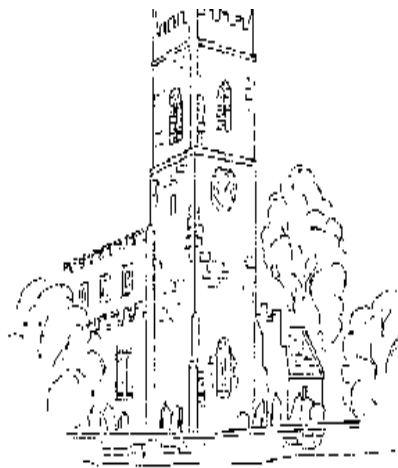
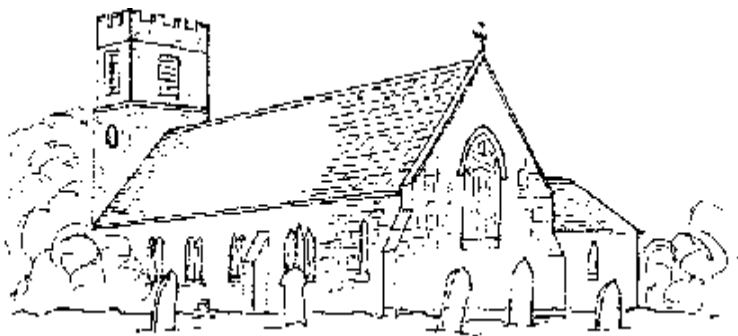


March 2020



Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE PARISH NEWS



St. John's Church, Burnhope



40p monthly
or
£4 per year

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

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Stephen Burt, Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Eucharist
3.45pm Messy Church (3rd Sunday of month)
6.00pm Evening Service

Wednesday 9.45am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -

by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st Sunday of Month 9.15 am Morning Prayer
2nd Sunday of Month 9.15 am Family Eucharist
3rd Sunday of Month Joint service 10.30 am
(at All Saints)
4th Sunday of month 9.15 am Morning Prayer
5th Sunday of Month 10.30 am Family Eucharist
(joint service with All Saints)

**Café Church first Thursday of the month in the
Community Centre 6.00pm**

CHURCHWARDENS

Robert Matthews 7 Prospect Terrace 771044
Sue Smith The Deanery Cottage 520031
Peter Smith 27 Ford Road 520498

Doreen Park 10 West Terrace Burnhope 438564

VICE CHAIR PCC

Margaret Matthews, Delves House, 505448
Delves Lane

HON. TREASURER

Stephen Bailey, 40 Briardene 521884

HON. SECRETARY PCC

David Baggott, 14 Woodlands 520646

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

David Baggott, 14 Woodlands 520646

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Sedgefield 621865

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SECRETARY

Audrey Newton, 4 Woodlands 520728

TREASURER

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MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Rob Matthews, 7 Prospect Terrace 771044

PARISH ROOM SECRETARY

Angela Lee, Fairfield Lodge 520032
Maiden Law

CHURCH FLOWERS

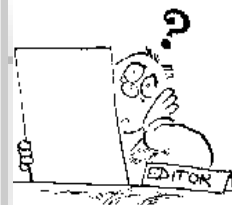
Barbara Sproat, 37 Greenwell Park 520247

MUSIC GROUP and CHOIRMASTER

Craig Davies, 33 First Street Bradley Cottages
Leadgate

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

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



Copy should be handed personally to **Rob**, or
left in the tray at the back of the church or,
preferably, sent by E-mail to:

robmatthews48@hotmail.com

**The copy deadline for the
April issue is
Sunday 22nd March**



Revd Lesley writes

The kiss of the sun for pardon, The song of the birds for mirth, One is nearer God's heart in a garden Than anywhere else on earth....

I came to faith in a very strange place.

Those of you who've heard my story know that I came to faith in Dubai, there to get married because we had friends from Hong Kong whom we wanted to be the witnesses at our wedding. For those of you who haven't been there, Dubai is one of the United Arab Emirates. It's spread out on both sides of The Creek, a natural inlet of the Persian Gulf. The city state of Dubai began as a settlement of fishermen and divers for pearls in the early 18th century. The location on the creek attracted merchants from Persia, and the village grew until it became an important port; but it was surrounded by desert and didn't really begin to grow until oil was discovered in the early 1960s. Then it mushroomed out into the surrounding desert, getting bigger and bigger. Water –more expensive than oil in the gulf – became affordable, and in the city the desert bloomed. Gardens were planted, parks opened. Driving through Dubai on the Zayed Road one can see the contrast of manicured flowerbeds full of bougainvilleas and gardenias and date palms surrounded by the original sand dunes.

So I've had a fascination with desert and gardens and living water ever since my call from God came in a desert place. And it's a fascination which finds expression in the Lenten journey.

At the beginning of Lent Jesus withdraws into the desert to pray and to be tempted before his ministry really begins. In Lent we face our own deserts. Like the dunes of Dubai, our desert spaces are empty. The heat of the day leaves us nowhere to hide – from others, or from ourselves. And the cold of the night reminds us that we cannot exist without others, and without God. The desert tested Jesus and it will test us too. But the desert is a place of both extremes, that can kill or bring unexpected joy.

I don't know whether you remember those slide viewers which were popular in the 50's and early 60's. The slides were round and you pulled a lever to change the picture. My cousin had one and it enchanted me, particularly the slides of a Disney documentary called 'The Living Desert.' The sequence I liked best was a fast forward of the desert blooming after a rare shower of rain.

And the promise of the desert in bloom is one that God gives, over and over again. It's no accident that the story of the woman at the well told in John's Gospel, the story in which Jesus describes himself as the Living Water 'gushing up to eternal life' (*John 4: 14*) is one of our readings in Lent. Jesus, the living water and the bread of life, promises us that our desert places will bloom as we follow him.

The image of the garden, too, is a really familiar one in the bible. The word 'paradise' in its ancient Hebrew, Persian and Greek forms, originally meant a 'sacred enclosure,' and this sacred enclosure became the idea of a walled garden. They're often special places, suntraps where exotic species can be grown. It's easy to imagine the Garden of Eden as a walled garden, and easy too to see its counterpart in the garden in which Jesus' tomb is situated.

Some of the most beautiful passages of John's gospel focus on the image of God as the gardener and Jesus as the vine, the vine in which we are all invited to abide – to live, and to grow. The imagery is powerful, particularly if we add to it the metaphor of our heart as a garden.

Gardens can be perfect – think of a high summer day in an English garden, birdsong, the scent of newly mown grass. But they can be hard work. Weeds don't stop growing. Sometimes they're just dandelions, but sometimes they're brambles or Japanese knotweed, which need to be rooted out before they get a foothold.

The garden of the heart is the place where we go to meet God – the head gardener – in prayer. It's a shared task, cultivating this garden, and you will be helped in the pruning and the watering and the turning over of the soil. The birds will serenade you as you work and will eat the pests that threaten your plants. The bees will pollinate your flowers for you and the worms will ventilate your soil. They all remind us that the garden does not belong to us, but we belong to the garden. We are not in sole charge of anything, not even ourselves.

The twin images of desert and garden guide my devotions this Lent. Each day I'll be visualising the journey from one to the other, and asking myself;

What is my desert today? Where am I dry, thirsty, searching for living water?

What gives me life? What brings my desert into bloom?

How does my heart, my life, give life and nourishment to others?

What gifts bear fruit in my life and bring joy to others?

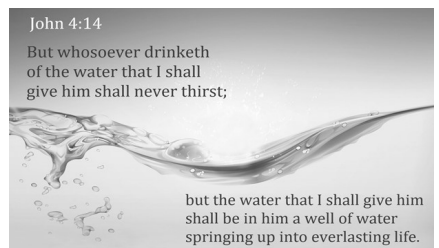
Who shares the sacred space of my heart's garden?

How lovingly do I share the space of others when they invite me to enter their holy ground?

Perhaps you might like to join me, as we set out on the way to the cross together?

Blessings,

Lesley



Volunteers needed now for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal

Marie Curie, the UK's leading charity for people living with a terminal illness and their families, will shortly launch their annual Great Daffodil Appeal, held across the UK every March.



As part of the Great Daffodil Appeal, Marie Curie needs volunteers who will give two hours of their time to help hand out their iconic daffodil pins in return for donations, and get more people than ever wearing the pin.

If you've got two hours to spare, then there may be a location near you and it's a great way to engage in your local community and support those in need.

Every donation and daffodil worn helps Marie Curie provide much-needed expert care to people with terminal illnesses, as well as support for their loved ones.

Marie Curie has a range of services aimed at helping people make the most of the time they have together. These include Nurses that give one-to-one expert care to people at home, nine hospices offering inpatient and outpatient care, spiritual and bereavement support, and, a free telephone support line. The charity says that the appeal is urgently needed as one in four people currently don't receive the care and support they need at the end of their life, and with the population getting older; demand on the charity's services is set to increase.

More details at: www.mariecurie.org.uk/collect or call free on 0800 304 7025. If you or someone you know would like help from Marie Curie, call Support Line on 0800 090 2309.

The man who invented self-raising flour

Henry Jones, a baker from Bristol, was granted a patent for his invention of self-raising flour 175 years ago, on 17th March 1845.

Jones was born in Monmouth, Wales, but he established a bakery in Broadmead, Bristol. His formula for making self-raising flour – essentially a process of baking without yeast – was granted a patent in 1845, and by the end of 1846 it was a runaway success, and he was soon supplying patent flour and biscuits to Queen Victoria.



He was granted a patent in the USA in 1849, and in 1852 the first gold medal for the new flour was issued to a Chicago firm using the Bristol formula, but his greatest opponent was the British Admiralty. Jones pointed out in detail and at length the benefits to seamen of using the new flour instead of the hard biscuits they were used to, and he received a great deal of support from individual captains and many prominent people.

But it was not until 1855, when his flour was used in the Crimean War – partly at the request of Florence Nightingale – and was so effective in saving lives and improving food supplies, that it got the grudging acceptance of the Admiralty.

Source The Parish Pump

The age of English churchgoers keeps growing

The numbers of churchgoers in England who are under 45 will have shrunk from 44% in 2010 to 38% this year, 2020, and down to 31% by 2030, if present trends continue.

In England in 2005, 39% of churches had no-one attending under 11 years of age, 49% no-one attending between the ages of 11 and 14, and 59% no-one attending between the ages of 15 to 19. "Half the Church of England parishes had no work among young people in 2005," said an official Anglican publication. These figures are for Sunday attendance, so mid-week numbers are excluded.

The key issue is whether present trends will continue. Many teenagers left the church in the 1980s and many children under 15 in the 1990s. 20 or 30 years later there is a dire absence of those in their 30s and 40s, and no sign of younger replacements. The need to reach out to young people is obvious and something that the church is increasingly taking on board in such initiatives as the young family orientated "Messy Church," the employment of Youth and Children's Workers, etc.

All Saints Parish Church

**Traidcraft Big Brew
Coffee Morning**

Stalls
Fairtrade produce
Raffle
Bottle Stall
Cakes
Refreshments

*Wednesday March 11th
9:30-11:30
Please support a worthy cause!*

PARISH REGISTERS Lanchester and Burnhope

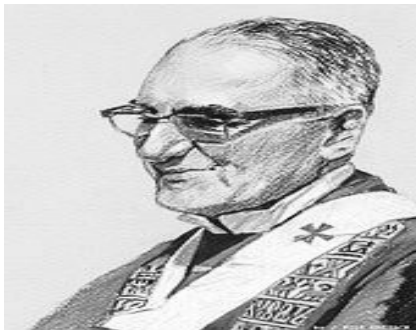
Baptisms

26th January Emily Susan Austin



"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

Remembering the martyrdom of Oscar Romero



Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador, was shot dead by a gunman as he celebrated Mass in a hospital chapel 40 years ago, on 24th March 1980.

The Archbishop was widely known for speaking out against poverty, social injustice, torture and assassinations during a struggle between left-wing and right-wing forces. No-one was ever convicted of the shooting, though the Truth Commission for El Salvador suggested that extreme right-wing politician Roberto D'Aubuisson might have given the order.

Romero was regarded as a hero by supporters of liberation theology, though his biographer said he adhered to traditional Catholic teachings. Seen as a social conservative at his appointment in 1977, he was deeply affected by the murder of his fellow priest Rutilio Grande a few weeks later.

In 2010, the UN proclaimed 24th March 'International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims' in recognition of Romero's defence of human rights. He is recognised by other Christian denominations, including the Church of England, through the liturgical calendar.

Source The Parish Pump



*Lanchester
All Saints'
& Burnhope*

**FAMILIES
WELCOME**

CEILIDH

With



***In the Social Club
On Saturday 25th April 7:00 to
10:30pm***

***RAFFLE, BAR, TOMBOLA,
FAITH SUPPER
BRING FOOD TO SHARE***



Tickets £7.50

From Social Committee Members
Rob Matthews 01207 771044
Margaret Walters 01207 521214

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

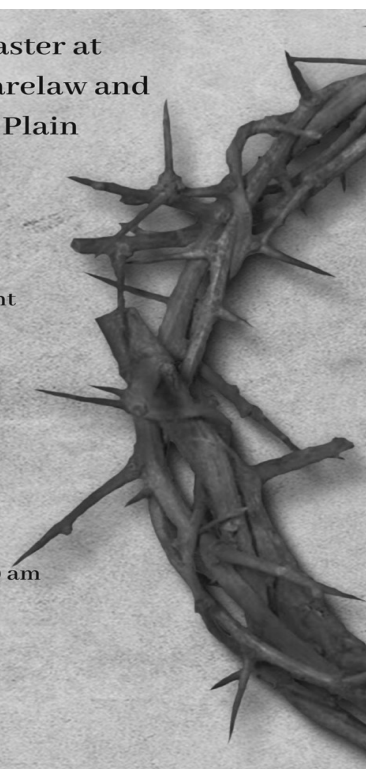
Lent and Easter at St Thomas' Harelaw and Annfield Plain

Ash Wednesday
Eucharist with Ashing
9:30am

Each Wednesday in Lent
Lent Course with light
lunch 12:30 in the
Community Room

Holy Week
Monday 9:30 am
Tuesday 9:30 am
Wednesday 9:30 am
Maundy Thursday 9:30 am
Good Friday 9:30 am

Easter Day
Festal Eucharist 9am



NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester



At our last meeting in February, The Revd. Ruth Crofton had us fascinated by the stories of her visits (7 in total) to the Sinai Desert illustrated with beautiful items of jewellery and embroidered bags made by the talented women of Sinai. Our next meeting on Wednesday 11th March will be a talk and power point presentation by Richard Pears entitled 'Follies and Funny Folk'. Sounds fascinating ! Do come and join us we look forward to seeing everyone.

Audrey Newton

Mothers' Union St John's Burnhope



Our February meeting was held on Monday the 3rd. We commenced our meeting with the Wave of Prayer service. Mothers' Union tributes were collected. Tentative dates have been suggested for our yearly events -

Strawberry Supper - 9th July.

Pie and Pea Supper - 8th October

Christmas Fair - 29th November.

Mrs Park has been given St, John's church magazines dating back to 1949. They made very interesting reading, especially to those members who were teenagers at the time.

Muriel Molloy

Thanks.

A huge thank you to everyone in this wonderful church family for all your support and love during the last two years when Malcolm was living with cancer. The friendship he enjoyed at church made a real difference. Thank you for all the cards, messages, flowers, lifts and hugs since he died. A special thank you to the church wardens and their team who worked extremely hard to prepare the church for the funeral, made hot drinks for people who arrived early after long journeys, and put the church back to normal afterwards. Thank you all for your continuing love and many acts of kindness which are helping me and my family cope with our loss.

Lorna Berry

Lent at All Saints, Saint John's and Saint Thomas'

Lent is traditionally a time when Christians take up a spiritual discipline, whether it be daily prayer, penance or study. This year we're offering some exciting opportunities to deepen our discipleship by a variety of Lent courses;

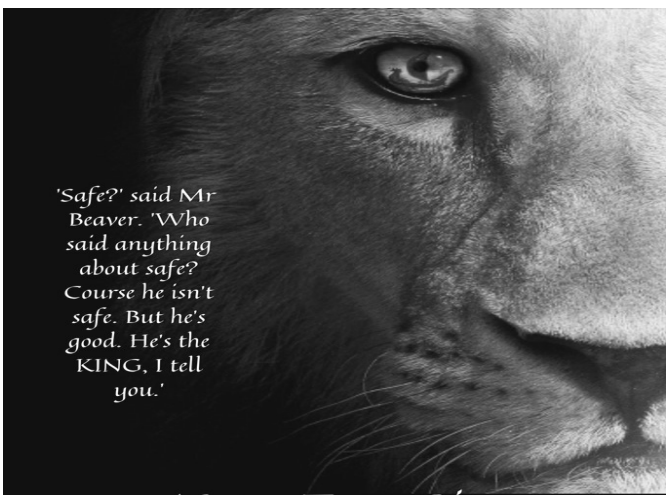
St Thomas' Harelaw; 'Not a Tame Lion a Lent Course based on the writings of CS Lewis, famous for his Narnia books, 'Till we Have Faces,' 'Surprised by Joy' and a range of apologetics. 12:30 each Wednesday in Lent in the community room, with a free light lunch suitable for vegetarians, vegans and those who are gluten intolerant;

All Saints Lanchester; Compline with reflections on fine art every Tuesday in Lent, 7pm; connect with the great themes of Lent in the beautiful surroundings of All Saints as we look at art together;

Churches Together Lanchester; Lent Lunches each Tuesday in Lent, based at Lanchester Methodist Church with a traditionally-styled bible study based on the Gospel according to St Matthew;

Stations at Five; each Sunday at 5 we'll enter into the mysteries of the Passion by walking the Stations of the Cross together- rotating between All Saints Parish Church, All Saints Roman Catholic Church, and St Theresa's, Annfield Plain.

Lent begins in Eucharists with imposition of Ashes at St Thomas' Harelaw, 9:30am and All Saints Lanchester 7pm. If you'd like any further details about any of our courses or services, please ask **Lesley** (01207 529166)



'Safe?' said Mr Beaver. 'Who said anything about safe? Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the KING, I tell you.'

Not a Tame Lion
a Lent Course based on the works of CS Lewis
St Thomas' Harelaw and Annfield Plain
Wednesdays in Lent, 12:30, including light lunch

100 Club

The winning numbers all £5.00 prizes in the February Draw were:

6,26, 54, 55,79,105



(There are still numbers available. If anyone is interested see Sue, or Olga.)

Sue Smith and Olga Walker



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

As I write this article we are fast approaching Fairtrade Fortnight beginning on February 23rd. Please continue to give your support to Traidcraft.

As I mentioned in last month's magazine, this year the Big Brew Coffee Morning is on Wednesday March 11th from 9.30am - 11.30am. Stalls will include Bottle Tombola, Cakes, Raffle and Fairtrade produce.

Coming soon are Easter Eggs and Easter Cards. My apologies for the lack of stock at the moment. It will have been replenished by the time you read this article. Meanwhile if anyone has anything to donate for the bottle stall, or a raffle prize, or even try their hand at baking, everything will be gratefully accepted for this event.

Olga Walker

Men's Forum

Future dates and Venues

20th April Consett Golf Club
Organiser John Boyle 01207 592759

29th June Sunnyside Club
Organiser Rev. Peter Waterhouse 0191 4886653

21st September Roseberry Golf Club
Organiser Rev. John Lintern 0191 3702146

30th November Hobson Golf Club
Organiser Roy Beckwith 01207 270773

Reminders will appear in the Parish Magazine and Pew sheets with deadline dates for notifications.



Church Wives Group

'March' and it is time to march into Spring
And be glad for all that it will bring.
More birds will be flying around.
More flowers emerging from the ground.
The buds on the trees will be clearly seen
The grass will be looking much more green
Our Wives Group is alive and well
For you good speakers I can tell
On the 12th 'A Weaver went to War'
Lynn Lampart tells us what she saw
On the 26th Judy Summerson sheds light
Upon the 'Return of the Famous Red Kite'.
March into Spring hold your head up high
Best foot forward, no time to sigh...

Brenda Craddock

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer which has been celebrated in our village for 50 years on the first Friday in March is going to be a little different this year. In recent years the number attending this annual service has declined and in order to rejuvenate it the committee is trying something different. The service will take place in the evening of March 4th, from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in the Methodist Church. This is the night of their Wives and Friends meeting and so we would like the women's groups from the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches to join them there and of course anyone else who is interested. A warm welcome will be given to anyone and everyone who attends. Members of the women's groups will lead the service and anyone who would like to be part of the singing group to help with the hymns would be most welcome. They will need to come to the Methodist Church at 6.30pm for a short practice. Please try to come as it really is a nice service and is a time of valuable Christian Fellowship with members of our other village churches. There will be a cup of tea or coffee and biscuit after the service. We would love to see you.

Brenda Craddock.



Gifts for mothers on Mothering Sunday

This year, you can either buy special gifts for your mother from Mothers' Union, or else remember your mother by sending a gift to Mothers Union to help empower women around the world.

More details at: <https://www.mothersunion.org/mothering-sunday-resources>

FUTURE EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE

*Do come and join us
for lunch
11.30-1pm*



*Thursday
5th March*

*Thursday
2nd April*

*Prayers in Church at 12.45pm
Church open for Private Prayer
from 11.30 onwards
All Welcome*



“LIVING CHRISTIANITY”
Following Jesus in every area of life

3rd March at 7.30 pm
“Christians and the world”
23 Humberhill Drive

5th May at 7.30pm
“Christians and work”
41 Foxhills Crescent

Do come and join us

Lanchester Meditation Group

Come along and join us as we explore

Meditation and Mindfulness

**All Saints Parish Church
Durham Road**

**Weekly Meditation and
Mindfulness Drop in.**

**Every Tuesday 11-15am
In The Chapter House
All Welcome**

**30 Minutes of simple meditation
and
mindfulness exercises, Coffee and
time to chat**



**Julian
Prayer
Meetings**

*2pm in the
Chapter House*

9th March

11th May

Everyone is welcome

Do Come and Join us

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH LANCHESTER

CHILDREN BRING YOUR GROWN-UPS

FOOD

PRAISE

SONG

Messy
CHURCH

FUN

ARTS &
CRAFTS

STORIES

Sunday 22nd March

**Sunday
29th March
In the Chapter House
All Saints Church**

Café Church

**Bring your favourite reading and
snacks /sweet things to share**

**6.00pm
Everyone welcome**

Lent and Easter at All Saints Lanchester and Burnhope St John

Ash Wednesday
Eucharist with Ashing,
All Saints 7pm

Each Tuesday in Lent
Compline with
Refection, All Saints
7pm

Holy Week at All Saints
Palm Sunday 10:30
Monday 7pm
Tuesday 7pm
Wednesday 7pm
Thursday 7pm
Friday 11am Burnhope
St John, 2pm All Saints
Sunday Joint Festival
Eucharist 10:45am



Sponsored Bible Reading In Lanchester Parish Church Thurs 26th March

**6am to 6pm
Refreshments available in the
Chapter House 10am - 12 noon
and 2-4pm**

All proceeds to Church Funds



Please volunteer to read for half an hour, help to make tea and coffee for visitors or simply come, sit quietly and listen as part of your personal Lenten discipline.

For further details see Margaret Walters or phone 01207 521214



From the Archives

An Extract from Lanchester Parish Magazine August 1896

“On Wednesday, July 1st, the Choir Excursion took place; advantage was taken of a cheap train from Armfield (sic) Plain to Bamburgh. It was an uninviting morning at 4 o'clock, when all intending passengers had to be stirring in order to reach the Station at 5-45, but as soon as Maiden law was reached our spirits rose with the rising mist, and it was not long ere the sun shone out in all his warmth and glory; once through Newcastle the journey was not a long one, and a pleasant walk brought us in full view of the grand old Castle, with its massive Norman Keep, that in days of old, played so important a part in the history of Northumbria. The morning was spent in looking about generally, admission to the Keep being granted by the present tenants, and many articles and points of interest were displayed; the Castle is being thoroughly overhauled and restored by the owner, Lord Armstrong of Elswick fame, and it was the opinion of some that they would rather like to spend a holiday time as employed upon the work of restoration, judging from the easy way in which some of the workmen spent their day. Then, after a capital dinner in pic-nic fashion not far from the sea, longing eyes were cast upon the Farne Islands, so near and yet so far, for it was too rough to cross over even this narrow bit of sea; of course, the fine old church was visited, with the tomb of Grace Darling hard by, and then by 9 o'clock we were settling down in the train again for home, which was reached at midnight after a very enjoyable outing. On the invitation of the Vicar the Bell Ringers joined the excursion, and one and all expressed themselves as having spent a pleasant day.”

Peter Smith

Prayers

When my daughter was young, she was glad to say her prayers, but she always worried whether God would know which little girl she was. One night after the usual 'Amen', she dropped her head upon her pillow and closed her eyes. After a moment she said, "Lord! This prayer comes from 203 Seldon Ave. I'll get you the postcode tomorrow."



Smile Lines

Do you have memories of Burnhope?

People often think that their memories and stories are of no interest to others, but this couldn't be further from the truth. The Burnhope Heritage Project aims to explore life in Burnhope from the 1840s right up to the present day and bring both older and younger residents together around their shared history and heritage.

Since the project's launch in early 2019, Burnhope Primary School, members of several community groups and individual residents have actively supported and participated in an extensive programme of exciting events and activities.

Currently a small, but dedicated, team of volunteers make up our research team who are delving into the fascinating history of the village, exploring census data, early newspaper reports, school life and the hidden histories of Burnhope's past.

Each month, the research team attends training and research sessions at Durham Record Office or venture off for external research trips, such as Durham Mining Museum and the Mining Art Gallery in Spennymoor.

Some of this research has already been used to create exciting sessions for Burnhope Primary School, begin a free after-school club for children and older family members and to create fun family activities at the Burnhope Community Centre.



Could your experience help young people?

There's plenty coming up over the next few months and there are opportunities for all past and present Burnhope residents to be involved. We'd love to find some more volunteers and would like to encourage older people to share their skills, memories and local stories with the young people within Burnhope. If you would like to be involved and can spare a little time, even just an hour, then please get in touch.

The project is running until December 2020, is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Durham County Council, and delivered by Age UK County Durham.

For more information please contact Lorna Bussey on 0191 374 6560 or

lorna.bussey@ageukcountydurham.org.uk



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



February half-term is nearly with us already and, once again, the children and staff are all ready for a break. It is quite appropriate that our homework challenge which we posted on twitter for our families over the half-term is to share a Random Act of Kindness. This is something which we try to instil into all of our children during their time with us – being kind is a value which is integral to a happy and successful life.

We are currently advertising for the post of an Assistant Head Teacher. The governing body decided to appoint an Assistant Head (which is a senior position below the Deputy Head Teacher) to help our growing school continue to be as effective as possible. This is an exciting appointment and interviews will be held at the end of March. I look forward to being able to introduce them to you as soon as this has been decided.

On Monday 27th January, we welcomed a very special visitor to our school. Sigmund ‘Sigi’ Ciffer is a 94 year old holocaust survivor who lives in London and he came to Lanchester for the afternoon to talk to over 125 schoolchildren from a number of different north-east schools. What a wonderfully warm, genuine and kind gentleman he is. Listening to him talk about losing 6 of his 9 siblings as well as his parents in the concentration camps and yet still be able to forgive the Nazis – was a very powerful message to us all. His main aim is to inspire children to be resilient, compassionate and forgiving individuals. BBC Radio Newcastle also interviewed him, broadcasting it later the same week. A very special afternoon for all of us fortunate to be present. at the event.

Our new curriculum, which we introduced in September, is proving very popular with our children. Topics such as Paws, Claws and Whiskers and Moon Zoom for our younger children have really inspired them to complete some excellent work. In fact, I have just written almost 50 Head Teacher Postcards which will be on their way to some very proud parents!

Next half term is already proving to be very busy. We have more exciting topics in our curriculum to be covered as well as 6 residentials. Visits to Ford Castle for Year 6, Birdoswald Roman Fort for Year 3, Alnwick Castle and Gardens for Year 4, Denmark and Hungary for some very lucky Year 5 children as well as a week’s skiing to the French Alps for children and parents from Year 4-6 will make for another very busy time both in school and out!

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher, Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School

Garden trends for 2020

What plans do you have for your garden this year? Probably you will slow down on the digging, and maybe try making some mud pies by your new bee hotel instead. These are among the predictions of The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

The RHS reports a growing desire among gardeners to keep their soil healthy by adopting a ‘no dig’ philosophy, which limits damage to soil structure and wildlife.

As for mud pies, the RHS hopes that more parents will tempt their children into the garden to enjoy themselves with simple fun, and also to enjoy the benefits of soil bacteria on their immune system.

And bee hotels? They are just one of many ways in which we can take positive steps towards helping nature. Gardens need to be a bit less tidy, with seed heads left for the birds to eat, fallen logs left for the hedgehogs and beetles to sleep in, and piles of dead grass and weeds for our woodlice and other small crawlies. Gardens also need simple ponds, and plants for pollinators. Clipped shrubs, manicured lawns and pesticides do not help nature at all.

As Guy Barter, RHS chief horticulturalist says: “There’s a rising tide of concern about the environment.... In the garden at least we can have some control. Now we are all wildlife gardeners, helping songbirds, helping beetles and woodlice.”

Source The Parish Pump



‘He gave us eyes to see them’: woodcut from Cologne Bible of 1478

The RSPCA was the first national animal welfare society in the world and was founded in 1824 by an Anglican priest, the Revd Arthur Broome. He asked the question, ‘Can the infliction of cruelty on any being which the Almighty has endued with feelings of pain and pleasure consist with genuine and true benevolence?’

This month we focus on the story of Balaam and his donkey in Numbers 22. Balaam has not heeded God’s will, and as he journeys, an angel bars his way. Balaam cannot see the angel, but his donkey can. Three times the animal turns away. Three times he is beaten by his owner, and eventually the donkey asks, ‘Why are you beating me when I have served you faithfully?’ Balaam’s eyes are opened: he sees the angel and his heart repents.

This story is captured in a vivid woodcut from the Cologne Bible of 1478. It was a translation into



Low German and enhanced by colourful illustrations. We can see Balaam on his donkey in the countryside. He has raised his hand to strike, unaware that the donkey has seen the angel of God. As we look and ponder this story, we can remember that cruelty and abuse mark out life today with children, vulnerable adults, and all creatures great and small. The donkey calls us to think of how we treat creation around us.

Donkeys can be stubborn, but they are also signs of humility, patience and hard work. It might be Dapple with Sancho Panza in the story of Don Quixote, or Tim Moore travelling the camino with his donkey in ‘Spanish Steps.’ And in the Gospels, we recall the donkey in the Christmas story and the donkey that bore Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. We celebrate that day next month: the humble donkey sharing in the triumph of that entry, just as he shares with all animals in the wonder of creation. G K Chesterton’s poem reminds us that the donkey may be starved, scourged and derided, but he had that special hour of glory. ‘There was a shout about my ears and palms before my feet.’

Real Easter Eggs celebrate their 10th birthday!

The Real Easter Egg campaign has been running since 2010 and involves thousands of churches, schools and groups. It crosses all denominations and offers individuals a simple way to share the Easter Story while supporting Fairtrade and charitable projects.

The idea began in 2008 when I was given a chocolate Easter Egg. On the side of the box it read: ‘Easter is the festival of chocolate and loveliness’. I began to wonder – was it right for the manufacturer of an Easter egg to change the meaning of a religious festival in this way? Imagine the outcry if this had been done to Christmas.

I searched for an Easter egg which mentioned the Christian story of Easter. It became clear that out of the 80 million eggs on sale there was not a single manufacturer who was willing to mention the religious aspects of the festival. So, I started The Meaningful Chocolate Company to manufacture the UK’s first ‘Real Easter Egg’.

For it to be a ‘Real Easter Egg’, it had to reflect the Easter themes of hope and new life and do three things – have a copy of the Easter story in the box, be made from Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable causes.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010. It was a struggle, as the supermarkets turned down the idea. It was left to churches and schools to place orders and fund the making of The Real Easter Egg.

Ten years on, more than a million eggs have been sold, with over 750,000 eggs sent through the post directly to customers. The rest have been sold through retailers and supermarkets.

Nearly £275,000 has been donated to charitable projects with Fairtrade Premium fees paid to farmers allowing them to buy everything from school-books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

For Easter 2020, there are five types of Real Easter Eggs available, all with new content. Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. There is a new 24-page version in the Original and Dark eggs with activities, biblical text and a prize competition worth £200. There is a poster activity version of the Easter story in the Sharing Box and Fun Pack and a simple guide version in the Special Edition. Both the Original and Dark 2020 eggs are plastic-free and all our chocolate is Palm Oil free.

This year churches are encouraged to read more or order at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

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)



Dates for your Diary March 2020

March

Sun	1st	6.00 pm	
Tues	3rd	12.00-1.30pm	Methodist Church
Tues	3rd	7.00pm	All Saints Church
Wed	4th	12.30-1.30pm	St Thomas Harelaw
Wed	4th	2.00 pm	All Saints Church
Wed	4th	7.00 pm	Chapter House
Thurs	5th	11.30 am	Chapter House/Church
Sun	8th	10.30 am	All Saints Church
Mon	9th	2.00 pm	Chapter House
Tues	10th	11.15 am	Chapter House
Tues	10th	12.00-1.30pm	Methodist Church
Tues	10th	7.00 pm	All Saints Church
Wed	11th	9.30-1130	Chapter House
Wed	11th	12.30-1.30pm	St Thomas Harelaw
Wed	11th	7.30 pm	Chapter House
Thurs	12th	7.30 pm	Chapter House
Sun	15th	3.45pm	Chapter House/Church
Tues	17th	11.15 am	Chapter House
Tues	17th	12.00-1.30pm	Methodist Church
Tues	17th	7.00 pm	All Saints Church
Wed	18th	12.30-1.30pm	St Thomas Harelaw
Wed	18th	7.00 pm	Chapter House
Thur	19th	7.00 pm	Burnhope Comm Centre
Sun	22nd	10.30 pm	All Saints Church
Tues	24th	11.15 am	Chapter House
Tues	24th	12.00-1.30pm	Methodist Church
Tues	24th	7.00 pm	All Saints Church
Wed	25th	12.30-1.30 pm	St Thomas Harelaw
Thurs	26th	6 am -6pm	All Saints Church
Thurs	26th	7.30 pm	Chapter House
Sun	29th	10.30am	St John's Burnhope
Tues	31st	11.15 am	Chapter House

Service for Christian Unity

Lent Lunch,
Compline with reflection on fine art.
Lent course and Lent Lunch..
Deanery Quiet Afternoon.
Standing Committee.
Open House.
Parish Eucharist.
Julian Meeting.
Meditation and Mindfulness Drop In.
Lent Course and Lent Lunch.
Compline with reflection on fine art.
Big Brew Coffee Morning.
Lent course and Lent Lunch..
Mothers' Union - Richard Pears 'Follies and Funny Folk',
Church Wives- Lynn Lamport 'A Church Went to War'
Messy Church.
Meditation and Mindfulness Drop In.
Lent Course and Lent Lunch
Compline with reflection on fine art.
Lent course and Lent Lunch
P.C.C Meeting.
Screening of Big Meeting.
Parish Eucharist (Mothering Sunday).
Meditation and Mindfulness Drop In.
Lent Course and Lent Lunch.
Compline with reflection on fine art.
Lent course and Lent Lunch.
Sponsored Bible Reading.
Church Wives Judy Summerson return of the 'Red Kites'.
Family Eucharist Joint Service.
Meditation and Mindfulness Drop In.

The Way of the Cross

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me. ' (Luke 9: 23)

These words of Jesus are spoken at a turning point in the gospel. Jesus challenges the disciples about His identity and their commitment to Him: 'who do the crowds say I am?' (18). It is at this point that He 'resolutely set out for Jerusalem' (9:51). On our journey through Lent, as we look to events of Good Friday and Easter, what are our priorities as Jesus' disciples to be?

To deny ourselves: this means to saying *No* to ourselves and *Yes* to God, as we humbly submit our will to His. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane 'not My will but Yours be done.' (Luke 22:42). It means putting Jesus first in everything: our work, family, ambitions, possessions, marriage, finance and future. We will not be guided by self-interest, but by allowing God to show us how to live in His way.

To take up our cross: this reminds us that the disciple is not immune from suffering, as we follow Jesus along the way of cross. Just as He carried His cross to Golgotha, we cannot avoid experiencing suffering in a fallen world. Every day we are to live in a way that demonstrates to everyone that we have died to ourselves, our selfish ways and ambitions, and seek to live for God. It means breaking old selfish habits and ways of thinking, as we allow God to renew us by His Spirit.

In all of this we cannot lose, because like Jesus, it is only through death that we find God's new life. 'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.'

Jim Elliot

Missing Going to Church?

If you have been used to receiving Holy Communion regularly at church and are now unable to do so for whatever reason you may feel that you are missing out on this important aspect of our church life. We have a team of people, licensed by the Bishop, whose privilege it is to bring the sacrament to people in their own homes. Please contact me and I would be only too pleased to make the arrangements for you.

Pam Baggott (01207 520646)

Book Reviews



The Way of Benedict – Eight Blessings for Lent

By Laurentia Johns OSB, SPCK, £9.99

Our world badly needs Christ's light and peace. One way to bring these blessings to one another is to attend to our own hearts and to learn to live well.

Living Lent well involves turning back to God to receive His blessing. In this deep and practical book, a guide for Lent and the rest of the year, Sr Laurentia distils the sixth-century Rule of St Benedict as a series of blessings. Closely based on Scripture, the Rule highlights that the whole of life has a Lenten character and points to a joyful eternity.

Dust and Glory: Daily Bible readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day **By David Runcorn, BRF, £7.99**

Lent is one of the three 40-day 'seasons' in the Church's year, besides Advent and the period from Easter to Pentecost. The name itself, Lent, derives from an ancient word meaning 'Spring' or 'long', referring to the time of year when days are beginning to lengthen and the world is turning from winter cold and dark to the warmth and promise of Spring. During this time, the Church calls us to a special period of prayer, self-examination and teaching - and this book has been written to accompany you through that period, a time of turning from winter to spring, from death to life.

Soulful Nature - A spiritual field guide **By Brian Draper and Howard Green, Canterbury Press, £14.99**

In our busy, pressured world, the natural world can be a powerful counter-balance, offering wisdom for the challenges, pain and dislocations of life as well as for beauty, wonder and healing.

Soulful Nature encourages you to get outside and make deeper connections with creation and its creator. The authors chart walking journeys through rural landscapes and town streets over the course of a year, showing how the natural cycle of the changing seasons can awaken us to the rhythms of our own lives.

Each chapter explores a different landscape, zooming in on the small details of the natural world as well as panning out to the wide-screen beauty of time and place. Simple and practical spiritual exercises are provided throughout

Prayer Tip for the Month

What has happened to make you feel loved today? And were you able to give a sign of love to another person?



Smile Lines



"I think I've finally become fully accepted here. After 25 years, the villagers have stopped calling me, The new incumbent !"

Prayer for help and healing

Father,
You are always loving, always generous and kind to your children.
Please have mercy on us in these times of turmoil and division.
Help us to be tolerant and understanding of those who have different, sincerely-held opinions.
And guide our leaders so that your will be done in our country and in our relationships with each other and with Europe and the rest of the world.
Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us and heal us. In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



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