

September 2022



The Burning Bush
Ex 3:1-12



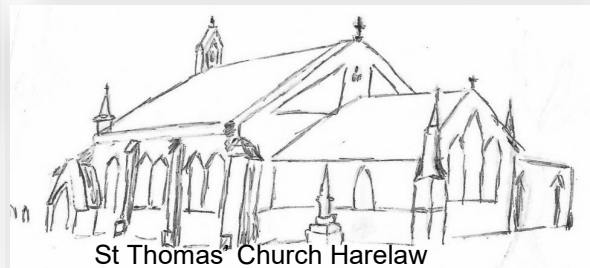
Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

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

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SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

First and Third Sunday services

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Second and Fourth Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30 am Service of The Word

6.00 pm Evensong

Wednesdays 9.45 am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -

by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st and 3rd Sunday 9.15 am Said Eucharist

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

4th Sunday 9.15am Service of the word

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

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Cottages Leadgate 07894515112

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

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



Copy sent by E-mail,

To robmatthews48@hotmail.com

**The copy deadline for the
October issue is
Sunday 18th September**



It's August. I'm at my desk, preparing the funeral of a gentleman from Delves Lane who had twin passions in life; his garden, and golf. Laurie grew vegetables for the table, relishing the feeling of earth under his hands and revelled in the magnificent landscapes and the camaraderie of the golf course. The world around us is a pervasive theme for Laurie's eulogy.

I'm particularly musing over the reading from scripture that we've chosen for Laurie. It's the culmination of the first creation account in Genesis, the chapter punctuated with the refrain; 'God saw that it was good;'

'Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

As I look out of the study window, the leaves are already falling on the birch tree in our carriage circle. We've just had a few consecutive days of hot weather, and the trees are stressed. Apparently, extreme temperatures and a lack of water can cause trees to drop their leaves earlier than we'd expect. There are hosepipe bans in huge areas of the country after the driest eight-month period from November 2021 to June 2022 since 1976, when the country struggled with severe drought. Over that period, just 421mm (16.6in) of rain has fallen across England - less than three-quarters (74%) of the 1991-2020 average of 568mm (22.4in).

Farmers are struggling for water; some crops have already failed. And as the land lies dry and parched, raw sewage is being discharged into our rivers and into the sea, contaminating the marine environment and resulting in beach closures at the busiest time of the year. God gives us creation and appoints us his stewards; what have we done?

Creationtide begins on 1st September. Originally an Eastern Orthodox initiative, it has now spread widely among Anglican, Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations, bringing Christians together to pray and work for the protection of the environment that sustains everyone. As followers of Christ from around the globe we share a common call to care for creation, to give an accounting of our stewardship, and to recommit ourselves to our vocation to sustain and renew the face of the earth. It's fitting, given the signs of climate emergency all around us, that this year the theme of Creationtide is 'Listen to the Voice of Creation,' and the logo is the Burning Bush.

This year, both our parishes are entering fully into Creationtide. All our services will reflect the urgency to tackle climate change and to preserve our beautiful planet for coming generations. During this season we'll have some special events- take a look at the 'Dates for you Diary' page- culminating in the return of Messy Church at All Saints featuring the Crazy Creatures Petting Zoo, Harvest celebrations in all our churches, and a Blessing of the Animals at Lanchester.

In Creationtide we hope that our common prayer and action will help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we will lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems in danger of being lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we will centre the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. We will remember those, like Laurie, who knew the consolation and the value of growing things and making the most of the landscape. We will remind ourselves that we are made in the image of God and that we have a huge responsibility to steward God's creation in ways that do not despoil and destroy. And perhaps the refrain to our prayers should simply be;
'God saw that it was good...'

Every blessing,

Lesley



The Burning Bush
Ex 3:12

**Listen to the
Voice of creation**
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Great Commission



“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20, ESV).

On Saturday 2nd of July I was ordained priest by Bishop Paul Butler in Durham Cathedral. This was a momentous occasion for me, my family and you my church family on this journey God has called us to. I began the week at Auckland Castle swearing the oath of allegiance to the Queen as head of the Church of England and canonical obedience to Bishop Paul and his successors in front of the diocesan registrar. Following the oaths and Bishop’s charge we met at the bishop’s house for lunch before heading off on retreat at Minsteracres.

Our time at Minsteracres was led by Revd’s Adrian and Helen Thorpe and mixed with the great silence was a time of reflection and prayer before our priesting on the Saturday. For the first time in my life, I am lost for words to explain that feeling which comes with being ordained. All I know is that God was truly present at that moment the bishop and priests around me laid their hands upon me and this was just the beginning.

On Sunday the 3rd I celebrated my first Eucharist at 10:30am at All Saints, Lanchester joined by St John’s, Burnhope and then at St Thomas Church, Harelaw & Annfield Plain at 3pm. God has called me to these churches of different traditions and the liturgy I hope reflected these traditions within the breadth of the Church of England.

At All Saints the Revd. Penny Martin preached and many retired priests concelebrated the Eucharist with retired clergy who have nurtured me through my diaconal year followed by a buffet and ordination cake provided by the people of All Saints & St John’s (wow). At St Thomas, Revd. Tom Sample preached, and we celebrated the Eucharist for the patronal festival of St Thomas followed by a buffet tea (another wow).

I was priested because I felt called and affirmed by God that this is what He wanted for me and I answered that call placing my trust in His hands, knowing all would be well. I must thank for being a constant presence and support my mother benefice of St Mary the Virgin, Sherburn, St Cuthbert’s, Shadforth & St Laurence Church, Pitlington and my sending benefice which included St Laurence and St Mary Magdalen, Belmont a part of both my mother benefice parishes. Which leaves Lanchester, Burnhope, Harelaw and Annfield Plain. Well, sometimes curacies fail, sometimes they are not right but geez this is not my experience! From my first day as Deacon to the present day I have never felt the stranger or the new boy in the church community or the village community. Each experience and encounter with you has played a part in my formation as deacon and I know each of you will play a part in my journey as priest leading me in a few years’ time to serving in my own parish,

For now, thank you for all you have done, thank you for your prayers and for making us feel welcome. Thank you to both the church community and the village community for your welcome and I look forward to working with you all doing God’s work in this amazing place we are called to serve.

Rev Stephen Martin



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.



Strawberry Tea

**Chapter House
Lanchester Parish
Church**



Tuesday 20th September

2.30-4.30pm



**Ice creams
for children**

**Tickets £3
Children free**

**Rodda's Cornish Clotted Cream
and Tiptree Jam courtesy of
The Cream Tea Society**

Happy Birthday to Hadrian's Wall

It was 1900 years ago, from 13th September 122 to 128, that Hadrian's Wall was built in northern England. It ran for nearly 80 miles from coast to coast and marked the northern limit of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, wanted to separate the Romans from 'the barbarians'.

In pre-Christian England the Picts – from Scotland, or Caledonia – were a real threat, often raiding Roman territories, using what we would call guerilla warfare to steal cattle and capture slaves in a province far from the centre of the empire. But the Wall also served to encourage trading with those outside, and enable the Romans to tax anyone who entered their territory.

Hadrian had a mixed reputation as Emperor. Described by historian Edward Gibbon as one of the "five good emperors", he was regarded by many as a benevolent dictator but by others as remote (he did spend a great deal of time away from Rome) and authoritarian, sometimes generous and sometimes cruel. He was certainly ambitious.

He was responsible for putting down the Bar Kokhba revolt in Judea (132-136) in an almost genocidal way. More than half a million Jews perished, and many more died of starvation or disease. This is a critical event in the history of the Jewish people.

Today the Wall remains the largest surviving archaeological feature from Roman Britain, and an amazing feat of engineering through difficult country – though only 10 per cent of it remains still visible. It is sometimes mistakenly thought to mark the English-Scottish border, but in fact most of Northumberland – an English county – is north of the wall.

Tim Lenton

Courtesy of The Parish Pump

Macmillan Coffee Morning



**Friday 30th September
10am to midday
Lanchester Community Centre.
Entry is free.**

**Cake and preserves, stall and
raffle**

Please come and join us for coffee and cookies. Your support will be much appreciated. Please help us to help Macmillan to be there for anyone living with Cancer.

Jackie Easton

***Do you need a good
night's sleep?***

***Pop a lavender bag un-
der your pillow.
Fresh Lavender bags
for sale 60p or 2 for £1***



Ring Margaret 521214

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester



I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer break but NOT the extremely hot weather. It will hopefully be cooler for our first meeting in September.

Our speaker will be our own Eric Gaskill who will be helping us to understand the meaning of words!! If you are curious please come to our meeting on Tuesday 13th September at 2pm to find out more!

Audrey Newton

Mothers' Union Burnhope



Our July Meeting was held on Monday 4th. We discussed Philippians Chapter 4, Verse 4, the word being 'rejoice'.

Our Strawberry Supper raised £300. Three of our members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Social Afternoon at St. Thomas's. Mrs Park and Mrs Hall were at the Ordination of the Reverend Stephen Martin.

May we wish you all a healthier and less stressful future.

Muriel Molloy

Thank You

I have been overwhelmed by the love and concern I have received from our church family after my recent sojourn in hospital where I was looked after wonderfully. I am improving every day and trying to do as I'm told which you will realise is not always easy for me!

Margaret Matthews

***Padded mobile phone cases
and padded spectacle cases***



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

£2.50 and £2

*All proceeds to Church
Funds*

Ring Margaret on 521214

The Language of Flowers

SPLENDOUR or PATRIOTISM

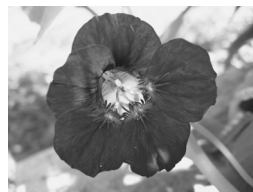
Nasturtium (scarlet) - Tropaeolum

Nasturtiums were first brought from Peru late in the sixteenth century. The name can be literally translated from the Latin as 'nose-twister' or 'nose tormentor', referring to the plant's biting, pungent taste, reminiscent of watercress.



Linnaeus devised the nasturtium's generic name, Tropaeolum, from the Latin tropaeum, a trophy, because the helmet-shaped flowers and shield-like leaves conjured notions of the aftermath of battle when Greeks and Romans would set up a tall trophy pole (the tropaeum) and drape the armour of the vanquished foe on it as an emblem of victory.

The flame flower with its brilliant scarlet blooms is one of the most beautiful of the species. Nasturtiums are also known as Indian cress and lark's heel because 'unto the backe-part (of the flowers) doth hang a taile or spurre such as hath the Larkes heel' (Gerard).



The flowers can be eaten in salads and the seeds can be substituted for capers. I would just rather look at the nasturtium flowers in the garden.

Audrey Newton

Fresh batches of chutney and jams made regularly.

Currently available -

chutneys: beetroot, spiced apple, spiced tomato and courgette

jam: mixed berry, plum, homegrown white currant jam.

**Ring Margaret on 521214
or Jen on 520498**

We are happy to deliver.



Thank You

We, as a family, wish to thank clergy and everyone for cards (132 in total) flowers, prayers, kind messages, support and love given to us in the recent passing of John, a much loved husband, father and grandfather. This has been a great comfort to us at this difficult time. God bless you all.

Margaret, Paul, Rachel, Alexandra and Mike

100 Club News

The July draw was made in the Chapter House on Sunday 26th June by Olga and Sue.

Winning numbers were:
£20 - 39 £10- 165, 8

All £5- 74, 125,100, 129,148,119



York Christmas Shopping Trip

The York Christmas Shopping trip is going to go ahead this year after two years of Lockdown. The date is SATURDAY DECEMBER 3rd and the price of the bus will not exceed £14. If you are interested please give your name to Brenda (01207 520749 steve24c07@aol.com) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Brenda Craddock

Church Flowers in September

4th Sept	B Eckford
11th Sept	H Muir, Mrs Alcock
18th Sept	C Rotherham (R,W,B)
25th Sept	M Fenwick, J Young A Wright



Julian Prayer Meetings

**2pm in the
Chapter House
Monday
5th September**



Church Wives

Oh my goodness it has been hot.

I hope a good summer has been your 'lot'!
Certainly we have had plenty of sun to brighten each day

And winter blues seem far away.

Thank you God for all the days we have enjoyed since we last met

And bless the year ahead as our new programme is set.

We want You in our lives and in our meetings

To make them meaningful Christian greetings.

We begin on the 8th of September with our AGM.

Accompanied by a Faith Supper-always a gem!

The 22nd is our second meeting and again a treat in store

Kath and Harry Gilbert of their talents show us more.
This time 'Awesome New Zealand' will be in our sight
Truly beautiful slides and talk will be a sheer delight.

Brenda Craddock

Church Wives Group

Church Wives Group is largely made up of mums who have known one another for many years. Some of our children grew up together at school and Sunday School and now that we are all grans we are still interested in one another's families and concerned for their well-being. New Wives have come to the village and meetings over the years and each have brought their own stories of children and family life and we have loved hearing them. Family life was so important to Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mother's Union. Our Wives Group was founded and led by Canon Beckwith's wife in the old vicarage on Cadger Bank when I came to the village in 1972 and I took over the leadership in 1975 when I became involved in the Young Families Department of the Mother's Union. That is our connection with the Mother's Union whose beliefs and values we also uphold and admire greatly their wonderful missional work throughout the world. Families are and always will be an important part of the Church Wives Group.

I especially love hearing about the lives of children who grew up in the Sunday School during my 27 years of running it between 1975 and 2002. I absolutely loved it and the children all meant so much to me. That is why it was especially good to hear that Craig Davies our organist, who attended the Sunday School from being very young and was very enthusiastic about it, is now going to pursue a ministry in Readership. He has remained faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ since Sunday School days and has taken an active part in our Church life and worship for a long time. I am delighted for him, warmly congratulate him and wish him every happiness and success in the future. Well done Craig

Brenda Craddock



Thank you from Elizabeth Wharton

Elizabeth, Ruth and Naomi would like to thank everyone for the many cards (over 160) and beautiful flowers sent on the passing of Alan, a much loved husband of 61 years, Dad and Grandpa, aged 84.

Thank you to Rev. Lesley and Stephen for conducting a fitting service, Bill Gray for playing the organ superbly as always, Eric Gaskill, Peter Smith and Rob Matthews for ensuring the congregation had a seat and Michael Knowles for producing a wonderful service book. It was lovely to have a guard of honour from the Lanchester Bowlers.

Alan loved Lanchester and although in his youth he was a member of Consett Boys Brigade and attended The Grove Methodist Church. He was not a regular church goer until his latter years and he enjoyed coming to the services at All Saint's Parish Church with a tale to tell and putting the world to rights with Ian Sutherland.

Thank you for all the donations to Lanchester Parish Church and The Mini Operatic Branch Junior Section for children age 8 to 18 of the Retford Musical Theatre Company of which Naomi is a member.

Elizabeth and Ruth

A letter from Chelsea

Dear Friends,

I was so privileged to be in the chancel to assist mum for the first time at Rev Stephen's first celebration of the Eucharist. What a wonderful service for such a special occasion, I was so proud to be there. Thank you all for welcoming me. Benny and I had been planning a couple of fun events to raise money for our Dogs for Good charity, before Benny sadly died. I miss him very much but have decided to carry on with the events anyway. It will be an adventure to do both events on my own now I am a grown up assistance dog.



Wolsingham Show Saturday 3rd September & Sunday 4th September

I will have my very own stand at the show on both Saturday and Sunday. I hope many of you might like to visit me at the stand and perhaps some of you might like to sit on the stand for half an hour or so, then I could have a loo break!! It would be good to see any of you.

Saturday 1st October 11.0am to 3.0pm Sponsored dog walk, 5 miles, Derwent reservoir.

I am doing a sponsored walk. Adrian has promised to walk with me! Mum will be booking people in and Helen will be acting as rearguard for the walkers. If any one felt like joining me for the walk I would be delighted. Sponsor forms from Mum. Perhaps some of you might like to sponsor me for walking. If so again contact Mum on 01207 528990 or mpidge48@gmail.com. Mum would also appreciate some company at the booking in point, and a check point, so if anyone feels that they could volunteer, please let Mum know. Thank you so much!!

I am off now to trot round Malton and have a dip in the river. Woof! Chelsea.

Saints: 9th September St. Peter Claver Compassion for Slaves

Here is a saint for anyone with a social conscience. Claver was born in 1581 near Barcelona at Verdu, and at 20 became a Jesuit. He went as a missionary to New Granada and worked to alleviate the terrible suffering of the slaves who arrived from West Africa, caged like animals. (It was said that you could smell the stench of a slave ship while it was still seven miles from shore.) Claver helped the poor wretches who survived long enough to reach dry land. He gave them food and medicine as well as spiritual comfort. He is said to have cared for and baptised 300,000 slaves. What a difference one life can make to thousands of people!

Pauline's Reflection

I write this as I prepare to go on retreat, and I feel desperately in need of it. I think many of us experience a spiritual "burn-out" at some time in our lives. That awful time when you feel that you are praying into a void; when you are reaching deep into the well of your soul and bringing up only dust and stones because you are scraping the bottom. That well of sweet living water, that you have drunk from so very deeply in the past, is dry.

It is awful

It is terrifying.

Where is God?

Malcolm and I used to go away 3-4 times a year in our little caravan and on occasion I would go away on my own (well, with a small dog) , but of course lockdown stopped that. There has been no opportunity for spiritual or physical refreshment. I've felt myself struggling - not only to write sermons, prayers and reflections, but worse than that - to feel anything at all

I cannot feel God. I began to doubt the existence of God. I have had to remind myself that I HAVE experienced God; that I KNOW God is there, and that it is I who am lacking, not the Creator. I remind myself, too, that I have experienced this darkness and emptiness before, and that when the darkness lifts I find that I have experienced a profound change which has taken place in that spiritual desert. And when you think about it, that sounds right, doesn't it? Every prophet in the Old Testament goes into the desert - the silence, the emptiness, the withdrawal from interaction with others allows them to meet God, hear God, and learn what God really wants them to do. Jesus himself went into the wilderness for 40 days. That "emptiness" is not empty at all. It is full of God.

I know, in my heart, that these empty times are not a spiritual death, but rather a metamorphosis; like a caterpillar which pupates to become completely remade and emerge as a butterfly, the soul reaches a stage where it needs to withdraw to allow God to work within it in the deep, enfolding, protective darkness so that necessary changes can take place. God brings us back on track.

I hope that sooner rather than later I will emerge, blinking at the light, having experienced a profound yet indefinable shift. That is what has happened in the past, and I pray that that is what will happen this time. I hope that the retreat, with its opportunity for immersing myself in prayer, with no distractions, will be the catalyst for it.

I pray that at worst I will return rested and refreshed - but that at best God will finish whatever change is taking place. I remind myself that God's time is not our time. **But God's time is the right time.**

Christian Basics: Why Belong to the Church? by Canon Paul Hardingham

Many people are struggling to connect with church today following the pandemic. However, we should *'not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing'* (Hebrews 10:25). The church is not simply a building or services, but a shared friendship with Jesus, as the NT makes clear.

1. The Family of God

The church is a community united by their love for God and readiness to share this love with others: *'a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light'* 1Peter 2:9. It is in the life of the church that people can connect with God's love.

2. The Body of Christ

The church is also Christ's body on earth, *'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ'*. 1 Cor 12:12 We all have a unique contribution to make, using our different gifts, experience and passion. However, beware of those attitudes that stop us representing Christ: *inferiority 'I have nothing to offer' or superiority 'I don't need you'*

3. A Holy Temple

In the OT the temple was God's home on earth; now the church has become His home: *'In Him the whole building is joined together ... in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.'* Ephesians 1: 21,22. Church is a place where people can be loved, accepted and welcomed home. Is this our experience of church and what changes would make it more as God intends?

Don't forget: *'The local church is the hope of the world'* (Bill Hybels).



An Extract from the Parish Magazine of September 1895

My dear Friends,

With a fine St, Swithun's day everyone was expecting and hoping for favourable weather, but unfortunately it has been a most hindersome time for the hay, so much so that we are able to see the harvest begun, with fields in stook, and a great deal of hay not stacked yet; whilst speaking of harvest may I ask our good friends, who grow any corn, to reserve a little of each kind for the decoration of the church at the "Harvest Home" on Wednesday, October 2nd. The Tea will be held in the School, commencing at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The prices of admission being the same as previously, 2/6 and 9d. The Thanksgiving Service in the Church will begin at 7 o'clock, when the Preacher will be the Rev. W. Cosgrave, Vicar of West Hartlepool; with the hearty co-operation of our people I hope that our undertaking may prove a great success.

But before the "Harvest Home" is held we have to think about the Sale of Work, which is to be opened by Canon Body, at 2 o'clock on Wednesday, Sept. 4th, in the Schools.

Besides the plain sewing and useful garments, there are to be offered for sale many fancy things in the shape of work, soaps, scents, ornaments &c. Then we hope to have a Stall of farm produce, consisting of butter, eggs, fowls, and the like; at intervals during the Sale there will be selections of music; and Refreshments in the Infants' Room at a moderate price.

The next event we have to chronicle is the Annual Choir Excursion, this year to Whitby; leaving home at 7.30 a.m. on Monday 19th, we joined an excursion train at Durham. And after a long, though by no means tedious, journey we reached our destination, passing through that lovely scenery in Cleveland. After partaking of dinner the ascent of the 199 steps to the old Church and Monastic ruin was made; it being Regatta day there was a great deal to be seen going on in the harbour; an hour spent on the briny ocean, and a refreshing cup of tea, as best we could get it, brought our sojourn at the quaint picturesque town to a close, and the return journey enlivened by many a song and chorus was accomplished just before midnight; the weather having been splendid, a most enjoyable day was spent. It was well for us to visit the home of that saintly woman, Hilda, the chief instigator of the Northumbrian Church in its earliest stage, and closely connected with our own county; the Tyne, the Wear, the Hartlepoons, these are our chief centres of population and commerce, and with all these her name is connected; in our own Parish Register I find the original name of Shields, St. Hilda in the last century.

From the Wardens

We are currently awaiting the contractor to carry out the boiler servicing. We have contacted MSD who have carried out work for us before. They have agreed to make arrangements to come to see the boiler. There may be a problem with the fluing arrangement in the boiler house. The existing arrangement does not meet with current standards. This was fine when British Gas was the servicing provider but a new servicing contractor may take a view that the fluing arrangement may need alteration. MSD have commented on this before but we need to revisit the problem. This may be a costly exercise if required and will require a faculty.

The ornamental light fitting above the Chapter House Door (externally) was found to have been pulled from the wall. We assume that this had been done deliberately and we temporarily removed it as it is extremely heavy and could have been a potential danger to users of the Churchyard path. Arrangements to refix it have been made.

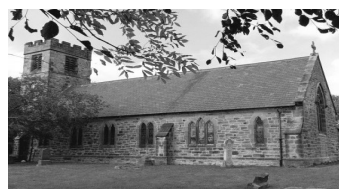
The Church piano has been tuned. Our thanks to David Baggott for arranging this.

Thank you to Pauline and Richard Hall for the loan of a leaf blower which will be extremely useful around the churches especially as Autumn approaches.

At St John's we are still in contact with the Probation Service who we are hoping will take over work on the Churchyard, relieving Kenny Barron of the burden of looking after the mowing etc. We extend our grateful thanks to Kenny for the unstinting work he has carried out in past years. The headstone which was (illegally) moved by the family has still not been returned. Fortunately, it is behind the church as it is quite unsightly.

A working group will be formed to ensure a Churchyard tidy this year for both Churches. We still await a quotation for ridge repairs and are actively looking for another contractor to prepare this.

For The Wardens
Rob Matthews





LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



I am writing this in the middle of August as the rain just starts to fall – and how grateful we are for that - and also for a break to the intense heat we have experienced this month. August is a time when school staff all over the world have chance to re-charge their batteries and enjoy time with our own families. I have just returned from a few days in Peebles with my mum and am heading off to Croatia with my family at the weekend. I must admit that my suitcase will just be full of books – I am so looking forward to sitting still and reading!

The end of the academic year was certainly a busy, but very successful one. Our production in Consett Empire Theatre of One Sun, One World was highly successful with the children truly excelling. Two full houses, rapturous applause, confident children and very proud parents and grandparents made for very satisfied and proud teachers too!

Of course, we had the intense heat wave during our last week in school as well but we were able to make the most of it by organising water days for the children with the water slide undoubtedly being the highlight for children and adults alike! We enjoyed a lovely social evening for our Year 6 children including the water slide, barbecue and games on the field.

The highlights at the end of term are always the leavers' events and it was so special to be able to return to church for our leavers' service – the first time since 2019! This is always highly-charged with emotion as we remember each child in turn and recognise some of their special times in school. This is followed by the presentation of the Rotary Citizenship Awards and the greatly coveted Henry Dancer Award too. I always find the service quite a challenge emotionally as we have lived and worked with these children for over 7 years and spent more time with them than we do our own families! We are proud of them all and just want the very best for their futures. It is always hard to say goodbye but we know they won't forget their time with us and are more than ready for the next important step in their lives.

This was followed by the Year 6 leavers' assembly the following morning. This is always much more light-hearted and this year it was the turn for the children to make fun of some of the staff! They presented 'The Primary Awards for our National Teaching Superstars' with awards such as Little Miss Perfect, Mr Daydream, Mr Busy, Mr Messy, Miss Adventure for Travel and Exploration, Mr It's All About Me and Miss Best Dressed. I am sure you can imagine how much the children enjoyed making fun of all the staff – it really was quite hilarious!

But we are already starting to look forward to the coming year. We are welcoming 60 children into our Reception classes and I know it is going to be another busy year ahead. We also welcome Mr Callum Adamson to the teaching staff who has replaced Mr Kenny Keeton who has gone to live and work in Dubai. Mr Adamson used to play out with Henry Dancer so it is lovely to have that special link too.

As we make preparations for the new term, our thoughts and prayers are with all children who have left us – whether they are starting secondary school, a new primary school or a new school in a different part of the country. September is a time for new beginnings and we will all be looking forward (and some with a few nerves I am sure) to our new routines and lives. Let's hope this academic year is as successful as the last one was for us all!

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher, Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School

Dates for your Diary September 2022

Sat 3rd	10-12	Monthly coffee, cake, chat, St. Thomas
Sun 4th	St. Aidan's Day. Beginning of Creationtide	
	9.15am	Eucharist St. John's
	9.45am	Celebration Eucharist St. Thomas
	10.30am	Eucharist, All Saints
Mon 5th	9.00am	Morning Prayer, All Saints
	2.00pm	Julian Prayer Meeting Chapter House
		Mothers' Union St. Thomas
Tues 6th	11.00am	Meditation & Mindfulness Chapter House
	7.30pm	Zoom Compline with M & A Armstrong
Wed 7th	9.45am	Eucharist, All Saints
	10.00am	Eucharist, Annfield Plain Community Centre
Thurs 8th	9.00am	Morning Prayer, St. Thomas
	7.00pm	Church Wives Chapter House
		AGM & Faith Supper
Sun 11th	8.00am	Eucharist, All Saints
	9.45am	Eucharist, St. Thomas
	10.30am	Service of the Word, All Saints
	6.00pm	Monthly Evensong All Saints
Mon 12th	9.00am	Morning Prayer, All Saints
	3.00pm	Social & Fundraising Committee Meeting
Tues 13th	11.00am	Meditation & Mindfulness Chapter House
	2.00pm	MU. Chapter House
		Eric Gaskill 'The Meaning of Words'
	6.00pm	Café Church, Burnhope Community Centre
	7.30pm	Zoom Compline with M & A Armstrong
Wed 14th	9.45am	Eucharist, All Saints
	7.00pm	PCC Chapter House
Thurs 15th	9.00am	Morning Prayer, St. Thomas
Sun 18th	9.15am	Eucharist, St. John's
	9.45am	Service of the Word, St. Thomas
	10.30am	Service of the Word, All Saints
Mon 19th	9.00am	Morning Prayer, All Saints
Tues 20th	11.00am	Meditation & Mindfulness Chapter House
	2.30-4.30pm	Strawberry Tea, Chapter House
	7.30pm	Zoom Compline with M & A Armstrong
Wed 21st	9.45am	Eucharist, All Saints
	10am	Service of the Word, A. Plain Community Centre
Thurs 22nd	9am	9am Morning Prayer, St. Thomas
	7.00pm	Church Wives Chapter House
		'Awesome New Zealand'
Sun 25th	8am	Eucharist, All Saints
	9.15am	Service of the Word, St. John's
	9.45am	Eucharist, St. Thomas
	10.30am	Service of the Word, All Saints
	3.00pm	The Return of... Messy Church! 'All God's
		Creatures,' featuring Crazy Creatures North East. Chapter House
Mon 26th	9.00am	Morning Prayer, All Saints
Tues 27th	11.00am	Meditation & Mindfulness Chapter House
Wed 28th	9.45am	Eucharist, All Saints
	12.00	Bible and Bait—Bible Study & Bring and
		Share Lunch, St. Thomas Community Room
Thurs 29th		A Celtic Service for Michaelmas Day,
		Lanchester Community Orchard, venue & time to be confirmed.



Sun 2nd October; Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

9.15am Eucharist, St. John's
9.45am Service of the Word,
St. Thomas
10.30am Harvest Service, All Saints
3.00pm Blessing of the Animals—
bring your pets along to be blessed.
Venue to be confirmed.



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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 – by arrangement with the Vicar

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 and Open the Book Co-ordinator
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

Jane Makepeace jane.makepeace100@gmail.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

St. Thomas' Mothers' Union



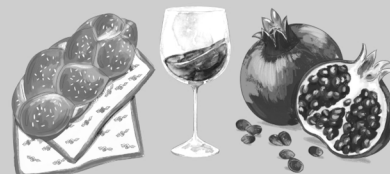
At our meeting in July we welcomed our Diocesan President, Carole Hopkinson, who gave a lovely talk about three women in her family who had influenced her life and encouraged her faith, all Mothers' Union members.

In August we are looking forward to enjoying a meal out - the first since lockdown and hopefully the first of many!

Anne Whiteley

He said to me " ...eat this scroll I am giving you
and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it
tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

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**First meeting 28th
September**

The Door of Prayer by Iris Hesselden

*When you feel you are forgotten
And no one seems to care,
Close the door on all your troubles
And open one in prayer.
Let the light and love surround you
And leave the world behind,
And with the healing gift of prayer
Discover peace of mind.*

*When your rocky road seems endless
Without a bend or turn,
Light a candle in the darkness
And watch it gently burn.
Seek the hidden strength within you
And find new courage there,
Close the door on all your troubles
And open one in prayer.*

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Book Reviews



**.Jesus Through the Eyes of Women
– how the first female disciples help us
know and love the Lord**
By Rebecca McLaughlin, 100fthose, £9.74

If the women who followed Jesus could tell you what He was like, what would they say?

Jesus's treatment of women was revolutionary. That's why they flocked to Him. Wherever He went, they sought Him out. They came to Him for healing, for forgiveness, and for answers. So what did women see in this first-century Jewish rabbi and what can we learn as we look through their eyes today?

This book explores the life-changing accounts of women who met the Lord. By entering the stories of the named and unnamed women in the Gospels, this book gives readers a lens to see Jesus as these women did and marvel at how He loved them in return.

God Among the Ruins: trust and transformation in difficult times
By Mags Duggan, BRF, £8.99

Where do we turn when our world is falling apart? It takes courage to hope; to stand in our confusion and grief and still to believe that 'God is not helpless among the ruins'.

Guided by Habakkuk and his prophetic landmarks, we are drawn on a reflective journey through the tangled landscape of bewildered faith, through places of wrestling and waiting, and on into the growth space of deepened trust and transformation. As you read, discover for yourself the value and practice of honest prayer, of surrender, of silence and listening, and of irrepressible hoping.

Prayer Tip for the Month

*Gaze upon Him
Consider Him
Contemplate Him
As you desire to imitate Him*
St. Clare



A Prayer for September

Belonging to God

How good You are, Lord,
and how near You are to us -
so near that we may always talk to You,
be comforted by You,
breathe through You,
be enlightened by You,
find peace in You,
and gain spiritual nourishment from You.
Grant that my fellowship with You
may never be polluted by malice, pride, envy,
greed, gluttony or falsehood.
Grant that I may belong wholly to you.

By John Sergieff (1829 – 1908) a Russian priest of humble family, who became renowned for his prayers which ordinary people could use.



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."



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