

PARISH MAGAZINE



JULY & AUGUST 2026 - 50p

St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside



Parish of St Cuthbert, Benfieldside

The Parish is currently in vacancy – please the wardens during this time:

Linda Short

☎ 01207 503750/07734 355911

Carol O'Malley

e-mail: carolomalley@talktalk.net

web-site: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13511/



Sunday Parish Eucharist

10.30 am each Sunday with visiting Clergy

Please note that Thursday morning services have been suspended for the foreseeable future.

Check Calendar & Pewsheets for details of services!

- online services, reflections and other offerings may be found through our Facebook pages.
- please also check online for updates & amendments!



It's an easy way to stay up-to-date with both our parishes. You don't need to be a Facebook member (though it helps if you "like" us)

Day-by-day news, prayer, videos and pictures at
[facebook.com/benfieldside](https://www.facebook.com/benfieldside)

PARISH CALENDAR

JULY



- | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--|
| Thurs | 2 | 10.00 am Eucharist - St. Cuthbert's |
| Sat | 4 | 3.00 pm SUNG EUCHARIST AT THE "END" OF MINISTRY
<i>Join us in St Cuthbert's + stay on for a Buffet in the Hall</i> |
| Sunday | 5 | 5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
(Zechariah 9.9-12; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19; 25-30)
<i>There's no Parish Eucharist at St Cuthbert's today</i> |
| Mon | 6 | 7.45 pm PCC Meeting + Archdeacon - St Cuthbert's Hall |
| Thurs | 9 | 6.30 for 7.00 pm Deanery Synod - Christ Church Consett Church Hall |
| Sunday | 12 | 6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
(Isaiah 55.10-13; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23)
10.30 am PARISH EUCHARIST
<i>Revd Dr Kate Eaton-Wells presiding</i> |
| Sat | 18 | 10.30 St Cuthbert's Hall Coffee Morning |
| Sunday | 19 | 7th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
(Isaiah 44.6-8; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30,36-43)
10.30 am PARISH EUCHARIST
<i>Revd Dr Daniel Parkinson presiding</i> |
| Mon | 20 | 6.30 pm Marriage Rehearsal in Church |
| Sat | 25 | 12.00 noon Marriage:
Philip Corr and Rebecca Hambleton
<i>Revd Canon Stephen Herbert officiating</i> |
| Sunday | 26 | 8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
(1 Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.31-33,44-52)
10.30 am PARISH EUCHARIST
<i>Ven Libby Wilkinson presiding</i> |
| Tues | 28 | 2.00 pm St Cuthbert's Book Club - St Cuthbert's Hall |

AUGUST



- Sunday 2** **9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 (Isaiah 55.1-5; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21)
10.30 am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
Revd Prof Anthony Bash presiding
- Mon 3** 2.00 pm **Mothers' Union Meeting** – *Home of Sheila Barnes*
- Sunday 9** **10th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 (1 Kings 19.9-18; Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33)
10.30 am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
Revd Phil Carter presiding
- Sunday 16** **11th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 (Isaiah 56.1,6-8; Romans 11.1-2a,29-32; Matthew 15.21-28)
10.30 am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
Revd Canon Stephen Herbert presiding
- Sunday 23** **12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 (Isaiah 51.1-6; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20)
10.30 am **PARISH EUCHARIST & HOLY BAPTISMS**
Revd Prof Anthony Bash presiding
- Sunday 30** **13th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 (Jeremiah 15.15-21; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28)
10.30 am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
Revd Prof Anthony Bash presiding

SEPTEMBER

- Sunday 6** **14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
 (Ezekiel 33.7-11; Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20)
10.30 am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
Revd Canon Stephen Herbert presiding
- Mon 7** 2.00 pm **Mothers' Union Meeting** - *St Cuthbert's Hall*

Celebrations and Farewells



On Saturday 4th of July, we said farewell to Martin, who, after 32 years ministering to us at St Cuthbert's, retired. We had the wonderful pleasure of welcoming over 180 people to a special service during which we gave thanks for Martin's ministry and his lifetime of service to others. After a splendid full peal of bell-ringing during the morning and into the afternoon, our service commenced with a fantastic procession through church which comprised of Choir, Clergy and Servers, and Martin himself, who then presided over his final service as Vicar of this Parish. A poignant and celebratory sermon was delivered with thanks by Stephen Herbert, full of reflection and thanksgiving for the gift of Martin's ministry over his 45 years of ordained service to others.

Prior to concluding this service, gifts were given, on behalf of many contributors, by our Churchwardens, Linda Short and Carol O'Malley. The latter also participated with Ian Bean in delivering a thoroughly delightful and witty tribute to Martin, who in kind, responded with a quite moving and emotional reply to bring our service to a close. A further procession from Church then took place, past a newly installed Honour Board, to outside where many photos were taken, thus concluding our events at the Church.

St Cuthbert's Church Hall then hosted a bountiful reception where many guests ate, drank and mingled together sharing with Martin many collective memories, stories and emotional moments, cultivated together over decades of shared history. Displays of photographs were on hand to show this shared history and a wonderful photo album, prepared by Carol, was given to Martin, depicting years of St Cuthbert's memories. The feast was splendid and generous, welcomed with thanks by the many who were able to attend, share and eat together with Martin and his family. A fabulous cake, made by Sonia Thompson, signposted with wonderful retirement suggestions, was then presented to and cut by Martin to round off a magnificent afternoon of celebration by all.

Thanks are owed to many who made this day memorable for all. Those behind the scenes prior to and on the day itself. Those who prepared, cleaned, then decorated our Church with beautiful flowers and those who cultivated and managed our flower beds and greenery. Those who greeted,

read, rang, sang, served and administered. The speech makers and the gift givers. Thank you to all who donated photographs, especially Ian Bean and family for allowing the use of many of Claire's photographs. Thanks to all our volunteers and helpers in the Church Hall, Jan and the Church Hall Committee, those who donated, organised, prepared and served, washed and dried, then tidied up after the event. There are too many to name, but you all helped make the day a success, thank you.

Thanks to all who attended to celebrate and enjoy the activities, especially Martin's family, and all who sent messages, greetings and cards. Special thanks to Linda and Carol, our Churchwardens, for their invaluable contributions as always. Lastly, thanks to Martin, for being with us not just this day to celebrate his ministry, but for every day we've needed him in the past 32 years. We wish him joy and happiness in his well-earned retirement.

Keith Maddison



Mothers' Union...



We cancelled our meeting in July because so many of us were unable to attend. (See what happens as soon as you retire Martin!) Instead, we are having a meeting in August when usually we don't have one.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 3 August at 2.00 pm** at the home of Sheila Barnes – Woodlands Road, Shotley Bridge.

And as usual, everyone is welcome to join us!

Sheila Barnes

St Cuthbert's Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 28 July, at 2.00 pm, when we will be discussing 'The Housekeepers' by Alex Hay.



The following meeting will be on Tuesday 29 September, at 2.00 pm

Both meetings will be held in the Ian Severs Room in the Church Hall.

New members welcome! Please contact Liz Temple if you would like to join us - 07960 494441 or liztemple51@gmail.com

Rosie Junemann

St Cuthbert's 100 Club - Winners

June 2026

1st prize	No 62	Jean Parker
2nd prize	No 64	Marjorie Hollingsworth
3rd prize	No 102	Jill Barron



Further details on how to join the 100 Club - please contact our organiser, Glynis Bell, phone 01207 501158 or 0777 206 6265.

Troubled Times

We are currently living through quite difficult and trying times, with many countries of the world at conflict, many people suffering injustice, poverty, hunger and disease. Many in societies around the world are sowing seeing seeds of hate, intolerance and fear among their citizens. Whilst it would be true to say that we living in the most advanced times of any human, our propensity for greed, domination and cruelty has never diminished and remains as a scar that tarnishes our supposed civilised world.

When we look around, we are bombarded by media rhetoric, we see civil unrest and mistrust which seemingly reinforces a culture of blame or bigotry against those that cannot or are powerless to answer. We need to seek courage and hope to believe that good can triumph. If we imagine walking in the shoes of those that are fleeing war zones, drought and disease, persecution and violence, this would then perhaps shine on us the light of perspective for our own concerns. It would show that intolerance and prejudice can be transformed into love and acceptance, that trust in the fairness and justice of humanity can overcome conflict, famine, poverty and persecution.

How do we transform our world to achieve these cherished goals? Every little positive action is of benefit to right the wrongs in our fractured world. The lives we lead, the faith we practice and the love, time and generosity that we give freely to every person, unequivocally and without prejudice. To the stranger, to the sick and those in need, to those without homes or indeed safe places, to those whose only wish is to live in harmony and escape fear. We do not expect praise or thanks in return but give our gifts of kindness and love, peace and prayers to transform and demonstrate our persevering faith in humanity and take our part in the plans that transcend our lives and troubled times. We live therefore, in the sure and certain knowledge that all we do, can and will make a difference.

'Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.' - Helen Keller.

Keith Maddison



Advance Notice!

Coffee Morning PLUS!

19 September from 10.30 am – 12.00 noon

As we didn't have a Summer Fair this year, we are having an extra special Coffee Morning in September

Please join us and help to raise funds for our church...

An opportunity to catch up with friends, old and new, over a leisurely cup of coffee/tea, home-made scones, tray bakes, sweet treats!

There will be a Raffle, a Tombola Stall, a Cake Stall
(all contributions gratefully received),
a Book stall and a Treasure Map

Please come along and help raise money for our church!
Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Christian Aid Week - 10-16 May 2026



The final total for our Christian Aid effort was £720.05p; this total was from the coffee morning held on 9 May and the envelope collection from both St Cuthbert's and St John's. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these projects. The money is being used to help people in Nairobi, Kenya to use their small city spaces to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables, to cook for their families or sell on a market stall.

Kate Johnson

**Come and join us at our regular
monthly coffee morning**

**Saturday 18 July 2026
10.30 am – 12.00 noon**

St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Church Bank, Shotley Bridge

Nothing formal – just a chance to sit down, have a chat and catch up with friends, and maybe bring some new friends along too.

Everyone is welcome!

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Many Congratulations to

Lorna Carvell who achieved a First Class BA Honours degree in English Literature **and to**

Alex Maddison who achieved a First Class Honours degree for his Masters in Biological and Medicinal Chemistry.



Well done to both of them!

Sunday 20 September

10.30a.m. HARVEST
FESTIVAL SERVICE with the
offering of Harvest Gifts. Followed by a Harvest Lunch



Our celebration of Harvest-tide is one of the traditions of the year, and the needs for your generosity are just as great! We welcome gifts for our Harvest Appeal as offerings during the Eucharist for the People's Kitchen – more information in the September magazine. Look out for the basket at the back of Church for donations towards the flowers. Our flower teams would also be pleased to receive in advance any produce from your garden/allotment or purchased Harvest gifts which may be used to decorate our churches.

Meeting His Majesty and the Queen at Holyrood House

A Beamish Museum colleague and I were very fortunate to be nominated for a Royal Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood House on 30 June.



Rachel accompanied me for the trip and by 3.00 pm, we were safely in the Palace Gardens. The Royal Party appeared soon after consisting of their majesties, King Charles III and Queen Camilla, The Princess Royal and The Duke of Edinburgh.

We found a good place to view the King as he greeted selected guests. At the crucial moment, he deviated from the plan and came to shake our hands and chatted to us for a few moments, leaving us all open-mouth and thinking, "Did that really happen?"

Ian Bean

The Churches of St Cuthbert

As a reminder of our own church, St Cuthbert is also celebrated as a patron Saint in many other churches. I hope you will enjoy this series of forthcoming articles, where I will bring to you a different St Cuthbert's Church each month, each unique but in many ways so familiar.

This month we look at St Cuthbert's Church, Churchtown, near Southport in the Diocese of Liverpool. A Grade II listed building by English Heritage. Historically, St Cuthbert's was the parish church of the ecclesiastical parish of North Meols and was within the boundaries of the historic county of Lancashire. There has been a church on the site of St Cuthbert's since at least as far back as the time of King Stephen (d. 1154).

The current church was built 1730-39, the original having burned down. To be found are some very interesting features which include wooden carvings from St Peter's Church in Liverpool, many memorials to the Fleetwood and Hesketh families who owned most of the local area including the family seats of Meols Hall in Churchtown and Greaves Hall in Banks. The stained glass windows in the church are from the 20th century. To the left of the churchyard entrance, adjacent to the church wall on St Cuthbert's Road, are the old village stocks which date from 1741. They have become a landmark and are an original feature of the village.

The sea at Southport in the past used to inundate much of what is the seafront today. It is believed that St Cuthbert's Church was constructed on a small hill which protected the church from flooding. Sea defences protect Southport and its suburbs from floods today. Here is a link to St.Cuthbert's at Churchtown, for more information -

<https://www.stcuthbert.org.uk/>

Keith Maddison



A Tribute to Martin at his Service of Thanksgiving

Apologies for the length of this, but we have been asked to include Ian and Carol's speech from Martin's Farewell Eucharist:

Friends, parishioners, and clergy, we are gathered here to wish Martin a long and happy retirement. We hope Martin won't mind us sharing a few thoughts on his time with us!

When Martin was preparing this service, I asked him to keep a spot for Ian and I to say a few words. He looked at me and said, Can Ian not just do the speech – he did a lovely one on my 40th anniversary – need I say any more!!!

It is absolutely wonderful to see so many in church today and I think the clergy procession has topped any of those seen in our Cathedral church in Durham. And it's great to welcome members of Martin's family particularly Adam, Rowan and their partners Rob and Rebecca who will arrive in time for the wine!.

Can I start by saying we will be petitioning the C of E to amend their rules so that priests should retire when they look 70 rather than on their actual birthday! That would have allowed us to retain Martin for decades to come. We suspect there is an oil painting in the vicarage attic!

As parents many of us were thankful that Martin had a young family when we joined the congregation with our own children. Martin has always encouraged families to take part in services, quite happily ignoring any temporary interruptions from the children's corner or nave pews! Over the years we have enjoyed following the progress and notable achievements of Adam and Rowan, Martin's sons. We have had some great Sunday School trips and the recreation of St Cuthbert's journey to Durham, complete with coffin being paraded around the church was particularly memorable. Some occasions, involving our children, remain indelible, Stephen locking himself inside the vicarage toilet being one!

From Keith: Martin Christened Libby in 2005, after the Christening we had a small reception at our home, Martin attended and was accompanied by Rowan. We ran out of plates so emergency ones were brought out. A small plastic plate used for microwaving jackets, with a large plastic burn on it was used, not fit for man nor beast. I didn't check it of course, lots going on. I handed the plate and napkin of course to Martin, he looked at it, looked at me, and said thank you. Was polite enough not to mention my faux pas. From then on our Jacket Potato plate was called 'The Vicar's Plate'.

There have been so many people who have made a mark in Martin's time here and Keith tells a story involving Sammie Hewlett. He was walking up Church Bank one day and stopped at the gates where Martin and Sammy, with map in hand, were deep in the Church grounds, pacing this way and that. He waited and then asked if they'd found the missing treasure. Sammy, was not too impressed! Martin gently reminded Keith that it was still a churchyard with graves and the sacred map was the treasure itself.

Back in 1981 a newly ordained deacon joined the clergy at Houghton (Carol and I were still at school and yes, we were in the same class and year). That callow youth said, "I am coming to Houghton in the knowledge I have more to learn, but I hope I shall have something to give in return." Not so callow after all and already showing a great dedication to his calling and to caring for people around him.

St Cuthbert's has an unusual tradition relating to its clergy – they tend to stay for long periods of time - in fact there have only been 8 incumbents in 176 years including our very own Beate (George Harrison)! Martin misses out on being the longest serving priest by a small margin unless you include his concurrent time as Priest in Charge at St John's. I think we can allow this to apply.

Martin has maintained and encouraged church groups and connections within the community becoming a regular, and popular, feature at school assemblies. Within the church a small and highly dedicated army, of cleaners, flower arrangers, bell ringers, clock winders, mothers' union members, readers, servers and greeters silently keeps things running (well not the bell ringers for the silent bit!). Our brilliant Church Wardens (Carol told me to say that) keep us all under control in conjunction with the PCC and Hall committees. These volunteers make St Cuthbert's a safe and welcoming place to worship. With all the distractions of running a parish and keeping an aged and listed building usable it is easy to forget the real reason we are all here and Martin has always kept Christian worship at the centre of St Cuthbert's life.

In 2011 Martin became Priest in Charge of St John's, Castleside and has also served as Area Dean of Lanchester. He trained many curates – Nick Watson, Alison Hutchinson, Nils Chittenden, Ian Waugh and Phil Carter, as well as many short-term placements. Readers – Rosie Junemann and Paul Heatherington. Not forgetting our homemade vicar who attended this parish as a child, Hannah Cleugh. Six wardens, Arthur Eld, Liz Parker, Jim Hollingsworth, Neil Bellerby and finally to Martin's complete and utter despair, for 19 and 17 years respectively,

Linda and myself.

Since Martin arrived in the Parish, he has performed 514 baptisms, 160 weddings, 561 funerals, supported 111 candidates through confirmation or admission to Holy Communion as well as celebrating over 3,500 services in this church. We've had Sunday School, Messy Church and he has joined in with some of their bizarre topics with so much enthusiasm and gusto. A single mop head has managed to portray Jesus, Zaccheaus up a tree and Lazarus being hoisted down from the tower balcony. There's been Mothers' Union services, luncheon club, visiting the sick in their homes and celebrating the Eucharist in local care homes. He's welcomed Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and he has performed countless assemblies at Benfieldside, Shotley Bridge and Castleside primary schools. He has been instrumental in planning and presiding at the annual Remembrance Service at the Memorial Cottages in Shotley Bridge and he has attended so many summer and Christmas fairs and drawn an extraordinary amount of raffle tickets once picking out my ticket to win a case of wine – if nothing else I can thank you for that, Martin! And all of the socialising events – including flipping the kipper at one of the events in the Vicarage with Martin acting out dance moves in the style of Lazarus coming out of the grave! You need to ask him about that later.

Since arrival at St Cuthbert's Martin has had to contend with dry and wet rot, water ingress and on occasion bits falling off – the church fabric has also caused concern! The Church Hall extension here, its subsequent return to community life and the building work at St John's may have given him the odd grey hair but certainly benefitted from his time and tenacity. Our refurbished hall proved vital when the church heating gave up the struggle and our congregation moved over the road for an extended period. This brought a different and sometimes challenging dynamic to our worship, but importantly it continued. We are still battling with repairs, but Martin will be able to leave this behind. (Martin was presented part of the piece of stone which fell off the tower).

It is hard to believe that anything could be worse than having to vacate a freezing church but then along came the Coronavirus! We were once again forced out of this building and thrust into that strange and frightening world that took over our lives. We found our tempers fraying and Martin joined us in that frustration and occasionally caused some of it! He can be a little stubborn and likes things to be done in a particular way – his! That's probably why we get on so well being kindred spirits! Martin also showed his true resourcefulness at this time adapting to the restrictions by going online and providing services and inspiration from his garden and from the church yard. When allowed, St Cuthbert's pioneered

reopening, welcoming people from other congregations unable to access their own churches. Martin is a compulsive worrier and prone to the occasional flap, particularly before important occasions. This is entirely due to his desire for perfection, and he is a consummate expert in the art of professional recovery when things do go wrong.

There's been far too many complementary things said about Martin so here's some of his shortcomings!

Martin has many idiosyncrasies and he definitely has a bit of OCD. I don't know whether you have noticed Martin, but the lightbulbs have all been grouped into similar shapes – something you have moaned about for so long, we've finally got round to it – or at least Willie has – albeit reluctantly - just in time for your last service!

When Martin arrives at church on a Sunday morning usually about 10.28 am after he's sped from St John's, he really only has time to get robed and start the service, but, without exception, he needs to inspect the altar to see if we've managed to set it up correctly. I've been so tempted to place set of chattering teeth under the veil and when he lifts it up the teeth would 'set away and go for him' – however, not even I would dare to sully the Holy table.

Candles – every time a candle is lit, we get Martin's idiots guide on 'How to hold a candle correctly' without dripping wax on the floor or setting the person in front of you on fire and then further instructions on how to put said candle out, safely. Yes, Martin, I can say that after all these years – we get it!

Hymns – what can I say about Martin's choice of hymns, some good, some not so good, but Martin LOVES a dirge. In fact when the seasons of Advent and Lent come around, he's almost in raptures, today, of course being the exception! Well done and thank you, Martin.

On the other side of the coin – Martin has had to endure some of my hastier and ill-founded actions. I once offered to wash one of his ivory coloured stoles and chasuble as they were looking a bit grubby to which he said DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO THAT, THEY'RE ALRIGHT AS THEY ARE. However, when the Vicar went away on holiday I thought it would be an ideal opportunity so I steeped the stole in a bowl of warm soapy water overnight and it came out immaculate, then onto the chasuble. In great anticipation I unwrapped it only to see the red stripe from the centre of garment had left a very distinct imprint across the rest of the ivory fabric. Panicking and thinking I'd ruined it my husband said don't worry, just buy him

another one. After I enlightened him to the cost, and the fact that he is very much a true Scotsman, he said, sort it out, you're not buying a new one! I then decided it to put it in the washer. Result - the red cross disappeared, but Martin now has to wear a very pale pink number in the style of a Mary Quant mini dress, as it did shrink somewhat.

Returning from holiday Martin said to Linda, has someone done something to my chasuble to which she answered – IT WASN'T ME! Thanks Linda.

This also demonstrates Martin is above all human just like the rest of us. Among his many excellent qualities is a liking for an occasional alcoholic beverage and the appreciation of a good chocolate biscuit. Such qualities are obligatory to the vicar of St Cuthbert's and should be specified in any job specifications issued! St Cuthbert's is famous for its culinary events, and I know today will be no exception!

So, after 32 years to the service of St Cuthbert's and the wider community and reaching the tender age of 70, Martin has to retire and I expect it may be a bit of wrench to leave the community he has been a part of for so many years. But there will be aspects of the job that he won't miss – mountains of admin and paperwork: pew sheets, magazines, diocesan returns (of which there are many); statistics for mission, parish finances, annual reports, energy footprint returns, electoral roll reports, PCC and Deanery Synod returns, ministerial development reviews not to mention the dreaded faculty applications, and quinquennial inspections.

Life gives us many rich gifts and the odd challenge or two. Speaking personally for a moment, and I know I am not alone in this experience, it has been wonderful to have Martin around to share in some of the best family occasions and his support at the worst of times, alongside the extended St Cuthbert's family, made carrying on so much more bearable.

You can breathe a sigh of relief, it's almost over (and you can see why it would NOT be a good idea to have Lay Led services at St Cuthbert's), I would like to thank everyone who has made today so special for Martin. Thank you so much attending his final service and enjoy the rest of today's celebrations. However, while I have a captive audience and such a large number of clergy in our midst, if any of you have a spare Sunday and would like to preside at one of our services, just come and see me later and I'll gladly book you in.

This week, I have had the pleasure of shaking hands with His Majesty the King, an honour and a privilege indeed, but no greater than being allowed to speak today, join in this service and celebrate a true friend's retirement.

A message from Keith:

As a new life beckons, I know I speak for all, when I say for Martin's commitment, we are truly thankful. His life of service and steadfast contribution to our lives will remain as a keystone for us as we move forward.

And from Linda and I – Martin, we can say that we have been truly blessed and we hope that you will be more than happy in your new home at Bishop's Walk in Durham. Please don't forget us, we certainly will never forget you! Thank you!

(Linda present Martin with a few gifts from the Parish).



And finally, Martin, once you process down the aisle for the very last time, and before you leave the main doors to greet all of your guests here today, pause in the porchway and look to your left...

Grateful Thanks

A message from Revd Martin Jackson (retired!)

Please convey to the people of St Cuthbert's my grateful thanks at the time of my retirement.



You'll realise that I was quite overwhelmed by the occasion – though I never had any doubt that whatever was planned would be brought off brilliantly as ever. My grateful thanks for the huge generosity of the gifts received and a massive number of messages and cards with so many kind words. I'd felt some nervousness before the final service, but once there on the day I knew that everything would come together. I hope that the worship we offered will remain as a witness to the faith and love which are central to the life of St Cuthbert's. As for the hospitality and catering – that's St Cuthbert's! And so many people who travelled to be with us remarked on the welcome they received.

I can't say enough as to how I feel. My gratitude is not only for last weekend's service and what followed, nor for the gifts received, but for all you have been for me over the last 32 years. You have given me a home and been for me a family – and I hope the friendships forged will remain and sustain us mutually.

I was in Durham last Sunday, and went to look at the house which is being built. The roof is now on! But it will be a while before I can move in, so you will no doubt see me around in what will remain for me "our" community.

Thanks again – and my prayers for every blessing on you!

Martin

"In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich".

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



More music . . .

Newcastle Cathedral

Mondays 6, 13, 20, 27 July and 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 August, 1.05 – 1.45pm

Organ Recital series Free

www.newcastlecathedral.org.uk

Hexham Abbey

Thursdays 2, 16 July, and 6, 20 August, 1.00 – 2.00 pm Lunchtime Live

40 minutes of live music performed by talented musicians.

Free (£5 donation invited)

www.hexhamabbey.org.uk

The Glasshouse, Gateshead

BBC Proms in the North East

Thursday 23 July, 7.30 pm at Middlesbrough Town Hall

The Unthanks and Friends with the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

Tickets from £8

Friday 24 July, 9.00 pm at The Concourse at The Glasshouse, Gateshead

Nadine Shah and the Royal Northern Sinfonia. Tickets: £8 - £27

Saturday 25 July, 4.00 pm at The Concourse at The Glasshouse

Choirs on the Concourse with Jess Gillam.

Tickets £8

Saturday 25 July, 7.30 pm at The Fire Station, Sunderland

Pianist Christian Ihle Hadland joins the Royal Northern Sinfonia to perform music by Mendelssohn and Mozart.

Tickets: £8 - £34

Saturday 13 June, 7.30pm

The Royal Northern Sinfonia with pianists Imogen Cooper and Paul Lewis perform music by Mozart.

Tickets: £5 - £48.50

www.theglasshouseicm.org

Durham Cathedral

Saturday 18 July, 7.30 pm

The EverReady Brass Band perform 'Myth, Magic and More'. Their performance celebrates some of the most iconic music from film and TV.

Tickets: £25 (concessions available) www.durhamcathedral.co.uk

Food 4 U Donations

Many thanks for your weekly contributions to the County Durham and Sunderland Foodbank placed in our donation box at the back of Church. Since last month we have made 2 donations to the food bank at Consett Methodist Church. On the 1 June we delivered 14.5kg of donated items, and on the 16 June, 15.5kg were donated. Thank you so much. All non-perishable items and toiletries are gratefully received. This month the food bank is especially asking for Long Life Fruit Juice, Tinned Fruit, Long Life Milk, Coffee and Tinned Potatoes. Thanks for your continued support of those in need.



For further information on the work of the County Durham foodbank, you can visit them online at <https://durham.foodbank.org.uk> or find them on Facebook as 'County Durham and Sunderland Foodbank'. *Thank You.*

Keith Maddison

From the Parish Register Funeral



24 June Marion FENWICK (84)
 Messenger Mews, Shotley Bridge

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace

Useful Church Contacts – St Cuthbert's:

Churchwardens: Linda Short, 9 Sherwood Close		503750
Carol O'Malley, 13 Spring Close, Ebchester		07877 090842
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Lynne Severs		07980 097493
PCC Lay Chair: Jan Worters, 8 The Drive, Shotley Bridge		07884 967058
PCC Treasurer: Carol O'Malley, 13 Spring Close, Ebchester		07877 090842
PCC Secretary: Glynis Bell, 7 Greenacres Road, S/B		501158
Church Hall: Helen Winter, 3 Shotley Lodge, Shotley Bridge		502078
Magazine Orders: Jill Barron, Glastonbury, Benfieldside Road		504352
Magazine Adverts: Liv-Ellen Kennedy		582498