

Spire Newsletter **FREE**



**NEWS FROM THE PARISHES OF
GREAT AYTON WITH EASBY &
NEWTON UNDER ROSEBERRY**



**Issue no.14 :
October 2026**



A YEAR GONE!

**HAPPY FIRST ANNIVERSARY
TO OUR VICAR, REV SARAH**

**On Tuesday 7th October 2025
a packed Christ Church was
delighted to welcome our new vicar
in a joyful and uplifting celebration
led by Barry,
Bishop of Whitby**

**and her first services were
our Harvest Festivals.**

**.....and to mark it, our table of vicars, hanging on
Christ Church's west wall, has been updated thanks
to the beautiful calligraphic skills of Jo Dean:**

OUR HARVEST FESTIVALS THIS YEAR

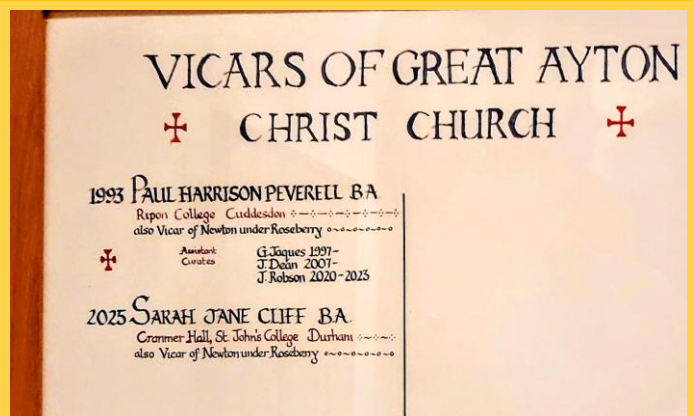
On Sunday 4th October we will be celebrating Harvest in both **Christ Church** and in **St. Oswald's**.

The service at **Christ Church (9.15 am)** will be a non-Eucharistic worship of thanks when we will be joined, as usual, by our younger members from our local uniformed groups parading their colours. Offerings of money or food at this service and during the week will be given to **Middlesbrough Food Bank**.

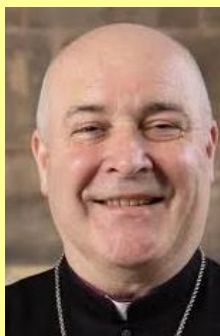
A non-Eucharistic family service at **St. Oswald's (11.00 am)** will be followed by a pooled lunch. Money donations will be sent to **RABI** and food donations to the **Genesis Project**.

See our back page for more information about these recipients.

Let us share God's goodness to us with those who are less fortunate today.



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell will be visiting Middlesbrough on **Friday 2nd October at 7pm** as part of his tour of the northern province exploring the Lord's Prayer.

The event, at **St Martin's Church in Whinney Banks**, is free and **Bishop Barry Hill** (right) will be hosting a Q&A with the Archbishop on the prayer our Lord taught us.

Details and booking <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/event/12411/>



A LETTER FROM AMERICA

Our treasurer Ken tells us of this surprise message recently received from the USA:

"I grew up in Great Ayton (on Skottowe Drive) in the 80s and 90s and moved to the U.S. in about 1995-96 and have lived here ever since. I do get to come 'home' occasionally and have brought my wife to come see the old church. Funnily enough I didn't go to church at all growing up, but started going to church over here in my 20s and am now a pastor in the United Methodist Church. Funny how things come about.

I was wondering how I could go about financially supporting the work of All Saints? If there are any specific needs that you're struggling to meet, I'd welcome the opportunity to perhaps fund something specific rather than a general donation, although I'm happy to do that too if that's what's needed most."

After some discussion, we agreed that the mystery donor (he wants to remain anonymous) would like to make a contribution to the cost of refurbishing the 1743 sundial on All Saints Church (right). And the sum of £425 arrived via PayPal last month. How he found my email I don't know but maybe *Spire* has been winging its way across the Atlantic!



Let all who are thirsty come...



We meet at **All Saints** for a **Time to Pray** each Thursday morning at 9:30 for about 30 minutes. When it's wet, we go inside; when it's really hot, we pray in the shade.

It's very informal. No experience is necessary. If you know anyone in the photo, do ask them - otherwise have a word with Rev Geoff.

As part of the **PILGRIM PLACES** network, **St. Oswald's** will be open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday throughout October.



CHRIST CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 17th October 2026

7.00pm start

CHRIST CHURCH HALL, GREAT AYTON

PIE AND PEA SUPPER – VEGETARIAN OPTION

BRING YOUR OWN DRINK

£10.00 PER TICKET

MAXIMUM 8 PER TEAM

TICKETS – CONTACT MARIAN ON 07971 090038

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Bible Conversations

What is it? The project is organised by the **Bible Society** and the churches across Teesside, aiming to encourage people to discover more about the Bible. The resources include a booklet containing St Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles as a starting point.

Why come? Come along and meet other people just for a chat about a Bible story with a drink and a biscuit. The story might help us answer questions we've been quietly asking ourselves.

When? **Tuesdays 11 o'clock. September 22nd, 29th and October 6th, 13th,** just for 40 minutes.

Where? Christ Church coffee lounge. (It's after *Little Fishes* so we might still be busy tidying up if you arrive early! Just come in and get yourself a drink and a biscuit!)

Do I have to know lots about the Bible? NO! - you don't need to know anything at all!

What if I don't want to say anything? That's fine. Listening is great too.

I've missed the first one No problem. Each week is a different story. No preparation. No homework. Come along to any of them.

We're looking forward to seeing you there.

Helen, John and Carol

**COME AND JOIN THE
CONVERSATION**

at CHRIST CHURCH on

Tuesday

**at 11 o'clock in the Coffee
Lounge.**



**THE ALL NEW *BIBLE COURSE*
EXPLORES GOD'S STORY -
ONE STEP AT A TIME**

Bible Course discussions and viewing of the high-quality videos begin on Monday September 28th at 7:30 pm in Christ Church Coffee Lounge. Like to know more? Have a chat with Sue Grey, Helen Land, Lesley Miller, Chris Robertson, Helen or John Rowlands, or Rev Geoff. Jaques.

OUR GRAVEYARDS ARE BEING PHOTOGRAPHED AND RECORDED FOR POSTERITY

Across the country, a national burial ground survey is being undertaken with the support of the Church of England. Our diocese has informed us that the survey has now begun photographing headstones in our diocese. (Most headstones can already be found on the many genealogy sites.)

The National Burial Grounds Survey (NBGS) is a seven-year project to survey and accurately map all our churchyards, in England, diocese by diocese, parish by parish, church by church. At the present time, their activities are limited solely to the photography of memorials; but we can't be told when they will be in our parish. We are assured that photographers will not move or touch flowers, tributes, or any other items placed on or around graves and memorials. Personnel are also required to maintain a discreet and respectful distance from anyone attending a grave. A copy of all memorial photographs relating to a churchyard will be supplied upon request and free of charge to the appropriate parish. It is hoped that, in due course, a comprehensive digital record of all churchyards will combine detailed mapping with photographs of memorials and, where agreed, digitised burial registers and associated records. Significant progress has already been achieved, with the Dioceses of Carlisle and Truro substantially completed.

Much more of interest can be found on their website (<https://agintl.org/nbgs-survey/>) which suggests these benefits:

- Provides parishes with a highly efficient tool to help manage their churchyards
- Maintains a consistent standard for all records and information
- Provides a detailed, up-to-date and accurate on-screen churchyard map showing the location of each memorial, the footprint of the church building and other details such as trees, paths, buildings, benches etc.
- Helps parishes to manage future records
- Helps visitors to find where their relatives are buried
- Provides support for faculty applications and churchyard management plans, such as enabling measurements of distance, area and much more
- Protects parish registers safely and securely, mitigating the risk of the originals becoming lost or deteriorating
- Helps to log and track the biodiversity of churchyards
- Becomes a tremendous asset to education and research facilities and maintain burial records



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Who will receive our HARVEST FESTIVAL donations this year?

The same charities as last year.

Why?

Because so many people need their help.

Earlier this year the government published statistics for children living in poverty: in 2024/25 **4 million children across the UK were living below the poverty line** – over a quarter of all children; but last year areas in Middlesbrough (44%) and in Newcastle (40%) had far worse figures. This could mean families using foodbanks to feed their children, accessing baby banks so infants and toddlers don't go without essentials like clothes or nappies, or children and young people growing up in cold and unsafe homes.

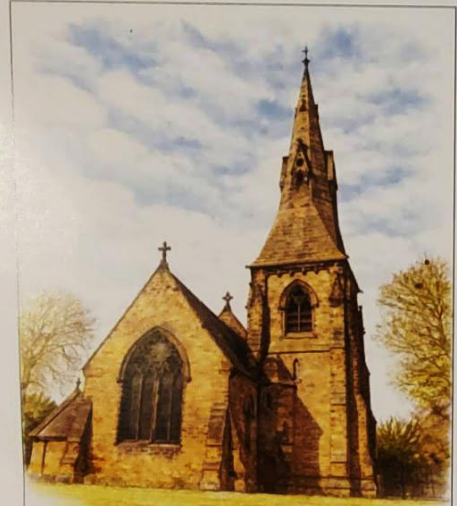
Middlesbrough Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area. The foodbanks are there to help people in crisis, referred by doctors, social workers and welfare officers amongst others. They provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. 15,270 local people received food in 2024: 10,380 adults and 4,890 children.

The **Genesis Project**, based at St Chad's and St Oswald's churches in Marton Grove, feed about 750 people each week, and seek to offer a safe place for members of their community to receive help and relieve their household and mental burdens.

RABI, the farmers' charity, works directly with farming people to understand their situation and provide advice on benefit entitlements, and access to financial and mental health support with free counselling.

Sadly, need for the foodbanks is constant, so a big thank you to all who contribute food or money regularly. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, anyone can bring donations of food to Christ Church for transfer into Middlesbrough.

Happy 150th Birthday Christ Church



Cards with these details are available in Church.

OUR REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church, Great Ayton

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion
9:15am Parish Communion with choir
4:30pm Café Church (2nd & 4th Sundays)
Monday 2.00pm Coffee Lounge Communion (1st Monday)
Tuesday 9.45am Little Fishes (not during school holidays)
Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion (BCP) or Morning Prayer

St Oswald's Church, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion with hymns (1st & 5th Sundays)
All Age Service (3rd Sundays)

To commemorate our special year, we aim at Christ Church to undertake a number of projects to make the church more accessible and welcoming for all – including renewing the floor coverings and altering the porch to improve visibility.

If you wish to donate online to these projects, you may use this QR code to access the website parishgiving.org.uk



CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Sarah Cliff 07355 711010

sarah@christchurchgreatayton.onmicrosoft.com

(Sarah's rest day is normally on Saturdays.)

For events and bookings:

Church Office: 01642 722665

gapo1876@outlook.com

(The office is usually staffed on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays)

For Safeguarding issues:

Mary Mason 07788 643930

mary.mason@gmx.co.uk

Church website address:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

(Note that the church is gradually moving our information from our former website to this national CofE site.)

Our Facebook pages:

Christ Church, Great Ayton;
St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry;
All Saints Church, Great Ayton;
Christ Church Choir, Great Ayton;

Little Fishes has a Private Group on Facebook for parents and carers of pre-school children; you can request to join it. The **Adult Discipleship Group** also has a Private Group.

*The closing date for the next issue of this **Spire Newsletter** will be **15th October**. If you would like to submit an article, news or details of events likely to interest our readers, you are encouraged to send them to the editor, at: stephen.whitehead1948@gmail.com.*