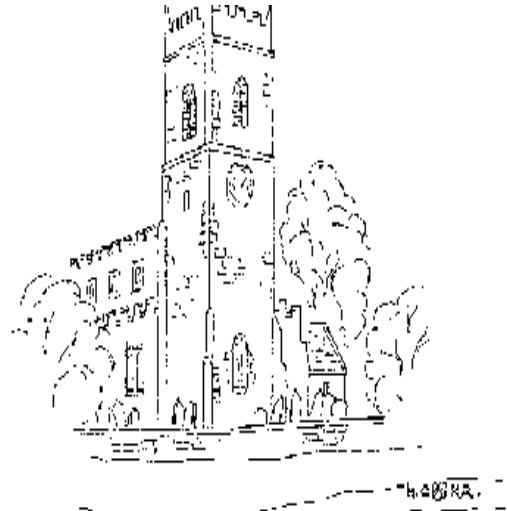
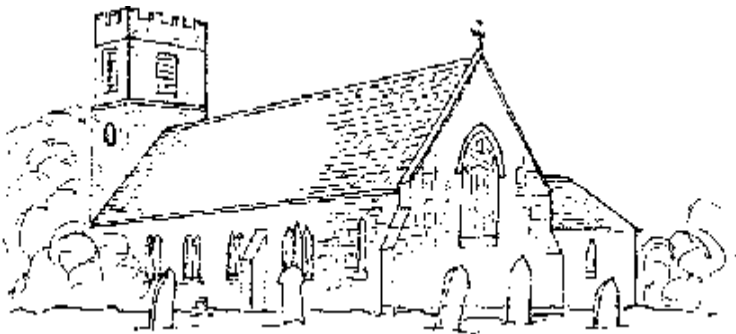


# June 2021



Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

## LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE PARISH NEWS



St. John's Church, Burnhope

**SOCIALLY  
DISTANT**  
*Spiritually  
together*

**WELCOME  
BACK**

**40p monthly  
or  
£4 per year**

# Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

Priest in Charge – The Revd Lesley Sutherland

The Vicarage, 1, Lee Hill Court, Lanchester DH7 0QE Tel 01207 529166

## READERS

Peter Jackson, 23 Humberhill Drive 521156  
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

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

2nd Thursday of the Month Café Church at The Community Centre commencing Tuesday 6th June (Thursdays thereafter)

## CHURCHWARDENS

Robert Matthews 7 Prospect Terrace 771044

Sue Smith The Deanery Cottage 520031

Doreen Park 10 West Terrace Burnhope 438564

## VICE CHAIR PCC

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Stephen Bailey, 40 Briardene 521884

**HON. SECRETARY PCC**  
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**ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER**  
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## SECRETARY

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## TREASURER

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## CHURCH FLOWERS

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## MUSIC GROUP and CHOIRMASTER

Craig Davies, 33 First Street Bradley  
Cottages Leadgate 07894515112

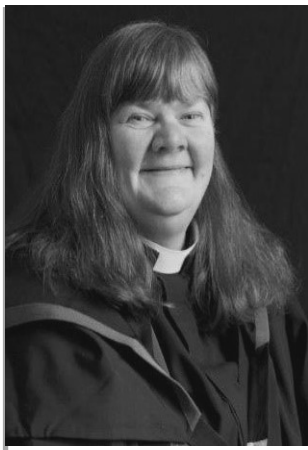
**MEN'S FORUM** See noticeboard or pew sheets  
for notifications and details

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



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

**The copy deadline for the  
July issue is  
Sunday June 20th**



Who can remember what they were doing five years ago? It's not that easy unless you were doing something really significant.....and of course I was. Five years ago I was preparing to be priested. The end of June is ordination season- commonly referred to as 'Petertide' because the feast of St Peter, and the combined feasts of Sts Peter and Paul, always fall at this time. It's a time when the church prays for vocations of all kinds, both lay and ordained. It's a time when we dwell on stories of faith, to inspire and to encourage. So today -for those who haven't heard it - I thought I'd tell you mine.

When I was little we lived at Belmont and I spent a lot of time in two very thin places- Finchale Abbey and Durham Cathedral. I was a close friend of Saint Bede, who like me loved reading and writing, and I would have been friends with St Cuthbert but I knew he didn't like girls very much. I grew up loving the music and the singing, the stark beauty of both places, the rhythm of the liturgy, but as I grew I grew away from a belief in God. Despite my atheism, I went to church with close friends, went to every night of an evangelical mission to my university, and on holidays we toured churches and cathedrals and monasteries - on one memorable day in Brazil Ian and I visited 35

churches by taxi.....Poor Ian. And I immersed myself in my career, and never really asked myself why I had this fascination with Christianity. Until we got married.

We got married in an Anglican church in Dubai- because we lived Dubai and wanted a holiday, and because our best friends lived in Hong Kong and we wanted them to be at the wedding.

So we were standing at the altar, And I felt a tap on my shoulder And heard a voice that said 'I am here, you know.'

And by the time the service was over and we were married and walking down the aisle God had already told me that he wanted me to be a priest, not a barrister. And here I am.

Actually, it wasn't that easy.

I spent 7 years trying to bargain with God. 'Who, me?' 'Surely not?' 'Well not just yet...' 'Will you stop bothering me?' 'Oh, go on, then.....'

And then I discovered that the church had to be convinced too, and once convinced I had to go back to university at 53 and do another degree.....

And here, at last, I am, having finished training, although the learning will go on for life.....

At the end of June we celebrate the feasts of St Peter and St Paul, and it really has to be about vocation, because they make pretty strange bedfellows. Both might have been called 'apostle,' but Peter was there from the start; the blunt, rough, foot-in-mouth human fisherman, who left home and family to follow Jesus. Paul was a complete contrast, describing himself as 'a Hebrew of Hebrews,' a Pharisee, educated in scripture, philosophy and debate; a writer of letters, someone who gave himself the title 'apostle,' a man who had been zealous in his persecution of the fledgeling church until God pulled him up short on the Damascus road. Peter and Paul were far from natural companions in life, Paul publicly rebuking Peter at Antioch for going back on his willingness to welcome Gentiles into the church and accusing him of undermining the whole basis of Paul's ministry. Perhaps Peter, not a trained rabbi, felt humiliated, because he later wrote of Paul; 'his letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures.....' Condemnation by faint praise, indeed.

But Paul and Peter's stories and their feisty and sometimes difficult relationship remind us of some truths about faith and vocation.

We are all different, and we all have different stories of how we found God-or how God found us.

So your story might be like Peter's, an experience of the instant recognition of Jesus as someone very special indeed, and a lifelong following that's sometimes effortless and sometimes beset with disappointment and doubt.

Or your story might be like Paul's (and mine). You might be one of those people who recognise the truth out of the corner their eye and turn their eyes away until God, almost literally, turns you around with a word or a touch or a blinding light on the open road.

Or you might be a cradle Christian with a deepening understanding of Jesus, or you might have always had a sense of something larger, something truer.

But our stories are all united by the one overarching story of God's love for us all, and his redemption of us by love incarnate in the shape of Jesus, and his sending of the Holy Spirit to us for company on the journey. We are, individually and collectively, God's beloved children, co-heirs with Jesus to the kingdom of God.

And that leads us to another truth.

Peter and Paul were pretty strange bedfellows, thrown together by a common call. I remember my first day at Cranmer, a college I didn't really want to go to because it was altogether too evangelical for me, when I sat for breakfast next to a man who didn't believe that women should be ordained and had a furious argument with him in the hearing of the Warden! I was thrown together again and again with Jonathan, and others whom I found profoundly difficult and different, until they'd rubbed some of the sharp edges off me and I'd done the same for them, and at the end of our 2 years we were astonished to find that we were friends- but still profoundly different. God's love is the thread that bound us and binds us still.

And the last truth; Both Peter and Paul were called to proclaim the Gospel. When Peter was asked by Jesus 'who do you say I am?' he named Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, even though he didn't really know what that meant. And when Paul was blinded by the light of Christ and miraculously restored, his first response was 'to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the son of God.' Different stories, different people, but the same vocation, to love and to grow as disciples, to hear the call and to follow.

It's tempting to think that vocation is for the few, the unlucky ones who've been called to the collar, like Stephen, our new curate, who is to be ordained deacon at Petertide. But vocation is for ALL the priestly people of God, whether collared or not. Like Peter and Paul we're asked to love each other, to rub along together and to give those who haven't heard the marvellous gift of the Good News.

So let's begin, today, to share our stories of faith with others so that their own stories can begin.....

*Lesley*



## **We are on our way!**

Do not panic, it is not a threat but a simple statement and one that fills the Martin crew with all kinds of weird and wonderful feelings. My name is Stephen and with me on this amazing journey is Mandy, my wife and our three girls Gracie 10, Niamh 8, and Erin 6 not to mention Deano the Lurcher, 1 mouse, 2 fish and 16 hens.

It feels good to finally be able to introduce myself and my family to you having known for a little while that we would be joining you in the parishes. The journey to ministry in the Church of England is a long one and what seems like years away has soon arrived. I have spent the last two years studying with Lindisfarne College of Theology and working as a funeral director, a career I have loved for 15 years. Prior to entering the funeral service, I had worked in supermarkets, hospitals, prisons, and care homes and been pub landlord. Each job has taught me something about myself and life and it has been helpful to reflect on where God was leading me in each role.

My faith journey is a long one and if I were to draw it, it would look something like a mountain range (please do ask me about it). I began attending St Mary's Church in Sherburn in 1992, and it was there my faith was nurtured and I first felt the call to ministry. Life became too busy, and I stopped attending church from 2000 until 2009 when we began attending St Mary Magdalene, Belmont. It was Belmont where I felt God's call again and with love, care, and encouragement, I was selected and licensed as a Reader in 2017. Having been licenced I still felt that God was asking for something more and that the experiences I'd had in life were for other purposes. I spent a lot of time praying and discerning finally entering the selection process and training 2 years ago.

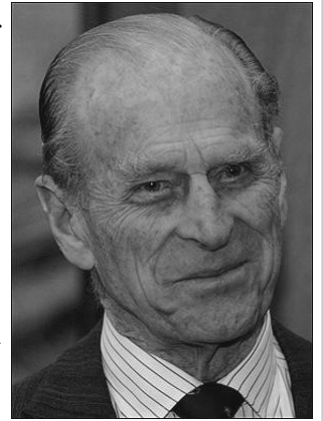
Although my formal study ends in July, I look forward to learning with you and from you, being a part of the communities and joining the journey of discovering all the exciting things God has in store.

Please continue to hold us in your prayers as we hold you in ours.

**Stephen, Mandy, and the girls**

## **Remembering Prince Philip**

"We have thanked God for Prince Philip's life of extraordinary service. There are some rare people who bring energy into a room - the Duke of Edinburgh was very much one of those people. His presence lifted a gathering. He might have challenged and interrogated, but whatever he said, he never bored anyone.



"The Duke of Edinburgh had a profound moral imagination, extraordinary foresight and even vision. He saw the world not just as it is but as it could and should be, as worked out in his commitment to young people, especially through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, to the Commonwealth, to our Armed Forces, and to engineering, technology and design... In Edmund Burke's words, he had an instinctive sense that the social contract was found in the traditions we inherit from the past, in our obligations to the present and in our responsibility to those yet to be born.

"His genuine and deep sense of humility and his service came from the same place, which was his faith... He had a sincere Christian faith absolutely untainted by false piety... He understood deeply how important faith is for the vast majority of the world's population. He engaged the rich diversity of faiths within the UK and the Commonwealth. He was a pioneer in recognising the crucial role that faith leaders play in advocating for creation care. He was literally half a century ahead of his time in this area."

**Source The Parish Pump**

## **Thank You**

Rob and Eileen would like to thank everyone for the Cards, Flowers and Good Wishes we received as we celebrated our Golden Wedding. Despite restrictions imposed by the Covid restrictions we had a wonderful day.

**Rob and Eileen Matthews**

## **PLANT POTS**

If anyone has any plant pots surplus to requirements I would be grateful for them for potting on. Happy to collect. Margaret 521214

**Margaret Walters**

**Parish Registers  
Lanchester and Burnhope**

**Marriages**

**Thursday  
May 27th**

**Georgia Newcome and Terry Burnside at St John's**



**All Saints Parish Church**

**Phone  
Church**



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

The numbers you need are

**Dial 03330164757**

**Room Number 11718226#**

**Guest PIN 2468#**

Phone church for St Thomas, All Saints and Burnhope is at 10am We are really looking forward to hearing your Voices

**LANCHESTER PARISH  
CHURCH**

**9.30 –11.30**

**In the Church and Chapter  
House**

**Saturday**

**31st July**

***"Summer Fayre"***

***The Theme is***

***'Sunshine and Strawberries'***  
**Cakes and Savouries, Jams and  
Preserves, chutneys**

**General and Bottle Tombola**

**Hand crafted goods**

**Online Summer Raffle**

**Coffee, Tea and**

**Strawberry**

**Scones**

**£1.50**

**Free drink and  
treat**

**for Children**

**Do Come and Join us**



**Café Church**

Cafe Church is resuming  
at St Johns Burnhope.

It starts on Tuesday 8th  
June at 6pm in the Community Centre, and  
then will be held on the second Tuesday of  
each month.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

**Doreen**



**HELP PLEASE**

As you will see we are planning to hold a Summer Fayre on Saturday 31st July from 9.30 to 11.30am in church.

We would very much appreciate bottles for the bottle tombola stall, prizes for the general tombola stall as well as gifts of food and toiletries for the hampers which we will be making up for the online summer raffle. Other raffle prizes would also be most welcome.

Raffle prizes and hamper contributions should be given to Margaret Walters (or ring MW on 521214 to arrange collection).

If you can spare a couple of hours on the day to help with a stall or with refreshments please contact the church wardens to offer your assistance.

**Church Social and Fundraising Committee**



# NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

We were delighted to hold our first meeting of the year on 11th May and I was overjoyed to see so many members in church. We had such a positive response and many lovely comments at the end of service. We will hold our next service on Tuesday, 8th June at 2.0pm, in church. We are not yet able to sing, or invite a speaker but when we are more certain of a lifting of further restrictions we will be hoping to arrange speakers for the autumn. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for the lovely cards and beautiful flowers on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. Rob and I feel truly blessed to have reached this milestone.



**Eileen Matthews**

## Benny Writes

'An invitation from Benny'. Dear friends, As I was not allowed a retirement party by nasty Covid, or even one to welcome young Chelsea, I have got another idea. Mum & Dad have their Golden Wedding on Saturday July the 24th, so I thought it would be great to have the garden open for you all to come and celebrate with them. They don't want any cards or presents, just to see their friends, and have a collection for our charity, "Dogs for Good" and the Church.



Chelsea & I reckon we can manage Tea & biscuits between 10.0am and 4.0pm and might even let Mum do a small plant stall. Dad could boil the kettles for us.

Any spare plants for the plant stall would be welcome. Hope to see you all on July 24th,

**Woof, Benny & Chelsea.**

## THANK YOU

to everyone for all the cards, gifts and flowers for my 70th birthday. I really appreciated everything and had a lovely day out with my daughter. Some of you may have seen pictures on Facebook. Also two days later a cup cake and drink on grass outside my house. Socially distanced of course. It was a really lovely time.

**Doreen**

## Weather, Love and Horological Plants

*'Mist in May, heat in June, makes the harvest come right soon'.*

There is a great deal of weather lore attached to plants. Long before scientific weather forecasting, plants were studied to indicate particular conditions.

For instance when the bramble blooms in early June, an early harvest may be expected.

Similarly *'If the oak is out before the ash,  
Twill be a summer of wet and splash.  
But if the ash is before the oak,  
Twill be a summer of fire and smoke.'*

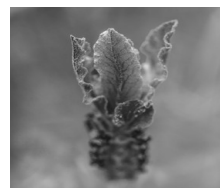
Other plants served shepherds and farm workers as clocks, since their petals opened and closed at specific times of the day. The Pimpernel was known as the shepherds clock and lots of plants possessed this horological ability.

June is named after Juno, the wife of Jupiter, making it a special month for the Rose, Lavender and Box which was once traditionally used to decorate churches on St Barnabas day (June 11th). Ragged Robin is dedicated to St Barnabas, Sweet William dedicated to St William (June 25th) and parsley and pinks dedicated to St Peter (June 29th)



*'Sweet as scarlet strawberry, under wet leaves hidden,  
Honeyed as the Damask Rose,  
Lavish as the moon. Shedding lovely light on things  
forgotten hope forbidden,  
That's the way of June'*

Hope you all enjoy whatever June brings and stay safe everyone.



**Audrey Newton**

## Church Flowers

June 6th J Thomas, D Leyland  
C Hunt, M Garthwaite

June 13th B Masterman  
J Massey

June 20th C Rotherham

June 27th B Sproat, A Jensson



## 100 Club

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

£20, - 32 £10, -28

£5, - 83, 101, 149, 129, 125, 115

**Sue Smith and Olga Walker**



## Open Garden in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

We will be holding an Open Garden in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Saturday the 24th July. The event will be run in accordance with Government COVID Guidance.

We will be offering Ploughman's Lunches and Afternoon Teas throughout the day. There will also be a cake and preserves stall, garden stall, garden themed raffle and a competition.

All admittance to the garden and reservations for Afternoon Tea or Ploughman's Lunch must be booked and paid for in advance. Should the weather be wet the option will be given to have the food as a Takeaway.

Car Parking will be available further up our lane and whilst entry is on timed slots, once in the garden you may stay as long as you wish until we close at 5.30pm.

The prices are as follows: Garden only £5, Garden and Afternoon Tea or Ploughman's Lunch £10. A glass of Prosecco can be added for an additional £2.

For further information or to book contact me:

Jackieeaston@aol.com or phone 07977 136726

We were over subscribed last year so booking early is advised.

**Jackie Easton**

## A Summer Treat?

Try something different this Summer.

A long refreshing drink a GWT (ginger wine and tonic) The pack includes 1 bottle of ginger 2 cans of tonic and 1 Lemon

The cost is £5 with free delivery all proceeds to Church funds. Just telephone Hazel on 521690.

Would you please keep any Ginger wine bottles until we can arrange collection and storage.

This would be greatly appreciated Thank You.

PS. Empty Ginger wine bottles can be left in Church on Sunday and Wednesday

**Hazel Gaskill**

## Church Wives

We just have to keep on hoping  
That we can meet up later this year  
And that good times will come again  
which we will be able to share.

It really is not nice, not seeing you at all  
But God is always with us whatever may befall.  
Everything might be changing the news is good then bad  
But God never changes and He does not want us sad.  
Just now it is a cross that we have to bravely bear.  
Jesus hung on a cross, an agony we cannot share,  
But the cross was victorious, Jesus did not die,  
Be patient just a little longer, keep your spirits high.  
Do take care of yourselves, I pray that you keep safe.  
And that lovely long summer days are ours to await.

Meanwhile we have Pentecost with its rushing mighty wind filling the room where the disciples (minus Judas of course) were sitting and when tongues of fire touched each of them, filling them with the Holy Spirit. How wonderful! There must have been a tremendous energy in that room that day and no one was afraid. They were set on fire as it were for Christ and empowered to go out into the world and tell people about Jesus Christ, the Way, The Truth, and the Life. I think all of us have the chance at Pentecost to be 'set alight' for God, who did not give us a Spirit that makes us afraid. He gave us a Spirit of Power and Love. We have the chance to renew and strengthen our Faith and be empowered to take the fruits of the Holy Spirit wherever we go each day. What are the fruits of the Spirit you ask? Find them in the book of Galatians Chapter 5 verses 22-26 and perhaps then carry on reading to Chapter 6 verses 1-5 for more good advice.

'But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. The Spirit has given us life; He must also control our lives. We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another'

I think because of the most challenging and testing time we are going through just now Pentecost has great meaning. The world needs us to be empowered more than ever through the Holy Spirit.

**Brenda Craddock.**

## For Sale at £2 per jar

**Beetroot Chutney**

**Seville Marmalade.**

**Apple and Blackberry**

**Contact Margaret on 521214**

**or Jen on 520498**



## Do the Right Thing

We need a clear roadmap  
on how travel can resume going forward  
so when you factor in footfall  
year on year  
the reality on the ground  
is a level playing field.

So we've got an action plan  
we just need to get the stakeholders on board  
and bring them up to speed  
on the rollout.

You can change the narrative  
if you get the optics right  
with a piece of kit that's really key  
when there's an uptick  
in existential threats and dog whistles  
coming from the wrong side of history.

You can tell by the mood music  
it does what it says on the tin  
but you can't change the direction of travel  
by kicking the can down the road  
into the long grass.

On a learning curve  
with iconic signage  
windows with unacceptable views  
faulty gaslighting  
in a dark place  
with no wiggle room  
call out the gatekeepers  
stay on message  
and you could win  
a must-have box set.

Team we need your 360 feedback  
we want to hear your stories  
this could be the game-changer  
we're talking root and branch  
if you do the right thing  
tick all the right boxes  
and step up to the plate  
at the end of the day  
it's about hearts and minds.



**Richard Downs 2021**



At last there is a glimmer of hope in the road to ringing recovery, although not for a few months yet. As I write this article, I believe there is to be an announcement in the press and social media coverage on the ringing of church bells ( meaning more than one bell) as from May 17th. However, from May 17th - June 21st the guidelines etc are still governed by:-

Rule of Six applies indoors:- only six people from different families can meet indoors at any one time. However if only two families are meeting together, the total may exceed six persons. In practice, this means that ringing sessions should be pre-arranged for six people rather than drop-in.

Hands- Space-face rules apply:- face coverings, hand sanitising between ringing. 1m plus mitigations when ringing and 2m social distancing in the tower at all non-ringing times.

Restricting ringing to 45 minutes whilst maintaining good tower ventilation. The rules can only be applied if a tower is spacious enough to adhere to the rules, therefore not all towers will be able to ring their bells at least until June 21st, when hopefully restrictions will be lifted. Lanchester tower is at a disadvantage in this respect being fairly small. When ringing we are standing in some cases less than 1m apart. Ventilation is another problem, as it is in many towers. Vaccination also falls short at present among our ringers. Some will not be fully vaccinated until the end of July, although this may change.

We are looking forward to the day when we can return to full circle ringing but only when it is safe to do so. A period of retraining will follow, in particular with our ringers who are still a little inexperienced, for the more experienced, I am sure it will come as second nature. In the coming weeks we hope to meet with Lesley to discuss the way forward and as a group we all need to be comfortable in the way we phase in our return to ringing after such a long period, and be safe. Meanwhile I am pleased to say that maintenance work has been completed on our fine ring of bells and they are ready to ring.

**Olga Walker**



## Walks of Pilgrimage.

In 2020, six 'Northern Saints Trails' were established, and the Bishop of Durham had planned to walk them all but because of Covid this had to be postponed. This year he has been able to take up the challenge once more. The individual 'trails' were each given a name. 'The Way of Life': 'The Way of Love': 'The Way of Learning' and 'The Way of Life' and these were the four 'Ways' the Bishop was going to walk. There are two other routes: 'The Angels Way' and 'The Way of the Sea' which provide links to give pilgrims continuous pilgrimage routes between Lindisfarne and Durham.. The individual routes are all called 'Ways' because in earlier times the Christian faith was referred to as 'The Way'.

The first pilgrimage 'Way of Life' was undertaken by the Bishop of Durham, his wife Rosemary and the co-ordinator of the whole programme of walks Mr David Pott. It began on Palm Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> at Gainford. From there it moved on to Ingleton, West Auckland, Escomb, Bishop Auckland, Binchester Roman Fort, Whitford Hall Country Park, Sunderland Bridge, Houghall, Mountjoy, St Oswalds Church and concluded on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Durham Cathedral.

The 'Way of Love' Pilgrim Walk took place on May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> from Hartlepool again with various stops at interesting places culminating at the Shrine of St Cuthbert in Durham Cathedral.

The 'Way of Learning' Pilgrim Walk took place on May 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> from Jarrow to Durham and again the route was divided into sections to provide adequate rest and refreshment and time to explore interesting places.

We now come to the 'Way of Light' which is the Pilgrim walk which concerns our own church, 'All Saints', because today Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> the pilgrims were making a stop at our church. This pilgrim walk began at Heavenfield, just North of Hexham, near Acomb, and ends like the others at Durham Cathedral. The walk passes through some beautiful countryside and interesting places, namely Blanchland, Edmundbyers, Muggleswick, Castleside, LANCHESTER, Ushaw, Witton Gilbert, and Beaurepaire, before reaching its destination in Durham Cathedral. Today, Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> Bishop Paul was accompanied by the Bishop of Newcastle, Christine Hardman, and Sarah, Bishop of Jarrow, as well as accompanying clergy, wives and husbands making a total of twelve.

There was an air of excitement in the village as the Bishops processed along Front Street to the church, behind Mrs Davis and Mrs Knighton



and the choir of the E.P. School, proudly carrying a banner which they had made for the occasion. They were going to sing for the visitors in the grounds of the church.

After assembling at the given place, they sang several songs beautifully and very appropriately they were all about LIGHT. Their banner also reflected the theme of LIGHT. Symbols and words had been embroidered onto it very effectively and it will be on display in our church for you to see. Bishop Paul blessed the



Banner to show how meaningful it was for the pilgrimage about Light.

It was good to see so many parents accompanying their children on this occasion and sharing in the Christian Fellowship. Our vicar Lesley of course expressed her joy and appreciation of their presence. There was no doubting that it was a very special occasion. As our visitors then proceeded into church for lunch, there was a wonderful feeling of 'togetherness' and the presence of the Holy Spirit which is just as it should be as we celebrate Pentecost this weekend. Lanchester Parish Church was the chosen church for the Bishops and nine other pilgrims to obtain Refreshments. Eileen Matthews, leader of our Mother's Union organised her group to provide a refreshing, quality, light lunch and their usual high standard prevailed. Due to Covid every care was taken to keep everything completely within bounds of restrictions and everyone was given a nourishing lunch in a pre-prepared luncheon bag, which was much appreciated by our visitors. Lesley of course made sure that everyone was warmly welcomed and there were a number of our church members on hand to help her with that by making sure everyone was well looked after. It was excellent and the atmosphere of warmth and true fellowship was very evident. Today was also the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Rob and Eileen Matthews and it was a very nice moment when Bishop Paul stood beside them to bless them on this special day. Congratulations Rob and Eileen.

All too soon our pilgrims had to move on, but not before a photo shoot as evidence of their time very well spent in Lanchester Parish Church. What a lovely church family we are. I know Lesley is very proud of us, as we are proud of her. Thanks be to God!.





## From the Archives

### An Extract from the Parish Magazine of June 1894

The "merry month of May" 1894 will be one that we shall none of us readily forget; certainly the weather prophet of Tyneside did not predict a fine month, but his forecast was more favourable than the weather we have experienced. "Following upon a week of abnormally cold weather, we had a slight frost on Saturday night, but it was left to the nights of Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday to complete the work of destruction; ice a quarter of an inch thick was plentiful; in gardens potatoes were well above the ground but by noon there was nothing but the blackened remains of the haulms above the ground level; all tender seedlings and newly-planted subjects are killed; the beech tree, the chestnut, ivy, and even the foliage of the hardy English Oak have suffered in the same way. To bird life the frost has been particularly disastrous and painful; not a swift is to be seen and very few swallows and martins; scores of them can be picked up dead, while others have no doubt taken timely warning and sought more genial climes;" the above remarks though referring to another locality so thoroughly correspond to our own neighbourhood that I thought it would be interesting to record them; I may add, the thermometer at the Vicarage indicated more than 10 degrees of frost for the night of Tuesday. Looking back over the month past, we have to note the due observance of Ascension Day when a goodly number came to mark the day by attending Holy Communion at 88, and then in the evening we had a Service. Then followed Whitsun Day with all its joys and holy inspiration; then it was that the newly Confirmed, almost without exception, made their first Communion, and a large number of others came to prove their fellowship with them.

I now must say a word or two with regard to the results of the Working Party. As you may remember in a previous number of the Magazine a general invitation was given to any who were so disposed to assemble at the Vestry every Wednesday during Lent and sew for some charitable object; the meetings proved a decided success and a good number of our friends responded to the invitation; as soon as possible after Easter the goods, numbering in all about 200 articles, were disposed of in the parish to willing purchasers, and as the outcome of their efforts the very handsome sum of £10 was handed over to the Treasurer of the Zenana Missionary Society, an effort which I think reflects great credit upon all who have been connected with the work; next year I hope we shall many more coming when they can lend their kindly aid.

It has been arranged to hold the G.F.S. Festival this year at Roker, early in June, and I have decided to have the Sunday School Treat at the same time and place; I am in hopes that the Railway Company may see their way to providing a special train so that a large number of our parishioners may have the opportunity of joining us in a day's outing, if they care to do so. And now a word in conclusion with reference to the new Hymn Book which will be used for the first time on July 1<sup>st</sup>, Hymns Ancient and Modern, complete edition; the prices for the Hymns only, vary considerably, from 1d. to any price you like almost, but a very nice book may be had for 10d. I shall have a large stock on hand at the Vicarage, and shall be glad to supply anyone either with a Hymn Book, or a Prayer Book and Hymns combined; the books may be seen and obtained on and after June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Yours faithfully. GEORGE JEPSON Vicar

**Peter Smith**

## From The Wardens

Well we are almost there or are we? The gradual relaxation of Covid restrictions does mean that we are starting on the pathway to normality. We must however not let down our guard as the variants of the virus are still circulating.

It has been wonderful to see all the familiar faces returning to Church as Lesley continues to guide us down the road of recovery. The Wardens Sue, Doreen and Rob continue to support her as she does. We were able to successfully hold our APCM on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at which 35 persons attended in covid secure conditions and refreshments were served at the end, socially distant but our first 'social occasion' in Church for over a year.

We are starting to consider (restrictions permitting) social and fundraising events in church, and would ask everyone to look out for news of these events and support them as you are able.

We have been ensuring that the Church is maintained as it should be, and plans are in hand to re-decorate the damage caused by the boiler burst although the water is still being collected by the dehumidifier at a rate of one litre per day. But regular checks by damp meter show that there is light at the end of the tunnel. The bells have been inspected and the nuts tightened to the frame, ropes checked, wheel brackets tightened, pulley frames and sliders checked ready for when we are able to consider regular ringing again.

We have now received the QI report for St Johns and need to collectively look at the recommendations and agree an order of repair works for both Churches over the next few years.

Thanks once again at St John's, to Derek who has been fighting his own battle against marauding pigeons determined to build their nests in the tower. Repairs to the louvres are required as one of the blades is missing.

We all look forward to a future when we are all able to return to a more normal situation in our churches. Some changes are inevitable but God is good all of the time, all of the time God is good.



### Rob Matthews For the Churchwardens

*Facemasks still for sale  
Minimum donation £1 each  
Various fabrics*



All proceeds to church funds  
**Ring Margaret 521214 or Jen 520498**  
Happy to deliver in the village



## LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



What a wonderfully busy month it has been in school for us all – it almost feels as though we are back to normal! We have had a great time planning our forthcoming residential as it feels so good to get the children away! We have also had some wonderful day trips out. Year 4 explored the Heritage Walk at Consett as part of their local history work about Consett Steelworks. Year 3 have been to Jarrow Hall to support their work on the Anglo Saxons, Year 5 have enjoyed a very wet day at High Force while Year 1 were lucky with the weather as they explored Newcastle as part of their Big Lights, Big City work. The excitement of the children just getting on a bus again after well over a year was probably a major step for them all too!

We have also spent a lot of time planning for the Northern Bishop's Pilgrimage this weekend. Miss Jackson and the Year 4 Art Club designed and made a beautiful banner for the event while Mrs Knighton taught Year 5 & 6 some lovely songs to share at the event. We were fortunate to have 30 of our oldest children turn up in their school uniform on a Saturday lunchtime to participate in this special occasion. To share in the Bishops Walk from school to church and to be able to sing outdoors for them was really so very special. As one of our parents said – it has been so long since we have been able to share anything together that it really was lovely. It was equally special to hear the children sing. Singing is one thing we have all particularly missed – children included!

This wonderfully happy occasion was counteracted by some tragic news the school received this weekend. We were informed that Lisa Shaw, the BBC Radio Newcastle presenter, died tragically over the weekend. She is a former EP school pupil and she has been a great supporter of our school over the last few years. Lisa covered our EduAid Footy Event in aid of Mind, interviewed Mr Bailey for International Men's Day which was followed by an interview with both Mr Bailey and myself – an employee and employer both talking about mental health and about support and understanding in the workplace. This was followed by a number of visits to school as part of Lisa's Little'Uns when Lisa interviewed a number of our younger children. Then, over the course of the last year, she has interviewed myself on a number of occasions about COVID and the impact on schools. She was a lively, energetic, dynamic young woman with so much to live for – her family, friends, colleagues and young son in particular are central to our thoughts and prayers at the moment.

Hopefully, over the next month, Lesley and I will be able to have more discussions about the Leavers' Service. I have no intention of making any plans for this until after 21<sup>st</sup> June as last year, our plans changed every other day! Let's hope we can all enjoy another special gathering though and I must admit – I cannot wait to get back into the church!

Mr Gordon Innes, our Assistant Head Teacher, started with us at the start of May. He is enjoying finding out more about the school and the children and his Whole School Worship is going down a treat! Another great addition to our school.

**Mrs Jane Davis Head Teacher**

### Memorial Book

The book is currently with the calligrapher for a long overdue update and will be back in place shortly. If you would like a loved one's name to be recorded in the book, please complete one of the forms which are available at the back of church and return it to me or a warden. It is my intention to have a further update carried out in late June or early July.

**Peter Smith.**



### CHURCH RECIPE BOOK

We hope to produce a church recipe book in time for Christmas containing all your favourite recipes. Please send your recipes to Margaret Walters (preferably by e-mail but handwritten ones will be accepted if you do not use a computer)

[mwalters468@btinternet.com](mailto:mwalters468@btinternet.com)

Ring Margaret on 521214 if you would like further details.

Please send the recipes in over the summer months so that we can get well ahead with compiling the book.

Ideas for a suitably witty title are also welcome.

**Margaret Walters on behalf of the Social and Fundraising committee**

## Dates for your Diary June 2021

Wed 2nd 9.45 am Holy Communion All Saints  
Sun 6th 9.15 am Said Eucharist St Johns Burnhope  
Sun 6th 9.45 am Service of the Word St Thomas  
Sun 6th 10.30am Parish Eucharist All Saints  
Tues 8th 6.00pm Café Church Burnhope Com Centre  
Tues 8th 2.00pm Mothers' Union Meeting All Saints  
Wed 9th 9.45 am Holy Communion All Saints  
Sun 13th 8.00am Holy Communion All Saints  
Sun 13th 9.15 am Eucharist St Thomas  
Sun 13th 10.30am Service of the Word All Saints (joint)  
Wed 16th 9.30 am Holy Communion All Saints  
Sun 20th 9.15 am Said Eucharist St Johns Burnhope  
Sun 20th 9.45 am Service of the Word St Thomas  
Sun 20th 10.30am Parish Eucharist All Saints  
Sun 27th 8.00am Holy Communion All Saints  
Sun 27th 9.15 am Eucharist St Thomas  
Sun 27th 10.30am Service of the Word All Saints

### Village Voice.

A number of people have asked me when the 'Village Voice' is coming back. The answer is quite difficult, because the management committee has become very depleted. The Editor Mrs Christine Monaghan who has edited the paper since its instigation has retired. She has done this job with such commitment and expertise that she would be a very hard act to follow but she would be prepared to help anyone who is interested in being an editor or even sub editor. Journalistic and computer skills are needed for such a post.

Another important vacant position is treasurer.

Our Treasurer/ Company Secretary Mr Ken Todd was excellent and very capable and efficient in this role but he also has retired. Mrs Babs Maskery, who was on the management committee, died in March, leaving another vacancy.

If you are interested in any way in bringing the 'Village Voice' back to life, or indeed know anyone who might be interested in doing this could you contact me (01207 520749 steve24c07@aol.com) and I will pass the information on to the management.

Here's hoping for offers! Please help revive your village newspaper. Do not let it die.

'Let the Phoenix rise out of the Ashes'!!

Sincerely,

**Brenda Craddock.**

### Food Hygiene

Sadly we have lost one or two of our regular kitchen helpers who had Food Hygiene Certificates.

To assist when we are allowed to hold social events again we would invite anyone to come forward who currently holds a certificate, or who needs further training or would be willing to be trained up. Please contact Lesley or the Wardens.

**Editor**

### What do you think will happen after Covid?

You can take your choice: a recent survey has found that a third of us think that society may *never* go back to the old ways, a third of us think we will go back to *exactly* as we were before, and a third of us think that we will be *keener than ever* to stay together.

The Together Coalition, chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been working for the past year on a piece of research to track just what has happened to communities during lockdown.

The new research has found that "people feel a stronger sense of connection to their neighbours and community. ... We found a clear public appetite for a society in which we are more connected to each other, and the community spirit of 2020 is kept alive."

It also found that around 12.4million people have volunteered during the pandemic, 4.6million of them for the first time. And 75 per cent of those volunteers would be happy to do so again.

### Source The Parish Pump

### Foodbank

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 from Tuesday 6 April 21 is: Consett Methodist Church, Station Road, Consett DH8 5RL Their opening times remain unchanged.**

We keep opening times / closures and locations up to <https://durham.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

### 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)**





## A Reflection from Pauline

I have to admit that I get a little bit miffed sometimes at the way this Sunday - and the Saint associated with it - are widely regarded in the church. This Sunday has a lot of names - Dominica in Albus - "White Sunday; Divine Mercy Sunday; Quasimodo Sunday - the hunchback was named after the Sunday, not the other way round, and it comes from the start of the old Latin service "Quasi modo geniti infantes" - "we are like new born babes"; and of course Thomas Sunday - and yet it always gets called by the least attractive name - "Low Sunday" And Thomas - our patron saint at Harelaw - has a few names, too - Thomas Didymus, Thomas the Twin, Thomas the Builder - and yet he's always "Doubting Thomas". We say "doubting" as though it's a bad thing - as though Thomas' doubt means that he was lacking in faith - but is that really so? The Gospel writers, other than John, pretty much ignore Thomas, but John mentions him four times, and every time he shows him to be loyal, courageous, and not afraid to speak his mind. Thomas says the things the others are just thinking. He's prepared to look a fool rather than misunderstand what Jesus has said - he's the sort of pupil every teacher wants in the classroom. Thomas may not get a lot of space, but his character is shown in every word. He is open and honest, and isn't one of the ones jockeying for position. He looks, and he listens, and he tries to understand.

Over the centuries Thomas has been criticised for not believing the other disciples - but why should he? He's a twin - perhaps an identical twin; maybe he and his brother were often mistaken for each other. And even people who aren't related can look very similar. And look at how many people met Jesus after his death and didn't recognise him. Mary Magdalene thought he was the gardener - and even when she realised the truth, and told the disciples, we aren't told that they believed her, though we know that the "beloved disciple" looked into the tomb and believed that Jesus had risen. Doesn't mean he believed that Mary had seen him.

The road to Emmaus - how long did the disciples walk with Jesus before they realised who they were talking to? If people who knew Jesus well could mistake him for a stranger, who is to say that a bunch of disillusioned, frightened disciples might not mistake a stranger for Jesus? In that locked room, eight days after the crucifixion, how long had Jesus stood among them before they realised he was in their midst? If he hadn't blessed them - "Peace be with you", and showed them his wounds, and breathed the breath of God into them - would they ever have worked it out? Thomas didn't doubt that Jesus was risen - he doubted that the disciples had seen him. When Jesus visits the following week, and shows Thomas his hands and side, and invites him to touch the wounds, Thomas doesn't need to touch him. Instead he speaks those wonderful words "My Lord, and my God!" - the first of the disciples to do so. Far from being a doubter, Thomas is the first disciple to openly proclaim both Jesus' Kingship over the earth, and his divinity.

Yet everything about Jesus' first visit to the room made these things obvious. He entered a locked room after everyone had assembled; he blessed them "Peace be with you." The word Jesus spoke for peace is the same word that many Jews still use when greeting or parting. "Shalom". In Western culture, "peace" usually means an absence of conflict, but "Shalom" has a much deeper and richer meaning. It is an inward sense of wholeness; of a fullness that overflows and encourages us to give back generously; a sense of tranquillity, serenity, safety and well-being; of oneness with God and harmony with creation. In the biblical Hebrew understanding of "Shalom", there is a point at which we have so much shalom that it spills out from us, and is poured over others. It fills us and overflows into all creation. "Shalom" is a blessing for our very soul. Then Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into them. As God breathed life into clay to bring Adam into being at the time of the Creation, Jesus breathes new life into the disciples and signals the dawn of the New Creation. As God brought the dead back to life in the Valley of the Dry Bones in Ezekiel, so Jesus brings back to life the frightened, depressed, disillusioned, confused disciples. He commissioned them - "As my Father sent me, so I send you" - and yet, though they were filled with joy, it seems that not even one of them shouted "My Lord and my God". That was left to Thomas the Doubter, a week later when they were still sitting in fear despite all that had happened. Only Thomas openly proclaimed Christ as Lord and God of all. And of all of the disciples who went forth to spread the Gospel, Thomas was the only one who went out of the Roman Empire - into India and Persia. His doubt didn't destroy his faith - it strengthened it. The disciples were sent as Jesus was sent - but not alone, because they carried within them the Holy Spirit - the great comforter and sustainer of the soul. It is alright to doubt. Doubt shows that we are engaging with God. We may be shocked at the things that are happening in the world, and we certainly can't understand the whys and wherefores of suffering - but we are engaging, acknowledging - and BELIEVING! The theologian Paul Tillich said "Doubt is not the opposite of faith. It is an element of faith." It sounds odd, contradictory. But think of all of the twin concepts that meet in Christ - he did not want to alter a single jot or tittle of the Law, but instead applied it - and made it unrecognisable to almost everyone; he was a King, who took the role of the lowest slave; a sinless man who died under the weight of humanity's transgression; a man who loved life, but who offered himself as a sacrifice for others; a leader who fought a war with only love as a weapon; a being both fully human and wholly divine. Tillich also says, "Faith, by its nature, includes separation. If there is no separation from the object of faith, then it becomes a matter of certainty, and not of faith." Faith can only grow where there is no proof - no certainty - often no hope. But there is trust. It has been said that the greater the doubt, the greater the faith. If we lived in a world of certainty, without mystery or the challenge of infinity, then why would we need faith? If we fully understood the origins and nature of the universe, and had the answers to all of our questions about the purpose and meaning of life, then the word "faith" would not need to exist. It would not be necessary to take the "leap of faith" because everything would be a certainty to us. We only need faith in an uncertain world. Faith and doubt are two sides of the same coin. When St. John describes the house, the doors, the locks, that the disciples hid behind, he is speaking about more than a physical house with walls, doors on hinges, and bolts. He is describing the interior condition of the disciples. The locked places of our lives are always more about what is going on inside of us, than around us. We are encouraged to examine our own lives and look for the locked doors in our own souls. What are the closed places of our lives? What keeps us in the tomb? What is it that we fear? Who or what are we trying to keep out? Maybe it is questions, disbelief, or the conditions we place on our faith. Perhaps it is sorrow and loss. Maybe the wounds are so deep it does not seem worth the risk to step outside. Perhaps it is anger or resentment, or inability or unwillingness to open up to new ideas, possibilities, and change.

Or do we fear that Jesus, in whom we placed so much hope, has left us, and we are alone and vulnerable, not knowing what to do next? If we search our souls we will find Jesus is there, waiting to make himself known to us, just as he was present in that room with the disciples - we just haven't recognised him yet. When we see him, he will place his hands on us in blessing and whisper, "Shalom", and we too will step out to live his risen life and carry his word into the world, knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us.

Jesus is always entering the locked places of our lives. The poet priest Gerald Manley Hopkins uses "Easter" as a verb, "Christ" he says "Comes Eastering in us." Unexpected, uninvited, and sometimes even unwanted, he steps into our closed lives, closed hearts, and closed minds. Standing among us he offers peace and breathes new life into us. He doesn't open the door for us but he gives us all we need so that we might open our doors ourselves to a new life, a new creation, and a new way of being. This is happening all the time.

St John says that he wrote the account so that we who are born too late don't have to have seen in order to believe. From the story of Thomas we also know that we can question what we are told, and God will not think less of us. So perhaps we should re-think the names we use for this Sunday and for this Saint. Perhaps "Blessed Sunday" or "Faith Sunday" would be better. Or "Shalom" Sunday.

And Thomas? Thomas the Wise, perhaps; Or keep him as Thomas the Doubter, but take away the implied criticism; or Thomas the Liberator because he frees us to doubt - and honest doubt doesn't weaken faith - it confirms and strengthens it.

That's why Jesus welcomes honest doubters.

**Pauline Meek**

## Book Reviews



### **Exiles on Mission: How Christians Can Thrive in a Post-Christian World**

**By Paul Williams, Bible Society, £13.99**

Paul Williams, the CEO of Bible Society, explores the experience of living as Christians in the 21st century, including the dissonance with culture that is often felt.

He calls for a truly missional understanding of post-Christendom Christianity, providing constructive tools to help readers understand culture and form a missional response. Williams invites us to reimagine local churches as embassies of the kingdom of God and Christians as ambassadors in all spheres of life and work.

This book encourages readers to embrace the language of exile for the scattered and gathered Church in the post-Christian West, and to imagine ways to engage in missional living. It helps Christians to integrate their faith with everyday life, and see how their efforts can align with God's missional purpose for the world.

### **Do Muslims and Christians Worship the Same God?**

**By Andy Bannister, IVP, £9.99**

Are Islam and Christianity essentially the same? Should we seek to overcome divisions by seeing Muslims and Christians as part of one family of Abrahamic faith?

Andy Bannister shares his journey from the multicultural streets of inner-city London to being a Christian with a PhD in Qur'anic Studies. Along the way, he came to understand that far from being the same, Islam and Christianity are profoundly different.

Get to the heart of what the world's two largest religions say about life's biggest questions—and discover the uniqueness of Christianity's answer to the question of who God really is.

## **Prayer Tip for the Month**

***try setting an alarm to remind yourself it's time to pray. Think about when you could take a couple of moments in your busy life to check in with God.***



## **Smile Lines**



*After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.*

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That holds on believing whatever befalls.

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But love is the greatest and ever will be.

**By Megan Carter**





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