



SEPTEMBER 2026

Stockton Country Parish

Newsheet for St John's, St James',
St Peter's and St Cuthbert's



SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER Look out for:

NEW Creation in Christ Festival Sun 6th Sept 10.30am St John's, Stillington

NEW BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICES for the young & young at heart, celebrating the start of the new school year...

Sun 20th Sept 4pm St John's Stillington

Sun 27th Sept 10.30am St Peter's Bishopton

HARVEST FESTIVAL

HARVEST HOLY COMMUNION Sun 4th Oct 10.30am St John's

SONGS OF PRAISE & SHARED SUPPER Fri 9th Oct

7pm, St Peter's Church, Bishopton shared supper in the hall

CHURCH & COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ROADSHOW

Over the next few months there will be **opportunities** to hear more about the challenges & changes local parish are experiencing, the decisions facing Stockton Country Parish Church Council regarding **the future of the local church community and church buildings** of St Johns, St James, St Cuthbert's and St Peter's.

Fri 18th Sept 7-9pm WI Hall, Carlton

Wed 21st Oct 7-9pm Bishopton Village Hall, Bishopton

Tues 27th Oct 7-9pm Grindon Village Hall, Thorpe Thewles

Stillington dates TBC.

Please come along to find out more, ask questions, contribute

SUNDAY SERVICES 10.30AM

September

6th St John's, Stillington

13th St JamesThorpe Thewles

20th St Cuthbert's Redmarshall

27th St Peter's, Bishopton

October

4th St John's, Stillington

11th St JamesThorpe Thewles

18th St Cuthbert's Redmarshall

27th St Peter's, Bishopton

November

1st St John's, Stillington

8th St JamesThorpe Thewles

15th St Cuthbert's Redmarshall

22nd St Peter's, Bishopton

29th St John's, Stillington

December - every Sunday

10am St John's Stillington

From Sunday 29th Nov

Sunday Worship

Same time, same place
every Sunday!

**10am, St John's,
Stillington**

See you there

To go on an email list for regular email updates please email: lindsay.southern@durham.anglican.org with the title: *Request SCP updates.*



ON THIS MONTH

Celtic Communion 12 Noon, St Cuthberts

9th Sept, 14th Oct

Prayers around the Parish

Mon 7th 2.30- 3.30pm St Peter's

Tues 8th 5-6pm St James

Wed 9th 10.30 - 11.30 St Cuthbert

Drop in to pray for the parish,

'Blessing our communities in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all'

SPOTLIGHT ON... CREATION & GENEROSITY

'But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.' 2 Chronicles 29.14

These words - spoken by King David as a Prayer of Thanksgiving after he and the people offered gifts of materials and wealth to build the future temple of Jerusalem - form the basis of one of our offertory prayers; "All things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. Use these gifts in the service of your world to the glory of your name".

All we are and have springs out of God's generosity and in this prayer we acknowledge that it is God who created the Universe and sustains life. In this Creation Season which begins in September and ends in October, we take time to treasure God's creation, appreciate the natural world and acknowledge both our dependence and the God's invitation to wise stewardship rather than exploitation of earth's natural resources. Perhaps too there is an invitation to acknowledge what we have been given and consider how our lives can best reflect God's generosity... In the short time (9 weeks!) I've been here I've already experienced the generous hearts of the people in this parish through the Prayer Bear Project and your willingness to give your time, skills and resources. If there is something you would particularly like to get involved with - being part of a welcome team, cleaning and preparing for worship, developing the church's mission and vision, pastoral care, communicating with the parish, do please speak to me or one of the PCC - we'd love to hear from you.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRAYER BEAR PROJECT OVER THE SUMMER - you raised £150 to enable the church to give every child starting school for the first time at both William Cassidi and Bishopton Redmarshall CofE primary schools a teddy bear - and knitted scarves for all of them! Those will be given to children in local schools over the coming weeks...



USEFUL CONTACTS

Priest in Charge

Rev'd Lindsay Southern

Interim Change Minister

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Churchwardens

Philip Tingle 01740 630589

Alison Borer 01740 630330

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Savilla Hickey 07454 275411

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Weddings, Funerals & Finance

Joyce Hewitt 07738 489894

PCC Lay Chair

Anne Tingle 01740 630589

anneltingle@gmail.com

BAPTISMS & PCC Secretary

Christine Briscoe 01740 630333

christinebriscoe.cb@gmail.com

INTERIM CHANGE MINISTRY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 18 MONTHS

- Work with the PCC, congregation and community to establish regular weekly worship in one location, fostering a healthy, flourishing church.
- Help the parish come to terms with loss and closure of buildings.
- Encourage good working relationships with both C of E Primary Schools.
- Work with the congregation and community to discern the vision for the future of mission and ministry in the Country Parish.

EXPLORING FAITH, SPIRITUALITY, THE BIBLE OR PRAYER?

Want to know more about what it means to follow Jesus?

Or simply thinking about planning a baptism, wedding or funeral?

Do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

You can support your local church by:

worshipping there,
+praying + being
part of it

& if you would like to
give financially you
can do so through
PGS websites
(Parish Giving Scheme)

[https://
www.parishgiving.org
uk/donors/find-
your-parish](https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish)



Thank you!