

Spire Newsletter

FREE



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

Issue no.15: November 2026



NOVEMBER – A MONTH OF REMEMBERING



A Letter from Rev Sarah:

Dear Friends and Neighbours

*'Remember, remember, the Fifth of
November, Gunpowder, treason and plot.'*

Did you learn that rhyme when you were at school? I also remember learning to write secret letters with a quill in lemon juice (like the plotters) and revealing the writing by holding it over a candle. It must have been a safety nightmare as we were only 8 or 9!

November is a month of Remembrance and not just the event on the 5th. The month begins with **All Saints Day** on the 1st, **All Souls** on the 2nd and moving on to the 11th of November and **Armistice Day**. Remembrance Sunday is always held on the Sunday nearest to the 11th - so this year it's November 8th. Every year I despair at the hyping of Halloween and all that goes with it. We call it Halloween as it is 'All Hallow's Eve' the day before All Hallows Day (the old name for All Saints Day.) In fact, our lovely old parish church was called All Hallows before its name was 'modernised' to All Saints. Though we remember notable Christians throughout the year on their respective days (St George, St Peter, St Oswald etc) the Feast of All Saints is a day to remember the whole Church. We honour the example of lives and deaths of all named and unnamed in the Church Calendar and rejoice through membership and participation in the body of Christ. All Souls is a day we remember those we love but see no more; those who have died recently and those whose death was many years ago.

On **Sunday 1st November** we will keep the **Feast of all Saints** at both Christ Church and St Oswalds in our morning worship, giving thanks that Jesus calls us all to be saints in his Kingdom. Then on the evening of the 1st we will hold an All Souls Memorial Service at 6pm, where we have invited those families whom we have walked with through their bereavement and taken the funeral service. But all are invited to attend the All Souls Memorial Service as we remember that promise Jesus gave:

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2-3.)

We have this promise of eternal life because of the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

Often on **Remembrance Sunday** we hear something from another part of John's Gospel:

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends". (John 15:13.)

We stand in silence as we remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and protection of their country. It is a reminder that the awful cost paid by others in war must spur us on to be people of peace and dialogue. The prophet Micah was born over 700 years before Jesus, but he foretold of the Messiah's birth in Bethlehem, and he also wrote this about God's plan for humanity;

"He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Micah 4:3.)

The November time of Remembrance can be a heavy and dark time, like the weather that the month brings, but in Jesus we have hope for all who have gone before and a promise of new life and peace when we trust in him.

Blessings Sarah

SOME OTHER SAINTS TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER

11th MARTIN OF TOURS lived in the fourth century. His father was a pagan officer in the Roman Army but from an early age Martin wanted to be a Christian, was imprisoned for this early 'conscientious objection', and not released until he was nearly 40. He founded the first monastery in Gaul and was made Bishop of Tours in 372, and is famous for sharing half his cloak with a beggar. 'St Martin's Summer' in England is a spell of fine weather that sometimes occurs now. We can but hope!

17th ST HILDA, at the Synod of Whitby in 663, helped set the date of Easter.

22nd ST CECILIA, the patron saint of music, was a third century martyr. At her forced wedding, she sang to God in her heart and converted her pagan husband to Christianity.

25th ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, patron saint of young girls and nurses, lived during the persecution of Christians in the 4th century and was herself tortured on a wheel (the 'Catherine Wheel') then beheaded.

30th ST ANDREW (d. c.60), patron saint of Scotland, and his brother Simon Peter were the first disciples Jesus called to be "fishers of men".

Spire Newsletter

FREE

CONGRATULATIONS TO NICK LAND ON HIS RE-ELECTION TO GENERAL SYNOD.

From our diocesan website:



Nick Land

Nick is a psychiatrist and worships at Christ Church, Great Ayton.

Nick is also a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader), and says, "My most joyful Reader responsibility is leading our discipleship focussed Café Church which has attracted new families and young people.

"I have a particular interest in 'Every Day Faith' and what it means to be a Christian in every area of human life."



ON
OCTOBER 4TH
WE
CELEBRATED
HARVEST IN
BOTH
PARISHES.

At Christ Church
the ladies gave us,
as always, many
excellent floral
displays.....



.....and the Children of the uniformed groups helped
Rev Sarah explain how the word HARVEST can give us both
STARVE and SHARE.



Friday November 27th at 6.00pm
ADVENT TAIZÉ SERVICE at St Oswald's

A warm setting (left) for 40 minutes of peace and tranquillity.
If you would like a lift please contact Geoff.

And remember that St Oswald's is open as a Pilgrim Place for
visitors throughout the month on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Spire Newsletter

FREE

MARWOOD HUNTS NURDLES

Headteacher Dorothy Walton shares some heartening and encouraging news.

Mighty Marwood CE Infant School was delighted to organise a community NURDLE HUNT at Saltburn on Saturday 10 October.

With fantastic support from the *Keep It Clean at Saltburn* action group, and Redcar and Cleveland's Community Officer, 36 children, parents, staff and friends of the school (right) came together to help protect our coastline and wildlife by collecting these tiny plastic pellets from the beach.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of all the volunteers, a total of 262 nurdles were removed from Saltburn and Redcar Beaches over the weekend. It was wonderful to see our school community working together for such an important cause.

A huge WELL DONE and THANK YOU to everyone who took part in making a real difference to our local environment!



We would love to inspire others - why not organise your own nurdle hunt? The school is happy to receive any nurdles found so that they can be used for educational purposes in neighbouring schools. Together - we can make a difference!

(left) Some of the 262 dreaded nurdles!

SORTING OUT 'STUFF' *John Dickinson has been working hard for us behind the scenes; this is why...*

You know how it is, however ordered your filing systems are, whenever you want to find something, it is often easier just to use the search function in your data files or emails. And it works fine, as long as you are the only person accessing the data and it is all in one place. In Christ Church you would be surprised how much data we have, and it has accumulated on the office computer but with a lot kept on church members own devices. If a key person is not available for some reason, then their data is not accessible.

So, with some outside help from Chris Thomas, Stokesley Computer Consultants, we have been sorting this out. Firstly we have a new Microsoft 365 Office licence. This allows all involved in the Church to use the full range of Office applications, online. Secondly, we have established a SharePoint file structure for saving and sharing data files of any type. What this means is that we have everything on the Church Office system, accessible to anyone who needs it for their Church activities. It also means that we can manage the data and access to it, keep it secure and ensure that things like data privacy are handled properly. Furthermore, it is always available to those who need it.

Just in case you are wondering what data we need, these are some of the main headings. All our communications like *Spire*, news sheets and the web site are there. Finance and accounting generate a lot of files that have to be kept for years, relating to everything we undertake. The Diocese, government, HMRC, grant bodies and many others demand returns and reports, so the base data has to be generated and maintained. Not only expenditure, but income also generates a lot of information. Where it comes from is one thing, but is it restricted and has to be spent on specific things or passed to another charity? Can we claim gift aid? It's all in there somewhere, along with all the other 'back office' administration for both the Church and Church Hall.

Then we get to the real business of the Church, our ministry and community activities. Sarah and the clerical team, the services and occasional offices, all the volunteers who have responsibilities within the Church, the different groups that are working to spread the Gospel in our community - they all need support and resources, and they need to share those with others. Think of all the things you might get involved in, and what is needed to make them happen. Information and data is there to be used and saved and an increasing number of people generate and use it. We now have a central church computer system which can handle the data. Anyone who works on behalf of the church can get access to the file folders they need, if required. Each person who requires this is given a license and a mailbox. Five that are now in use are Sarah@cc-gs.org.uk, Jon@cc-ga.org.uk, gapo@cc-ga.org.uk, finance@cc-ga.org.uk and services@cc-ga.org.uk. Four are self-explanatory with the last one being the dedicated computer used to support services' audio visual requirements. More mailboxes are being rolled out to users. The big benefit is that this enables those who conduct church 'business' to keep their mails on the central system and separate from personal mailboxes. All users, with the exception of our vicar, Sarah, have access restricted to only the folders that they need.

Whether we like it or not, technology is part of our lives, and we have to manage it properly. It is of significant benefit in terms of the resources that we have access to and our ability to reach out to others. We are now in a good place and the journey continues.

Spire Newsletter

FREE



A CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

THIS YEAR CHRIST CHURCH WILL BE HOLDING A CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND WOULD LIKE TO INVITE LOCAL SCHOOLS, GROUPS AND BUSINESSES TO BE PART OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT BY DECORATING ONE OF OUR CHRISTMAS TREES TO REFLECT THEIR ORGANISATION/BUSINESS.

The festival will be officially launched between 10.00am and noon on Saturday 12th December with Coffee & Mince Pies and Christmas Music and will run until Twelfth Night on 5th January. The trees will be provided by church and will be artificial and 4 feet high. Due to space, we are limited to 14 trees and so these will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

We request that businesses donate a minimum of £20 to church funds to take part in the festival; schools and community groups will be exempt of this fee. We are also looking for donations of £20 to cover the cost of purchasing each tree.

There will be an opportunity for visitors to vote for their favourite tree and there will be a small prize for the winner. If you or your community group are interested in decorating a tree or would like to cover the cost of purchasing a tree, please contact Alison Collins on 07876 152022 or email mrs.collins4@yahoo.co.uk



SUNDAY 1st NOV

The Teesside Church is gathering to celebrate the Bible Conversations mission.

All are welcome. If you need a lift, please see Geoff.

Join NEW

Bible Conversations

Tuesdays at 11am for 40 mins on November 3, 10, 17 & 24 in Christ Church Coffee Lounge. After a successful first series of conversations in September and October we are pleased to announce opportunities to join NEW Conversations. No previous experience is needed - just come along.



CHRIST CHURCH : AN EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH MEETING

on Sunday morning 1st November at 9.05 am in order to appoint a second churchwarden. It is hoped that members of the 8.00 am congregation will delay departure and those coming to the 9.15 service will arrive a little earlier. Lesley Miller has agreed to be proposed and seconded; if elected, she will be supported in the role by Frances Brown, her colleague server.

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, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11:00 Holy Communion with hymns (1st, 5th Sundays)
11:00 All Age Service (3rd Sunday)

SPECIAL SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sun 1 FEAST OF ALL SAINTS: Morning services at both churches.

6.00pm ALL SOULS Memorial Service at Christ Church for those recently departed.

Sun 8 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9.15 Holy Communion
10.45 Service at the War Memorial, then in Christ Church.

Fri 27 6.00pm ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE at St Oswalds

Sun 29 ADVENT SUNDAY

4.00pm CHRISTINGLE FAMILY SERVICE



CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Sarah Cliff 07355 711010

sarah@christchurchgreatayton.onmicrosoft.com

(Sarah's rest day is normally 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 two-month issue of this *Spire Newsletter* will be 15th November. 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. Sincere apologies to those who received our last issue online much later than the paper copies - the most unfortunate result of a one-off technical glitch.