

# Welcome to our weekly News and Diary from the parishes of Gateshead Fell, Harlow Green and Windy Nook

21st September 2025

*An example of how one of our congregation from St Albans lives out her faith - Maddie shares her stories of real lives looking for a new start.*

Earlier this summer I returned to Calais to volunteer at a refuge for women and children. The house is named after Maria Skobstova, a nun who amongst other things opened her house in Paris to people who needed somewhere to stay, including refugees.

The house in Calais works with other charities and provides short term shelter for people caught up in the many challenges and brokenness of a political border. Each day we did a lot of ordinary things like food shopping, welcoming new guests, clinic appointments, attempting to share games across languages (mostly we ended up with some form of hide and seek that involved a lot of running!)

There's a chapel in the house so we often prayed together. As well as moments of joy there were also sad ones. The women brought stories of trauma, the physical and emotional toll of their journeys and where they had left, came to the surface. Children knew about big boats and small boats.

We all did our best to create times of rest and times of fun but the background noise of choices and onward journeys seeped through. I'm so thankful to the organisations and local people who make the house possible. Whilst issues of immigration are layered and complex, the house is pretty simple. There are beds to sleep in, food to eat, Uno cards to play with and a friendly welcome. It was lovely to be a part of it again.

Maddie

**Diary dates** **Tuesday 30th September 7pm** Rev Kathryn Bagnall is licensed as Archdeacon of our Archdeaconary at Sunderland Minster.

**Sunday 5th October** Rev Danie is installed as a non residential Canon of Durham Cathedral at Evensong 3.30pm - all welcome (seated for 3.15pm)

**Sunday 12th October Harvest** at St Johns 8am and 9.30am, St Ninians 10am and Messy Church (2pm to 4pm)

**Sunday 12th October 6pm** Danie Licensed at St Ninians and team is commissioned - all welcome.

**Sunday 19th October Harvest** 10.30am St Albans

**Upcoming PCC Meetings**

St Johns 29th September 2025 7pm

St Albans 13th October 2025 7pm

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We partner with 2 local charities as churches - Gateshead Foodbank and Oasis Community housing -

**Here is some information  
about Oasis from their website**



As a Christian homelessness charity, we exist to reignite hope and a future for everyone facing homelessness.

We help almost 1,300 men, women and young people every year by providing housing and support and, more fundamentally, a place where people feel they can belong.

Working across North-East and South-East England, we address both immediate needs and the root causes of homelessness through our four cornerstones of support: our Basis crisis services; our Home 24/7 supported housing; our Empower programme for women escaping domestic abuse and Aspire financial skills training.

Our values are at the heart of everything we do and are based on Christian principles, staying true to the mission that the group of students, who founded the charity, set out for us 40 years ago.

You can help in many ways - look out in the next few weeks for ideas of how.

## What is happening across our parishes this week?

### Week beginning Sunday 21st September

Sunday services 21st	8am BCP Service at St Johns 9.30am Service at St Johns 10am Service at St Ninians 10.30am Cafe Service at St Albans 11.45am Shared Lunch at St Albans
Monday	7am Morning Prayer at St Johns 10am to 12pm Macmillan Coffee morning at St Albans 1pm – 3.30pm Arts & Crafts at St Albans 4pm Evening Prayer at St Albans
Tuesday	<i>Danie away on a course Tuesday to Thursday</i> 9am Morning Prayer at <b>St Johns</b> (change of venue) 10am - 1pm Place of Welcome at St Johns 2pm Communion Service at Hawkesbury House 8.45pm Men's Fellowship at Greencroft Club
Wednesday	9am Morning Prayer at <b>St Albans</b> (change of venue) 2pm Service at Callendar Court
Thursday	9am Morning Prayer at St Ninians
Sunday - 28th September	8am BCP Service at St Johns 9.30am Service at St Johns 10am Service at St Ninians 10.30am Service at St Albans



**We are Inclusive Churches which celebrate and affirm every person and do not discriminate. If we can do anything to enable you to enjoy worshipping with us more then please let us know.**

## Prayers you may want to use this week

### Collect

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### Parish Waymark Prayer

God of life - you make all things new.

Revive your church in our parishes.

Inspire our worship, release our gifts, and give us courage to follow where you lead.

Jesus, help us to know you better and draw us deeper into your presence.

Fill us with your Spirit so we can share your love and hope with all, and walk in the world as beacons of your light. Amen.

### Prayers for those in our community

#### For healing

Connor Buckley (aged 8), Jenny Devine, Betty Elliott, Paul Fawcus (age 1), Lindsay Forster, Joseph Gallagher, George Lackenby, Lynn Pritchard, Simon Shaw, Karl and Christina Smith, Iris Taylor, John Watts, Betty White.

### **Our clergy team is:**

**Rector** - Rev Danie Lindley (07902477474), **Associate Priest** - Rev Ken Coulson (07596534635), **Curates** - Rev John Mayes (07791615821) and Rev Elaine Grant (07356073876)

### **Our churchwardens are:**

**St Albans** Lynn Coulson and Rob Watts

**St Johns:** Catherine Mayes and Yvonne Stonebank

**St Ninians:** Linda Smith

### **Our Parish Safeguarding officers are**

**St Albans and St Ninians:** Lynn Coulson

**St Johns:** Catherine Mayes

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