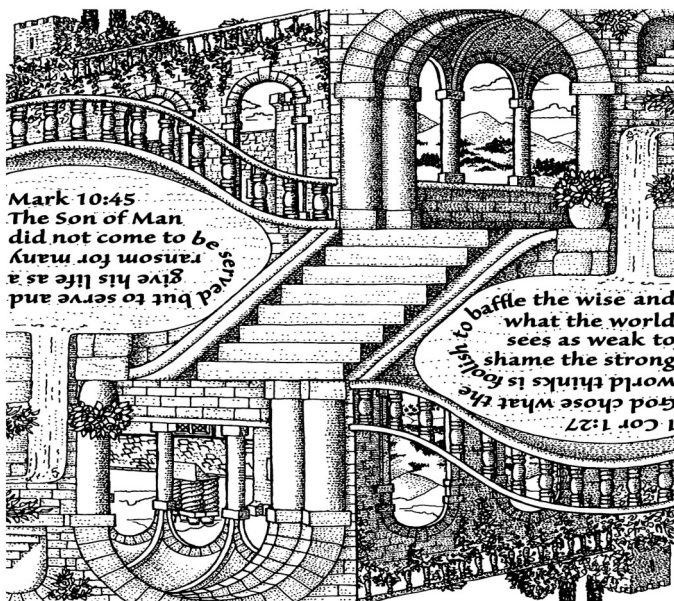
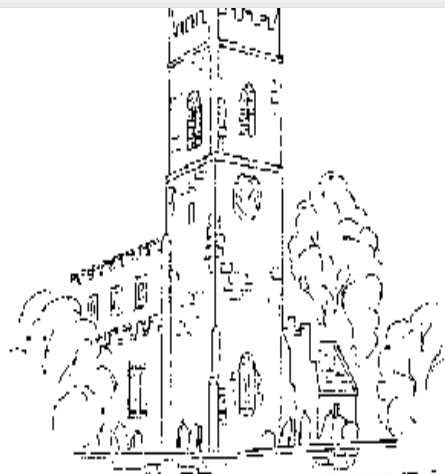


July / August 2023



Mark 10:45
The Son of Man
did not come to be
served but to serve and
give his life as a
ransom for many.

God chose what the
world thinks is foolish
to baffle the wise and
what the world
sees as weak to
shame the strong
1 Cor 1:27



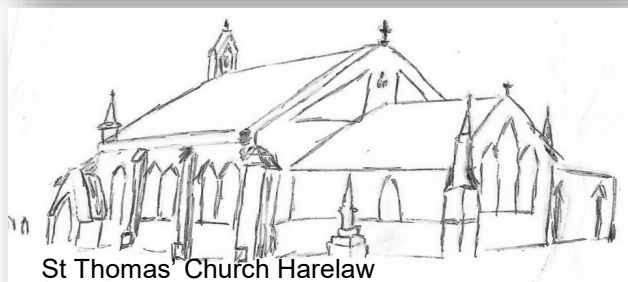
Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

Trinity

*The Parish magazine of :
All Saints' Parish Church Lanchester,
St John's Church Burnhope,
and St Thomas' Church Harelaw and Annfield Plain*



St. John's Church, Burnhope



St Thomas' Church Harelaw



50p monthly or £5 per year

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

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Stephen Burt, Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

8am Every Sunday Eucharist (Traditional Language)
10.30am Principal Service
(Eucharist or Service of the Word)
6.00 pm Evensong Monthly every second Sunday
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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Doreen Park 10 West Terrace Burnhope 438564
Pauline Hall 21 Broadoak Drive 520393
Eric Gaskill 46 Alderside Crescent 521690

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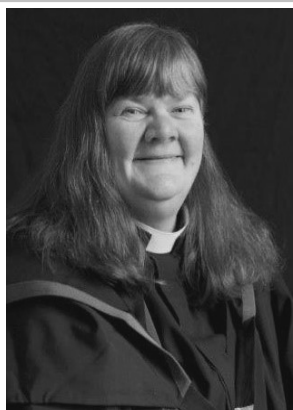
**Contributions to
the Church
Magazine are
always welcome.**



Copy sent by E-mail,

To robmatthews48@hotmail.com

**The copy deadline for the
September issue is
17th August**



The first weekend in July is one of those to 'save the date' in the life of the church. Known as Petertide, it's when we celebrate the twin vocations of St Peter and St Paul- and it's when we ordain new deacons and priests, and (if we're ordained) celebrate the anniversaries of our priesting. But for me, it has a new significance- for 3rd July is the feast day of St Thomas, our patronal saint of Harelaw. In the busyness of Petertide, St Thomas is often missed- but I venture to say that maybe, just maybe, St Thomas is right up there in being a model for vocations. See what you think...

Sometimes called the twin, often known as 'doubting' Thomas, Thomas makes four appearances in the Bible as one of Jesus' closest followers.

Tradition has it that Thomas was sent on an important mission. He is said to have travelled from Jerusalem across the Middle East, through Persia and all the way to southern India, spreading the good news of Jesus as he went. He founded a church in south India, near modern day Kerala, and the Mar Thoma Church, named after him, still exists.

It's one of the most ancient Christian communities in the worldwide church- and amazingly, a Mar Thoma congregation meets as close to our parishes as St Andrews', Lamesley! So, Thomas was called and sent and faithfully went about his mission - but how did he get to that point? And as he travelled, what was it that sustained him in his mission? What was it he had to share with the people he met?

As I mentioned earlier, Thomas appears four times in the Bible, all in St John's Gospel, in various encounters with Jesus - and I think there are four things that stand out from those encounters which might help us answer those questions. Firstly, Thomas demonstrates a **commitment** for something bigger than himself, a cause, a project to which he's willing to give himself totally. As Jesus turns his face to Jerusalem, beginning the journey which culminates in his arrest and crucifixion, the other disciples warn Jesus of the danger, but Thomas cries out: 'let us also go with him and die.' It's a dramatic statement that underscores Thomas' undoubted passion and commitment to the mission, a mission that extends beyond his own personal desires or plans, a mission he (rightly!) believes will change the world.

The next time we meet Thomas, he's less confident. It's after the last supper; Jesus is trying to prepare those he loves for what is to come. He talks about going ahead to prepare a special place for God's people so that where he is, others can follow. '...and you know the way to the place where I am going,' says Jesus. Thomas responds: 'Lord, we don't know the way. How can we know?' **Questions** - perfectly logical questions - and Thomas is not afraid to ask them. Similarly, after the Resurrection, Thomas is full of **doubt** and demands proof of his own: 'unless I see the marks of the nails and put my finger in the marks of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later, Jesus appears again, and Thomas is there and his request is honoured. He is invited to touch Jesus, and he utters five simple words of unwavering **faith**: 'My Lord and my God!' **Commitment, questions, doubt, faith.** Those are what Thomas has to share with the world, the gift he gives to us today. The thing about questions and doubt is that to be constructive they have to be shared - it's no good keeping them buzzing round in your head. And the thing about commitment and faith is that they have to be enacted to bear any fruit. If Thomas was going to receive any answers or reassurance to his doubt and questions, then he had to stay close to Jesus, and not be afraid to share what he was thinking. Of course it would've been easier to shy away from questions and doubts, to close his ears to the answers which would inevitably lead to serious consequences for his life, but Thomas's questions cue up some of the greatest statements of faith recorded in scripture:

*How can we know the way? **I am the way and the truth and the life...***

*Do not doubt but believe. **My Lord and my God!***

Informed by his honest encounters with Jesus, the raw, unformed passion within Thomas is turned into the faith that allows him to step out on his mission, that will sustain him when that mission throws up yet more questions and doubts, that gives him the treasure he has to share with those he meets along the way.

Commitment. Questions. Doubt. Faith

What are the causes that fire you up to go and do something?

What are the questions you have for God?

What are the doubts you want to explore?

What is the faith you are being called to put into action?

Here's an invitation. Tell me about it. Ring or email me. Make an appointment. We'll meet and talk in a safe, confidential way and together, with God's help, we will unpack your commitment, your questions, your doubts and your faith and see what we can make of it. You might be an expert in fundraising and desperate to use your skills beyond the 9-5 and help us plan our finances to further God's mission in this place. You might have superb experience in marketing that we can use. You might have a gift for working with children and young people. You might be ready to set off around the world on a godly adventure. You could be contemplating all sorts of other things in between. Whatever it is, share it. Thomas was called and sent... and he went in faith. Where's God calling and sending you today?

Wishing you a blessed Petertide!

Lesley



Clergy and Spouse

A few week-ends ago the clergy spouse and I spent a lovely week-end in London visiting our elder son. The week-end involved lots of walking, which we all enjoy doing, some in the city centre itself and others to parks and by the river near where Patrick lives. Patrick even cooked us a lovely Sunday dinner which I very much enjoyed, not only to eat but also as it involved no washing or drying of dishes. On our last day, in the morning, we managed to arrange tickets to see the exhibition of St. Francis of Assisi at the National Gallery which is not too far away from Kings Cross station, where we would catch the train back home to Durham later in the



afternoon. The exhibition goes on till 30th July 2023 and is to be recommended.

St Francis is one of history's most inspirational and revered figures. In the exhibition you are able to explore through art the Saint's life, (1183-1226,) and legacy. The different artists involved present various scenes of the Saint's life in different art forms and mediums, from the 13th century to today. This exhibition looks at why St. Francis, in particular, is a figure of enormous relevance to our time due to his spiritual radicalism, commitment to the poor, and love of God and nature, as well as his powerful appeals for peace, and openness to dialogue with other religions. We were able to wander round and admire some of the earliest medieval panels, relics and manuscripts to modern-day films and even a Marvel comic, which I was amazed to see. The exhibition for me brought to life St. Francis and helped me understand in more detail how others from the past to the present day have admired the Saint and been inspired by him. His life that speaks to people from all walks of life, of different faiths, and those of none, crossing all frontiers and through many centuries. The paintings that we saw came from the National Gallery Collection, and other international loans. After the visit we walked in pleasant sunshine to a nearby coffee shop and chatted about what we had seen even planning a visit together to Assisi in the not too distant future. I would like to share with you a prayer attributed to St. Francis.

The Peace Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Clergy Spouse

Several weeks ago, over breakfast, fortunately a non-kipper day, the Rev announced that we ought to take a trip to London to see our son who lives in Teddington. I was duly deputed to purchase the train tickets and liaise with Patrick, our son. A little later she told me that she had a surprise gift for me. Having checked that it was neither my birthday nor Christmas I was somewhat puzzled. My puzzlement increased when she presented me with a new rucksack. I resisted the urge to inform her that I was the proud possessor of four already and mumbled my grateful thanks. She then explained that it was for our London expedition. My clothes could go in the rucksack leaving me free to also pull along her case. I again kept my thoughts to myself.

The day for London drew nearer and my anxiety increased. Although I had said nothing to the Rev, I was aware that both Sunderland and Middlesbrough had qualified for the play-offs and that our tickets were for the Saturday of the final at Wembley. How would I explain to the Rev that we would be the only two on the train not be-decked in red and white and that her traditional black and white clerical attire might not be a wise choice of outfit? Thankfully the gods of football intervened and our journey down was quite normal.

London was sunny and warm so it was decided that we would enjoy the walk from Kings Cross to Waterloo. Unencumbered with luggage the Rev set off at a brisk pace while I struggled along in her wake. After a while the Rev did notice I was trailing several hundreds of yards behind her and suggested a refreshment stop. Refreshed with coffee we reached Waterloo and so to Teddington.

As you will have read above we also took in the exhibition on St Francis of Assisi. The rich variety of art on display was stunning but even more significant was the obvious impact and attraction his life still has and holds for the world today. The "Canticle of the Sun" was set out on one wall and was being carefully read by all who were in the gallery.

All in all a great weekend and, yes, my back and arms have just about recovered!

With every blessing Rev. Abbey

Deaths
June 19th

Lanchester Burnhope Harelaw and Annfield

Dorothy Cox
Cheryl King

'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'



Baptisms
11th June
18th June

Alfie Khafir
Ace James Kirkley



"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

Lanchester Parish Church



Summer Fayre
10.00am – 12 noon

In Church and Chapter House
Saturday 22nd July

M U Cakes and Savouries
Jams and Preserves, Chutneys
Church Wives Royal Surprise
Bottle Tombola
Handcrafted
goods
Books and Jigsaws
Raffle



Coffee, Teas and Strawberry scones
£1.50
Free drink and treat
For Children


*Music for a
Summer Evening*

Choral Music from past to
present, from sacred to swing

7pm July 8th
All Saints Parish Church
Lanchester
Tickets £5 including free
glass of wine; contact
Margaret
01207 521214

Diabetes timebomb: NHS to offer 'soup and shakes' diet

The NHS is to roll out a 'soup and shakes' diet across the UK, aimed at the tens of thousands of patients who are fighting Type 2 diabetes.

Health officials said every part of the country will be offering the regime by next March, as the NHS tries to tackle what has been called Britain's 'diabetes timebomb'.

Pilot schemes report an average of two stone in weight loss in three months. Clinical trials seem to show that this will be enough to reverse about half of diabetes cases. The 'soups and shakes' diet is a 'total diet replacement' product, which aims to deliver 800 to 900 calories a day for 12 weeks.

Professor Jonathan Valabhji, the NHS England's national clinical director for diabetes and obesity, says: "Research is clear that weight loss, where indicated, goes a long way to helping people stay well and avoiding preventable illness, and in many cases, it can be the trigger for putting Type 2 diabetes into remission.

Source The Parish Pump

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester



On July 11th we will be having our Annual General Meeting. This will be followed by refreshments, with strawberries and cream, and appropriate drinks. We have had a good year with a variety of speakers, who have given talks on several different topics and we enjoyed a Musical Afternoon when we were joined by Mothers' Union Members from other groups. To round off our year we are having an afternoon tea in Serendipity and we look forward to meeting together again in September and I hope that we can enjoy the summer break.

Eileen Matthews

Mothers' Union Burnhope



Our June meeting was on Monday the 5th. Our speaker was Mr Alan Gibson. He gave a marvellous account of his day, in Westminster Abbey, for the Coronation of King Charles and the Queen.

We are holding our Strawberry Supper on Thursday the 13th of July at Burnhope Community Centre at 7pm and look forward to seeing as many as can join us.

We wish you a healthy and enjoyable summer

Muriel Molloy

Strawberry Supper Burnhope Community Centre

**Thursday 13th July at
7pm**

Tickets £3.50



***Padded mobile phone cases
and spectacle cases
(lightweight for ladies' hand-
bags)***

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

*All proceeds to Church Funds
Ring Margaret on 521214*

Language of Flowers

HONESTY

Honesty - lunaria



There is a popular belief that wherever the purple honesty is found flourishing, its owner is of a particularly honest disposition. Certainly, money is associated with honesty because its bells hang like open purses by the side of its stem, and it sometimes goes by the country name of money-in-both-pockets. Other old names include silks and satins, silver plate and white satin, which refer to the transparent seed vessels that remain when the seeds are scattered. It was also called lunary and moonwort because of the disc-like shape of its seed pods. The plant was credited with magical properties and used in incantations and charms as it was purported to have the "power of putting monsters to flight"

"Enchanting Lunary here lies, In sorcerie excelling."
Michael Drayton

GRACEFULNESS

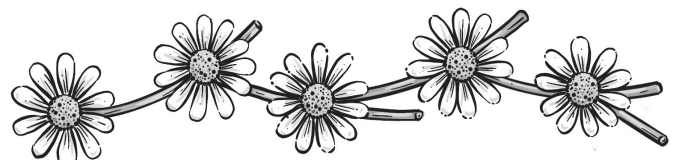
Pelargonium



The 250 or so species of pelargonium are found throughout tropical areas. Introduced from South Africa in the eighteenth century, they were at their most popular in Britain in the Victorian era. They flower very freely and are, indeed, graceful, as is emphasized by some of the species names: 'L'elegante, Queen of Denmark, and Madame Salleroi. The scent is not apparent until the foliage is rubbed or bruised, when it becomes very strong, ranging from a fragrance of roses to peppermint, nutmeg or citron. An oil extracted from the leaves, is widely used as a substitute for rose oil and more costly essences in "rose" soaps, shampoos and toilet waters.

*"Grace was in her steps, heaven in her eye, In every
gesture dignity and love."*
John Milton

Audrey Newton



100 Club News

Numbers drawn in the Chapter House for the June draw. (Drawn on June 4th)

All £5 111,51,77,46,106,100

Sue Smith and Olga Walker



Charlie : A thank you

Spring 2021 brought some difficult news for our family: my youngest son, Charlie (Pam Hasler's grandson), was diagnosed with a brain tumour. This came out of the blue for us all - some slight visual changes had caused Charlie to visit the optician who immediately appreciated that his ocular pressure was dangerously high and sent him to A&E without delay. The high pressure was a result of fluid being unable to drain from his brain. It later transpired, a tumour that had probably been present since he was a foetus had slowly grown until now, 18 years later, it was sufficiently large to start communicating its presence.

Through a protracted diagnosis, two risky operations that involved reaching into the depths of Charlie's brain, brutal morale-sapping chemotherapy and proton beam radiotherapy, mum and I prayed fervently for the elimination of the tumour. Charlie's name was on the prayer list at All Saints' and he was in the thoughts and prayers of many people around the country. In January 2022, he was able to ring the bell at the Christie Hospital, to announce the end of his treatment. We are discovering how emotive check ups can be for people who have had cancer: we will probably never stop worrying, but there are no longer signs of a tumour and Charlie is incredibly well. He started a degree in Politics and International Studies at the University of Sheffield in September and has thrown himself enthusiastically into many opportunities with typical curiosity and joie de vivre.

We all, I think Charlie especially, appreciated your prayers and it's a great relief to be able to remove his name from the prayer list now.

Louise Hasler

Julian Prayer Meetings
2pm in the Chapter House

July 3rd
August 7th (to be confirmed)



Church Wives

We will be meeting on Thursday 13th July at 7.30pm when we have our AGM. This is followed by our Strawberry Supper, kindly organised by Angela. We are also having a stall at the Summer Fayre on Saturday 22nd July. Our theme is "Coronation Surprises". Please bring your contributions to the AGM.

We have no meetings in August, so to everyone at Church Wives have a very happy summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Deanna Leyland

Childrens' Society. Annual Collection

All the boxes, cheques and cash are collected in and the money sent to the Society. The excellent total was £1541=08.

The money donated at Brenda's funeral and some cheques from distant friends and relatives were sent to the society under separate covers and totalled £688. These are not included in the £1541=08.

Thank you everyone who contributed to our annual collection

Steve Craddock

Lanchester and Lily Florists

Many of you will, but some of you may not, know Ann-Marie Emmerson who is a recent addition to our Church Family along with her two children Sophie and Matthew. They can be seen as part of our Choir and Ann-Marie and Sophie are learning to ring our bells as part of our regular ringers, Ann-Marie is part of one of our cleaning teams and an addition to the flower ladies. Sophie is learning to be an altar server.

Ann-Marie has recently set up a new business venture. Her contact information is as follows:

Lanchester Lily and Rose Florists are a small family business with a passion for flowers and floral art. We provide beautiful flowers at affordable prices for any occasion. All Budgets and personal requests catered for. We are available for any of the following:

Aqua bouquets, Hand-tied bouquets, Hat boxes, Envelopes, Basket arrangements, table centre pieces, floral arrangements for weddings and funerals.

We are based in Lanchester, Collections from Lanchester or Stanley Delivery is available for a small charge depending on distance prices start from £3. We accept Cash, card payments on collection or delivery and Paypal.

To order or discuss your personal requirements please contact us.

Telephone: 07845560222

Email: lilyandroseflorists@gmail.com

Facebook: Lanchester Lily and Rose Florists

Editor





We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us. Do you have the gift of prophecy? Then use it according to the faith you have. If your gift is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. Is it encouraging others? Then encourage them. Is it giving to others? Then give freely. Is it being a leader? Then work hard at it. Is it showing mercy? Then do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8 NIRV

The beginning of July fills me with excitement and many happy memories of my ordination, two years as deacon and one as priest. On 1st & 2nd July New Deacons and Priests will be ordained in Durham Cathedral and take up posts right across the diocese of Durham and beyond.

Anyone who has attended an ordination service will know it is a grand occasion recognising the call of God on an individual's life. For the one being ordained there are no words to describe the feeling kneeling before the Bishop with his hands on your head and hearing the words "*Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant N for the office and work of a priest/deacon in your Church.*"

Ordination is not an elevation of status from within in the Christian community, neither is it a dream job goal but a vocation, a call from God on our lives to use our gifts and talents in a way that enables all of God's people to build up the Kingdom of God on Earth. This living out is not only for those ordained. As I said earlier ordained ministry is not a 'promotion from the laity' because ordained or lay we are disciples of Christ same status different function. '*We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us.*' (Romans 12:6-8)

Being a disciple is more than just believing in Jesus Christ. It is learning from Him, listening to God, reading scripture, it is an intentional journey of spiritual growth. God calls each of us regardless of height, weight, sex, sexuality, colour into a relationship with him, a relationship so wonderful it makes us want to shout out the Good News from the roof tops.

Our three churches do wonderful work reaching out into our communities visiting the sick and housebound, Messy Church, Forest church, after school club to name a few but there is more to do, and this requires time and effort. Many of our members have spent years living out their discipleship in various ways and feel that now is the time to step back for the moment and re-evaluate just what they are doing or able to do.

Can I ask that as we pray for those being ordained this year and give thanks for those clergy celebrating an anniversary we give thanks and pray for lay vocations too. Maybe you can also pray about and think your own vocation, the call to use your gifts whatever they are or however insignificant you may believe they are. Would you like to try something new, leading worship, being present at baptisms as we welcome new members into God's family? The opportunities to shout about and make our awesome God known are endless. If that is you or you have a way to enrich what we as a Church do, please speak to Rev Lesley or myself.

They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, ¹⁵ proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock" (Psalm 92:14-15)

**Yours in Christ,
Stephen**

Home Communion

If you are unable to come to church and wish to receive Home Communion, please contact

Revd Stephen (01207 529166) who will be pleased to make the arrangements for you.



Beware of that pizza

Summer evenings make it so easy to want a pizza – but before you reach for your next slice, there's something you should know.

Pizza is very high in salt. When the campaign group Action on Salt analysed the salt content of more than 1,300 pizzas from restaurants, takeaways and supermarkets, it found that one in two pizzas contain a whole day's recommended intake. That is 6g of salt a day, which amounts to roughly one level teaspoon, according to the NHS.

Takeaway pizzas were found to be the worst culprits. A basic Domino's cheese and tomato pizza contained 10.77g of salt, and a Papa John's double pepperoni stuffed-crust pizza contained 14.31g. Franco pizza, with spicy salami fried onion & chilli-infused honey, contains 7.18g, more than a whole day's worth. A Zizzi's rustica pizza margherita contains the equivalent of 1.2 teaspoons of salt.

The human body needs some salt to function properly, but too much can lead to high blood pressure, which can lead to heart disease.



Pauline's Meditation

I promise, I am with you. There is always work to be done.
First, grieve every fallen sparrow. Notice the bloodstain on the sidewalk.
Hear the silence. To find your life is to feel your neighbour's death as your own. To find your life is to see the sky inside them. Sing lament. Protest evil. Let my love be your living and your battle cry.
My dear saints, live as if loving were enough.



Jesus, from "Promises." (Sally Hansen)

Many years ago we had a much-loved dog that we had to let go. She was a very old lady - nearly 20 - and had been part of our lives for so long. We missed her terribly, and I grieved for her every day. A priest at the church we then attended (he is long dead himself, now) was angry at me when I said I looked forward to seeing her again in heaven.

"There aren't any animals in heaven. What absolute nonsense." He spoke of Noah's Ark where we are told that when the world was flooded "eight souls were saved". I countered with my opinion that animal souls don't need saving, because they cannot sin. I would say we agreed to differ, but we didn't, and he left me feeling battered and very upset.

When I got home I spoke to God and asked "Are animals with you, too?" I really couldn't bear the thought of them not being. And when I'd calmed myself a little, I opened my bible at random, and my eye fell on this verse:

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies, and not one of them is forgotten before God?" (*Luke 12:6*)

And I knew then that my dear little dog was safe and loved and with God, and the comfort that brought me was enormous. I know many other people will disagree with me - even consider such a belief heretical - but I don't care. God has reassured me of the Divine love for all creatures - indeed for all of creation, and that was what I needed, and it comforts me still.

We live in what the psalmist calls "God's wildly wonderful world" (*Ps 104*), but every day with our selfishness and short-sightedness we destroy a little more. How heartbreaking it must be to God that we take so little care of the beautiful creation that was given into our hands to steward - a rich and perfectly balanced Paradise that was trusted to us. But even though we are profligate with the treasure we have been given, God still values it. Every tree, every creature, every blade of grass, every flawed human soul. Each is gathered up and cherished and will be brought to perfection again in the Kingdom.

Sometimes it seems that we are living in the end times, but I don't doubt that every generation has thought the same, and has been proven wrong - the end will come in God's time, not ours. Every day, sadly, we are given opportunities to "feel our neighbours' death as our own" and in doing so find our own lives and to see the sky inside others. To do this we must not only care for each other, but also for every part of creation - even the bits we don't like- because God LOVES it.

We are given opportunities to help God bring good from evil at every turn, but this can be hard. We have to set aside our own self-interest and recognise the sky inside others; and the world around us; we have to see evil and fight it, even at a cost to ourselves; we have to be God's hands in the world. It isn't easy - we all are doing our best, but without even realising it can become blinkered. Every one of us can get so caught up in the everyday that we don't see clearly - what better way to regain our sight than to grieve every fallen sparrow, to notice the stain it left, and especially, to hear the silence. For it is in the silence that God's still, small voice can be heard. It is in the silence that we will feel Christ by our side.

It is in the silence that God can then tell us what work needs to be done,

Pauline Meek

The Rectory St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Since I happened to be in your area last week, I tried to call in at your church, and was sorry to find it was locked and bolted, with surveillance cameras watching me.



We tend to be a little more relaxed about matters of security. The key to the medieval lock was lost some time during Queen Victoria's reign and never replaced. How someone managed to misplace a foot long piece of cast iron, weighing about 10 pounds is a mystery. If it had fallen out of someone's pocket, it would certainly have broken their foot. Ever since, no one has bothered with locking the door – which makes me wish our burglars last year had thought of trying it, before wasting so much energy smashing a stained-glass window when they visited in the early hours one morning. On the other hand, were the key still in use, I should probably be arrested these days for carrying an offensive weapon.

As with most rural churches, keys which open just about everything in the village are hidden in various parts of the church. The vestry key is under my seat cushion, the organ key under a vase on the altar, the church hall key on top of the hymn book cupboard, and Miss Simpson's spare front door key inside the font. I have never been certain whether the latter is there for safety, or as a general invitation. I am sure someone could usefully produce a book suggesting the many places that keys are likely to be found secreted in churches for the use of vergers, flower arrangers, cleaners – and thieves wanting to save themselves time and effort.

I suspect that the burdened look that many urban clergy wear is not because they are weighed down with parish troubles, but because they are obliged to carry with them a superfluity of keys needed to negotiate every door in church, hall, school, and vicarage. And why is there always one for which no one has any idea what it opens?

The only occasion I have ever thought it would be useful to be able to lock a church is when you have a party of visitors inside. So often, on hearing the words "let us pray" or the start of an appeal for funds, they bolt for the door.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic Rector Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

From the Wardens

As ever the wardens continue to support Lesley and our other Clergy in their ministries in our Parish.

At the APCM on Wednesday 24th May following a Eucharist, Pauline Hall, Doreen Park, Eric Gaskill, and Rob Matthews were elected Churchwardens for All Saints and St John's Burnhope, and will be sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation on Thursday 29th June at All Saints.

As agreed by PCC the work involved in draining down and flushing the heating system of the Chapter House and vestries, and the provision of new radiator valves was carried out on the 1st and 2nd June. It was quite a job for the engineers as the system hadn't been cleaned since its installation and the sludge that they removed was almost like tar. Little wonder that the system has underperformed for a while. Also fitted was a new Thermostat located in the link corridor which will enable the system to be easier to manage. All heating is now off until the Winter season. The proposals for a new boiler are to be on hold until a decision is made on how we can best approach the diocese's plans for carbon neutrality in Churches by 2030.

The storage unit in the rear corridor is fully in use now and filled with Messy Church materials, and will be looked after by two of our newer Messy Church Helpers. You may not have noticed but we are on a mission to declutter wherever possible and a date has been set for a loft clean which is long overdue.

When we are able, we intend to catch up with some retouching of the limewash where accessible.

We have an issue with one or two of the graves and memorials in All Saints and have requested a meeting with the Council. There is also a query about one of the trees in the Churchyard which is overhanging a residents garden but also causing some cracking to the adjoining wall. We have also brought this matter to the Council but will need a faculty to trim the trees.

At St Johns we still have some issues with grass cutting. Unlike All Saints, which as a closed Churchyard is maintained by the Council, St Johns churchyard is still open and is our responsibility to maintain. We are indebted to Kenny Barron who has cut the grass for years but now can't continue. We have again approached the community pay back scheme (Probation service) for help. However, if anyone would like to help or indeed knows someone or a group that is up for a challenge, please let The Wardens know or put them in touch to enable us to take it further. We thank Pauline, Richard and Stephen for their interim cutting session.

We look forward to a date in August when we are receiving Archdeacon Libby for her Inspection visit

For the Churchwardens Lanchester and Burnhope
Rob Matthews



LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Life marches on at quite a pace for us in school at the minute. Whilst we had the KS1 and KS2 Statutory Tests in May, June has brought us the Year 4 Multiplication Test and the Year 1 Phonics Screening Test as well as all the teacher assessments which are all due in shortly. That, combined with report writing and planning for September makes it a rather busy half term. It always amuses me when we are asked if we are winding down for summer. We just wind ourselves up too tightly!

It has been wonderful to welcome Revd Lesley and Revd Stephen even more of late – we really are so fortunate to have such dedicated vicars in our parish. They have been leading Church Forest Schools for Year 6 which has been tremendous! Our youngest children had also benefited with 'Little Seeds' taking place – the sharing of Bible Stories with our Reception children. Then they have also started our Jesus and Me (JAM) Club after school on a Thursday evening. All of this, as well as confirmation classes starting again really helps to enrich spirituality in our school so much. We are extremely grateful to both Lesley and Stephen for their time spent here.

We have children skipping into school every morning as there is so much taking place. The hot weather has been enjoyed by them all and it has been great to see the yard, field and woodland area packed with children and adults recently. We enjoyed a very successful session for Father's Day when we welcomed the children's 'Special People' into school. We had dads, grandads, mums, aunts, uncles – the whole range of relations join our Nursery and Reception children in the woodland for a Forest Schools Session. A great time was had by all, that's for sure! We are now in the season when we have many trips taking place each week, Year 5 and Year 6 residentials as well as sports days, bike rides, overnight camp and concerts.

Mrs Startup, who has worked at our school for 34 years has also decided to retire at the end of this academic year. Mrs Startup started working here as a teaching assistant before training in school to become a teacher – a job which she has done with great dedication and passion for the last 15 years. She will be highly missed by us all and she has treasured her time with every single child she has taught, going the extra mile with them all to make sure they all reach their full potential. She is one of the most caring and committed teachers I know and we will be very sorry to see her leave. However, retirement just brings new opportunities for her and I know she will not be able to do nothing when she leaves! I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher,

In appreciation of William Byrd

Four hundred years ago, on 4th July 1623, William Byrd, the English Renaissance composer, died. Regarded as one of the greatest of all British composers, he is best known for his sacred music. However, he wrote in many of the forms current in England at the time, and his many-faceted but unique music is still popular today, having received a resurgence of enthusiasm in the past century. Byrd was born into a musical and quite wealthy London merchant family, and became a pupil of Thomas Tallis at the Chapel Royal, whose mainly vocal music has also survived to the present day. Byrd became a Roman Catholic in the 1570s, when it was dangerous to do so, but he was so admired by the music-loving Queen Elizabeth that she gave him protection. Even so, he was still fined heavily for refusal to attend Anglican services – as was his wife Juliana Birley, with whom he had a long marriage, producing at least seven children. Byrd did compose sacred music for Anglican services – two of his pieces were used in the Coronation service this year. His total output of about 470 compositions were distinctive, but he raised church anthems and the Anglican service setting to new heights, together with consort songs – some perhaps using the poems of Norfolk landowner Sir Edward Paston. Despite being in some ways an awkward man, frequently involved in legal disputes, he was respected by musicians and non-musicians alike, known for his integrity and loyalty. He died at an advanced age (no-one is sure of his birth date) at the London home of the Earl of Worcester.



Source The Parish Pump

Dates for your Diary July 2023

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Sun 2nd</i> | 8.00am Eucharist at All Saints 9.45am Joint Service of Eucharist at St Thomas |
| <i>Mon 3rd</i> | 2.00pm Julian Prayer Meeting Chapter House |
| <i>Tues 4th</i> | 11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Chapter House 7.00pm Compline via Zoom with Margaret and Adrian |
| <i>Wed 5th</i> | 9.45am Eucharist at All Saints |
| <i>Thur 6th</i> | 9.00am Morning Prayer St Thomas |
| <i>Sat 8th</i> | 7.00pm Music for a Summer Evening, Choral Music from past to present by St Andrews Community Singers |
| <i>Sun 9th</i> | 8.00am Eucharist at All Saints 9.45 am Eucharist at St Thomas 10.30am Eucharist at All Saints (Joint Service) |
| <i>Tues 11th</i> | 11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Chapter House 6.00pm Café Church Burnhope Community Centre 7.00pm Compline via Zoom with Margaret and Adrian |
| <i>Wed 12th</i> | 9.45am Eucharist at All Saints |
| <i>Thur 13th</i> | 9.00am Morning Prayer St Thomas 7.00pm Church Wives AGM in the Chapter House followed by Strawberry Supper |
| <i>Sun 16th</i> | 8.00am Eucharist at All Saints 9.15am Service of the Word 9.45 am Eucharist at St Thomas 10.30am Eucharist at All Saints (Joint Service) |
| <i>Tues 18th</i> | 11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Chapter House 7.00pm Compline via Zoom with Margaret and Adrian |
| <i>Wed 19th</i> | 9.45am Eucharist at All Saints |
| <i>Thur 20th</i> | 9.00am Morning Prayer St Thomas 11.00am Eucharist at Lynwood |
| <i>Fri 21st</i> | 2.00pm Setting up for Summer Fayre |
| <i>Sat 22nd</i> | 10.00-12noon All Saints Summer Fayre |
| <i>Sun 23rd</i> | 8.00am Eucharist at All Saints 9.15am Eucharist at St John's 9.45 am Eucharist at St Thomas 10.30am Eucharist at All Saints |
| <i>Tues 25th</i> | 11.00am Meditation and Mindfulness Chapter House 7.00pm Compline via Zoom with Margaret and Adrian |
| <i>Wed 26th</i> | 9.45am Eucharist at All Saints 11.30am Eucharist at Castle Court Anfield Plain |
| <i>Thur 27th</i> | 9.00am Morning Prayer St Thomas |
| <i>Sun 30th</i> | 8.00am Eucharist at All Saints 9.15am Joint Service at St Johns |

Holiday Soothies

For dealing with motion sickness, ginger capsules are your new friend. Available from any health store, they do a wonderful job in calming upset tummies.



And for fever or frayed tempers, take some camomile tea bags with you. Camomile tea doesn't just calm your nerves; cooled down, the tea also soothes sunburn.

For discouraging mosquitoes & insomnia, take some essential oil of lavender. Mosquitoes hate the smell, so if you put a few drops around your pillow, you may keep them at bay - and help yourself drift off to sleep.

Source The Parish Pump

The sweet smell of rain

Have you ever noticed the sweet, fresh smell after a downpour of rain? That 'smell of rain' is called petrichor, and it fascinates scientists.

It was back in 1965 that scientists first named it. Petrichor comes from the Greek for stone, 'petra', and the golden fluid flowing through the veins of the immortals, 'ichor'.

Petrichor is produced when raindrops form air pockets on the rocks and soil, and softly force the release of aromatic chemicals trapped there. The petrichor-scented compounds drift upwards into the atmosphere as a gas, like a glass of champagne.

The odour itself comes mainly from a chemical called geosmin, which is made by bacteria in soil. Geosmin is made by soil microbes, to fend off hungry worms. Geosmin is highly pungent, and even just five parts per trillion can be picked up by the human nose

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)

And from St Thomas



HARELAW AND ANNFIELD PLAIN

READER

Pauline Meek, 32 Harewood Close, Whickham
(0191) 6602457

SERVICES AT ST THOMAS', HARELAW AND ANNFIELD PLAIN

First and Third & any 5th Sunday services

9:45 a.m. Service of the Word

Second and Fourth Sundays

9:45 a.m. Parish Eucharist

HOLY BAPTISM, WEDDINGS and FUNERALS –
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CHURCHWARDENS

Richard Huggins 39 South View Gardens
Annfield Plain 234147

Malcolm Meek, 32 Harewood Close, Whickham
(0191) 6602457

PCC VICE CHAIR

Malcolm Meek, 32 Harewood Close, Whickham
(0191) 6602457

PCC TREASURER, Open the Book Co-ordinator,
Safeguarding and Children's Society Boxes
Jane Makepeace jane.makepeace100@gmail.com

PCC HON SECRETARY

Donald Elsom, 53 Hamsterley Gardens,
Annfield Plain 234904

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Anne Whiteley, 12 Villa Real Road, Consett 590914

GIFT AID

Robert Gair valleygair@aol.com

ORGANIST

Bill Gray, Lanchester

MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH LEADER HARELAW AND ANNFIELD PLAIN

Jean Williams, 10 Kirkfield Gardens, Catchgate
281603

MU SECRETARY

Anne Whiteley, 12 Villa Real Road, Consett 590914

MU TREASURER

Jean Morecroft, 13 Victoria Terrace, Annfield Plain
233273

Perspective

If you have food in the fridge, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish somewhere, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you woke this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world.

If you can hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed, because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you could have read this message, you are more blessed than over 2 billion people who cannot read at all.

Help us Lord to count our blessings every day and give you thanks. Amen

sent by Anne Whiteley

Which staff?

Several years ago the then Bishop of London reported to the General Synod that before a church function he had said he would bring his pastoral staff. "And how many seats will you want?" came the reply

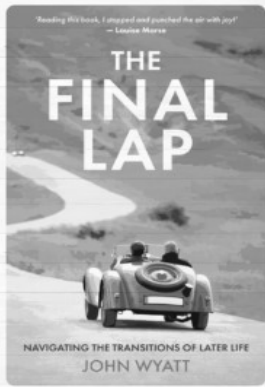


Philip Plyming appointed as new Dean of Durham

His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Reverend Canon Dr Philip Plyming as the next Dean of Durham. Dr Plyming succeeds the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, who was appointed Dean of St Paul's in London last year, and has been Warden of Cranmer Hall, the theological college within St John's College, Durham, since 2017. Commenting on his appointment, Philip said: "I thank God for the honour of being appointed to be the next Dean of Durham. Since I first worshipped and prayed in the Cathedral when I was a student at Durham University, I have known it to be an incredibly special place where people are impressed by the beauty of the building and invited to encounter the living God."



Book Reviews



The Final Lap – Navigating the Transitions of Later Life
By John Wyatt, 10Publishing, £6.99

Life's a marathon, with many highs and lows along the way. As we approach retirement we transition into a new stage of our long race, presenting us

with a range of possibilities and pitfalls to navigate.

John Wyatt gently invites Christians to think how they can approach the next stages of life well. He considers the move firstly from work to retirement, then independency to dependency, and finally from life to death as we approach the finishing line.

Whilst being honest about the struggles of each transition, *The Final Lap* lays out the wonderful opportunities God gives in every stage. And the better prepared we are to face each transition, the better we can face the challenges, and the more fully we can embrace the future with hope and joy.

Everyone a Child Should Know

By Claire Heath-Whyte & Jenny Brake, 10Publishing, £9.99

It's never too early to introduce the next generation to some of the heroes of faith. In this book, children will meet 52 Christian men and women (one for each week of the year) from all walks of life who wanted to live for their friend Jesus. There are missionaries, martyrs, writers, reformers, politicians, and poets. Their stories are exciting and inspiring and will show children how anyone's life can exemplify the command in 1 Corinthians 10:31: "whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."



Prayer Tip for the Month

Promise to make a space in each day to rejoice in God's presence and to hear him speaking in the spaces in your life



Smile Lines



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"

A prayer for July

Loving Father,
July brings long days and summer pleasures, for many, but not for all. Lord, we pray for those who are finding life to be a struggle; for families with no hope of a holiday this year; for parents who don't know how they will feed their children during the upcoming long school break; for those who are lonely, or discouraged, or isolated, or afraid.

Lord, we pray for justice and compassion from those in positions of power and responsibility. And please Lord, show us how to help, how to be part of the solution. May we, as your children, reflect your loving kindness wherever we can. May your Kingdom come on earth, through us.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

Daphne Kitching





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