

September 2021

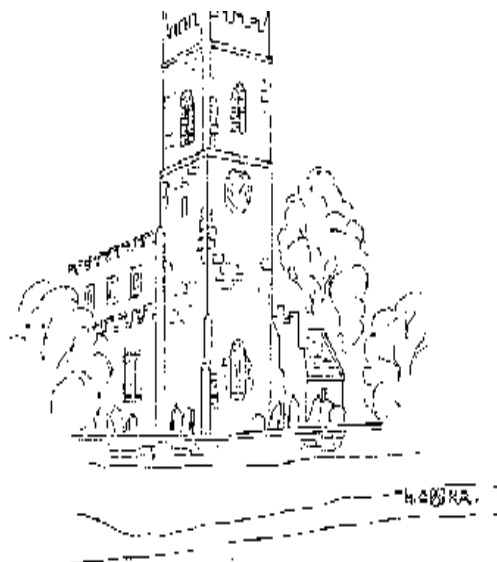
**Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.**

**They will soar on wings
like eagles;**

**they will run and
not grow
weary.**

**they will walk and
not be faint.**

Isaiah 40: verse 31



Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

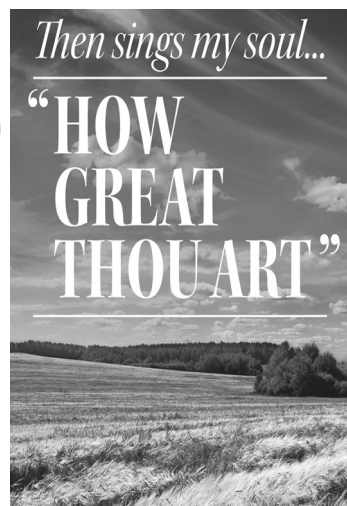
LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE PARISH NEWS



St. John's Church, Burnhope

Then sings my soul...

**“HOW
GREAT
THOU ART”**



**50p monthly
or
£5 per year**

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

Priest in Charge – The Revd Lesley Sutherland

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Doreen Park, 10 West Terrace 438564

Burnhope
Ann Sinclair, Reader Emeritus
Stephen Burt, Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

First and Third Sunday services

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Second and Fourth Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30 am Service of The Word

6.00 pm Evensong

Wednesdays 9.45 am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -

by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st and 3rd Sunday 9.15 am Said Eucharist

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

4th Sunday 9.15am Service of the word

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

CHURCHWARDENS

Robert Matthews 7 Prospect Terrace 771044

Sue Smith The Deanery Cottage 520031

Doreen Park 10 West Terrace Burnhope 438564

Pauline Hall 21 Broadoak Drive 520393

VICE CHAIR PCC

Margaret Matthews, Delves House,
Delves Lane 505448

HON. TREASURER

Position Currently vacant

HON. SECRETARY PCC

David Baggott, 14 Woodlands 520646

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

David Baggott, 14 Woodlands 520646

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Tanfield Lea, Stanley

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SECRETARY

Audrey Newton, 4 Woodlands 520728

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Maiden Law

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MUSIC GROUP and CHOIRMASTER

Craig Davies, 33 First Street Bradley
Cottages Leadgate 07894515112

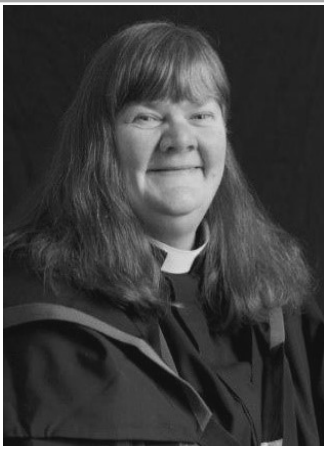
MEN'S FORUM See noticeboard or pew sheets for
notifications and details

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



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

**The copy deadline for the
October issue is
Sunday September 19th**



*All that matters is to be at one with the living God
to be a creature in the house of the God of Life.*

*Like a cat asleep on a chair at peace, in peace
and at one with the master of the house, with the mistress,
at home, at home in the house of the living,
sleeping on the hearth, and yawning before the fire.*

*Sleeping on the hearth of the living world yawning at home before the fire of life
feeling the presence of the living God like a great reassurance
a deep calm in the heart, a presence
as of the master sitting at the board in his own and greater being,
in the house of life.*

DH Lawrence

I love cats. We've always had cats around the house and at the moment we have Buster, an ex-feral who has a luxury apartment with hot and cold running Felix in our garage. The picture at the end of this article is from a Facebook Group I help to run, titled Clergy with Cats (though I often think it should be the other way round, as cats don't have owners, they have staff.....!)

As soon as I saw the photo of the cat toasting itself and luxuriating in the warmth, I was reminded of DH Lawrence's great poem. Surely there is nothing that spells relaxation and being at home in your own skin more than a cat, especially one asleep in front of the fire.

I don't think I'm a very relaxed person. Modern life can be overwhelming at the best of times, and I come from the generation of women who were told that we could be 'superwomen' who 'had it all' – work, children, perfect homes, a luxury lifestyle, the perfect figure (!), everything. Although we've recognised that 'having it all' is unrealistic, the world still tells us that we need to be up and doing, planning for the future, working towards that idyllic life we all dream about. For those of us who are Christians, there's also the temptation to think that we, on our own, can work to right the hurts of the world.

And there are so many hurts to heal.....Especially now.

There always seems so much to do, and it's really difficult to be at peace with so much suffering and need all around us.

Often we find ourselves forgetting to live in the present as we strive for wellbeing for ourselves, our families, our church and the world.

Often discouragement sets in.

That's when I'm grateful for what our cats teach us.

They know how to stop, how to look after themselves, and they look after us when we're off colour. They're great at showing us how to just *be in the moment*.

And Lawrence's poem is deeply reassuring.

The Westminster Catechism, which used to be used in Confirmation preparation, begins with the question; 'What is the chief end of man?'

The answer is;

'A man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.'

Do we take time in God's presence to bask, like the cat in front of the fire?

Do we spend time enjoying God's love and God's company? Do we, like Lawrence, take great reassurance in knowing that the presence at the heart of our world is one of love and total capability?

As I write it's the second week in August, and I'm thinking about trying to carve out some time off work. So I'm going to try to take a leaf out of Buster's book; living in the moment, forgetting busyness, relaxing and taking just ten minutes to '*be at one with the living God, to be a creature in the house of the God of Life.*' I hope you'll join me and give it a try.....

Blessings,

Lesley





Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

Who'd have believed that it's September already and its two months since my ordination? In the past I often wondered how curates are placed in their curacy parishes, so I asked Bishop Sarah while we were on the preordination retreat. The process surprised me, it is well thought out and not done with a bag of parish names and a bag of potential curate's names like the football draws.

The year before my ordination I was given a form to complete which asked me about my church tradition, where I would like to be placed e.g., rural, urban, outer space. Anyway I dutifully filled it out, hoping I ticked the right boxes and sent it back. This form is discussed with the bishops, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO) and me they then go away and talk about it some more. Bishop Sarah told me that they have a number of things to take into account, parishes without curates, the incumbents available, and the form I had filled in earlier (I am sure there is more).

Having decided there may be somewhere suitable the bishop writes to you and asks you to contact Revd. X. My letter told me to contact Revd. Lesley Sutherland complete with telephone number and the wrong email address and the promise to say nothing until both parties agree this is the right pairing for all including the parishes. Eventually, Lesley and I arranged to meet (socially distanced) and talk informally. Three meetings (one including Mandy and the girls) or so later we thought this curacy idea could work. In the meantime, I did visit all three churches for a Sunday service which was fun. In one church I was mistaken for the groom attending to hear his banns read and another visit coincided with the archdeacon visiting too. Each church I visited was warm and made me welcome, although due to restrictions I didn't get to test post service coffee. Could I take the risk? Having done all that was asked and prayed it through, I did what I knew I was going to do (if Lesley agreed) and that was say "yes". The hardest part of the process was keeping my mouth closed until it was officially announced in my home church and the churches here. I know it's the right place to be and the coffee's not bad either.

So, thank you for the welcome for the Glory of God.

With my gratitude and prayers.

Stephen

Thank you

Elizabeth Lowthian and family would like to extend their grateful thanks to our church family and village community who have sent cards and flowers after our sad loss. We were comforted by the kind words, prayers and love extended to us. We would also like to thank Lesley for her support and leading the service for Andrew at the crematorium.

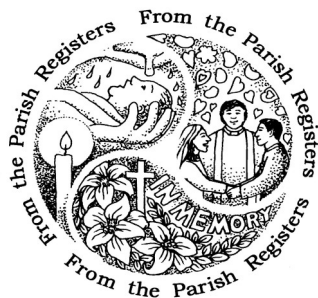
Sandra Tatham

Take a break

Here is a good tip if you are trying to learn a new skill: take short, regular breaks as you go along. US neurologists helping people to rehabilitate from strokes have found that short breaks allow them to replay what they have learned, which cements the new skill in their memory. As one explained: "Manipulating replay activity during waking rest may be a powerful tool to help people learn new skills faster."

Source the Parish Pump

Lanchester and Burnhope



Funerals

28th July	Andrew Lowthian	(at Mountsett)
12th August	Steve Bailey	
26th August	Jim Whitehead	



'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'

Weddings

25th July

Tom Robinson and Ann Tilley



May God's blessing be upon you in your new life together

Baptisms

18th July
8th August
8th August
15th August
15th August

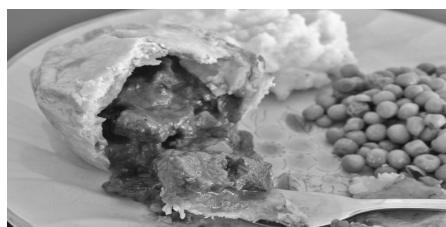
Matilda Barker
Zara Ethel Louise Forster (at St Thomas)
Joseph Daniel Thompson and Willow Heather Thompson
Nathan Ridley (at St Thomas)
Arthur Usher (at St Thomas)



"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BURNHOPE

ARE HOLDING A PIE AND PEA SUPPER



IN
BURNHOPE COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON
TUESDAY 19th OCTOBER
AT 7pm

TICKETS £3.00

There will also be a raffle for £1 a strip
and prize bingo at 50p per book
Everyone welcome
Children must be accompanied by an adult

Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Durham Not Alone will be holding our annual Coffee Morning for Macmillan, in Lanchester Community Centre, on Friday 24th September from 10am till noon. Come and enjoy Coffee/ Tea and a scone. There will be a cake and preserves stall and a raffle. Entrance, drinks and scones are free but donations are welcomed. Please come and support us if you can, last year you helped us to raise £1,000 with our Coffee Morning Delivery Service.

Jackie
Easton.



Open Garden in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Open Garden by attending, donating or making cakes for the cake stall. Over ninety people attended during the day and we raised £2,272 for Macmillan.

Jackie & Mike Easton

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester



During our July meeting we held a shortened version of our normal AGM. As is our normal custom we ended our meeting with strawberries and prosecco.

On Monday 9th July I was honoured to attend evensong at the Cathedral when MU members from our Diocese gathered to give thanks for the life and work of Mary Sumner.



Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14th September at 2.00pm, and we hope to be back in the Chapter House. Our new Curate Stephen Martin has agreed to join us and give a short talk on his journey which led him to ordination. And we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Eileen Matthews

Mothers' Union St John's Burnhope



At our August Meeting it was decided to have our Pie and Pea supper on Tuesday the 19th October at 7pm in Burnhope Community Centre (hopefully free of any restrictions).

Mrs Park read a complete report of the Good Wives Meeting held at the Festival Hall, London in 1953. It was written by Mrs Mounsey and Mrs Coates. These ladies were Leader and Secretary of our Branch when I joined in 1982.

We are coming into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, let us pray it sees the end of this pandemic. Take care and stay safe.

Muriel Molloy

Thank You

Many thanks to all who recycled their empty ginger wine bottles through me. I now have enough for this year so thank you again but just recycle in the normal way

Hazel Gaskill

Summer Fair

What a joy it was to see the church buzzing with chatter and activity on a Saturday morning at the Summer Fair as people browsed the various stalls and then enjoyed coffee and scones in the Chapter House and chancel. Despite the sensible wearing of masks and regular hand sanitising there was finally a sighting of the green shoots of recovery after the tedious but necessary restrictions of the last sixteen months. A special treat at this year's fair was the lovely uplifting music which really enhanced the experience, getting many people clapping and toe tapping to the lively tunes.

The final total raised for Church funds was £1861.15, £846 of which came from the purchase of tickets for the raffle with its 32 prizes. Congratulations to Heather Muir who won the first prize, the framed artist's proof of a beautiful painting donated by Judy Hurst. A huge thank you to everyone who donated gifts and money, to Ross who kept track of all the raffle numbers, and to all those who helped both in the preparations and on the day itself. We were delighted that the event was so well supported. Thank you all.



Margaret Walters
for the Social and Fundraising Committee

Church Flowers September

5th S Eckford

12th H Muir, Mrs Alcock

19th C Rotherham (R.W.B.)

26th M Fenwick, J Young,
A Wright



100 Club

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

£20– 30, £10– 167, 132

£5– 62, 06, 150, 77, 119, 66

Sue Smith and Olga Walker



Thank You

Many thanks to all our friends and neighbours who joined us in the celebration of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We had a wonderful day, and were able to share lots of memories, as well as looking forward to life after lockdown (whenever that may be!). In particular, many thanks to vicar Lesley for guiding us through the renewal of our wedding vows, to the A Capella group for singing to us, to Margaret Walters and Pam Baggott for sterling work looking after the plant stall, and to all who helped clearing up afterwards. Through your generosity we were able to make a substantial donation to the Parish Church, and to the “Dogs for Good” Charity. Thank you all so much for your gifts towards these two causes.

**Adrian & Margaret
Armstrong.**



Benny & Chelsea say THANK YOU!

Thank you all so much for coming to our party last Saturday when we celebrated Mum & Dad's golden wedding. We were on our best behaviour and did not pinch any of the cake or biscuits.

I (Chelsea) was showing off my new qualification tag, and enjoying my new ball, which Doug & Alison brought for me. They were my foster mum and dad whilst I was growing up and training.

It was great to see them. We were amazed at all the plants Margaret Walters produced for the plant stall, most of them smelled beautiful, but we did not rate the strawberries 'cos mum grew them and, we had already eaten all the berries.

We let Dad & David count the gifts, and were really pleased that we were able to give £500 to Ella our DFG trainer when she visited on Tuesday. We poked our noses in the vicarage on Tuesday and passed the same amount to vicar Lesley for the church. We thought her wedding blessing service was wonderful, and added our own prayers with a woof.

Benny & Chelsea.



Church Wives

Summer is almost over and I think it has been good,
Long and lovely sunny days to put us in happy mood.
Helped to look on the bright side on every uncertain day,
Glad to be able to live our lives with purpose,
and in God's way.

Thinking about and caring for those in special need,
Especially for those who are grieving,
and are very sad indeed.

We just might get back to meetings
in October of this year.

Rejoicing in the company of all our friends
who will be there.

We will not be having speakers, but it is a chance for us
To share ideas and talents to make meetings super plus.

The dates 14th and 28th of October
are those to keep in mind,

Until then carry on being immeasurably kind.

Purposeful Lives

During the long days of restrictions and self-isolating it was hard sometimes to keep focused on living purposeful lives each day. People were heard to say 'What is the point of getting up each day, when our lives are so restricted?' It is at this point that we have to remember Paul's words in the Book of Ephesians Chapter 2 verse 10 that we are 'God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' If we remember those words, every day will have a purpose, because each day God will find something for each one of us to do. We are meant to be in each day because we are the workmanship of God and our purpose in life is to help God to grow His kingdom on earth. The world is so in need of each one of us reaching out in LOVE for one another.

We really try to do this at Church Wives!

Brenda Craddock

Children's Society Collection

The Children's Society box, etc collection was complete by mid July, somewhat later than previous years. The cheques and cheque to cover box and cash donations were sent to the Society. The total was £1604=30. Cheque and cash donors should have received receipts. Box donor receipts are on the labels on the underside of the boxes. A big "Thank You" to all who donated.

Steve Craddock

Thank You

Thank you everyone for the wonderful birthday wishes as I embraced my 80th birthday.

It has been a wonderful month..

Love

Hazel Gaskill



The Language of Flowers

"An exquisite invention this,
Worthy of loves most honeyed kiss.
This art of writing billet-doux,
In buds and flowers, and bright hues.
In saying all one feels and thinks,
In clever daffodils and pinks,
In puns of tulips and in phrases,
Charming for their truth of daisies."

This rhyme I found in my book on "floral treasury," and the "Language of Flowers." The language of flowers dates back to classical times, the term 'Poet Laureate' comes from the Roman custom of crowning poets with laurel leaves.



Cleopatra knew that roses spoke of love and a woman's beauty, when she paid in gold to have a room to receive Mark Antony, filled two feet deep with rose petals. Elizabethan poets too were aware of the symbolism of flowers "There's pansies" said Ophelia in Shakespeare's Hamlet "that's for thoughts."

The oriental concept of the language of flowers was introduced to England by Lady Mary Wortley Montague, wife of The Ambassador to Constantinople 1716-18, thus developing a European flower language, which was linked romantically to individual flowers. This practice caught the imagination of the Victorians for in many ways theirs was a sentimental age.

Some floral meanings described are puzzling, why should the herb Basil mean hatred, the Marigold despair, or the Passion Flower religious superstition?



Some more obvious links like the Olive with peace, or the Rose with beauty. The Stinging Nettle stands for cruelty, the Lobelia signifies malevolence, while the Cress relates to stability.



Some stubborn meanings must be put down to Victorian whimsicality, but most illuminate and provide us with a floral language as varied as our own moods.

"By all those token flowers that tell,
What words can never speak so well."

Lord Byron

Hope you enjoy reading about the language of flowers.

Audrey Newton

'Tomorrow Is another day'

Light, bright
Shining straight across the room.
Shadows, sharp,
Stark, startling.
Reflected light
soft, dissolving,
shape-shifting
Hardly there.
Glinting metallic mobile,
Look, I'm here!
Light steadily walking
its Daily arc
Bringing its beaming
Hope and joy Re-iterating ...
Remember, I am always there
Even when you think you
cannot see me.



Elizabeth Baker



An informal meeting of the bellringers was held in church on Friday July 23rd. It was lovely to see everyone together in person after such a long period of time. The purpose of the meeting was to give the ringers some idea how we would return to ringing in a slow process, but, most importantly to listen to everyone's point of view as to how we, as individuals, were feeling about the return to ringing. I think it is fair to say that most of us were feeling quite apprehensive about the return and it proved to be a good chance for everyone to voice their opinion. Our biggest problem in the ringing room is air flow, it is a small tower and the standing space between one or two ropes is less than a metre apart.

At the time of meeting the rise in covid cases in the North East and indeed locally was high. The general opinion was to go by the data available each week and arrange another meeting at the beginning of September.

Olga Walker

Traidcraft

Traidcraft has been re-stocked. It was good to be up and running again at the Summer Fayre and to see so many people. The system for purchasing any items remains the same as it was before lockdown. If by any chance you cannot get to the Chapter House see me after church and I will help you! Christmas cards will be available towards the end of September.

Olga Walker

Two thirds of churches in UK plan to keep streaming online, says survey

Almost two thirds of UK churches plan to carry on streaming online, even after restrictions lift.

According to a recent survey by the insurance group Ecclesiastical and The Bible Society, 93 per cent of churches have used new ways to keep in touch with their congregation and over two in five churches (43 per cent) saw an increase in attendance as a result.



Live streaming has undoubtedly helped churches keep their services going during the pandemic, but this research suggests most, 62 per cent, would like the new habit to stay.

In the survey, 93 per cent said that they had used the video platform Zoom since March 2020, while others used Facebook (60 per cent), YouTube (5 per cent) and Microsoft Teams (1 per cent) to stream to their congregation.

Over two in five of the churches who had used these new channels said that they had seen an increase in attendance against their usual numbers, leading most to say they will carry on streaming after lockdown ends.

As one vicar in Norfolk said, "At the height of the pandemic we were getting over a hundred visits to our Facebook page a day, ten times as many as beforehand.

"By using social media we've been able to reach many more people than ever came through the actual church door each week, so it's definitely something we're looking to continue offering. There is certainly more hope now than there was this time last year and we look forward to the Lord leading us from this difficult time into freedom and new beginnings."

Source the Parish Pump



You are a generous lot!

I am constantly amazed by the huge willingness of people to give both time and money to our church. Long may your generosity continue!

No, this is not another request for more of the same. But I would like to address those who currently donate monthly via a Standing Order through their bank. There are more than 80 of you. As we transition to a new Treasurer, we are looking to save much time in reconciling the accounts etc, as soon as possible.

One area of time and effort saving would be if people were able to switch to the Parish Giving Scheme. This scheme costs neither you nor us extra money, but it does very much simplify our bookkeeping, and improves cash flow. All you need to do is to complete a short form or phone Parish Giving Scheme directly.

You can get this form and telephone number from either Lesley Sutherland or Jennifer Guy. And they can both answer any further questions about the Scheme that you may have.

Thank you.



Rev Lesley Sutherland

Dead Sea Scrolls – brought to light 30 years ago

Thirty years ago, on 22nd September 1991, photographs and transcripts of the Dead Sea Scrolls were made available to scholars generally for the first time.

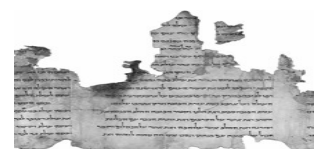
The Scrolls – ancient, mostly Hebrew or Aramaic manuscripts of leather, papyrus, and copper – were first found in 1947 near the shore of the Dead Sea. They come from various sites and date from the third century BC to the second century AD.

The decision by the Huntington Library, which is in San Marino, California, to make the Scrolls public was hailed by its director, Dr William A Moffett, as a bold move “equivalent to breaking down the Berlin Wall”. Up to that time access to the scrolls had been restricted to a fairly small group of ‘authorised’ scholars.

The Huntington photograph collection was created by philanthropist Elizabeth Hay Bechtel in 1980, with Robert Schlosser taking the actual pictures. After her death in 1987 they became the property of the library, with no agreed restrictions on their use – unlike the official collections, which certain experts reserved for their own use “to ensure scholarly accuracy”.

Last year the Museum of the Bible, in Washington DC, confirmed that all 16 of the fragments it owns are modern forgeries.

**Source
TheParish Pump**





An Extract from the Parish Magazine of September 1900

My dear Friends, We are sorry to have to record the death of Mr. John Snaith, of the Blue Bell Inn. He had not been well for some time, and latterly had gone to Harrogate, in the hope of benefitting by the waters, but he returned home little or no better, and after a few weeks died suddenly on August 13th. He was well known in the district, and will be missed by a large circle of friends; much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Snaith and her family. The annual Choir Excursion was held on Wednesday, August 22nd; this year the place selected was Hartlepool. Arriving at 9.20 in the morning we made our way to the promenade, the latest improvement to the place, and affording a good broad walk for a distance of three-quarters of a mile and giving the visitor a good idea of the grandeur of a full tide backed by a N.E. wind. We then inspected the Lighthouse, and spent an amusing half-hour in examining the lenses; it is, of course, a flash-light and can be seen a distance of 21 miles. Crossing the Ferry we found ourselves in the shipyard of a firm of world-wide fame, Furness & Co. Here we saw many objects of interest, drilling and cutting of ship plates, building of ships in various stages, and so forth. A walk through the docks, and a climb to the top of Christ Church tower, from which a splendid view of the busy place of 85,000 people is to be obtained. The weather was not all that could be desired, but we made the best of it, and enjoyed ourselves very much, notwithstanding the terrific storm of thunder and hail during tea-time, so much so that men were snowballing each other in Church Street. It was in the 7th century that St. Hilda came to live and work in Hartlepool, then known as Hernten, meaning Hart Water. She was a great niece of King Edwin, and became a Christian at the preaching of Paulinus, first Bishop of Northumbria. After many years of usefulness in Hartlepool St. Hilda repaired to Whitby and carried on the same work for Christ and His Church there. There are no remains of a Monastery to be found at Hartlepool, but she can boast of the finest Parish Church in the north.

Hartlepool was at one time the principal port in the county and bids fair to be the same again if more accommodation could be found for its ever-increasing trade, especially in timber. One coal company alone in this county purchases every year four millions of pit props, and the amount of timber at the present time stacked at the docks is simply appalling. The Churchyard extension is to be consecrated by the Bishop on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 3rd. and the Church is to be re-opened in the evening, when his Lordship will preach. The Rev. Joseph Mitchell, once a curate here, will preach on the Sunday, October 7th. The Harvest Festival will be held on Wednesday, October 10th, when the Preacher will be the Vicar of West Hartlepool, and the services will be continued on the Sunday following.

Yours faithfully GEORGE JEPSON Vicar and Surrogate

Peter Smith

Churchwarden's report

The Wardens continue to support Lesley as we move into our recovery stage after Covid Restrictions have been lifted. We are following Lesley's recovery plan, copies of which are available at the back of Church or from the Wardens. Our congregation will have noticed by now gradual change in our Church worship. From the 19th July numerical limits were lifted for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms although face coverings remain.

From the 1st August restrictions on occupation of all pews will be gradually lifted and we have resumed congregational singing albeit behind masks, and our Choir has been reintroduced although socially distant.

Serving of refreshments has been resumed in the Chapter House. Small numbers have responded so far but we hope that we shall soon get back to our regular numbers

We are continuing to clean down the pews between services until the 1st of September when that will cease but we continue to maintain sanitiser stations. Evensong resumes on the 2nd and 4th Sunday (the first on Sunday (22nd August) when face masks may be removed whilst seated

From 1st September face to face children's work is hoped to resume and the Chapter House/Community Room will reopen to outside bookings.

Wearing of face masks will be optional. Movement for the peace will be permitted but congregation will be encouraged to be sensitive to hugging/handshakes and physical contact. We shall revert to receiving communion at the altar rail.

19th September "Back to Church Sunday" we return to celebrational fully sung Eucharist at All Saints at which we hope to reintroduce acolytes and full procession. A campaign to encourage those who have not yet returned to Church will be launched.

An order has been placed for the redecoration of the Chapter House and the Link corridor/ Staircase which continues to be a problem with water still being extracted by dehumidifier although the spread of drying out is increasing. The painter, Rob Self, is extremely busy and due to the drying out problem we are proposing to start decoration the first week of October.

We continue to be grateful to Jen and Peter for their help in cleaning All Saints although they have indicated their wish to stand down. It is proposed to have a small team who will carry out the cleaning on a rotered basis. Anyone who would be willing to help please let us know.

Fire extinguishers at St Johns have been checked and tested.

The Wardens would like to express their thanks for everyone's help and patience during a very strange and trying time.

Rob Matthews for the Wardens



There is a room in the Vatican called “The Room of Tears”. When a new pope is elected, he is taken into this room, divested of his old robes and clothed in his new robe of office - a white soutane. It is at this moment, as he stands alone, without equal in the Roman Catholic hierarchy, that the weight of his responsibilities suddenly strikes him. It is at this moment that many popes cry at the thought of their duties and the prospect of the loneliness of the role. It is said that the best of them cry, humbled by what lies before them.

Whilst I wouldn’t quite compare the responsibilities of a Reader to those of a pope, the moment that I stood in my robes, in full view of the congregation of the Cathedral as a licensed Reader, responsible to my parish and a representative of the church, was both thrilling and sobering. It was one when I suddenly felt the reality of what I had been working towards for three years. It hadn’t just been to keep me out of mischief on Wednesday nights; it had been for a purpose - to work with God and all other Christians to make our community more like the community God intends it to be; to grow the Kingdom here on earth.



It’s a responsibility carried not just by clergy and Readers. It’s carried by all of us. Each of us is called to grow the kingdom of God in a way to which we alone are suited, because each of us is unique. Ministry isn’t just the “religious” things; it’s everything. What sort of buildings would our churches be without people prepared to give their time to clean them, to make them welcoming with flowers and smiles and kind words? And what of those people who offer their time and energy and skills in so many ways - clubs, fund-raising, magazine editing, giving, supporting - a thousand ways of practically living their calling.

And of course, there are those whose calling is purely to offer prayers. Perhaps they are unable to assist with other tasks, but they pray, at church and at home, for themselves and others. They bring tears to God when they see distress, and joy when they see goodness; they bring their anger at injustice; their gratitude at God’s grace - and always, they bring their trust. All of us do what we can to allow God to work through us. As a Reader I would find it much harder to fulfil my calling without the support and encouragement of you, my sisters and brothers in Christ, and I’m sure that Peter and Doreen (and the clergy) would agree with me. The love and prayers which follow us help us immeasurably. Every single one of us, as a Christian, has a responsibility to spread the Gospel. More than with words, we spread it by example - be living examples of Christ’s love in the world. It’s a lot to live up to. whenever we interact with another person we have an opportunity to live God’s intention. The Kingdom isn’t grown by violent conquest and forced submission. It grows hour by hour, and heart by heart. It grows gently, and persistently, and determinedly. It grows on a foundation of faith.

Faith isn’t always easy. The prophet Habakkuk cries out “How long, O Lord?” We ask this, too. How long must we watch the wicked prosper and the vulnerable suffer? How long before your justice prevails? And God answers. “In my time. Not yours.” Faith isn’t blind. It is questioning and demanding, but it accepts that some things require patience, and must be taken on trust. Faith demands that we get angry at injustice, because without anger we won’t fight it; faith accepts the limitations of humankind, but struggles to overcome them; faith trusts that God is just and loving and that an answer will come - but in God’s time, because faith accepts the incomprehensibility of God. Faith accepts that we must do what we can - however little - to work to fulfil God’s wonderful mission for the world.

It sounds so simple, doesn’t it? - “Just do it” - but it’s not. Usually it’s like when we go to tidy up after the house has been full of energetic, over-excited children. We look around the room and it looks like someone had lobbed a grenade into it, and we think “Where do I even start?” The task seems overwhelming. We are only ordinary people, and so limited. We aren’t as brave as we’d like to be, not as clever, not as strong, and we often think “This is beyond me, God. It is too much!” We start with prayer; it is the foundation for everything we do, and without it we achieve nothing.

Some people see at once what they must do and grab their courage in both hands. In 1919 children in war-ravaged central Europe, and especially Germany, were dying of hunger. One Englishwoman decided to help them. As a result she was abused and assaulted in the streets for “feeding the children of the enemy”, but she knew what God wanted of her. She was Eglantyne Jebb, and the organisation she founded “Save the Children” now works in over 120 countries to bring vital resources to children of every race, colour and creed. Who knows how many have been brought to Christ by her determined kindness and faith? How many who might have lost their faith have had it strengthened?

Few of us are asked to perform anything so daunting, but we are asked to stand up for what we know is right. It’s rarely easy; in fact I think one of the signs is that, like Jonah, God asks us to do things we’d rather not - and often they are things we will never see come to fruition. We are planting seeds, so that God can reap the harvest. We must be prepared to sow them on stony ground and among weeds if necessary, because we never know which little seed will put out a tiny, brave root, and tentatively begin to grow, cracking the hardest and most inhospitable ground. We are asked to take Christ into the world in any way we can. God has given each of us a mission and the gifts to fulfil it. It may not be easy, and we may want to give it up - or even not start it in the first place!

Very often the answer to “How long?” is “As long as you are prepared to do nothing about it.” We need to take our faith in both hands, and do something to give that seed a chance to grow.

Dates for your Diary September 2021

Wed 1st 9.45am Holy Communion at All Saints Church
Wed 1st 7.00pm PCC Meeting All Saints Chapter House
Sun 5th 9.15am Holy Communion St John's Church
Sun 5th 9.45 am Service of the Word St Thomas Church
Sun 5th 10.30 am Parish Eucharist All Saints Church
Tues 7th 6.00pm Café Church at Burnhope Com Centre
Wed 8th 9.45am Holy Communion at All Saints Church
Sun 12th 8.00am Holy Communion at All Saints Church
Sun 12th 9.45am Holy Communion St Thomas Church
Sun 12th 9.45am Service of the Word All Saints Church (Jt)
Sun 12th 6.00pm Evensong at All Saints Church
Tues 14th 2.00pm Mothers' Union All Saints Church
Wed 15th 9.45am Holy Communion at All Saints Church
Sun 19th 9.45am Holy Communion at All Saints Church
Sun 19th 9.15am Holy Communion St John's Church
Sun 19th 9.45 am Service of the Word St Thomas Church
Sun 19th 10.30 am Parish Eucharist All Saints Church
Wed 22nd 9.45 Holy Communion at All Saints Church
Friday 24th 10am-noon Macmillan Coffee morning at Lanchester Community Centre
Sun 26th 8.00am Holy Communion at All Saints Church
Sun 26th 9.45am Holy Communion St Thomas Church
Sun 26th 9.45am Service of the Word All Saints Church (Jt)
Sun 26th 6.00pm Evensong at All Saints Church
Wed 29th 9.45 Holy Communion at All Saints Church

The Church of England's investment and climate change

The Church of England's National Investing Bodies (NIBs) recently updated General Synod on their progress against climate change measures agreed in July 2018.

The Church of England Pensions Board, Church Commissioners for England and CCLA, which collectively make up the NIBs, had agreed with Synod:

- to work with companies in which we are invested to meet our climate hurdles,
- to start to divest in 2020 from companies that are not taking seriously their responsibilities to assist with the transition to a low carbon economy;
- to ensure that by 2023 they have divested from fossil fuel companies that are not prepared to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement;
- and to seek and scale up investments in renewable energy and low carbon technology.

The NIBs in January 2020 committed to their investment portfolios being net zero no later than 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement. As asset owners and a fund manager with holdings across all aspects of the global economy, the NIBs' journeys to net zero are reliant on influencing change in the real economy and policy environment as a whole, rather than solely implementing carbon-saving measures themselves.

Source The Parish Pump

Be careful with Covid, urges Bishop of London

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has encouraged churches and individuals to continue to take precautions to protect the vulnerable from Covid-19.

"Many will welcome the possibilities now before us. However, this is a difficult point in the course of the pandemic. Despite vaccination rates, cases are up, hospital admissions are up and long covid remains an ongoing concern. Therefore, our approach needs to be cautious and careful.

"Taking personal responsibility means taking precautions to protect those more vulnerable than we consider ourselves to be. Local church leaders know their communities and their own circumstances, and we will support them making local decisions to keep themselves and their community safe."

Source The Parish Pump

Foodbank

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

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

Sort code 40-52-40 Account number 00022928

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

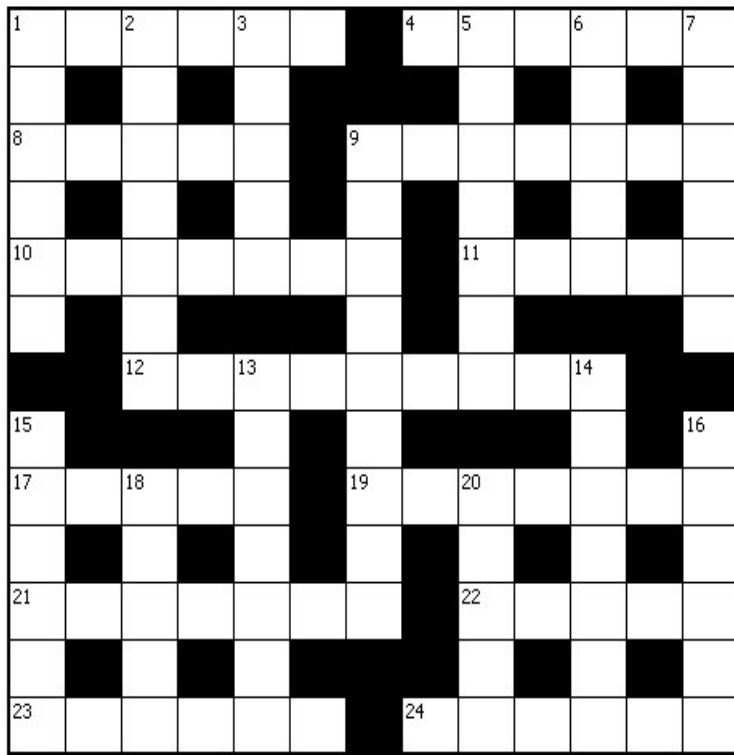
The new location for Consett foodbank from Tuesday 6 April 21 is: Consett Methodist Church, Station Road, Consett DH8 5RL Their opening times remain unchanged. We keep opening times / closures and locations up to date on

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

THINK FOOD BANK

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





Crossword Clues & Answers sep21

Clues Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

World Wide Fund for Nature celebrates 60 years

The World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded 60 years ago in Switzerland, on 11th September 1961. It is now believed to be the world's largest conservation group, working in wilderness preservation, and reducing human impact on the environment.

A group of distinguished scientists, conservationists and businessmen, including Sir Peter Scott and Sir Julian Huxley, put the organisation together and chose its original name and the famous panda logo. It changed its name to the World Wide Fund for Nature in the UK and several other countries in 1989, but it still uses the initials WWF all over the world in advertising campaigns.



The late Prince Philip has been President of both the UK and international branches, and he was concerned particularly with encouraging faith communities to involve themselves in the environment. This led to a major conference in Italy in 1986, resulting in huge global publicity and tens of thousands of faith-led environmental initiatives around the world.

Although there has been criticism centring on the placing of environmental issues above human rights in some areas, the WWF now has more than five million supporters worldwide, working in more than 100 countries and supporting around 3,000 projects.

Source The Parish Pump

Smile Line

Men and the TV remote



Men don't want to see what's on television. They want to see WHAT ELSE is on television.

Answers
 ACROSS
 1 access; 4 blinds; 8 rhyme; 9 loyalty; 10 Antwerp; 11 Aenon; 12 lothness; 17 Satan; 19 Obadiah; 21 on earth; 22 storm; 23 exhale; 24 depths
 DOWN
 1 Adrian; 2 crystal; 3 siege; 5 lay bare; 6 nylon; 7 saying; 9 Lappidorth; 13 funeral; 14 spit out; 15 ashore; 16 Thomas; 18 teeth; 20 aisle

Book Reviews



Sarah Eberle's
Psalm 23 Garden

Design tips for a calm green space

Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden – design tips for a calm green space Bible Society, £6.50

Sarah Eberle, winner of 17 gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows, has designed the Bible Society's entry garden for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

this month (September 2021). The theme of the garden is Psalm 23, and this is the full-colour book of photographs to go with it. Based on the themes of rest and peace, it offers a place of refuge and restoration, which is reflected in the meditations and stories within the book. The book also offers tips from Sarah Eberle on how to create your own peaceful outdoor space.



Overcoming – my fight against FGM By Ann-Marie Wilson, Lion Hudson, £9.99

Three million girls across the world are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) each year.

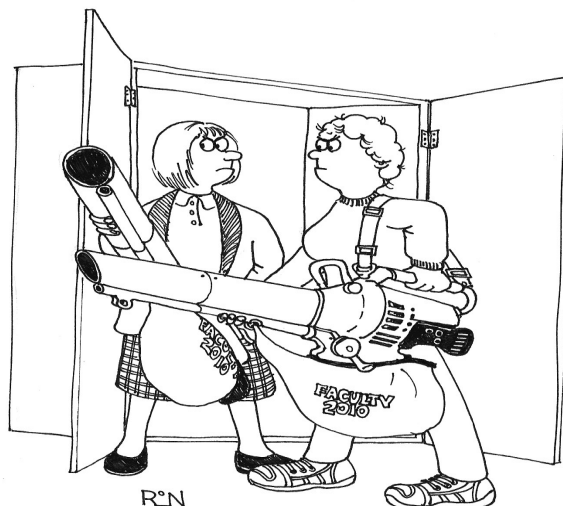
When Ann-Marie Wilson met a girl named Fatima in West Darfur, who had

experienced FGM at the age of five and was pregnant by the age of ten, she knew she had to do something. Her life's work since then has been geared toward speaking out against FGM, as well as supporting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of as many survivors as possible. Built on the experience of more than 3,000 FGM survivors' stories as well as meetings with heads of state and the Pope, Overcoming tells the compelling story of how Ann-Marie leaned on her Christian faith through her darkest moments to build 28 Too Many. This international organisation offers hope to the millions of girls who, just like Fatima, are at risk of FGM each year.

Imagine that Jesus is walking towards you. He reaches out his hand and you take it. As you walk together tell him all your fears and dreams then listen to him



Smile Lines



R^oN

*Shifting the cobwebs in the North aisle
required a faculty*

September Prayer

Dear Lord,

September – the month of new beginnings for many, as summer fades and school and college terms start.

After such a strange time of restrictions, hopes of freedom, with warnings to be cautious, it is hard to know what to expect this September. We can't know what lies ahead, Lord, but we *can* trust you to see us through whatever it turns out to be.

Thank you for your promise, *I will never leave you or forsake you... (Hebrews 13:5)*

Help us to hold fast to that promise, to keep trusting you – and to be thankful for each September day.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching





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