

March 2022

Lord Jesus,
in this time of waiting
open our hearts to learn more
of the mystery of your Cross,
strengthen us to follow
in your Way
and draw us ever deeper
into your Love.

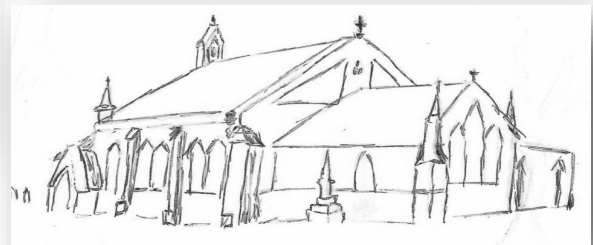


Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

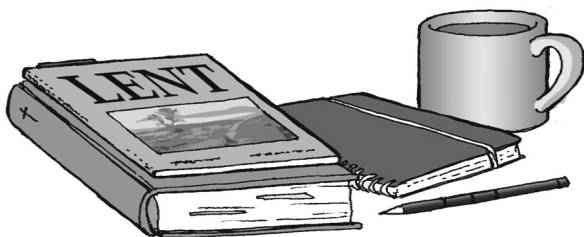
LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE PARISH NEWS with St Thomas Harelaw and Annfield Plain



St. John's Church, Burnhope



St Thomas Church Harelaw



50p monthly or £5 per year

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

Priest in Charge – The Revd Lesley Sutherland

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Curate The Revd Stephen Martin

St Ives Vicarage, St Ives Road, Leadgate, Tel 01207509730

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Doreen Park, 10 West Terrace 438564

Burnhope
Ann Sinclair, Reader Emeritus
Stephen Burt, Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

First and Third Sunday services

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Second and Fourth Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30 am Service of The Word

6.00 pm Evensong

Wednesdays 9.45 am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -

by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st and 3rd Sunday 9.15 am Said Eucharist

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

4th Sunday 9.15am Service of the word

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

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Robert Matthews 7 Prospect Terrace 771044

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Doreen Park 10 West Terrace Burnhope 438564

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Maiden Law

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Cottages Leadgate 07894515112

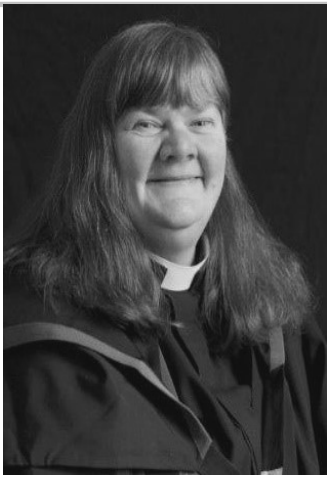
MEN'S FORUM See noticeboard or pew sheets for notifications and details

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



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

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



The Cuban Missile Crisis began four days after my first birthday. It lasted for only a month and four days, as Russia and the US danced perilously on the edge of nuclear war; but it is my first memory. I don't remember the facts of it; but simply the emotional atmosphere. I knew my mam and dad were frightened; I knew that something was wrong. I grew up with a subliminal fear that reignited when the cold war became hotter in the 1980s. I wonder what it was like to be John Fitzgerald Kennedy, an untried young president negotiating successive problems at home and on the foreign stage in the opening years of his presidency? I wonder how he felt, waking each day to the Russian ships steaming closer and closer to Cuba over the deep waters of the Atlantic? I wonder whether Kennedy ever regretted his decision to enter public life, his impulse to leadership, his call to command in an age of tension and change?

Like Kennedy we live in an age of tension and change. Wave after wave of crisis has swept over us for the last two years, and in the last months Arwen, Barra, Corrie, Dudley, Eunice and Franklin have battered our communities and challenged our comfortable assumption that all shall be well. It seems almost too pat, too much of a God-incidence that in this week of storm and disruption the Bible offers us Jesus, asking us to cross with him to shores unknown and probably inimical, and then going to sleep exhausted in the bottom of the boat.

I wonder whether you, like me, have cried out in anger at our sleeping God, as the need for a safe haven and calmer waters becomes all-encompassing? I wonder whether you, like me, have longed for a return to the quiet of the garden and the motherly God who makes people from the earth and from one another? I wonder whether you, like me, question why we can no longer live in mutual regard; unselfconscious and at ease with each another and with God?

There are no pat answers.

And in the midst of the storm, it's hard to trust.

Kennedy, as you know, died in tragic circumstances and far too soon. But he did manage to navigate through the Cuban Missile Crisis. As the Oval Office was being cleared after his death, a copy of a poem by Winfred Ernest Garrison, based on an old Breton Fisherman's prayer, was found.

Thy sea, O God, so great,
My boat so small.
It cannot be that any happy fate
Will me befall
Save as Thy goodness opens paths for me
Through the consuming vastness of the sea.

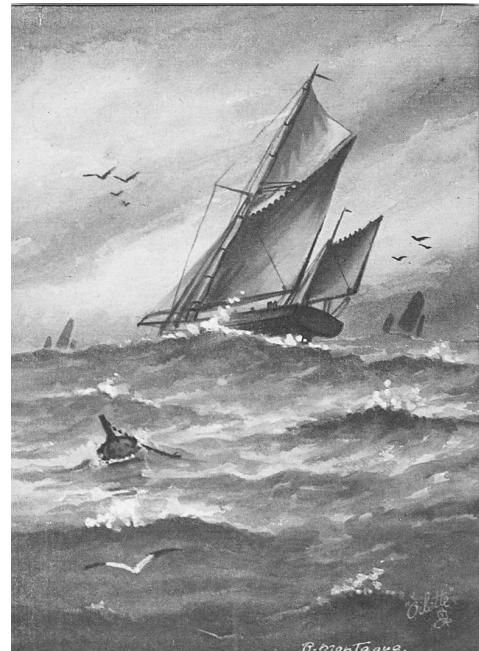
Thy winds, O God, so strong,
So slight my sail.
How could I curb and bit them on the long
And salty trail,
Unless Thy love were mightier than the wrath
Of all the tempests that beset my path?

Thy world, O God, so fierce,
And I so frail.
Yet, though its arrows threaten oft to pierce
My fragile mail,
Cities of refuge rise where dangers cease,
Sweet silences abound, and all is peace.

As Russian troops roll into the Ukraine and the world hovers on the brink once more, perhaps this should be our prayer.

With every blessing,

Lesley



From Revd. Stephen Martin

Promises

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:21-22)



The Gospels show us that baptism has been a part of the church's initiation rite since the time of Jesus. Ritual washing and cleansing was a part of Jewish purification rite earlier, something that Jesus himself would have known. I don't remember anything about my own baptism, but I like many was baptised as an infant. As babies or even young children we are incapable of making the baptism promises for ourselves hence our parents and godparents make the necessary promises on our behalf.

As children there are many things our parents do for us in life and, as we mature, we become more independent and want to do those things for ourselves. For many this means making those baptism promises for ourselves before God and in the Church of England there is a special service called Confirmation where the individual is able to affirm those promises.

Confirmation usually takes place in a special service in your own church, at the cathedral or in another parish church. There will be hymns, readings and sometimes those being confirmed talk about their faith. After the Bishop has laid hands on each person's head there will be special prayers – then there will be often some celebratory refreshments to follow!

I remember my confirmation which took place in St Lawrence's Church, Pitington in 1993. It was a special service, and I was confirmed with other people who felt the same as me. Leading up to the confirmation service our parish priest led some group sessions as we explored those promises our parents and godparents made on our behalf. We looked at what it meant to be a Christian and how we can build our own relationship with God. For me the important session was talking about what those promises meant and realising those promises are a response to the many promises God has made to us.

Baptism is only the first step on a lifelong journey, a journey we make as part of a community and encouraging one another. Over the next few months take some time to think about your journey and those around you who are journeying with you, pray and ask God if it's time for you to make those promises for yourself.

If you would like to be confirmed or would like to talk to me about confirmation, please don't hesitate to contact me on 01207509730 as we hope to begin confirmation classes soon.

Stephen

Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) celebrates its first 100 years

The work of BRF recently featured in BBC One's long-running programme *Songs of Praise*. Presented by Kate Bottley, the programme explored the power of the Bible to transform lives. It included features highlighting BRF's ministries, Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith and Messy Church, along with interviews with chief executive Richard Fisher, Anna Chaplaincy founder Debbie Thrower and BRF author Amy Boucher Pye.

BRF has its roots in St Matthew's Church in Brixton, south London, where, towards the end of 1921, the vicar, the Revd Leslie Mannering, was talking with a member of the congregation about the spiritual needs of the church. What could be done to help people 'get a move on' spiritually?

In January 1922, the Fellowship of St Matthew was launched, with the aim of encouraging spiritual growth through prayer, Bible reading and communion. Leslie Mannering produced a leaflet of daily Bible readings, reflections and prayers which, as Richard Fisher explains in the programme, “had such a transforming effect on his congregation that before long other churches in the area started asking if they could have copies for their own congregations.”

After the programme Richard commented: “We are so delighted with the *Songs of Praise* programme that featured BRF's centenary. Many people have been in touch following the broadcast and we've been very moved by the messages and encouragements that we've received about BRF's ministry.”

In the years following 1922 the BRF work grew into a worldwide ministry. Even today, the encouragement and resourcing of daily Bible reading remains at the heart of BRFs' Living Faith ministry, alongside newer initiatives such as Anna Chaplaincy, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith.

Source The Parish Pump

Lanchester and Burnhope

Funerals

16th February

Richard Downs aged 66 years

'May he rest in peace and rise in glory'



Baptisms

6th February

Sebastian Usher at All Saints

6th February

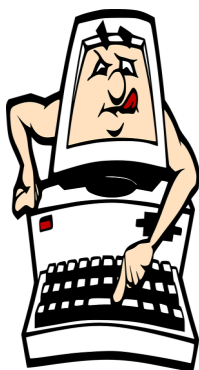
Jacob Usher at All Saints



"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Computer Swallowed Grandad!

The computer swallowed Grandad!
Yes! Honestly! It's true!
He pressed Control and Enter –
And disappeared from view!



It devoured him completely
The thought just makes me squirm!
He must have caught a virus
Or been swallowed by a worm!

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even searched the internet
But nothing did I find.

I went to Mr Google
My searches to refine.
His reply was in the negative,
'Nothing found' was Google's line.

So, if inside your inbox
My Grandad you should see –
Please copy, scan, and paste him
And send him back to me!

Nigel Beeton

Children's Aprons for Sale

Lovely cotton fabrics

Over 50 sold already

3 sizes (excluding straps):

16 inch length for 2-4 year old £2.50

20 inch length for 5-7 year old £3

24 inch length for 8-12 year old £4

All proceeds to Church Funds

Ring Margaret on 521214

Jubilee Project

Plans are underway to get members of the community and community groups involved in a special project for the coming Jubilee Celebrations. We are going to make a wool rug using the latchet hook method. Some of you may know it as Red-dicut although this wool is not cut!

In the bowels of my garage I have four tea chests full of carpet wool of a myriad of colours, that came from Hugh McKay's Durham factory (only the best) more than thirty years ago. It was bought by my father who made many wool rugs over the years. Now seems like an opportune moment to put what is left to good use.

We have approached the EP school and with the art teacher will invite the children to make a design. Once we have a design then we can decide on the size of the rug and purchase the canvas.

Then the work starts. The design will be transferred onto the canvas. We will need volunteers to cut and tie the wool into bundles and sort colours as appropriate. We envisage setting up a corner in the Chapter House and invite anyone interested to come and tie in some tufts.

I have in my possession six latchet hooks and one template for winding the wool onto. If anyone else has any wooden templates it would make life easier if there were several of us cutting the wool.

Please let me know if you wish you or your group to take part.

Watch this space for further information.

Sue Smith

75
Platinum

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester



At our last meeting our speaker was the Revd. Stephen Martin who told us all about his journey in faith. In December we had a collection of small gifts for patients at Lanchester Road Hospital. Everyone was very generous and the staff and patients were delighted with the gifts and so we decided that we could do something similar for Easter. Instead of individual gifts we are collecting small chocolate eggs such as Cadbury Crème Eggs and will send a basket with our greetings to staff and patients, so any donations would be most welcome. On March 8th our speaker will be Carole Hopkinson, who is the new Mothers' Union President for Durham. Carole will talk to us about the work of A.F.I.A. (Away from it all) and possible future plans for the Diocese. We have invited some MU members from Burnhope to join us and I hope that as many of our members as possible can attend. On April 12th Anthony Atkinson will give a talk about Gertrude Bell – Desert Queen.

Eileen Matthews

Mothers' Union Burnhope



Our meeting was held on Monday the 7th February. Our Centenary Year will be celebrated by having a Choral Evensong at 3pm on Sunday the 24th April.

Members of the Lanchester Deanery will be invited to join us. Mrs Park read from some of the 1988 St John's Church magazines. We all agreed it was good to hear again the thoughts and words of Canon Lindsay.

Muriel Molloy

Padded mobile phone cases

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

All proceeds to Church Funds

Ring Margaret on 521214



The Language of Flowers

Fidelity in Adversity

Wallflower—*Cheiranthus Cheri*

The Wall-flower the Wall-flower,
how beautiful it blooms.
It gleams above the ruined tower,
like sunlight over tombs.

It sheds a halo of repose around the wrecks of time
To beauty give the flaunting rose,
The Wallflower is sublime.

David Macbeth (Delta) Moir



Romance surrounds the wallflower. There is a touching story of a maiden imprisoned in a Scottish castle. She attempted to escape, but fell and died, only to be reborn as this flower, with its richness of colour and velvety petals. The writers of old called it 'Wall-gillyflower' for its flowers have the scent of cloves (gilofre is French for clove) and is much appreciated when it blooms in spring. It signifies fidelity in adversity because it blooms in places where ruin and desolation prevail in the cracks of walls of ancient castles, derelict cottages and crumbling tombstones

"The rude stone fence with fragrant wall-flowre gay"
Hope you enjoy this from my 'Language of Flowers' book.

Audrey Newton

A New Venture

Since the Autumn, thanks to the initiative of Sue and Stephen, the Church has established a monthly Communion Service, held on a Thursday morning (once monthly) at Lynwood House. This has been welcomed by a growing number of residents, especially those with physical disabilities who find it difficult to get to Church. It is held in the large dining room and the circle of chairs is increasing. It is a simple service with readings, prayers and communion, and is open to all. We happily include Catholics and Methodists indeed anyone who feels moved to join our worship. The residents are grateful to the number of Church members who attend and give us support, especially with our hymn singing. It may not be the most musical of renderings but is enjoyed by us—many thanks to Rob and his guitar. Thank you to Lesley for her support and for her joining us in January. May our numbers increase still further. Our heartfelt appreciation to all concerned.



Margaret Rigdon

100 Club News

We are about to start our 100 club draws for 2022. It's not too late to get your numbers if you haven't already done so.



For those of you who don't know this is a club set up by Eric and Hazel Gaskill a good few years ago and which myself and Olga took over two years ago when Hazel and Eric retired.

Participants buy a number costing £10 for the year and this is entered into a monthly draw. We rest for January and August making it £1 each month.

Last year we gave out £635 in prize money and £600 went into church funds. Thank you to all who participate and thank you too to the team of willing helpers who distribute envelopes and collect in subscriptions.

If you would like to join in please see either Sue or Olga for inclusion in this year's fun.

You've got to be in it to win it as they say

Sue Smith and Olga Walker

Tea, Cake and Chat

On Tuesday 22nd February the Chapter House was open for refreshments. Two sittings were offered and we were delighted to see church members coming through the door, and especially those members that we had not seen for a while. As expected there was a generous amount of cakes on offer and much happy conversation as usual. Over £100 was raised for church funds, but the greatest satisfaction came from seeing our members chatting and laughing together.



Eileen Matthews

Julian Prayer Meetings

2pm in the
Chapter House



March – Monday 14th
April – Monday 4th
May – Monday 2nd (May Day Bank Holiday -to be confirmed)
June – Monday 6th
July – Monday 4th

Church Wives

Will March come in like a lion?

And will it go out like a lamb?

I cannot answer those questions

And neither I think you can.

I do know that God is in my future

Whatever that may be

And I will put my trust in Him

Because He alone can see.

Our speakers are not always known to us

When they come to speak.

But all are very well prepared

And our full attention seek.

At our first meeting this month on the 10th of March

The story of 'Margaret Farrington' will be told.

Richard Pears will be interesting as the story he unfolds.

The title on the 24th is given as 'Zest for Life

Ian McCardle, the speaker, on this title will shed light.

When doing a bit of sorting recently of my collection of 'Pearls of Wisdom' which I have gathered over the years, I was delighted to come across some prose in my mother's handwriting. It must be 60 years ago at least when she gave it to me. I love connecting with the past especially if it concerns my parents. Words were always important to my mother just as they are to me.

See what you think!

Beyond Worth.

Money will buy:

A bed without sleep,
Books but not brains,
Food but not appetite,
Finery, but not beauty,
A house but not a home,
Medicine but not health,
Luxuries but not culture,
Amusements but not happiness.

A church pew, but not heaven.

(Author unknown)

The question to ask is how much does money matter in your life. It is of little worth when compared with the fruits of the Spirit which are:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another.

(Galatians 5 v22 23 and 25)

Brenda Craddock



Watch
This
Space

Science and a sense of the Transcendent

What is the difference between a cathedral and a physics lab? Are they not both saying: 'Hello'? - Annie Dillard



Scientists often speak of a reality beyond the objects they are studying, and for some this is encountered in powerful – if rare – episodes of wonder and awe. The Christian writer J.W. Sire quotes this line from Annie Dillard in his book *Echoes of a Voice*, which explores spiritual or ‘transcendent’ experiences.

In his analysis of these experiences Sire describes moments that are “emotional, intellectual, highly charged, usually sudden, unannounced, often odd, some weird, others glorious”, and places them on three different levels:

A material object that points beyond the material reality. For example, someone might develop a sense of what is good and evil, based on the actions of others.

Experience of “something personal...just behind the surface of what we are directly experiencing, often something with which one feels at peace or even at one, or, perhaps, as dangerous or threatening.”

A felt presence that has a specific character or presence, e.g., holiness, or inspiring humility, fearful awe or wonder.

According to Sire, level 1-2 experiences are fairly common but level 3 is rare. He gives a wide range of examples, including scientists. Some of these people are religious or interested in spirituality, others are atheists. Some of their moments of transcendence carried a particular meaning, others simply sparked curiosity.

The famous geneticist Francis Collins described several significant moments when he was young: “being transported by the experience of looking through a telescope”, or “a Christmas Eve where the descant on a particularly beautiful Christmas carol...left me with a sense of unexpected awe and a longing for something I could not name”.

These experiences meant that when Collins was faced with the question of belief in God, “all [his] arguments seemed very thin”. Now, as a fully-fledged scientist and a believer in God, he is able to say that “for a scientist who occasionally is given the remarkable privilege of discovering something not previously known by man, there is a special kind of joy associated with such flashes of insight.”

Most of us are not scientists, but we may well have had experiences like this in different contexts. How can we, in our engagement with scientifically minded individuals, make connections through our shared experience of the transcendent? Can we listen as well as explain, finding some common points of connection?

Source The Parish Pump

From The Churchwardens

The Wardens continue to carry out precautions to ensure that the Church remains safe for our congregations. We continue to provide hand sanitisers for use in Church and maintain supplies of masks whenever they are needed, and remain mindful of the local situation regarding the current figures of pandemic cases within our community.

The repainting work to the corridor and staircase has been completed at a lesser cost than had originally been expected. We intend to carry out redecoration to the Chapter House in due course when we are able to clear a space in the diary. It is good to see that the majority of groups who normally use that space have now returned

The high-level emergency lighting and floodlights have been replaced (by LED units in support of our new ECO policy) It is our intention over the next few months to change all lamps in church to LED bulbs. Heavy winds over the last month have caused a few problems both at All Saints, and St John's. A large tree at the top of All Saints Churchyard adjacent to the houses at the entrance of Deanery View toppled in the heavy wind causing damage to a car parked outside one of the houses. The Council however were quick off the mark, they attended and cleared the debris. There was no damage to the wall but we have been informed by the owner of the car that he is seeking recompense for the damage. We have been in touch with the Council as they are responsible for the maintenance of the closed Churchyard, they are looking into the insurance implications and will report back. We have however notified our own insurers Ecclesiastical Insurance of the situation and have made contact with the car owner. We currently await developments. A couple of trees at St John's were damaged by the wind caused minimal disruption and were dealt with by Rob and Doreen.

The Church seemed to have suffered no damage but whilst checking the bells prior to ringing for the Queens Ascension to the Throne service, it was noticed that a louvre blade in the East Elevation of the tower has been dislodged in the high winds. The wire mesh on the inside remains undisturbed.

We had a surprise visit from the Fire Brigade at All Saints saying they had not been for at least 10 years and would it be possible to do a fire audit. How could we refuse? They looked around the whole Church and Chapter House and vestries checking fire extinguishers, emergency lighting and things in general. They were satisfied that all is well. However, they pointed out that as the photocopier is in the upper vestry and a may be possible source of fire, the fire detector upstairs is on the other side of the fire door on the landing. We should consider having a detector fitted in the upper vestry ceiling linked in to the system. Since the visit we have updated our fire log book which can be found in the vestry filing cabinet.

**For The Churchwardens
Rob Matthews**

Safeguarding is everybody's business



As parish safeguarding officer I wish to bring to everyone's attention this most important subject. It is a popular misconception that it is relating to children but it relates to anyone who is a "vulnerable person". We can all be vulnerable at some times in our lives be it due to physical illness, mental illness, disability to name but a few.

As a result of historical high profile cases of abuse within the church the Church of England has made Safeguarding an item of high priority and it is mandatory for the subject to be discussed at each PCC meeting.

Everyone who takes a leadership role within our church is expected to complete the Church of England's Safeguarding training C2 Leadership. The incumbent, curate, readers, and church wardens are expected to train to this level but includes all who take a leadership role. 11 of us completed this training at Cuthbert House Diocesan Headquarters on 22nd January 2022. We will need to update again in three years.

Members of the PCC are required to do foundation and C1 to fulfill their roles. This training can be done online in a couple of hours: it is not difficult to do and is mainly common sense. If anyone is interested in completing the course the link can be found on

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

You can do it all at one sitting or do a little at a time and return as required. If anyone wishes to do the course and finds the idea of online too daunting please contact me. I am more than happy to guide you through it one to one.

In conclusion Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S business. Anything which does not seem right to you please make either Lesley or myself aware. Let us make our Church and extended family a safe secure and happy place to be. If we can prevent just one episode of abuse of any sort then we have achieved our aims.

Sue Smith



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

During the last two weeks we should have been in the throws of Fairtrade Fortnight and would have had our annual Big Brew Coffee Morning. Unfortunately because of the ongoing pandemic of Covid19, we have not been able to hold this event for a second year running. Let us hope for better things to come. The sale of Traidcraft products is still just ticking over and the stock has been purposely left quite low.

I am in receipt of the new spring catalogue. It lists some really lovely items and includes Easter eggs and cards too. If you would like anything from the catalogue please just ask. If anyone shows an interest in Easter eggs, again please ask, I would be delighted to take orders.

Olga Walker



At last a return to Sunday service ringing and what better way to do this than on Sunday February 6th, the 70th anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Although a sad day for Her Majesty as it came about by the death of her father, King George VI. For centuries church bells have sounded in remembrance and celebration of special occasions. This year 2022 is no exception as bellringers will be marking the Platinum Jubilee by ringing across the UK and Commonwealth during the extended June Platinum Bank Holiday weekend.

On a very sad note on January 29th we learned of the death of fellow ringer and friend Richard Downs, after a short illness. Richard had rung with us for a number of years and was a dearly loved member of our regular Sunday service band. We will miss him very much. His funeral took place on Wednesday February 16th, the church was full to capacity, many friends attended, paying their respects to a kind and gentle man who has been taken far too soon. The bells were rung open in celebration of his life. The bellringers extend our sincere sympathy to his brother Chris and his family.

Olga Walker

Shoes

A timid curate went into a shoe shop to try on some shoes. "Try those – they are just right for you," decreed the very superior sales assistant. The curate struggled to get the shoes fastened, but he failed. The assistant frowned and looked down. "Well, no wonder. Try pulling the tongue out."

"Well, theyth sthille feelth a bith tighth."





An Extract from the Parish Magazine of March 1897

With brighter and longer days we seem to be fast leaving winter behind, and what a strange undecided kind of season it has been, constantly changing; few of us can point to a much worse day for wind and storm than Friday, January 22nd, the papers next day being full of sad news from the sea, and wreckage on land as well; even in our own locality I understand that a cart of hay was bodily overturned, owing to the violent force of the wind; then the Monday following the snow that had fallen to the depth of several inches was swept clean away and lodged in the hedge backs and roadways, causing great inconvenience to travellers, and yet this was as nothing compared to places on the coast, for at Scarborough people had to dig their way out from their houses, and for several days the streets were lined with walls of snow..... Bishop Sandford has very kindly consented to hold a Special Confirmation in our Church in May or June next, and I herewith append some remarks upon the subject of Confirmation from the pen of an able writer, who was a short time ago a Congregational Minister.

Confirmation

There are thousands of Christians in this country who honestly think that they are doing God a service by opposing and ridiculing the rite of Confirmation. To them it is all formalism and superstition; they cannot understand why the Church clings to it and makes so much of it. Perhaps they have been prejudiced against it by the conduct of some confirmed people; perhaps the grave *abuses* of it in past days have blinded them to its *uses*. Anyhow, it has never occurred to them that in resisting it they were actually “resisting the ordinance of God,” and are therefore “fighting against God.” To such persons the following facts which cannot be questioned or denied are submitted by one who once thought much as they do now, in the hope, in the hope that they will weigh them and test them calmly, honestly, and prayerfully. The rite exists among all sorts of Christians, Romans, Nestorians, Anglicans, Lutherans: it is practised in the “Reformed” no less than in the unreformed communions; it is practised among the Protestants of Sweden, Denmark, and Germany; among the Calvinists of France and Switzerland, as well as by Roman Catholics; the rite then exists and all over Christendom. When was it started? The first recorded instance was in the year of our Lord 37. The Apostles began it; St. Peter and St. John started it; in Acts viii 15-17 we find them doing precisely what our Bishops are so much blamed and ridiculed for doing now. They prayed for those who had been baptized; prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost; then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost. A little later we find St. Paul doing the same thing, and with the same result; from that day to this it continued century after century down to the present time.

From time to time I propose giving extracts from the old parish books and registers which cannot fail to entertain and interest all our readers:-

At a meeting of the vestry held on Easter Tuesday, 1798, it was agreed that standard weights and measures should be procured by the Churchwardens and kept in the vestry for the regulation of all weights and measures within this parish.

In 1788, we find, the cost of an umbrella, *a parish umbrella*, namely 17s.

In 1782, Calling the Churchyard wall to be built.

In 1785. A thane and other smith work; thanksgiving for the peace, bell ringing, making, hanging, calling, and lifting Church gates.

Yours faithfully

GEORGE JEPSON, Vicar and Surrogate

Peter Smith

Wear your daffodil to support Marie Curie and the National Day of Reflection

This March the UK's leading end of life charity Marie Curie will once again be asking people across the UK to support its Great Daffodil Appeal.

Money raised from the flagship fundraising appeal will help the charity's doctors, nurses and hospice staff continue their vital work providing expert care

to people at the end of life, and their families. Funds raised also go towards the Marie Curie Information and Support Line, which provides support for people dealing with all aspects of end of life including bereavement.

Last year Marie Curie provided direct support to more than 69,000 people – a 15% rise on the previous year – which is more than ever before.

Marie Curie would like to encourage as many people as possible to give their money or time through volunteering, donating, and fundraising. This could include taking part in a Step into Spring challenge, organising a fundraising event, purchasing products from the Marie Curie online shop, or donating.

This year, for the first time in two years, Marie Curie's volunteer collectors will be back on the streets donning their daffodil hats and selling the charity's iconic daffodil pins.

During the Great Daffodil Appeal, on 23rd March, Marie Curie is inviting everyone in the UK to take part in the National Day of Reflection. It will be a day to come together and support the millions of people who are grieving and remember those we have lost.

You can show your support for the day by wearing a daffodil pin and joining the minute's silence at 12 noon. Or take part by joining one of the many local events happening across the UK or join one of the online talks for inspiration, support and reflection. For more information on the National Day of Reflection and how to support Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal this March, visit: mariecurie.org.uk

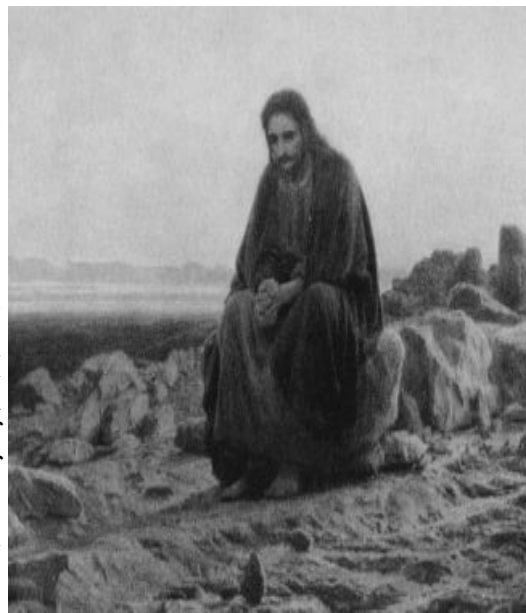
Source The Parish Pump



A Reflection on Lent

We often look on Lent as a time of self-denial - some of us even think of it as an opportunity to lose weight, or do something we've always wanted to do but lost our resolve, or even to show how virtuous we are. After all, here we are surrounded by loads of people pressing us to have that delicious chocolate biscuit - and we have the perfect excuse to say no and look good. But that isn't what Lent is about at all. It isn't an endurance test, or a competition. You don't "win" Lent by giving up more for longer than anyone else.

Lent is a gift. It is a gift generously given by God; an open invitation to make time in our lives to step away from the everyday; away from its pressures and discomforts, its pettiness and distractions, away from its obsession with the material, away from the comforts and luxury that make us lazy and often slapdash. It's difficult to hear God's voice in the empty noise of our busy lives. In Lent, God invites us to do as Jesus did - to make time to be still, and to listen. Sometimes giving something up, or taking a task on, is a concrete reminder that we have accepted that invitation. It focusses us on that stillness, that attention to something outside of ourselves. When Jesus felt driven out into the wilderness, it was not to say to God "Look how much I love you - I put myself through all this pain and suffering just for you." Jesus had been affirmed as God's Messiah, and was compelled to take himself away from the demands of the world, to find out what God wanted of him, and to come to the realisation that he had the strength and the courage to do it. This should be our purpose, too. The Lenten Walk is not a journey away from life - it is a journey towards God, and towards our home in God.



God has a purpose for each of us. At our own baptism God whispers the same words to us as to Jesus. "You are my beloved. My wonderful child. There is nothing I would not do for you.", and we are asked to trust. Trusting is hard. Abraham was asked to trust when he was called into the desert to follow a God only he could hear; Noah also was the only one who heard God's message, and had to bear the mockery of his neighbours and so many frightening days and nights on a world of water. But they trusted, in the face of all odds. Only we can hear our personal message, and it is easy to doubt.

When God extends this invitation to us to trust - to make this journey back towards our home in our Creator, we need to make a conscious effort to spend time with God and to open ourselves to Divine guidance. We must accept that there may be sadness, even pain. As we get closer to God we realise how much it has hurt us to be away. With every step our journey becomes less about us and more about God; less about our own wants and more about God's mercy and constancy.

It's not an easy journey. We are asked to let go - to surrender control to God. It means walking where Jesus walks, and living as Jesus lived. And listening. But this is our God of Surprises. The more we give up, the more we receive. We learn not to be controlled by what the world demands, but to freely follow God. Jesus refused to let Satan influence what he did. He refused to put worldly comforts above God's wishes. When we, too, release ourselves from bondage to the world, and do what we know is right rather than what is easiest or most comfortable, we return to the free, unconditional, undeserved and overwhelmingly generous nature of the love of God. We experience the inner transformation which God brings. We become part of God's continual re-creation of the world.

When we accept God's gift of Lent we are making time to focus on God; time to let love and sharing enter our lives. - THAT is what Lent gives us the opportunity to do. The things that God asks of us are often the opposite of what the world demands, and the world is just too easy to get tangled up in. We take time in Lent to open ourselves to God: not to lose that last persistent half stone, not to cut down our alcohol intake or take more exercise - but to listen. Self-denial is a means to an end, not an end in itself - we do it to make ourselves open and vulnerable; to place our trust in the one who made us; to walk in the steps of Jesus Christ; and to let ourselves be transformed by the experience. To hear once again from God those words, murmured at our baptism - "YOU are my beloved. In you I am well pleased."

Pauleen Meek

Dates for your Diary March 2022

Sunday 6th	9.15am Eucharist St John's. 9.45am Service of the Word St Thomas. 10.30am Parish Eucharist All Saints.
Tues 8th	11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Drop In. 2.00 pm Mothers' Union at All Saints. Carole Hopkinson Diocesan MU President. 6.00pm Café Church Burnhope Community Ctr.
Wed 9th	9.45am Holy Communion All Saints.
Thur 10th	7.30pm Churches Together meeting Methodist Ch. 7.30pm Church Wives All Saints Chapter House. Richard Pears— Life of Margaret Farrington.
Sun 13th	8.00am Holy Communion All Saints. 9.45am Holy Communion St Thomas. 10.45am Joint Service of the Word All Saints. 6.00pm Evensong All Saints
Mon 14th	2.00pm Julian Prayer Meeting Chapter House
Tues 15th	11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Drop In.
Wed 16th	9.45am Holy Communion All Saints.
Thurs 17th	11.00am Lynwood House Holy Communion.
Sun 20th	9.15am Eucharist St John's. 9.45am Service of the Word St Thomas. 10.30am Parish Eucharist All Saints.
Tues 22nd	11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Drop In.
Wed 23rd	9.45am Holy Communion All Saints.
Thur 24th	7.30pm Church Wives All Saints Chapter House. Ian McCardle— Zest for Life—Agatha Christie.
Sun 27th	8.00am Holy Communion All Saints. 9.45am Holy Communion St Thomas. 10.45am Joint Service of the Word All Saints. 6.00pm Evensong All Saints
Tues 29th	11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Drop In.
Wed 30th	9.45am Holy Communion All Saints.

Beware those innocent family board games!

If you want to start a family row, you could always suggest a game of Scrabble. It seems that it is the board game which scores highest in sparking arguments.

But don't underestimate the potential of Cluedo and Monopoly. Apparently, the Royal Family long ago decided not to play Monopoly, because it got too "vicious", according to Prince Andrew in 2008.

If you want to keep calm, better to play Ludo or Risk, which seem to be much more peaceable. The survey of board games was conducted by thortful.com, a greeting card firm.

Source The Parish Pump



A solution for middle-aged depression?



Many middle-aged people struggle with a bit of depression and the vague feeling that they should be closer to their children. But not many middle-aged people turn to skateboarding, as a solution.

Yet a recent study by Exeter University has found that some older people who skateboard say that it has a 'spiritual meaning' in their lives, and that it boosts their well-being and happiness. It seems that skateboarding helps them meet a whole new community of people, and also gives them a new identity that remains separate from other areas of their lives.

As one professor explains: "Skateboarding provides a serious emotional outlet for people who have experienced personal trials in the collapse of long-term relationships, carer challenges, parenthood and substance abuse."

Perhaps one great advantage is that the sport takes it for granted that skateboarders will fall off many times, and so 'failure' is seen as perfectly acceptable.

Source The Parish Pump

THINK FOOD BANK

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

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

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

Sort code 40-52-40

Account number 00022928

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

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

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

And from St Thomas

Mothers' Union St Thomas Harelaw



Mothers' Union met again on Monday 7th February. As there was no speaker the discussion was around different poems. One which created a lively discussion was; "My Ten Commandments" an extract from Spirit Level Elodie Armstrong.

Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.

Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.

Thou shalt not cross bridges before you come to them, for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.

Thou shalt face each problem as it comes, you can handle only one at a time anyway.

Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you for they make very poor bedfellows.

Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems. They can take better care of them than you can.

Thou shalt try to relive yesterday for good or ill – it is gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life today.

Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for lots of small blessings add up to big ones

Thou shalt be a good listener; for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you're talking.

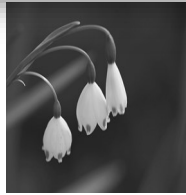
Thou shalt not get bogged down with frustration, for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and it will only interfere with positive action.

Jane Makepeace

Snowdrops

O little snowdrops small and white
You really are a lovely sight
You're delicate and frail yet very strong

And every year you come along
To brighten up the wintry days
To you I give eternal praise.



Though all the rain and frost you stand
With your head held high looking very grand
Even the snow storms don't get you down
And as the days go on, I wear a frown
Thinking that you won't survive
But you prove me wrong, as you come alive.

Then the morning sun comes shining through
Making everything around look all brand new
The gentle breeze makes you dance and sing
And fills my heart with the thoughts of Spring
You give me strength to carry on
And to know the winter will soon be gone.

Angela Graham (St Thomas)

Take your holiday at home – but beware

A 'staycation' sounds so safe. But recent data from NHS Digital reveals that people who engage in outdoor leisure activities in the UK may then risk getting struck by lightning. Strikes and injuries increased sixfold in 2020.

Of course, the likelihood of you being hit by lightning in the UK is still at about 1.2 in a million. But it rises significantly if you go on outdoor leisure activities such as hill walking, fishing and camping. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) reports that people are mostly struck by lightning either just before or just after the peak of a storm, when they think they are safe. And the Met Office has warned that it is a myth that lightning never strikes the same place twice, or that it always strikes the tallest object around.

Most deaths occur among young people aged 20 – 29 during outdoor activities. The majority of lightning strikes occur from May to August, and more than a quarter of people who get hit, get hit on a Sunday.

But lightning is not the only peril of a staycation. In 2020, thousands of us ended up in A&E needing treatment for injuring ourselves with a power tool or having been bitten by a dog.

Source The Parish Pump

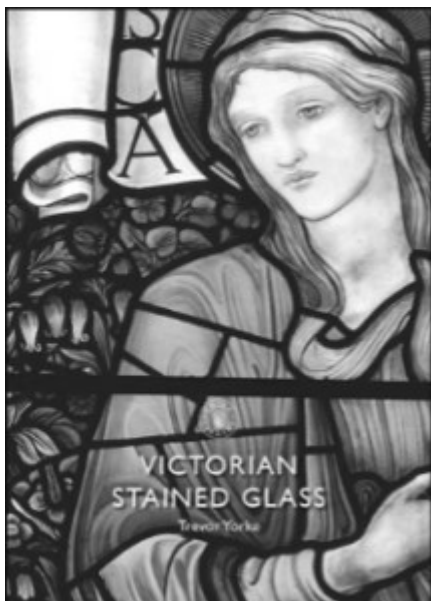


Book Reviews



Victorian Stained Glass
by Trevor Yorke, Shire Publications, £8.99

This beautifully illustrated guide will introduce you to the world of Victorian stained glass.



Victorian stained glass is often magnificent, and can still be found in countless British churches, municipal buildings and homes. It is often glowing with colour, with designs influenced by the Gothic Revival, the Arts and Crafts Movement, and even the Art Nouveau, as a new century dawned. Its famous designers include A.W.N. Pugin, and Pre-Raphaelites William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones.

40 Days of Praying the Bible for Someone Who Is Suffering

I'm
praying
for
you

NANCY GUTHRIE

I'm Praying for You – 40 Days of praying the Bible for someone who is suffering
By Nancy Guthrie, 10Publishing,

£6.99

Through 40 carefully chosen scripture passages, Nancy Guthrie opens the wealth of Scripture that teaches us how to pray for those who are hurting. She shows us how the Bible provides us with a vocabulary for prayer that enables us to ask God to achieve what He intends in and through suffering.

Prayer Tip for the Month

As you walk along your street, pray for your neighbours. Remember the ones you don't know and ask God if he wants you to know them better



Smile Lines



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one

When the angel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son

(Annunciation, 25 March)

Almighty, loving Father,
Thank you for the month of March, the month of Spring, the month when hopes are high and new things seem possible, when even coming through the pandemic seems possible. This month we remember the day that the angel told Mary that she would bear your Son – how could that have seemed possible to her? Help us to trust you as she did. Whatever we may face, help us to have peace and confidence, knowing, as she did, that nothing is impossible with you.
In Jesus' name.

Amen

Daphne Kitching





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