

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

7th September 2025

Reflections on becoming an ALMOW from Philip LeMarquand

It has now been over eighteen months since I began the journey towards becoming an Authorised Lay Minister of the Word. The support and encouragement I've received from you all has been invaluable throughout this process. In particular I have had to face my anxieties around writing assignments, and then in hindsight realising that, with God's help, anything is possible. My passion for studying scripture has been reignited, and I have found the joy of collaborating with others, even when we hold differing perspectives.

Throughout this time, I've continued to preach and lead, and you may not notice any visible changes. It is, however, a formal recognition of my calling and authorisation and commissioning to serve within our parishes. I see this as my formal and public commitment to you, to serve as long as I am able, trusting in the Lord's strength.

Three years ago, when I first arrived at St Alban's I never expected to preach or lead worship. God had a plan which overruled my doubts in my abilities. It's a lesson I suspect I will have to learn again in the future but perhaps it's a lesson for us all.

Future Dates

Monday 22nd September Cafe at St Albans - Macmillan Coffee Morning - Donations required for Tombola and Raffle. Thank you.

Tuesday 30th September 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

Upcoming PCC Meetings

St Albans 13th October 2025 7pm

St Johns 29th September 2025 7pm

We have parish WhatsApp groups for St Johns and St Albans - All are welcome to join either or both of them - they are used mainly for prayer and sharing stories of God at work. Text Danie on 07902477474 to be added

Place of Welcome - Tuesday 10am to 1pm **St Johns Church**



All are welcome at the Place of Welcome that happens each Tuesday in St Johns, you will be sure of a warm welcome, drinks, biscuits, cakes (often home made) and home made soup.

We have people who come early and share a coffee and a slice of cake, others who come and stay all morning and then those who come just for their lunch. All are welcome to join us.

We now have 2 spaces set out for this as the kitchen can occasionally become too full - so if you are someone who wants a quieter space that is on offer as well.

On the last Tuesday of the month at 10.45am we have a time of prayer through our Celtic Worship service which happens in the other small room or in church - all are invited to come along or to stay in the kitchen or back room.

If you have not been along yet do pop in - Shirley and Veda will almost always be on hand to make you a cuppa and serve you cake and soup. Other members of the congregation are often there as well, joining in the conversations, lending an ear to a problem or sorting out something in church. We often have a member of clergy there as well - so if a chat with them would be helpful just let them know.

If you know someone who is lonely, recently bereaved or just in need of a friend why not bring them along a few times?

What is happening across our parishes this week?

Week beginning Sunday 7th September

Sunday services 7th September	8am BCP Service at St Johns 9.30am Service at St Johns 10am Service at St Ninians 10.30am Service at St Albans
Monday	7am Morning Prayer at St Johns 10am - 12am Cafe at St Albans 1pm – 3.30pm Arts & Crafts at St Albans 4pm Evening Prayer at St Albans
Tuesday	9am Morning Prayer at St Albans 10am - 1pm Place of Welcome at St Johns 10am - 12am PCC at St Ninians 8.45pm Men's Fellowship at Greencroft Club
Wednesday	9am Morning Prayer at St Johns
Thursday	9am Morning Prayer at St Ninians 10.45am - 11.30am Craigilea Service
Saturday	11am Durham Cathedral Philip's Authorisation Service as he becomes an Authorised Lay Minister of the Word. (ALMoW) - all welcome
Sunday - 14th 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.

Our churches have tables for you to sit and doodle at, or just to have a space away from others - do make the most of them if that is what blesses you.

Prayers you may want to use this week

Collect

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow, 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, 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)

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