



**St John's Church, Whorlton September 2026**

*A Message from Reverend Bob*

## **September... BUT Is the Party Over?**

As I write this, I am enjoying one of the sunniest days we've had in weeks, in what is the hottest summer we've had since 1976. I hope that you've all been enjoying it too. However, while it has been lovely, it does make me wonder about what we, humanity in general, and ourselves as individuals, are doing to our planet.

Views on global warming often seem very polarized, with some, particularly rich industrialized nations, showing scant regard for both the theories around the subject and the internationally agreed plans on how to control, and hopefully reverse, the situation. In the process I can't help but wonder what God might think about this potentially disastrous situation, and I truly believe that God really does care.

Sometimes when I hear people talk about God, the Bible and what it all means, it can be easy to conclude that the whole thing is only about the salvation and redemption of humanity. However, it is essential to remember that the Bible begins with creation in the Book of Genesis, and it ends with the creation of a New Heaven and a New Earth in the Book of Revelation.

For God, it isn't only about humanity, it is about all of creation – from the entire Universe to the planet Earth and everything upon it, not just we humans. Furthermore, we must acknowledge that in Genesis 2:15 "God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and care for it" (NIV). Consequently, there is a distinct obligation placed upon humanity, i.e. us, to care for creation. Now this isn't just for those of a Judaic/Christian background, because those distinctions are only recent in our Universe's history. Consequently, humanity is placed under an indissoluble obligation to do a far better job than we are currently doing to care for our planet.

Radical lifestyle changes, as much as we might like them, aren't generally practical for most of us. We have the cars, houses, heating systems, etc. that we have, and often these were chosen because they were the recommended option when bought. Furthermore, most of us simply don't have the ready cash to change them on release of each latest batch of research. Consequently, we each must work on the principle that 'every little helps' and reduce our consumption of the things we learn are harming our environment by as much as practically possible.

As a Christian, I know that helping to save the planet needs to be as much a missional activity in my life as anything else, but I also believe that it needs to be a 'missional' activity for all of humanity, regardless of whether people have any faith or none. Consequently, I ask you to please help our planet and our global communities by recycling and reducing harmful consumption wherever and however you can.

God will thank you, even if you don't believe in him!

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### DIARY DATES

**5-7pm, Sat. 12th Sept.:** Pub Quiz with Pie and Peas supper (please put your name down or speak to Lesley or Eleanor).

12 noon, Sun. 4th Oct.: Harvest Lunch

2-4pm, Sat. 21st Nov.: Christmas Fayre

6:30pm, Sun. 13th Dec.: Christmas Carols by Candlelight

*Mothers' Union meets on the last Monday of the month.*

*The Women's Group meets 8pm, first Tuesday of the month at The Chapel Park.*

*Men's Breakfast meets at Dobbies at 10am on the first Saturday of the month.*

*Friday Bible Study group -please speak to Rev'd Bob if you are interested in joining this group.*

### SUNDAY SERVICES AND BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST

6<sup>th</sup> Sept Exodus 12: 1-14 or Ezekiel 33: 7-11; Romans 13: 8-end; Matthew 18: 15-20

13<sup>th</sup> Sept Exodus 14: 19-end or Genesis 33: 7-11; Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35

20<sup>th</sup> Sept Exodus 16: 2-15 or Jonah 3: 10-end of 4; Philippians 1: 21-end; Matthew 20: 1-16

27<sup>th</sup> Sept Exodus 17: 1-7 or Ezekiel 18: 1-4,25to end; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

Geordie Hinnies: Song Workshop Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at Jesmond United Reformed Church Hall, NE2 3AE. Geordie Folk song performance at 2pm followed by a free song workshop at 3.30pm. Tickets are free and can be booked at: [discoverjesmod1888/events](https://discoverjesmod1888/events)

**Harvest: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October** Donations for the People's Kitchen can be brought on the 5th October to coincide with the Harvest Service and Harvest Lunch. The lunch will be for Christian Aid – suggested donation £5. Donations should be tinned fruit/veg/soup/meats/custard/rice pudding, baking ingredients,crisps, biscuits,coffee, tea, hot chocolate, pasta, rice, condiments, gravy, stock.

### Defibrillator maintenance

We have now installed our defibrillator in the car park at St John's church. The defibrillator is accessible from Stamfordham Road and is available to all who require assistance in the event of a cardiac emergency. We have kept the just giving page open to allow organisations and individuals to donate to the annual maintenance.

<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/community-projects/25-072/>

If you are new to St John's Whorlton and wish to register your contact details temporarily until the next electoral roll revision please collect a form from the back of church and give to Martin or Lesley (church wardens).

### HALL BOOKINGS

***We're open to taking new bookings: do get in touch with the parish office for details or with any enquiries (whether for a regular booking or one-off event): 0191 271 2992.***

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