryside that is on our doorstep. Our Year 3 had made their Christingles and paraded them very solemnly and respectfully around the children to the lovely music and this was just such a very special way to finish the term before sending the children off for their holidays.

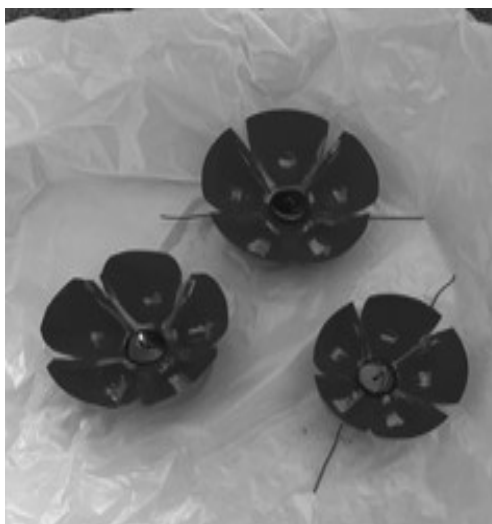
We also managed to hold all the Christmas parties, our Early Years children enjoyed a wonderful theatre visit and Year 6 managed to go on their favourite trip of the year to Newcastle Theatre Royal Pantomime. They caught the train from Durham, visited Fenwick's Window and had lunch at Sambucca's on the quayside. A great time was had by all! Our Winter Wonderland was as big a success as last year and the children especially enjoyed the addition of the little steam train which took them into the Wonderland itself. Thankfully the weather was kind to us and we even opened it up to the public on Thursday and Friday evenings, thanks to the great enthusiasm and dedication of a fabulous staff!

It will be interesting to see what the remainder of this academic year brings to us all. We have so much planned, lots of residential visits from our European partners and we just hope that things start to improve soon so that we can all enjoy some 'normality' again in the near future!

Take care and let's even hope that we might get the children in church this term too!

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher, Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School



Lanchester Project Poppy

This year it will be 40 years since the 10 weeks Falklands campaign and we are hoping to have some extra poppy displays in the village in November. This time we are using the bottoms of plastic bottles and we are asking you to please save all empty 2 litre and 1 litre bottles. These can be left at Hair by Claire (above the Hardware shop) or at Croft View halls or at my house. If you are local and have several and would like them collected then please message us via our Facebook page.

Eric Hepplewhite

Dates for your Diary February 2022

Sunday 6th	9.15am Eucharist St John's 9.45am Service of the Word St Thomas 10.30 am Parish Eucharist All Saints NB All our services will mark the anniversary of the Accession of HM the queen
Tues 8th	11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Drop in 2.00 pm Mothers' Union All Saints Church Revd Stephen Martin on his Spiritual Journey 6.00pm Café Church Burnhope Community Ctr
Wed 9th	9.45 am Holy Communion All Saints
Thurs 10th	7.00 pm Church Wives All Saints Chapter House Kath and Harry Gilbert Journey Through Eastern Turkey
Sunday 13th	8.00 am Eucharist All Saints 9.45 Eucharist St Thomas 10.30 Joint Service of the Word All Saints 6.00 pm Evensong All Saints
Mon 14th	2.00 pm Julian Prayer Meeting All Saints
Tues 15th	11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Drop in
Wed 16th	9.45 am Holy Communion All Saints
Sunday 20th	9.15am Eucharist St John's 9.45am Service of the Word St Thomas 10.30 am Parish Eucharist All Saints is a Special Service of Commissioning of our Pastoral Care Group
Tues 22nd	11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Drop in 12.30-3.30pm Childrens Half Term Holiday Club at Burnhope Community Centre (volunteers welcome)
Wed 23rd	9.45 am Holy Communion All Saints 12.30-3.30pm Childrens Half Term Holiday Club at Burnhope Community Centre (volunteers welcome)
Thurs 24th	7.00pm Church Wives All Saints Chapter House Harold Dobson 'Return of the Red Kite'
Sunday 27th	8.00 am Eucharist All Saints 9.45 Eucharist St Thomas 10.30 Joint Service of the Word All Saints

God's Valentine

For God so loved the world He sent His Son
There was no other way to let us know,
So Jesus came to us from heaven's realm
To bring God's love to all of us below.

He took on flesh, became like one of us,
Taught and healed and loved wherever He went
Showing the Father's love for all to see
He truly was a gift from heaven sent.

The Bible is God's precious Word of Life
A living breathing word like no other,
It is a heavenly letter of love to us
Sent 'From your God the
Everlasting Father'.

By Megan Carter



What a tree can do for you

Trees can help prevent you getting depressed. At least, you are less likely to be on antidepressants if you live on a tree-lined street.



That is the finding of a survey by the Forestry Commission, which looked for the first time at the mental health value of our forests and woodlands. Apparently, they save the NHS something like £185million in antidepressants each year.

A spokesman at Mind, the mental health charity, said: "Although many of us feel like hibernating in winter, getting outside in green spaces and making the most of the little daylight we get can really benefit both your physical and mental health."

Source The Parish Pump

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. The foodbank keeps opening times / closures and locations up to date on

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

News from St Thomas

Due to the inclement weather conditions, our Christmas fair was cancelled. So over the following few weeks, in the run up to Christmas, we held smaller market stall events, as well as our raffle which was drawn on 19th December by (for the first time) computer! Which was thankfully a success. The total amount raised was £515.00, which under the circumstances we felt was very good. It meant our total fundraising for the year was just over £1000.00

Jane Makepeace



60 years since we first orbited Earth

It was 60 years ago, on 20th February 1962, that John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. He made three orbits in the space capsule Friendship 7, which he named himself.



The three circles of the globe – which lasted just under five hours – made the Presbyterian Christian a hero and a household name – but he was not the first man in space. He was preceded by two Russians, Yuri Gagarin and Gherman Titov, in April and August 1961.

The American launch was postponed four times because of mechanical issues and uncertain weather, and the flight was not without its frightening moments. An apparent problem with the heat shield necessitated a change in plans during the flight, but this turned out to be a relatively insignificant sensor problem.

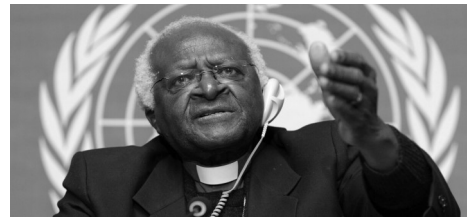
Glenn was one of the first US astronauts – the Mercury Seven – who were immortalised in Thomas Wolfe's 1979 book, *The Right Stuff*, which became a film and more recently a TV series.

Glenn, who represented Ohio as a Democratic senator for 25 years from 1974, returned to space in 1998 aboard the space shuttle Discovery, making him the oldest person to fly in space. That mission's main aim was to study the effects of space flight on older people. He died in 2016, aged 95.

Glenn said that seeing the Earth from orbit stirred in him a tremendous sense of wonder that strengthened his faith, adding: "To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is to me impossible."

Source The Parish Pump

Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu



The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right."

"Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened."

"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another."

Source The Parish Pump



Candlemas joy

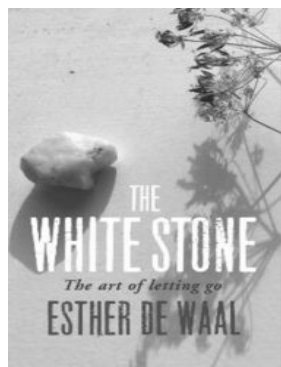
Book Reviews



**

God's Plan for Your Wellbeing By Dave Smith, CPO, £8.93

Perhaps you're feeling that one or two areas of your life need to be redirected and refocused. The good news is...you can achieve greater wellbeing in every area of your life! And it's all connected. This book shows you how to improve each of the dials on the dashboard of your life. It covers your levels of physical energy and health; your emotional freedom and peace; your sense of satisfaction in your relationship with God; your connectivity and harmony with others; your financial margin, peace and means for generosity; and your role-based sense of motivation and creativity.



The White Stone – the art of letting go By Esther De Waal, Canterbury Press, £12.99

Esther de Waal is one of today's most beloved spiritual writers. In *The White Stone*, she reflects on the changes and losses that come with growing older. Esther reflects on solitude and, following a period of illness, saying goodbye to a family home and the Welsh border landscape she had known for decades which inspired some of her greatest writing, and adjusting to a new city environment. In her characteristic style, she sees everything as a portal into a deeper spiritual understanding. She draws on the wealth of the Christian tradition, especially scripture and the monastic and Celtic spiritualities she knows so well, to help her navigate her way through not only the inevitable sense of loss that accompanies such change, but also to embrace the new possibilities it brings. The white stone of the title refers to a small pebble from the river that ran through her garden that she keeps in her pocket, but also strikes a note of hope referring to the new identity promised by God (Revelation 2.17). This is a book of simple, profound wisdom that will speak to many coping with change in their own lives.

Prayer Tip for the Month

Is there anything in your life which needs beginning again?

Anything which needs to be made new? Write these things down and offer them as a prayer.



Smile Lines



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are
the Light of the nations
and you bring light
to our darkness.
So shine in our hearts,
that all our actions,
words and attitudes
at all times will reflect
lives filled with the praise
of your glory.



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