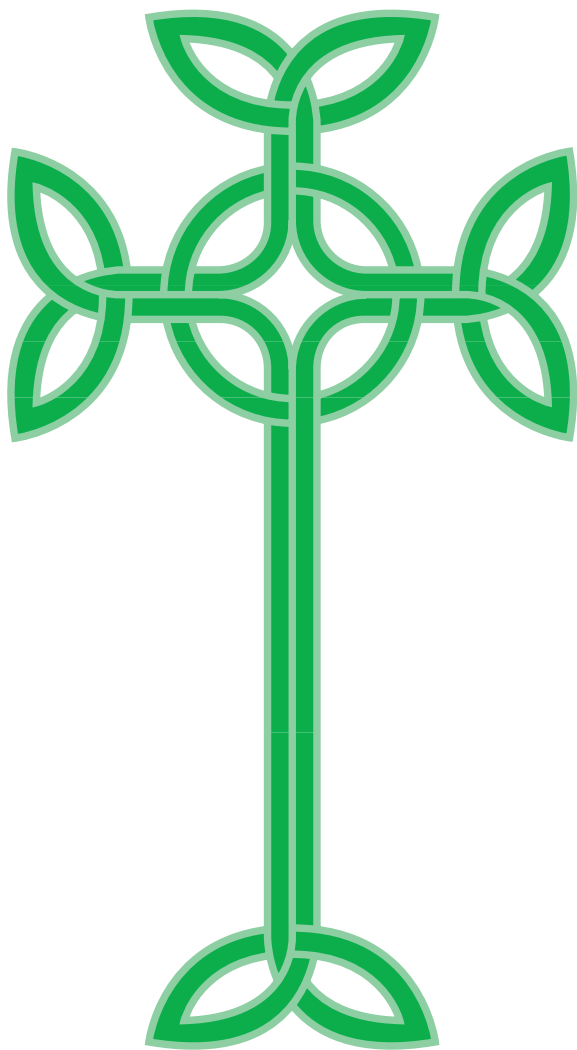


THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE  
OF THE PARISH OF  
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING



St. Michael  
AND ALL ANGELS

NOVEMBER 2025

£1

SIGNPOST

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

### MINISTRY TEAM

#### **Rector**

Rev'd John Barron,  
The Rectory, 5 Lingfield, Houghton-le-Spring,  
Tyne & Wear, DH5 5QA.  
Tel: (0191) 584 7657

We enjoy and benefit from the ministry of a number of retired clergy at St Michael's.

#### **Readers**

Susan Elsey (Reader)  
Email: Suelsey2@gmail.com

Mrs. Ros Pickersgill (Reader)  
Tel: (0191) 584 5642

Mrs. Anne Clappison (Reader)  
Tel: (0191) 584 7533

#### **Church Wardens**

Mrs. Rita Turnbull  
Tel: (0191) 584 1954

Mr. Alastair Bradley  
Tel: (0191) 584 1455

#### **Assistant Church Wardens**

Mr. Simon Hardy  
Tel: 07854 411884

Mr. Brian Scott  
Tel: 07778 577898

#### **Officers of the Parochial Church Council**

Angela Slater (Secretary)  
Tel: (0191) 584 2036

Mrs. Susan Bradley (Treasurer)  
Tel: (0191) 584 1455

#### **Organist & Director of Music**

Mr. George Peebles  
Tel: (0191) 584 1628

#### **Verger**

Mr. David Turnbull  
Tel: (0191) 584 1954

#### **Safeguarding**

Alison Young (Safeguarding Officer)  
Tel: 07532 036026

Mrs. Kathleen Close (DBS Officer)  
Tel: (0191) 584 0353

#### **Space4**

76 Newbottle Street  
Next to Houghton Library  
Twitter @space4  
Facebook houghtonspace4  
Tel: (0191) 512 0676

#### **Church Website**

Our website contains information on most aspects of church life.  
[www.stmichaels-hls.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-hls.org.uk)

#### **The Friends of Houghton Parish Church Trust**

Contact: Mr. George Peebles, Membership Secretary on (0191) 584 1628 for information and application forms.

#### **St Michaels and All Angels Mothers Union**

The Mothers Union meets on the last Monday of every month at 2pm in the Kepier Hall.

We welcome new members with open arms and if you require any further information please contact:-

Joan Beattie Tel: (0191) 512 6032  
Sheila Wynne Tel: 07916 629043  
Anne Todd Tel: (0191) 584 1032

### UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

#### **Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers**

Contact: Sheila Wynne, Tel: 07916629043

#### **Beavers, Cubs and Scouts**

Contact: Steve Gibson, Tel: 07507 161366  
Website: [www.1stthoughtonscouts.org.uk](http://www.1stthoughtonscouts.org.uk)

### REGULAR SERVICES

Our pattern of services at St Michael and All Angels over a 'normal' week:

|      |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun  | 8.30am | A shorter 'said' service of Communion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Sun  | 10am   | Parish Communion (a 'sung' service, with 'Young Church') (1st Sunday is 'All-age Communion').                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sun  | 6pm    | Evening Service:<br>1st Sun 'Engage' – contemporary music & themed service;<br>2nd Sun 'Choral Evensong' – a traditional service led by our choir;<br>3rd Sun 'Service of Light' – a relaxed sung service;<br>4th Sun 'Celtic Eucharist' – 'Iona' style Communion. |
| Tues | 7pm    | Holy Communion (4th Sunday, during winter)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Thur | 10am   | Holy Communion with Hymns (& refreshments afterwards).                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

We hold a quieter service of Holy Communion on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Our Young Church takes place during the 10am Sunday Holy Communion on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, with our All Age Service aim for the Young members of the congregation to be a part of on the 1st Sunday of the month.

### Contact Information

Our website and Facebook page contain details of how to join others online for worship. We send regular updates via our church distribution list – please call us or email us if you know someone who would like to receive our email updates.

### Find us online at:

website: [www.stmichaels.hls.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels.hls.org.uk)

facebook: [www.facebook.com/stmichaels.hls](http://www.facebook.com/stmichaels.hls)

The Parish Office is open between 9am & 3pm on a Tuesday and 9am & 2pm Thursday. You can contact us on Tel: (0191) 512 1769. On occasions, when we need to close the 'physical' office, you can contact us between these times on Mob: 07707 043 395. You can also contact us on email or message us during the week and we will respond during opening hours:

Email: [stmichaels.hls@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaels.hls@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stmichaels.hls](http://www.facebook.com/stmichaels.hls)

Website: [www.stmichaels-hls.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-hls.org.uk)

For urgent issues contact Rev'd John Barron on (0191) 584 7657.

If you'd like your child to be a part of Young Church contact Clare our Young Church leader at [stmichaels.youngchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:stmichaels.youngchurch@btinternet.com)

To make an appointment for 'Vestry hour' to book baptisms and weddings call the Church Office or email us. Vestry Hour usually takes place on a Monday between 6 – 7pm. You will be able to talk to the team about all your Wedding and Christening needs, whether that is booking dates, finding prices or finding out the process in more details.

### ABOUT SIGNPOST

Signpost is the magazine of the Parish Church of St. Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring. In addition to providing information about the life of the church, it also aims to reflect the interests of the broader community and to provide a source of local news and a forum in which matters of common concern can be raised. The Editors welcome comments and suggestions, and invite contributions. Items to be included in Signpost should be submitted to the Editors by 10th of the month (end of 1st week of the month for memorials) to ensure inclusion in the next issue. It should be noted, however, that the Editors cannot guarantee to publish material and wish to point out that items included do not necessarily reflect their views nor those of the Parochial Church Council. Editor: Malcolm Foster, Tel: 07860 250 300. Distribution: Joan Bond, Tel: (0191) 584 1031.

Circulation: 300 copies per month.

### Space4

At our community project, our aim is to provide 'Space4 everyone to flourish!'

We run out of our 'Hub' (next to the library) on Newbottle Street and the Kepier Hall (behind church). You can find us on our Space4 Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/HoughtonSpace4/](http://www.facebook.com/HoughtonSpace4/)

There's lots going on throughout the week and all are welcome:

|      |             |                                                       |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon  | 10am-1pm    | Drop in (Space4 Hub, Newbottle Street)                |
| Tues | 10am-12noon | Community Food Store (Kepier Hall)                    |
|      | 10am-1pm    | Drop in (Space4 Hub, Newbottle Street)                |
|      | 3.30pm-5pm  | Tuesday Treat                                         |
| Wed  | 10am-1pm    | Drop in & Craft Group (Space4 Hub, Newbottle Street)  |
| Thur | 10am-1pm    | Drop in (Space4 Hub, Newbottle Street)                |
| Fri  | 10am-12noon | Community Food Store (Kepier Hall)                    |
|      | 10am-1pm    | Drop in (Space4 Hub, Newbottle Street)                |
|      | 2pm-4pm     | Cake & Chat (Space4 Hub, Newbottle Street)            |
| Sat  | 2pm-4pm     | Monthly Saturday Group (Space4 Hub, Newbottle Street) |

Other events are advertised on Facebook and in the buildings.

Our Community Foodstore is open on a Tuesday and Friday: it is for anyone in the community who wants to use it, for a donation.

# ***Rector's Letter***

## **REMEMBRANCE**



November is the month for remembering. We begin with the celebration of All Souls when we remember those whom we love but see no longer, and All Saints when we remember all the saints; the big ones and the little ones, the ones we meet in our daily lives.

With a display of colour and noise. We remember the attempt on Parliament of November 5th 1605, the Gunpowder plot, a bonfire is lit to burn a guy, Guy Fawkes and amidst the hot dogs and cries of wonder, few I expect bother to reflect on how close Britain came to a violent takeover of royalty and government of Britain. The remembering event foremost in all our minds, however, is that of Remembrance Sunday when, as a nation, we pause to remember all whose lives were sacrificed in the pursuit of war. Remembrance Day began with the armistice declared on the 11th day of the 11th month, which ended the conflict of World War 1. And it is celebrated nationally on the Sunday closest to the 11th day.

As a nation we stop, pause and remember in silence all who lost their lives defending their county, all the families who lost a husband, a son, a father. We remember the wives and mothers who struggled to cope with their losses and with raising their families single handed. We remember all the children who were never to be born, and we remember the tragic human waste of war. We remember too that we never learn from the lesson, the history of the world is one of wars, and continues to be so today. Our prayer must be one of thanksgiving for all whose lives, usually young lives, were sacrificed for a noble cause in defence of their country and also to remember with compassion all who are still affected by war today. We remember those in our own country who live their lives missing limbs as a result of conflicts, or who have been traumatised by events they have witnessed.

We remember those throughout the world who are in conflict today the civilian populations who suffer bombardments, loss of life, homes, infrastructure such as in the Ukraine and Gaza.

As the autumn leaves fall and the evenings close in, let us remember those who gave everything, and let us remember to the one who gave his life on the cross in love for us all.

## **Dulce et decorum est**

*Wilfred Owen*

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,  
 Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,  
 Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,  
 And towards our distant rest began to trudge.  
 Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,  
 But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;  
 Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots  
 Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling  
 Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,  
 But someone still was yelling out and stumbling  
 And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.—  
 Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,  
 As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams before my helpless sight,  
 He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace  
 Behind the wagon that we flung him in,  
 And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,  
 His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;  
 If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood  
 Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,  
 Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
 Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—  
 My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
 To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
 The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est*  
*Pro patria mori.*

# The Harmony of Science and Religion: A Vision for the AI Age

One of the central principles of the Baha'i Faith is the harmony of science and religion. Rather than viewing these two powerful forces as opposing or irreconcilable, Baha'is believe they are like the two wings of a bird—both essential for humanity to progress and thrive. Science gives us the tools to understand the universe and harness its potential, while religion provides the moral compass and sense of purpose to use these tools wisely. Together, they help us chart a path that benefits all.

This principle feels especially relevant in today's AI-powered world. Artificial intelligence, a rapidly unfolding marvel of human innovation, has already changed so many lives—including my own. Being blind, I benefit daily from tools like Microsoft's 'Seeing AI' – an app which allows me to use my smartphone's camera to read text, recognise people and objects, and even get audio-descriptions of videos. This free app is a testament to how science, guided by a spirit of service (even in big tech), can transform challenges into opportunities.

Yet, as with any powerful tool, AI presents ethical questions that demand our attention. How do we ensure AI is developed and deployed in ways that uplift humanity rather than deepen inequality and harm society? This is where the harmony of science and religion shines brightest. Religion inspires us to see AI not as an end in itself but as a means to serve others, while science equips us with the knowledge to make that vision a reality.

We're at a crossroads where we can use AI to reduce barriers and foster inclusion, or allow it to entrench biases and widen divisions.

Ultimately, harmonizing science and spirituality in the age of AI is about asking the right questions: How can this technology serve humanity as a whole? How can it amplify voices and empower lives (as it has for me)? When these questions guide our innovations, the potential for good becomes limitless.

***Robin Christopherson MBE***

# Bells Fish & Chips

11 Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NE **0191 384 8974**  
 36 Sunderland Road, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 2LG **0191 386 0302**  
 Old Pit Lane, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5HD **0191 370 9999**  
 Unit 2, Craggs Road, Washington, NE38 8FB **0191 417 8687**  
 North Terrace, Seaham, SR7 7HA **0191 500 1199**

**www.bellsfishshop.co.uk**



*G. Whitfield Ltd*

~Your Local Pharmacy~

*A Family Business Serving The Local Community Since 1935*

*We can collect your prescription from  
 Houghton Surgeries and have it ready to  
 collect from our Pharmacy*

**1A Church Street, Houghton-le-Spring**

**Tel: 0191 584 2150**

Visit

## HOUGHTON HILLSIDE CEMETERY

HERITAGE FLORA FAUNA  
 AMAZING VIEWS GENEALOGY  
*Located at the top of Sunderland Street,  
 near Houghton Cut*



**www.theoldcem.co.uk**

**This space is  
 available  
 to advertise,  
 please contact  
 the Editors**

## Hetton Town Trust

At the Hetton Centre: We have a function room available for up to 120 guests with a licensed bar, suitable for all gatherings such as **Weddings, Birthday Parties, Christenings, or Funeral Teas**, also suitable for **meetings or conferences**.

In-house catering available from our Centre Spot Café,  
 open Monday - Friday 9.30am - 2pm.

Contact Kim Downing on **0191 561 6629 / 07923 239674**  
 Email: **kim@hettontowntrust.co.uk**



## HOUGHTON RUGBY CLUB

Dairy Lane, DH4 5BW

Function room available for Christenings and other functions Catering available if required

Contact: The Clubhouse 0191 584 1460  
 Email: **houghtonrugbyclub@outlook.com**

# The Life and Legacy of Bernard Gilpin

## *Continued from the October Signpost*

Tunstall dismissed the charges and, in a gesture of trust, granted him the wealthy rectory of Houghton-le-Spring, a benefice worth £300 annually (a fortune then). But enemies appealed to Edmund Bonner, the zealous Bishop of London, summoning Gilpin to London for trial. Preparing for martyrdom, he commissioned a long garment “for dignity if burned.” En route, he broke his leg – having fallen from his horse, some accounts say – delaying his arrival until after Mary’s death in November 1558. Elizabeth I’s accession spared him, allowing a triumphant return to Houghton.

Under Elizabeth, Gilpin emerged as a pillar of the *via media*, or middle way, – the moderate Anglican settlement that rejected papal authority while preserving episcopal structure. He declined the bishopric of Carlisle in 1560, citing unworthiness and a preference for pastoral labour over administrative pomp. “I am better fitted for the plough than the throne,” he reportedly said. At Houghton-le-Spring, from 1558 until his death, Gilpin created a model of Christian stewardship. His rectory became a beacon of hospitality: consuming 40 bushels of corn, 20 of malt, and an ox every two weeks, it fed hundreds weekly. Sundays from Michaelmas to Easter were “public days,” with tiered tables for gentlemen, husbandmen, and labourers – emphasizing charity without condescension. Horses, legend has it, would return unbidden to his stables, underscoring his magnetic benevolence.

Gilpin’s ministry extended far beyond Houghton. Grieved by the “barbarism and ignorance” in remote parishes, he undertook annual preaching tours through Northumberland, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Westmorland, and Cumberland – harsh terrains where pastors were scarce. These journeys, often in winter, earned him the moniker “Apostle of the North.” He distributed alms to the poorest, visited prisons to comfort inmates, and mediated disputes to avert lawsuits. One vivid anecdote, recounted by Sir Walter Scott, illustrates his courage: entering a border church, he spied a gauntlet hanging above the altar – a challenge to duel from feuding families. When elders refused to remove it, Gilpin ascended the ladder himself, took it down, and preached against the “unchristian custom,” shaming the perpetrator into repentance. Such acts bridged the gospel with everyday justice, making Protestantism accessible to dalesmen steeped in Catholic superstition and clan violence.

His religious views evolved into a conscientious middle way. While upholding the Elizabethan settlement – recognizing the sovereign as head of the church – he sympathized with Puritans’ calls for further reform, yet avoided extremism. He defended moderate figures like Edmund Grindal, Archbishop of Canterbury, against court factions and critiqued iconoclasm when it veered into vandalism. Gilpin’s sermons, preserved in fragments, emphasized practical piety: “The habit of virtue cannot be formed in a closet,” he wrote, advocating perseverance through temptation. His influence reached the court; in 1560, he hosted William Cecil and Nicholas Wotton en route to Edinburgh peace talks, impressing them with his wisdom.

Philanthropy defined Gilpin's legacy, predating modern social welfare by centuries. He spent lavishly on the needy, remitting tithes during famines and supporting industrious families post-misfortune. In 1574, he founded a grammar school at Houghton-le-Spring (now Kieper Hall), endowing it with over £500 and maintaining six poor scholars annually at Oxford or Cambridge. One beneficiary was George Carleton, his pupil who later became Bishop of Chichester and authored Gilpin's first biography in 1628. Gilpin also financed alms-houses and visited the sick, embodying Christ's command to feed the hungry. His household, austere in private – Gilpin lived simply, wearing plain woollens – was extravagantly generous in public, influencing a generation of northern clergy to prioritize service over splendour.

Ill health plagued Gilpin's later years. Another mishap in Durham market – knocked down by an ox – left him bedridden, exacerbating prior injuries. He died on March 4, 1583, at Houghton-le-Spring, aged 65, and was buried in the chancel of St. Michael and All Angels Church, where his tomb endures. His will reflected his humility: modest bequests to family and the poor, with the bulk sustaining his charities. No ostentatious monument marked his grave, aligning with his disdain for worldly vanities.

Gilpin's legacy as the "Apostle of the North" reverberates through history, embodying the Reformation's humane potential. His biographers – George Carleton's *Latin Vita* (1628, translated 1629) and William Gilpin's 1753 account – painted him as a saintly reformer, reprinted in collections like Christopher Wordsworth's *Ecclesiastical Biography*. Strype's life of Grindal and Wood's *Fasti Oxonienses* affirm his scholarly and pastoral eminence.

In northern England, he Christianized the borders, reducing superstition and fostering education; Kieper School thrived until 1923, its charter granted in 1574 with Gilpin as governor, until it the growing population of Houghton required a larger, more modern building. His philanthropy – prefiguring Victorian social reform – influenced figures like Andrew Carnegie, who echoed Gilpin's blend of wealth and welfare. Theologically, Gilpin bridged Catholic and Protestant worlds, upholding the Elizabethan compromise with broad-minded tolerance. Puritans respected him for his conscientiousness, while conservatives admired his defence of tradition. His emphasis on practical ethics – preaching against corruption, aiding the marginalized—anticipated the social gospel. In an age of burnings and exiles, Gilpin's life affirmed that faith without works is dead, influencing the Anglican ethos of moderation and service. Yet, Gilpin's impact transcends biography. As Edward Irving noted in 1852, his story could inspire a "historical romance" depicting Reformation piety akin to Newman's novel *Callista*. In modern terms, he models ethical leadership: rejecting power for service, using privilege for equity. The Bernard Gilpin Society, a charitable entity, perpetuates his name in education and relief.

Amid today's divisions, Gilpin reminds us that true legacy lies not in doctrine alone but in deeds that uplift the forgotten. His northern apostleship – riding through snow-swept dales, glove in hand, alms in saddlebag – illuminates a path from 16th-century turmoil to enduring hope.



## *Prayer for November*

Heavenly Father,

Here we are in November –  
the month of short, dark days.

A dreary, difficult month,  
unless you have a birthday!  
Lord, it seems as if the world  
in permanently in November  
at the moment. So much is so  
difficult for so many people,  
through no fault of their own.  
And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your  
healing light into the world's  
darkness. Bring transformation,  
compassion and a softening  
into the hearts of those with  
responsibility for the conflict  
and the suffering, that they  
might work for peace for all  
people. We know that nothing  
is impossible for you, Lord, so  
we pray in faith – and in the  
name of Jesus.

Amen

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funerals

|        |                                           |        |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Oct  | Mary Margaret Tully<br>Houghton-le-Spring | Age 79 |
| 3 Oct  | Alan Turnbull<br>Houghton-le-Spring       | Age 95 |
| 7 Oct  | Dennis Race<br>Sunderland                 | Age 75 |
| 27 Oct | Angela Kerby<br>Houghton-le-Spring        | Age 68 |

### Memorials

In memory of William Donald Findlay.  
A Loving husband, dad and grandad.  
Forever in our hearts.

### Marriage

25 Oct Neil Bailey & Wendy Liddle



St Michael &  
All Angels Parish Church

# Christmas Market

Saturday November 29th 2025  
from 10.00am  
~~~

Stalls, Santa's Grotto and  
refreshments, including hot turkey  
sandwiches  
~~~

*Please join us*

# *Saint for November*

## The poppies of Remembrance

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

# Churches unite in prayer for peace in the Middle East

Church of England congregations across the country have come together with churches from other denominations to pray for the people of Gaza, the wider Holy Land and the Middle East.

A coalition of Christian charities and aid agencies, working in partnership with ecumenical church leaders, organised a dedicated Day of Prayer for Peace in late September. The initiative coincided with the UN International Day of Peace.

The Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun, the Lead Bishop for the Holy Land said: "In the face of all that is happening in Gaza, I appeal for respect for the value and dignity of every human life. Christians cannot remain silent – we must speak out for the rights and freedoms of both Israelis and Palestinians and we must be diligent in prayer for the peoples of the Holy Land."

Supporting this effort, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Dr Hosam Naoum, has written a prayer for an immediate end to the war, the release of all hostages, help for those suffering hunger and starvation in Gaza and beyond, and the resumption of negotiations for a just and lasting peace.

Prayer resources at: *Churches Together in England* and *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*.

## A Prayer for the Holy Land

*Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls.*

*By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war, the release of all captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved-ones, and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during His earthly life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*The Most Reverend Dr Hosam E. Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem*

## Assisted suicide law would make this a country that says ‘some lives are not worth living’ – Bishop of London

The Bishop of London has warned peers in the House of Lords that legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales will “change society” by endorsing the idea that “some lives are not worth living”.

Bishop Sarah Mullally, the former Chief Nursing Officer for England, was concerned about those who could face internal and subtle pressures to end their lives if assisted suicide were introduced – particularly in the absence of adequate palliative or social care, or out of fear of becoming a burden on their families.

“I understand the fear of many that they may be offered free assisted death before they are offered the care and equipment that they may live,” she said.

As the Church of England’s lead bishop for health and social care, the Bishop of London was speaking as the House of Lords debated the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill in late September.

The Private Member’s Bill, brought by the MP Kim Leadbeater, completed its Third Reading in the Commons in June with a reduced majority of just 23 votes amid mounting concerns about its safety.

Bishop Sarah said it is right for peers now to scrutinise the Bill but argued that no amendments could ultimately make it entirely safe from the negative effects such as people being pressured to end their lives.

“I am deeply concerned that so many in this Parliament are not heeding the voices of professional and representative bodies that are raising the alarm.”

She also rejected the central claim that the Bill would offer people choice at the end of their lives.

“A meaningful choice would see the measures in this Bill set alongside equally available, fully funded palliative and social care services,” she said.

“Without the choice offered this choice is an illusion.”

She spoke about her personal experience, including as a nurse, priest, and bishop, of spending time with people as they died and said the introduction of assisted dying within the health system would fundamentally alter the role of health professionals.

“To change the law is to change society,” she added. “If passed, this Bill will signal that we are a society that believes that some lives are not worth living.

“This Bill would become our State-endorsed position, and our NHS would be active in its delivery.”

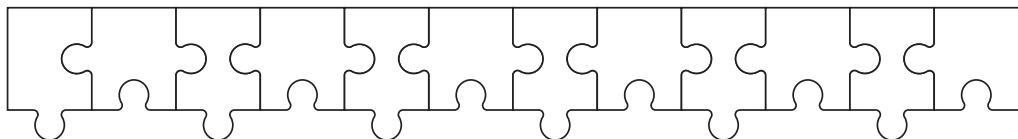
“I believe in a God who’s very being is life, and in that gift we can discover meaning, dignity and innate worth, even if we are dying.

Nevertheless, the assisted dying bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, moving it another step closer to becoming law. The Bill now goes to a select committee for further scrutiny, with a deadline of reporting back to the House of Lords by 7th November, before it can move to the next stage.

# *The Month Ahead... November*

|         |                           |                                                                    |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Sat   | 11.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street, until 1.00 pm)                     |
| 2 Sun   | <b>All Saints</b>         |                                                                    |
|         | 8.30 am                   | Holy Communion (in Church)                                         |
|         | 10.00 am                  | Holy Communion (in Church & Facebook)                              |
|         | 6.00 pm                   | All Souls (in Church)                                              |
| 3 Mon   | 10.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                    |
|         | 4.00 pm                   | Community Food Store (Kepier Hall, until 6.00 pm)                  |
|         | 6.00 pm                   | Vestry hour (call Parish Office for appointment)                   |
|         | 7.00 pm                   | Rehearsal for Baptism Families                                     |
| 4 Tues  | 10.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                    |
|         | 1.15 pm                   | 'Light' – Drop In Bereavement Group<br>(The Hub, Newbottle Street) |
|         | 3.30 pm                   | Tuesday Treat (Hub, Newbottle Street)                              |
| 5 Wed   | 10.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                    |
|         | 10.50 am                  | Dedication of Field of Remembrance                                 |
| 6 Thur  | 10.00 am                  | Holy Communion (in Church)                                         |
|         | 10.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                    |
|         | 6.00 pm                   | Choir Practice (Choir Vestry)                                      |
| 7 Fri   | 9.30 am                   | Stay & Play (Kepier Hall, until 11.15 am)                          |
|         | 9.30 am                   | Community Food Store (Kepier Hall, until 12 noon)                  |
|         | 2.00 pm                   | Cake & Chat (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                |
| 9 Sun   | <b>Remembrance Sunday</b> |                                                                    |
|         | 8.30 am                   | Holy Communion (in Church)                                         |
|         | 10.15 am                  | Service of Remembrance (in Church & Facebook)                      |
|         | 6.00 pm                   | Remembrance Choral Evensong (in Church)                            |
| 10 Mon  | 10.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                    |
|         | 10.50 am                  | Act of Remembrance (Cenotaph)                                      |
|         | 4.00 pm                   | Community Food Store (Kepier Hall, until 6.00 pm)                  |
|         | 6.00 pm                   | Vestry hour (call Parish Office for appointment)                   |
| 11 Tues | 10.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                    |
|         | 3.30 pm                   | Tuesday Treat (Hub, Newbottle Street)                              |
|         | 7.30 pm                   | PCC (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                        |
| 12 Wed  | 10.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                    |
| 13 Thur | 10.00 am                  | Holy Communion (in Church)                                         |
|         | 10.00 am                  | Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                    |
|         | 6.00 pm                   | Choir Practice (Choir Vestry)                                      |
| 14 Fri  | 9.30 am                   | Stay & Play (Kepier Hall, until 11.15 am)                          |
|         | 9.30 am                   | Community Food Store (Kepier Hall, until 12 noon)                  |
|         | 2.00 pm                   | Cake & Chat (Hub, Newbottle Street)                                |

|         |                                                           |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 Sun  | <b>Safeguarding Sunday</b>                                |
|         | 8.30 am Holy Communion (in Church)                        |
|         | 10.00 am 'All-in' Holy Communion (in Church & Facebook)   |
|         | 6.00 pm Celtic Eucharist                                  |
| 17 Mon  | 10.00 am Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                  |
|         | 4.00 pm Community Food Store (Kepier Hall, until 6.00 pm) |
|         | 6.00 pm Vestry hour (call Parish Office for appointment)  |
| 18 Tues | 10.00 am Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                  |
|         | 3.30 pm Tuesday Treat (Hub, Newbottle Street)             |
| 19 Wed  | 10.00 am Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                  |
| 20 Thur | 10.00 am Holy Communion (in Church)                       |
|         | 10.00 am Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                  |
|         | 6.00 pm Choir Practice (Choir Vestry)                     |
| 21 Fri  | 9.30 am Stay & Play (Kepier Hall, until 11.15 am)         |
|         | 9.30 am Community Food Store (Kepier Hall, until 12 noon) |
|         | 2.00 pm Cake & Chat (Hub, Newbottle Street)               |
| 23 Sun  | <b>Christ the King</b>                                    |
|         | 8.30 am Holy Communion (in Church)                        |
|         | 10.00 am Holy Communion (in Church & Facebook)            |
|         | 12.00 noon Baptism                                        |
|         | 6.00 pm Reflective Service (in Church)                    |
| 24 Mon  | 10.00 am Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                  |
|         | 2.00 pm Mothers' Union (Kepier)                           |
|         | 4.00 pm Community Food Store (Kepier Hall, until 6.00 pm) |
|         | 6.00 pm Vestry hour (call Parish Office for appointment)  |
| 25 Tues | 10.00 am Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                  |
|         | 3.30 pm Tuesday Treat (Hub, Newbottle Street)             |
| 26 Wed  | 10.00 am Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                  |
| 27 Thur | 10.00 am Holy Communion (in Church)                       |
|         | 10.00 am Drop-in (Hub, Newbottle Street)                  |
|         | 6.00 pm Choir Practice (Choir Vestry)                     |
| 28 Fri  | 9.30 am Stay & Play (Kepier Hall, until 11.15 am)         |
|         | 9.30 am Community Food Store (Kepier Hall, until 12 noon) |
|         | 2.00 pm Cake & Chat (Hub, Newbottle Street)               |
| 29 Sat  | 10.00 am Christmas Fair (in Church)                       |
| 30 Sun  | <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>                             |
|         | 8.30 am Holy Communion (in Church)                        |
|         | 10.00 am Holy Communion (in Church & Facebook)            |
|         | 6.00 pm Advent Carol Service (in Church)                  |



# **The Celebration Jigsaw November Progress Report**

## ***Almost there!***

At the time of writing, a magnificent 465 jigsaw pieces have been sponsored - only 35 to go before we move to the raffle of the 4 bonus pieces!

This month's photograph reveals just how close we are. So don't miss out: if you, or someone you know, would still like to sponsor a jigsaw piece, please get in touch before it's too late! Let's see if we can reach 500 sponsored pieces by the end of the St Michael's Christmas Fair!

Pieces are still available from Denise Hall (07896 648 857) or Dian Scott (07979 022 652) or me, Angela Slater (07931 064 891). Or catch us in Church. But don't delay!

**Thank you for being a piece of St Michael's!**



# FRIENDS OF HOUGHTON PARISH CHURCH TRUST

~ ESTABLISHED IN 1993 ~

*For the sole purpose of raising funds for the upkeep and maintenance of this historic Church which is at the heart of the ancient town of Houghton-le-Spring.*

As usual, we will be selling our cards for Christmas and cards for any occasion. All cards will be 70p each or £3 for a pack of 5, assorted if preferred. They will be on sale at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 29th November in Church.

If you are not yet a member of the "Friends Trust" please contact George Peebles or Jean Henderson for an application form. To join, it is only £10 a year - your contribution will help to secure the future of our beloved ancient Church of St. Michael and All Angels.

Thank you

*Jean Henderson (Trustee)*

## Bonfire Night – some simple rules for staying safe

*The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has provided the following tips to help families stay safe while they are having Bonfire Night fun...*

Young people should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance and follow the safety rules for using sparklers. Only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks. They should also take care of the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used. Here are some other things to bear in mind on the night:

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
2. Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch if necessary.
4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper, and stand well back.
5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
6. *Never* return to a firework once it has been lit.
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
9. *Never* use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

# *Evening* **Chronicle** The Northern Echo

4th

chroniclelive.co.uk

#ThereWithYou

THE GREAT DAILY OF THE NORTH

87p

*Snippets from the Evening Chronicle and The Northern Echo  
which you may have missed.*

## **The former Wearside artillery brigade HQ is Grad II listed property is put on the market**

**The property at one time was home for three initial volunteers of the 160th (Wearside) Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery in 1915.**

Houghton Hall in Houghton le Spring is a Grade II listed building which is part of the region's history is a nine bedroom, three storey property and has had many uses since it's construction in the late 16th Century.

This includes being the HQ of the 160th Wearside Brigade, as recognised by a Sunderland City Council blue plaque at the entrance to the grounds. Installed in 2015 to mark exactly 100 years since recruitment began for the brigade, the plaque commemorates the brigade and their efforts in fighting in a series of major battles in the First World War.

The property was home for the initial 750 local volunteers of the 160th (Wearside) Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery in 1915. But today the property stands empty and is now on the market via Pattinson estate agents with an asking price of £750,000.

The ground floor features a grand reception hall with cantilever staircase, large family kitchen, two reception rooms, a bar area, offices, and ancillary washrooms. While upstairs on the first floor there are four bedrooms, a bathroom, a secondary living room and a games room.

The second floor offers five further bedrooms together with extensive storerooms. Externally, the property benefits from a block-paved driveway with parking for multiple vehicles, and formal gardens enclosed by stone walls and railings.

## **It's about local identity' - Sunderland launches 6-month high street improvement programme**

**Sunderland City Council is launching a six-month programme to improve the look, feel, and safety of 21 local shopping areas across the city.**

The programme will prioritise practical, visible enhancements, with each area receiving a tailored package of works based on local need. Planned activities include deep cleaning, jet washing, sweeping, repainting guard rails, renewing road markings, repairing, or replacing seating, painting cycle stands and bollards, and upgrading bins.

The initiative got underway in October, with work starting at Newbottle Street, Houghton. This will see work to clean up the high street with refreshed road markings, repainted lampposts, and deep-cleaned pavements.

As the improvements take shape, residents are encouraged to support their local shops and services, helping to boost the area's vitality and strengthen the local economy. The project responds directly to feedback from Sunderland's residents and businesses, which highlighted the importance of cleaner, safer, and more attractive local environments.

It also supports the council's wider ambition to create a cleaner, greener, and more welcoming city. Councillor Lindsey Leonard, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Net Zero at Sunderland City Council said: "We know from speaking to residents that the condition of local shopping areas really matters.

These are places people use every day, and they should feel safe, clean, and welcoming. This programme is about making visible improvements that reflect the pride people have in their communities."

Councillor Kevin Johnston, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Business at Sunderland City Council said: "Local high streets play a vital role in our neighbourhoods, not just as places to shop, but as hubs for social connection and local identity.

"By investing in their upkeep, we're supporting regeneration from the ground up and helping to create spaces where businesses and communities can thrive."

## ***Take it easy on those country roads***

Country roads may look inviting to drive, but the statistics tell a different story. For collisions on rural roads are around four times more likely to result in a fatality.

Such is the finding of the NFU Mutual Rural Road Safety Report 2024. It found that in 2023, an average of one in every 32 collisions on rural highways resulted in a death, compared to one in every 122 on urban roads. Overall, more than 18 people died on rural roads each week in 2023.

So - what is wrong? It seems it is the sheer number of hazards which motorists may face on a rural road. These include blind corners, narrow roads, road quality, poor visibility, cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders, mud and debris, loose livestock, agricultural vehicles, unexpected road or field entrances, impatient drivers, and Sat-Navs sending people down unsuitable roads.

It all adds up to one simple message: be careful and expect the unexpected on country roads.



# Light of Life

At Christmas we remember and celebrate the Christ-child coming as a light into the world. It can be a time for thinking about and remembering people that we're separated from perhaps through bereavement or for another reason.

I write to invite you to a special service where we light our Christmas tree and where we might feel able to remember those people who have brought light to our lives.

The service may be an opportunity to give thanks and celebrate the memory of a loved one who is no longer with us. It may be that at the service we can share our feelings of sadness and loss before God in the hope and promise that through Christ light can and will overcome any darkness. For some the service can be an opportunity to acknowledge a special person in your life or to mark a special occasion that has happened this year, perhaps the birth of a child or grandchild or an anniversary.

The Service will be a mixture of Christmas carols, readings and a time for special prayers and remembrance, along with the lighting of the tree. It will take place on **Tuesday 2nd December at 3.00pm** and we would be delighted if you could join us.

If you would like to make a donation to church as you remember a special person or occasion, please complete the form and return it with your donation to **St Michael's Church, The Broadway, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4DN.**

**Rev'd John Barron**  
St Michael & All angels Church  
Houghton-le-Spring

## Let the Light Shine

Your Name: .....

Your Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Contact no: .....

I would like to remember: 1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

**Please return to the parish office by 10am on Tuesday 2nd December**

## Church of England partnerships of £11m will benefit nearly half of parishes

Nearly half of parishes across the Church of England will be able to benefit from £11m of investment in partner organisations dedicated to sharing the Christian faith, new figures show.

A range of traditions, activities and organisations will be supported through the funding, from expanding an Anglo-Catholic mission network to using social media content to share the gospel message.

The partnership aims to strengthen local mission by equipping the Church in five ministry areas. These include outreach and engagement with children, young people, and their families; establishing new worshipping communities; enhancing the effectiveness of digital evangelism and discipleship; addressing pressing missional challenges; and collaborating with networks to extend their reach and share learning and resources.

The investments made by the Church's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) are expected to strengthen mission in around 45 per cent – 5,500 – of Church of England parishes.



## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

### LIGHT

LIGHT is a mutual support group for anyone who is finding bereavement hard to bear.

Come and chat with us over a cup of tea at

## Space4

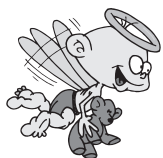
on the first Tuesday of the month from

**1.15pm to 2.30pm**

*We are located below the library on  
Newbottle Street.*

*Enter through the automatic doors and you  
will find us to the right of the library escalator.*





# Michael's Angels

Luke 2

## Simeon and Anna Knew

Simeon and Anna were in the temple when Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to be blessed. When Simeon held Jesus, and when Anna saw him, they both knew something very special and important. Color out the names of SIMEON and ANNA in each row of the puzzle. Read the leftover letters to find out what they knew. Read the story from your Bible in Luke 2:21-40.



SIMEONTHEYANNASIMEON

KNEWSIMEONSIMEONANNA

SIMEONTHATSIMEON

THEYANNAHADSIMEON

SIMEONSEENANNA

THEANNASIMEON

ANNASAVIORSIMEON

# CONFIRMATION

Saturday 18th October saw the Rector and myself heading out to Crawcrook with Marc Hill who was to be Confirmed by Bishop Frank White at the Church of the Holy Spirit.

As this was John's old stamping ground I was surprised when he asked the Satnav to take us to Crawcrook. 'OK' said the Satnav, I'll take you to Crook. After a few attempts, John lost patience and said 'OK', Take us to Ryton! OK, says the Satnav 'I'll take you to Brighton'! More by good luck than good management and after a good laugh we arrived at our destination.

The Church of the Holy Spirit is a modern set up, different from St. Michaels, but engaging for all that. We found a wonderful welcome; the Church sat in the heart of a strong community. There were 9 being confirmed, from different parishes.



I was nervous for Marc as he was expected to stand up and say what his journey to confirmation looked like. I needn't have worried; he stood up without notes and told his faith story. Of how he had passed the Church many times whilst walking his dog, eventually finding the courage to come in. Marc's story is worth the hearing, as were the others. If you get the chance, ask Marc to tell you of how he has felt the call of Jesus on his life, it inspiring.

The whole service was inspiring. Young and not so young coming to faith and shining the light of Christ into a dark world. It was a privilege to witness a flourishing Church community and to see and support Marc on the next step on his journey.

Let us pray for Marc and his family and all those who, by his example he is showing what Christ can do for them.

# When there is no peace

*They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious.  
"Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14)*

I wonder what peace felt like in 1945, after 9th May or 16th August? These, of course, were the days after Victory in Europe Day and then Victory in Japan Day. Once the parties and hangovers were cleared up, life would go on as before, for many months to come: with shortages, rationing, men overseas, houses bombed and people on the move. On the continent and in the Far East it was much worse.

What does it feel like now? Yes, we have had 'peace' of sorts in most of Europe between the major continental powers for decades, which is an achievement, but there is no peace in Ukraine, the Middle East or Sudan. If anything, the world is now looking to be a more dangerous place.

This verse from the prophet Jeremiah was the theme of a sermon recently. The preacher talked about peace making, peace keeping and a lasting peace, which are not the same and require different skills. In and after the Second World War *peace making* meant winning the war and defeating evil.

*Peace keeping* was occupying the defeated lands until they could establish communities built on democracy and justice. (The preacher was born exactly nine months after either VE or VJ Day, so he was a 'child of peace'!)

What about a *lasting peace*? Many world leaders say, "Peace, Peace" but they mean only *peace on their terms* and do not care about anything else.

As Christians we should:

Pray for the *peace makers*: the women and men in the forces

Pray for *peace keepers*: the experts helping to build new societies

Pray for *lasting peace*: the willingness of world leaders and politicians to act for the greater good.

# An Interview with Ray Lonsdale

A well-attended event which began with humour as the microphone was set up to produce a high pitched, childlike voice, so as Ali started the introductions of Ray and his wife Bev, the audience could relax with a good laugh. There were a surprising number of people who put their hands up when asked who had never been to Kepier Hall before, so that was a good boost for getting events back up to pre-Covid levels. There was a video running throughout which showed pictures of many of Lonsdale's sculptures and this helped those of us unfamiliar with much of his work to identify different pieces. A comprehensive list of his work on each table gave us a better idea of where 36 of them were sited and gave us the idea that you could make a project of visiting all of them over time. Good thing we are retired.

I hadn't known that Ray used poetic verse to describe his feelings about the meanings of his creations, and it was definitely moving to read some of them in the leaflet we were given.

Ray and Bev have faced many difficulties over the years as the business has been built up. Ray wasn't that keen on school and didn't go on to get an art degree and this sometimes put him at a



disadvantage, but he has overcome many challenges and told his story with humour, and in a very down-to-earth manner. His sculptures are now scattered in many places across the landscape from Scarborough to North Shields and on to Ireland.

Presently they are embroiled in a stressful and expensive case of plagiarism, as someone in New Zealand apparently copied Ray's 'The Big Dance' which is sited at Gretna Green. We wish the Lonsdale's quick success with their copy write case.

When asked afterwards how long he would expect his sculptures to last, he said about 500 years, so that is a legacy worth celebrating!

*Debbie Anderson*

SERVING FAMILIES FOR GENERATIONS

# DEREK MOSS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Proudly serving families with the greatest of care...



**Derek Moss Funeral Directors,**  
Houghton  
104 Newbottle Street,  
Houghton Le Spring, DH4 4AJ  
0191 512 0927

**Derek Moss Funeral Directors,**  
Shiney Row  
1 Mill Place, Shiney Row,  
Houghton Le Spring, DH4 4JT  
0191 385 5959

**Derek Moss Funeral Directors,**  
Chester Le Street  
190 Front Street,  
Chester Le Street, DH3 3AZ  
0191 338 8894

**DIGNITY FUNERAL PLANS HAVE BEEN  
RATED TOP FUNERAL PLAN PROVIDER BY  
MONEY SAVING EXPERT, MARTIN LEWIS.**

**Charles Embleton Funeral Directors, Washington**  
Blue House Lane, Concord, Washington, NE37 2TA  
0191 416 4363

**\* 24 HOUR SERVICE TO ALL AREAS \* PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST \* CATERING/FLORAL TRIBUTES \*  
\* MEMORIALS & INSCRIPTIONS \* PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS \* PERSONAL SERVICE \***

**We're here for you anytime. Whatever your wishes or budget,  
we can provide a funeral to suit you.**



[dignityfunerals.co.uk/local](http://dignityfunerals.co.uk/local) Attended Funerals from: £2695  
The Moss Funeral from: £2095 Unattended from: £1595  
\*Pricing is correct at time of going to print and is subject to change

## MEMORIALS

We hope this system will help us to meet requests for memorials more efficiently.

Should you wish for a loved one to be remembered on their anniversary in the weekly prayers read during the Sunday services, please complete the slip opposite.

Cut out the slip and place it in the intercessions box at least one week prior to the Sunday for remembrance.

If you are unable to get to church, please post the slip to the Church Administrator: Mrs Philippa Elsey, Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, The Broadway, Houghton-le-Spring.

## MEMORIAL REQUEST

Name of person to be remembered:

.....

Request made by:

.....

.....

.....

Date for memorial:

Sunday, .....

## Andrew Grey Funeral Directors

Serving all communities with care and compassion

Losing someone you care about can be one of life's most difficult experiences, at Andrew Grey Funeral Directors we believe we have an important responsibility to care for our families, not just by offering support during the funeral but especially during the difficult days that may follow.

- 24 Hour Service
- Bereavement Advice
- Transparent Pricing
- Private Chapel of Rest
- Floral Tributes
- Memorial Masonry
- Home Visits
- Prepaid funeral plans

Hetton-le-Hole

**0191 526 5800**

Houghton-le-Spring

**0191 385 7213**

Easington Lane

**0191 526 3499**

South Hetton

**0191 526 1265**



**greysfunerals.co.uk**

 **Funeral Partners**



## Nicholson, Martin, Legge & Miller

Solicitors

*We have looked after your legal requirements for  
150 years and are still here to help*

65 Newbottle Street, Houghton-le-Spring. Tel: 584 2841

## The Kepier Hall

*for all your events in Houghton-le-Spring*

**Birthday Parties | Weddings | Christenings | Meetings**

**Contact:**

**07748 830445**

**thekepierhall@gmail.com**



# Gifts for Christmas

These beautiful gifts are all inspired by our wonderful Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Houghton-le-Spring!

They will be on display at the Church Christmas Fair, when orders will be taken for delivery in time for Christmas.

If you are not able to get to the Fair but would like to place an advance order, please contact Angela Slater on 07931 064 891, leaving your name, a contact number and details of your order.

Bookmarks - £4 each - choice of 4

Gilpin Window / Easter Story / Good Friday / East Window



Coaster - £4



Place Mat - £7



Mug - £8

Christmas Star - £4.50



All profits will go to support the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Houghton-le-Spring.

Thank you!