



March 2015



Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE PARISH NEWS



St. John's Church, Burnhope

40p monthly
Or
£4 per year

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

Incumbent—Reverend Rupert Kalus

The Vicarage, 1, Lee Hill Court, Lanchester DH7 0QE
Tel: 521170 E-mail: r.kalus737@btinternet.com

READERS

Peter Jackson, 23 Humberhill Drive 521156
Doreen Park, 10 West Terrace 438564
Burnhope
Ann Sinclair, 16 Deanery View 521029
Stephen Burt Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10.30am every Sunday

Wednesday 9.45am Holy Communion
7.15pm Contemplative Service
& Eucharist (monthly)

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -
by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st Sunday of the month
9.30 Communion by Extension
3rd Sunday of the month
9.30 Parish Eucharist
Midweek at St. John's 10am (monthly)

CHURCHWARDENS

Dennis Geer, 'Rooks View' 529025
51, Meadowfield, Burnhope
Pam Hasler, Clive Cottage, 528846
3 Ornsby Hill
Doreen Park, 10 West Terrace 438564
Burnhope
Peter Smith, 27 Ford Road 520498

VICE CHAIRMAN PCC

Margaret Matthews, Delves House,
Delves Lane 505448

HON. TREASURER

Stephen Bailey, 40 Briardene 521884

HON. SECRETARY PCC

Sandy Jackson, 23 Humberhill Drive 521156

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

David Baggott, 14, Woodlands 520646

GIFT AID

Miranda Donnelly, 29 Bradbury Close 231570
Tanfield Lea, Stanley

ORGANISTS

Craig Davies, 16, Burnhopeside Avenue
07999596274
craig_w_davies@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Collins, 7 Langley Avenue, 521289
Dr Ian Brunt, The Lodge, Durham Rd 521317

TOWER CAPTAIN

Olga Walker, 9 Pineridge Avenue 01740
Sedgefield 621865

CHURCH WIVES GROUP

Brenda Craddock, 38 Briardene 520749

MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH LEADER LANCHESTER

Margaret Brown, 31 Oakwood 529714

SECRETARY:

Jill Finlayson, 21 The Barns, Stanley 284344

MOTHERS UNION BRANCH LEADER BURNHOPE

Elva Hockaday, 6 The Villas, 520019
Burnhope

SECRETARY:

Muriel Molloy, 1 Whitehouse Avenue 521441
Burnhope

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Contact the Vicar 521170

MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Margaret Walters, 60 Briardene 521214

PARISH ROOM SECRETARY

Angela Lee, Fairfield Lodge 520032
Maiden Law

CHURCH FLOWERS

Barbara Sproat, 37 Greenwell Park 520247

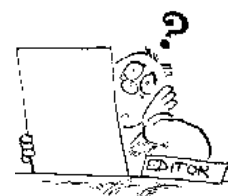
MUSIC GROUP

Janet Jackson, 31 Foxhills Crescent 521250

MEN'S FORUM

Dave Collins, 24 Foxhills Crescent 521300

Contributions to
the Church
Magazine are
always welcome.



Copy should be handed personally to
Margaret Walters, left in the tray at the back of
church or, preferably, sent by E-mail.
Tel: 521214.

Email: mwalters468@btinternet.com

**The deadline for copy for the
April issue is
SUNDAY March 15th**



The Gratitude Game

When life is challenging it can be very hard to feel gratitude. At such times, being told to count our blessings can be the very last advice we need to hear. However, over the centuries people of faith have learnt that saying thank you for the gifts God has given us can be of great personal benefit. It raises our spirits, makes us see what is positive in the world and helps us look outward. Modern psychologists tell us much the same thing. In short, gratitude is good for us. This has been my experience too. As a result I try to ensure that thanksgiving always forms a central part of my life of prayer. Each night before I go to sleep I review my day and try to bring to mind all those things for which I am grateful. Sometimes the list can be quite short, but most days there really is too much to mention. And whether it be the big things or the seemingly insignificant, the more time I spend thinking the longer the list gets. In fact the list can get so long that sometimes I turn it into a kind of game. It's a game that helps me not just to be thankful, but also teaches me how dependent I am on other people. It teaches me that to do almost anything I rely on someone else. It teaches me that in the end everything is gift. Anyway I thought I would give you an example of the Gratitude Game and, if you like, give it a go. The aim is to see just how many people we depend on for even the simplest daily activity. Begin, for example, by giving thanks for your evening meal. Give thanks for the food and all the different people who helped produce it. Give thanks for the farmers and manufacturers both in this country and across the world. Give thanks for those who made the packaging and who transported it. Give thanks for those who sold you the ingredients. Give thanks for those who designed and supplied the refrigerator to keep everything fresh. Give thanks for those who produced and fitted your cooker. Give thanks for those who supplied the gas or electricity and who maintain these utilities. Give thanks for the water and all who were involved in piping it to your home. Give thanks for the furniture on which you sit and at which you eat. Give thanks for the crockery and utensils and all those who designed, produced and sold them. If you ate your meal with other people give thanks for their company and for their conversation. If you ate your meal while listening to the radio or watching the TV, give thanks for this too.

As you can see it is possible to go on almost forever. There are literally a countless number of things for which we can give thanks. Most importantly remember that all this marvellous web of connections is held, sustained and created each moment by our loving and compassionate God. That really is something for which we can always give thanks.

CHRISTIAN AID

Rodney Kaloke from Kenya, who is involved in the Maternal and Child Health programme you supported so generously via the Christmas appeal, is visiting Lanchester on Wednesday March 4. From 10.30am he will be at the Traidcraft Coffee morning in the Chapter House, then from 11.30 he will be at the Methodist Church for the regular monthly lunch. Afterwards Rodney will give a brief presentation about his work. This is an exciting opportunity to hear directly how our money is used so hope that anyone interested will feel free to come for a simple lunch (soup and a sweet) and stay on to listen to what Rodney has to say.

Services for Holy Week and Easter Day

Palm Sunday	All Saints' 8am, 10.30am as usual All Saints' 6pm Ecumenical Worship
Mon 30th March	All Saints' 7pm Holy Communion and Meditation
Tues 31st March	St. John's 11am All Saints' 7pm Holy Communion and Meditation
Wed 1st April	All Saints' 7pm Holy Communion and Meditation
Maundy Thursday	All Saints' 7pm Liturgy for the Commemoration of the Lord's Supper with Stripping of the altar
Good Friday	9.30am Ecumenical Act of Witness on the Village Green St John's 11am Holy Communion All Saints' 2pm Liturgy for Good Friday
Easter Day	Morning services as normal NO Evensong



PARISH REGISTERS Lanchester and Burnhope

Funerals

20th January **John Douglas Truswell**, aged 87 years

5th February **Doris Bolam**, aged 91 years



'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'

Archbishops propose new “programme for reform and renewal”

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to members of the Church of England’s General Synod proposing a “programme for reform and renewal” for the Church.

The statement came ahead of the publication of a series of reports and papers proposing reforms that were published on the C of E website ahead of the February meeting of the General Synod.

The reports have been released alongside videos and blogs on the Church’s communications blog. The first paper, ‘Developing Discipleship’, was published alongside a video interview with the Bishop of Sheffield, Steven Croft reflecting on the vision for the Church in discipleship.

Bishop Steven said: “The Church is called to be and to become a community of missionary disciples. Discipleship is not just about learning, it’s also about service and being equipped for God’s service in the world as Christ sends us out. And growing the Church is about making disciples in obedience to Jesus’ commission in Matthew 28. Serving the common good is about equipping every Christian disciple to make a difference, in the wider world, in their workplace, in their family, in their community, so that the Church as a whole is a blessing to God’s world and a channel of His grace and love.”

The second paper published was entitled ‘Simplification’ and in the accompanying video interview, the Bishop of Willesden, Pete Broadbent introduced the work of the group:

“The remit of the Simplification Task Group has been to identify hindrances to mission. We asked bishops, archdeacons and dioceses – ‘What is it that prevents you from making changes that will enable parishes, churches and congregations to flourish and new initiatives to take shape?’”

The third paper, ‘Resourcing Ministerial Education’, was published with another video with the Bishop of Sheffield who introduces the work of that Task Group: “The way we encourage, prepare and form lay and ordained ministers is critical for the future mission of the Church of England.... Are we recruiting and training the right numbers of clergy and lay ministers with the right gifts for the future? Are we offering them the best possible formation and training to equip and support them in their ministry.”

Finally, two papers were published together on ‘Resourcing the Future’; and a paper from Andreas Whittam Smith, First Church Commissioner entitled ‘Church Commissioners’ Funds and Inter-Generational Equity’. Canon Dr John Spence, Chair of the Finance Committee of the Archbishops’ Council, explained: “We are here to help every parish, deanery and diocese achieve its goals. The totality of the reports published this week represent a coordinated response to a proven and vital need....the need to respond to those dioceses who have asked for us to help inject other expertise on strategy to help turn their ambitious plans to reality.”

All of the blogs, videos and reports can be found at: www.cofecomms.tumblr.com

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES



Mothers' Union, Lanchester

The speaker at the meeting on 11th March, 7.30pm in the Chapter House is the Cathedral Librarian, Canon Rosalind Brown and the title of her talk is Hymns with a Durham Connection. The speaker at the April meeting will be Mary Jarvis speaking about her personal link with slavery.

The Deanery Lady Day service this year is at St. Ives' Church, Leadgate on Wednesday 25th March which is in fact Lady Day and is a Eucharist conducted by their vicar, Revd David Cleugh. The service begins at 2pm and will be followed by refreshments.

The coffee morning for our own funds is on Wednesday 20th May in the Chapter House 9.30-11.30am when there will be the usual cake stall and raffle.



Jill Finlayson

Church Wives



The snowdrops are out, and there are other signs too.

That every day we draw nearer to warmer days for you.

In the gardens, lots of fresh buds can now be seen.

Gardeners will soon be out there, if they are keen.

On the 12th we hear about 'Friends of the Nazareth Home' a charity we support and slides of it will be shown.

'The Judicial System' on the 26th, is the talk we will hear.

No sentences will be passed, so no need to fear!

Come to the service on Ash Wednesday if you can.

For your observance of Lent you could even make a plan.

Brenda Craddock



Mothers' Union, St. John's

Our February meeting was held on Monday 2nd. Mrs Hockaday conducted our service which was around family and communities. There followed a discussion on family values.

We each received the Mother's Day gift book and MU catalogue.

Muriel Molloy



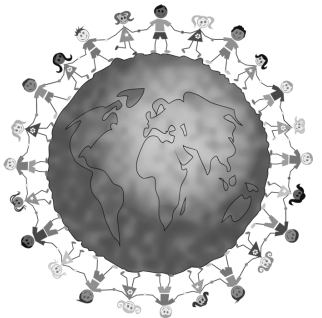
100 Club

The winning numbers of the February draw, all £5, were:

3,31,51,122,145,163

Eric & Hazel Gaskill

Women's World Day of Prayer



Women's World Day of Prayer will take place in our church this year, on Friday March 6th, 2015. As in other years it will begin at 2.00pm and finish at 3.00pm. This year the Ladies in the Bahamas have written the service on the theme 'Jesus said to them: Do you know what I have done to you?' These words are written in John's Gospel Chapter 13.

We hope that there will be a good representation of the ladies in our church, particularly as we are hosting it but of course all the ladies of our churches and our village are welcome. There will be refreshments after the service. Please try to come. It is a day when more than 170 countries participate in an annual day of celebration which brings together people of various races, cultures and traditions, sharing together in God's word and worship. Through Women's World Day of Prayer, Christians affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. I look forward to seeing you.

Brenda Craddock

N.B. To all contributors

The deadline for copy for the April (Easter) issue will be **SUNDAY MARCH 15th.**

This is **ONE WEEK EARLIER** than usual because of the date of Easter Sunday.

Magazines will therefore be ready for distribution on **SUNDAY MARCH 29th.**

HYMN: The story behind ... Dear Lord and Father of mankind

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.*

*...Drop thy still dew's of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.*

This is the nation's second favourite hymn, according to a poll taken by the BBC Songs of Praise programme in 2013. But it did not originate in the UK, nor did it begin life as a hymn. It began in the USA, as part of a poem about a drug-induced religious frenzy.

John Greenleaf Whittier had been born in Haverhill, Massachusetts in 1807. His family were part of a pious Quaker community, and so the young John had grown up in an atmosphere of reverence, of waiting upon God in prayerful silence. Whittier wanted to be a poet, but his father directed him to journalism instead, in order to be sure his son could earn a living. Obediently, Whittier took up his pen and began to write for the papers. He was soon engaged in the fight against slavery, which he called the 'national crime'. He was frequently abused and criticized for his stand, and found his solace in turning to his first love, poetry.

In 1872 he wrote a 17 verse 'hymn-poem' called 'The Brewing of Soma'. It was an attempt to depict the futile ways in which mankind tries to engage with God. The story line is of priests of the Vedic religion (close to Hinduism) brewing soma, a sacred ritual drink with hallucinogenic properties. The priests are hoping that Soma will give them an experience of the divine, but instead they simply get drunk. This failure is then compared to some Christians' use of "music, incense, vigils drear, And trance, to bring the skies more near, Or lift men up to heaven!" But all their effort is in vain. It is mere intoxicated folly.

And so the poem runs for 11 verses. Then, in verse 12, the whole scene changes, and we are not using props any longer, but simply looking into the loving face of the God of the Bible. We come to Him in penitence, and are met with grace and love. We encounter Jesus, and follow Him in obedience. The result is peace, stillness, and eternal life.

The poem became the hymn in 1884, when Garrett Horder took the poem's final five verses and made them the hymn we love today. Here in the UK we sing it to the tune 'Repton', by C Hubert H Parry.

From Isabel Appleton

I wish to thank Revd Rupert for his prayers, visit and support after the sad loss of my brother David and my friends for their cards, flowers, visits and kind words. Thank you all for your support and God Bless.

Isabel Appleton

ON SALE IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE

biscuits coffee tea
dried fruit chocolate
honey muesli
and much more

Traidcraft

- helps small scale producers in developing countries
- supports people to trade out of poverty
- works to bring about trade justice

COME AND BUY – PLAY YOUR PART



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Missing Tablecloth

A large OVAL cream tablecloth was returned to church by mistake with the laundered church cream tablecloths in mid December. If seen, please contact Hazel on 521690.

Hazel Gaskill

FUTURE EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE



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

*March 5th
April 2nd*

Prayers in Church at 12.45pm

*Church open for Private Prayer
from 11.30 onwards*

All Welcome



LIFE BALANCE

a course on rest,
work and play

3rd March 7.30pm
"Time to Celebrate"
at 41 Foxhills Crescent

7th April 7.30pm
"Time to Rest"
at 23, Humberhill Drive

Do come and join us!

Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina

On the first and third Mondays of each month,

7.30 – 9.00 p.m. in the Chapter House.

All are welcome.



Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer, based on the most ancient approaches to Christian prayer, and now adapted for use in the modern world.

Lectio Divina is a traditional way of reading scripture as a source of prayer. The two practices complement each other. For more information, please speak to Howard Nelson in church, or email

hgfn42@gmail.com



Julian Prayer Meetings

*2pm in the
Chapter House*

9th March
13th April

Everyone is welcome

Do Come and Join us

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH LANCHESTER

CHILDREN BRING YOUR GROWN-UPS



3.45pm Sunday 15th March
Messy Church

THINK FOOD BANK

As a church we are committed to supporting the Food Bank in Consett & Stanley.

(There are now 20 Food Banks operating in the Durham Diocese)



Taizé Worship
Sunday 1st March at 6pm

All are welcome



Do come and join us for this quiet, contemplative service in Lent

York Course for Lent 2015

'Praise Him' -

Songs of Praise in the New Testament'
Written by Paula Gooder

Features these leading Christian thinkers on CD:

David Suchet CBE
Archbishop of Canterbury
Sister Wendy Beckett

5 Tuesdays in Lent
beginning 24th February
In the Methodist Church
At 12 noon

Please bring food to share for lunch

Prayer Tip of the Month

Write down all the different ways God has shown his love for you in the past 24 hours. (It could be through friends, a smile, a telephone conversation, a card, an e-mail etc).



Home Communion

If you are unable to come to church and wish to receive Home Communion, please contact the Vicar or one of the members of the Shared Ministry Development Team who will be pleased to make the appropriate arrangements for you.



News from the Wardens

Last month we told you about the problems in the roof of the chancel and the likely cost of repairs. We have learned that the Government has made some grant money available for churches needing to carry out repairs to their roofs so we decided to see if we would qualify. A hectic few days was spent collecting information and seeking quotations from contractors for the repairs prior to completing the multi-paged application form. However we learned that we did not meet the criteria as the money was for churches with leaking roofs which were causing damage to the structures; fortunately this is not the case in Lanchester but it is disappointing that we will have to fund the repairs ourselves. We will now have to seek a Faculty from the Diocese to carry out the work; this will take some time to come through so it is likely that it will be the summer before repairs are carried out.

We are in the process of up-dating our records regarding the Parish Magazine and ask all distributors to give Peter Smith a list of the names and addresses of the people to whom they deliver magazines.

As mentioned last month, we are desirous of increasing the number of qualified first-aiders amongst our congregations and to this end we hope to run a course at Lanchester. This is likely to consist of one three-hour session covering essential first-aid and will be free-of-charge to those taking part. If you would like to take part, please speak to Pam Hasler or add your name to the list at the back of church.

Leading your church into growth

This was the title of a day's event at All Saints' Church Lobley Hill, Gateshead, on Saturday 24th of January. I was invited by Rupert along with Pam Baggott, Joan Littlefair, Steve Bailey and Peter Jackson. There were talks by Bishop Paul, Bishop Mark and three other members of the clergy. The Church was full of members from many parts of the diocese. There was a definite feeling of spiritual togetherness as we entered the Church. The pattern of the day was talks by the clergy addressing the problems associated with lack of growth and many helpful suggestions were made to alleviate this very common problem. It was pointed out to us that we must desire growth, plan for it and take action. The talks were interspersed with lively group discussion between ourselves. We mulled over our problems and how we could overcome them in our own Churches. I came away feeling that seeds had been sown which would grow if nurtured.



Pam Hasler

*If you work with your hands,
you are a labourer.*

*If you work with your hands
and your head,
you are a craftsman.*

*If you work with your hands,
your head and your heart,
you are an artist.*

St. Francis

£ Helping youngsters learn good financial habits

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has welcomed the announcement that the government will fund a pilot programme to help children develop good financial habits at a young age by setting up savings clubs in primary schools in partnership with credit unions.

Research indicates that children develop their attitudes towards money long before they reach secondary school age, with the Money Advice Service suggesting that most children have formed their financial habits by the age of seven.

The 'LifeSavers' project, which is led by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Task Group on Responsible Credit and Savings, will seek to equip children with good financial habits by educating them about the benefits of saving at an early age. It will also introduce children to credit unions, which play a key role in providing financial services to more than a million customers across Britain. The project will pilot in six schools before rolling out to up to 100 schools over the next four years, benefitting up to 30,000 pupils.

Find out more about the Archbishop's initiative to create a fairer financial system at:
www.toyourcredit.org.uk

ROTAS March/April 2015

Sunday March 8th	Lent 3	Sunday March 15th	Mothering Sunday
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Flowers	Lent	Flowers	Lent
8am F Tonks, A Lee	8am C Lever, S Bailey
10.30am		10.30am	
Sidespersons:	..... S Ward, A Stephenson	Sidespersons:	..... M & C Armstrong
Lay Minister:	..... S Burt	Lay Minister:	..... B Craddock
Reading:	..... P Holman 1 Cor 1 18-25	Reading:	..... Tba
Gospel:	John 2 13-22	Gospel:	Tba
Prayers:	..... D Park	Prayers:	..... L Berry
Offertory:	..... O Walker, J Jackson	Offertory:	..... P Baggott, J Thomas
Crucifer:	..... R Hunter	Crucifer:	..... E Gaskill
Acolytes:	..... Ben	Acolytes:	..... Matthew, Robbie
6pm		6pm	
Sidesperson:	..... B Gibson	Sidesperson:	..... B Craddock
O.T. Reading	..... B Masterman	O.T. Reading	..... M Brown
N.T. Reading R Downs	N.T. Reading S Jackson

Sunday March 22nd	Lent 5	Sunday March 29th	Palm Sunday
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Flowers	Lent	Flowers	Lent
8am P Smith, M Matthews	8am F Tonks, A Lee
10.30am		10.30am	
Sidespersons:	..... D Collins	Sidespersons:	..... B Sproat, M Barker
Lay Minister:	..... D Park	Lay Minister:	..... E Wharton
Reading:	..... Tba Heb 5 5-10	Reading:	..... S Jackson tba
Gospel:	John 12 20-33	Gospel:	Tba
Prayers:	..... Tba	Prayers:	..... M Walters
Offertory:	..... A Newton, L Geer	Offertory:	..... A Lee
Crucifer:	..... R Matthews	Crucifer:	..... B Oram
Acolytes:	..... Cameron, Callum	Acolytes:	.....
6pm		6pm	
Sidesperson:	..... E Wharton	Sidesperson:	..... D Oram, E Wharton
O.T. Reading E Warton	Taize Worship	
N.T. Reading M Richardson		

Sunday April 5th	Easter Sunday
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Flowers			
8am C Lever, S Bailey		
10.30am			
Sidespersons: P Reed, D Leyland		
Lay Minister: Tba		
Reading:	..... Tba		

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

Gospel:			
Prayers:	.....	Tba	
Offertory:	.....	I Appleton, D Benzie	
Crucifer:	.....	Tba	
Acolytes:	.....	Tba	
6pm			
Sidesperson:	.....	B Gibson	
O.T. Reading	.....	Tba	
N.T. Reading	.....	Tba	

‘The event that we must chronicle before all others is of course the Missionary Exhibition which was held in Newcastle, for the two counties of Durham and Northumberland....those who took the opportunity of visiting the Exhibition will never forget the spectacle that presented itself, and all that is meant in carrying on the difficult task that lies before our fellow-country men, who have gone forth, in our place, to preach the Gospel to the Heathen, for whom Christ died.

The Exhibition was a most comprehensive one...in the East and Central African Court might be noticed a slave yoke, whip and manacles, the fork of which rests on the neck, and an iron pin holds the victim fast. The weight is about 30lbs, and the manacles and heavy chains are those that have actually been worn by slaves. There were relics of Bishop MacKenzie, who died in 1862, and of Bishop Hannington, who was murdered in 1885....quite as interesting, but much less terrifying, were the objects shown in the Mohammedan Court, which covers the curios of Palestine, Egypt and Persia. Here were texts on parchments, models, Armenian scrolls, and many garments, as well as the Bethlehem head-dress, illustrating the parable of the “lost piece of silver”, brass gods, a Buddhist prayer wheel, and a torture shoe. Some of the Chinese exhibits were fine specimens of embroidery, gods of the door, ancestral tablets, pictures on rice paper, and an official visiting card, the last named being 6 inches square, made of red paper with red lettering. An edict board is a very interesting exhibit in the Japanese court. This was exhibited as recently as 1870 at street corners in Japan for the purpose of denouncing Christianity and offering rewards for the apprehension of converts.

In the North American Court was the “pipe of peace”, smoked by Sioux and Salteaux Indians after fighting—as an equivalent to our treaties—snowshoes, Indian Moccasins, a stone hatchet and adze, and a rug of Indian make from the bark of a tree. Miss C.F. Gordon Cumming’s section was enriched by fifty watercolour drawings of scenes in China. The artist was herself present to explain them....the feature that proved the most popular was the model of the Indian Zenana house, lent by the Church Missionary Zenana Society. A scale model of an Uganda village also proved interesting.

Very excellent was the exhibit of the “Three Years’ Enterprise”. Here were bowls with beads each representing 1,000 souls, and they showed that there are in the world 1,002,000,000 heathen, 150,000,000 Protestants, 4,000,000 native converts, and 12,600 Missionaries.....

Service is held every Wednesday during Lent at 7pm and I should like to see more people anxious to mark this solemn season, when we recall the Passion of our dear Lord, by attending the short service as announced...

George Jepson, Vicar and Surrogate’

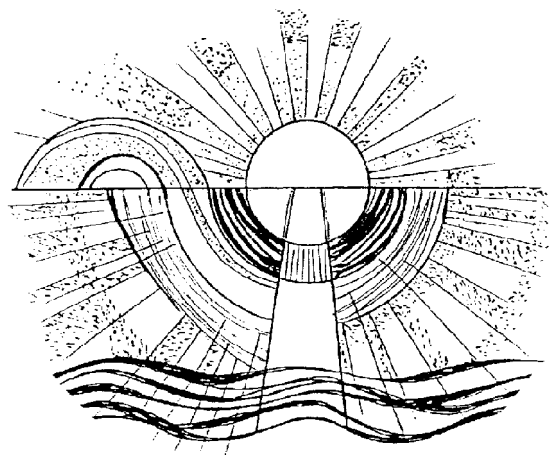
HERE is a man who was born and grew up in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter’s shop until he was 30 and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city, nor travelled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of those things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran. One denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth while he was dying—his coat. When he was dead, he was laid on a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

He never marshalled an army, drafted a soldier or fired a gun, yet no leader ever made more volunteers who have, under his orders, made rebels stack arms or surrender without a shot being fired.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today he is the centrepiece of the human race and the leader of progress.

All the armies that ever marched and all the navies that were ever built and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of men upon this earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life.





70th Anniversary of Christian Aid

In 2015 Christian Aid turns 70. That's 70 years of walking with our partners in solidarity and 70 years

helping in the fight to overcome poverty. Join us for an ecumenical Thank You Service celebrating the amazing contribution supporters in the North East make to Christian Aid. To mark our 70th anniversary we shall also be giving thanks for the work of partners, supporters and staff over the decades. David Pain, our Director of Supporter and Community Partnerships, will speak about what we have achieved and the challenges ahead. The Thank You Service will take place at the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, Newcastle upon Tyne, Saturday 11 July 2015, at 3pm. Contact the Newcastle office to book your place.

At the North East branch of Christian Aid, we want to mark our 70th anniversary by signing up 70 supporters to run the Great North Run. This would double the number of people who signed up in 2014 and would raise over £21,000 for Christian Aid's work. Could you or a friend or relative join us for the world's biggest half marathon and run 13.1 miles to help us in our mission to eradicate poverty? Starting in Newcastle, the course crosses the iconic Tyne Bridge, passes through Gateshead alongside its famous international athletics stadium, and finishes in South Shields. Live music, on course refreshments, and thousands of cheering supporters will keep you motivated every step of the way. Each member of our fantastic team will receive: a runner sponsorship pack, including a USB stick containing all your fundraising, awareness and training advice; personalised support from the Events Fundraising Team including telephone calls and regular e-newsletters; a Christian Aid running top; personal training and fitness advice from experts; cheering packs for your friends and family; and plenty of encouragement, enthusiasm, and smiles throughout your challenge. Reverend Roger Mills is a GNR veteran having completed the race 16 times (although, he tells us, "I have crossed the finish line many more times in my mind's eye"). He praises the event's "incomparable sense of occasion and bonhomie on the day" and has some words of encouragement for anyone thinking of signing up this year: "To quote Nike, Just Do It! Regardless of how long/short a time it takes you, your result is ultimately of no consequence. All that matters is your sponsors' generosity - which is always heart-warming."

Great North Run

Date: 13 September 2015

Location: Newcastle to South Shields

Registration fee: £35

Minimum sponsorship: £300 If you would like to join the Christian Aid team or you already have your own place for the event and would like to join our team, please get in touch:

Call +44 (0) 20 7523 2073

Email events@christian-aid.org



Help the thirsty on World Water Day, Sunday 22nd March

The relief charity Samaritan's Purse is appealing for help in its efforts to provide clean drinking water to a community in Karamoja, northern Uganda. "People there drink dirty water because they have no choice. There are no functioning wells nearby. Every sip of water they drink is a potential killer," explains Simon Barrington, UK head of Samaritan's Purse. And so it is that Samaritan's Purse is appealing to people to remember Karamoja on World Water Day on 22nd March by supporting their TurnOnTheTap initiative.

More details at: www.TurnOnTheTap.org.uk

Five Good Things about Lent

In case you're thinking at this time of the year that Lent is (as one writer recently described it) 'all purple and prohibitions', here are five good things about it.

- 1 It only lasts 40 days. Fasts, by their very nature, can't last forever, but Lent has a very manageable forty days. (If you're thinking at six weeks and a bit it's longer than that, see Item 2)). New Year Resolutions simply stretch off into some impossibly distant horizon, but our Lenten attempts at discipline (chocolate, cigarettes, daily prayers, being kind to the cat) have an end date to them.
2. Sundays in Lent are 'as oases'. Sunday is never a day of fasting, but a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. So - and this is official! - Sundays don't count in Lent.
3. A bit of self-denial is better than a lot of self-indulgence. We live in a very self-indulgent society. Just for forty days it's no bad thing to deny ourselves something that is a minor luxury or a bit of self-pampering - especially if it saves some money which could go to people in the world who have no 'little luxuries'.
4. It's a journey towards Easter. Lent goes somewhere, and that somewhere is the empty tomb of Easter morning. It's daffodils in the churchyard and new life all around us.
5. The days get longer. The English word for this season is the only one that has no religious significance at all. 'Lent' is simply an abbreviation of the Old English word 'lencten', which means 'lengthen'. On these islands, where weather is always a major topic of conversation, it's not surprising that what people noted about the days of Lent was that they got longer - no more of those ghastly dark tea-times. But the 'lengthening' is all part of Item 4, really - moving towards new life. (Sadly, Items 4 and 5 don't apply in Australia and New Zealand. Doubtless they have compensations.)

Given those five splendidly positive things about Lent, which covers the whole of March this year, I trust readers will approach its rigours with joyful hearts.

David Winter (Article courtesy Parish pump)

Dates for your Diary March/April 2015

March

		1st 6pm	Church	Taizé Worship
Mon	2nd	7.30pm	Chapter House	Centering Prayer Group
Tues	3rd	12 noon	Methodist Church	Lent Course 'Praise Him'
Tues	3rd	7pm	Chapter House	Introduction to Meditation
Tues	3rd	7.30pm	41, Foxhills Crescent	Faithworks 'Time to Celebrate'
Wed	4th	9.30-11.30am	Chapter House	Fair Trade Coffee Morning
Wed	4th	11am	Methodist Church	Rodney Kaloke 'Christian Aid'
Wed	4th	6pm	Chapter House	Standing Committee
Thurs	5th	11.30-1pm	Chapter House/Church	Open House Prayers in Church 12.45
Thurs	5th	6pm	Burnhope Primary School	Café Church
Fri	6th	2-3pm	All Saints'/Chapter House	Women's World Day of Prayer
Mon	9th	2pm	Chapter House	Julian Meeting
Tues	10th	12 noon	Methodist Church	Lent Course 'Praise Him'
Tues	10th	7pm	Chapter House	Introduction to Meditation
Wed	11th	7.30pm	Chapter House	MU Canon Rosalind Brown
Thurs	12th	7.30pm	Chapter House	'Hymns with a Durham Connection'
Sat	14th	All day	Chapter House/Church	Wives Group Shirley Anderson
Sun	15th	3.45pm	Chapter House/Church	'Friends of the Lazarus Home'
Mon	16th	7.30pm	Chapter House	Cursillo meeting
Tues	17th	12 noon	Methodist Church	Messy Church
Tues	17th	7pm	Chapter House	Centering Prayer Group
Wed	18th	7pm	Chapter House	Lent Course 'Praise Him'
Sun	22nd	10.30am	Church	Introduction to Meditation
Tues	24th	12 noon	Methodist Church	PCC
Tues	24th	7pm	Chapter House	All Age Worship with EP Choir
Wed	25th	7.15pm	Church	Lent Course 'Praise Him'
Thurs	26th	2pm	Church	Introduction to Meditation
Thurs	26th	7.30pm	Chapter House	Contemplative Service
				EP School Easter Service
				Wives Group Olga Bainbridge
				'The Judicial System'



FOR ALL THE SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK and ON EASTER DAY
PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 OF THE MAGAZINE.



April

Tues	7th	7.30pm	23, Humberhill Drive	Faithworks: 'Time to Rest'
Wed	8th	7.30pm	Chapter House	MU Mary Jarvis
Thurs	9th	7.30pm	Chapter House	'Slavery with a personal link'
Mon	13th	2pm	Chapter House	Wives Group. Christine Fuller
Wed	15th	9.30-11.30am	Chapter House	'Heroines of World War 2'
Thurs	16th	Morning	Chapter House	Julian Meeting
Sun	19th	3.45pm	Church/Chapter House	Christian Aid Coffee Morning
Mon	20th	Afternoon	Chapter House	Flower Group
Mon	20th	7.30pm	Chapter House	Messy Church
Wed	22nd	7pm	Chapter House	MU meeting
Thurs	23rd	7.30pm	Chapter House	Centering Prayer Group
				Annual Parish Meeting
				Wives Group. Lindsay Cross
				'Refugee Service'

Book Reviews

Deep Calls to Deep: spiritual formation in the hard places of life

By Tony Horsfall, BRF
£7.99



Why do good people suffer? Popular author and retreat leader Tony Horsfall turns his attention to the raw pain and honesty of suffering found in the psalms of lament. These psalms show the psalmist daring to be real before God, having no need to hide behind a spiritual façade built upon good manners.

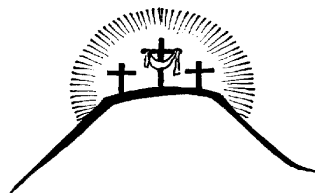
He writes: These “sad songs” make up nearly a third of all the psalms and yet they are mostly neglected by the church today. Much of our spirituality is geared toward relieving our pain and finding ways to ensure happiness, success and well-being... Anything that contradicts this rosy picture of cheerful certainty is ignored, denied or avoided... The reality is that God sometimes does lead us down difficult paths as he seeks to draw us closer to himself and form his life within us. Far from being an invalid expression of the Christian life, suffering may well be an inescapable part of the journey of knowing God more intimately.

*Many people will walk in and out of
your life. But only true friends will
leave footprints in your heart.*

Eleanor Roosevelt

Quotes of the month

Editor: With Lent and
spiritual self-examination in
mind....



Some people think reconciliation is a soft option, that it means papering over the cracks. But the biblical meaning means looking facts in the face, and it can be very costly; it cost God the death of his own son.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

We change things by changing ourselves!

All true knowledge of God is born of obedience.

John Calvin

Suffering is the true badge of discipleship. The disciple is not above his master.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

‘And there was day and night and it was good.’



It is a human thing to say that night is bad. Ask a cat or an owl. Their eyes and hearing are adapted to using less light and managing at night-time. It is just a way of fitting everyone, and everyone’s needs, into the world. Some move about and forage for food in the day time and are mostly inactive at night, some move about and forage for food at night and are mostly inactive in the day-time. Everyone happy, yes?

The world may be intricate in detail, but the general philosophy of it is simple. It may take all of human intellect and emotion to understand God’s simplicity, but nevertheless, that is what it is.

Elizabeth Baker

Editor: We are delighted to welcome a ‘new’ poet this month, Canon David Williams, who has spent many years as a missionary in Uganda and Fiji, and then in hospital chaplaincy in the UK.

Sabbath Moments

(Inspired by participation in a Lent House Group)

*Sabbath Moments
are not to be confused
with Senior Moments;
those maddening occasions when
we can't remember what to buy,
or go upstairs and don't know why,
or wonder where we parked the car
or where our keys and wallet are.*

*No, Sabbath Days
are much more clear;
one in seven throughout the year,
like clockwork, one might almost think.
But life is ever on the brink
of chaos and the unforeseen,
of consequence we did not mean,
all of which can soon deplete
the steady pulse of godly beat,
until each day appears the same
and Sabbath comes but just in name.*

*Oh for the best
of Sabbath rest,
for which our hearts are yearning;
Come healing peace,
let clamour cease,
in Christ, our hearts returning.
Come moments of renewing.*

By David Williams

Courtesy Parish Pump



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Eve night - for details
please contact Peter
Smith (01207 520498)

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