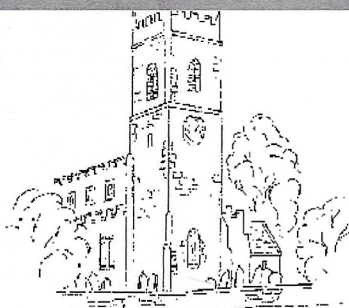
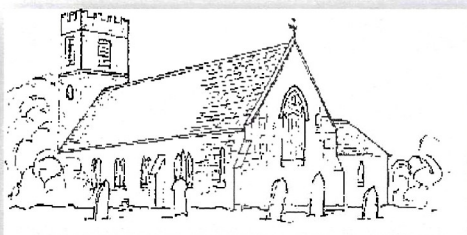


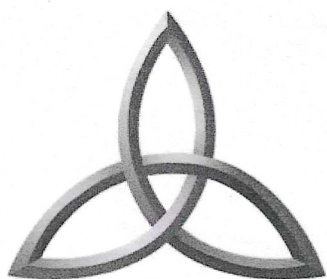
July / August 2025

St. John's Church, Burnhope



St Thomas' Church, Harelaw

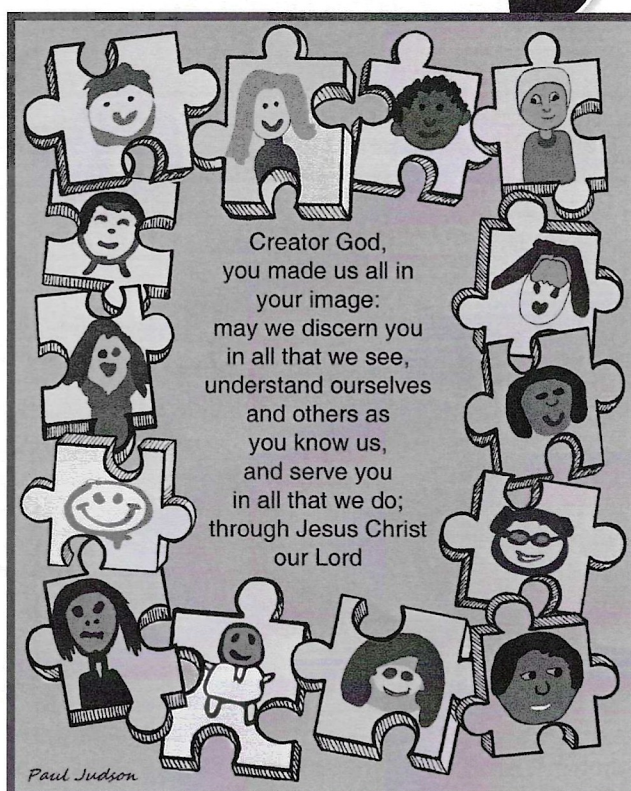
Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester



Trinity

*The Parish magazine
of:
All Saints' Parish
Church Lanchester,
St John's Church
Burnhope,
and St Thomas'
Church Harelaw and
Annfield Plain*

**60p monthly or
£6 a year**



Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE
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Tel 01207 529166 email:-reverendsutherland@gmail.com
ST THOMAS': Father Keith Freeman:- email stjamesburnopfield@yahoo.co.uk

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

8am Every Sunday Eucharist (Traditional Language)
10.30am Principal Service
(Eucharist or Service of the Word)
2nd Sunday All Together Service with St John's
5th Sunday Combined Service see dates page
Third Sunday 3.00pm Messy Church
Wednesdays 9.45am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM, WEDDINGS and FUNERALS
by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st and 4th Sunday 9.15am Said Eucharist
2nd Sunday All Together Service (at All Saints')
3rd Sunday 9.15am Service of the Word
This pattern may change.
Café Church 6.00pm at The Community Centre every second Tuesday of the month

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SERVICES AT ST THOMAS, HARELAW AND ANNFIELD PLAIN

These timings may change, if the new incumbent wishes.

Every Sunday 9:30 a.m. Parish Eucharist
Every Thursday 9.00am Morning Prayer

HOLY BAPTISM, WEDDINGS and FUNERALS
by arrangement with the Vicar

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Contributions to the Church Magazine are always welcome.
The copy deadline for the September 2025 issue is Sunday 24 August

Please check 'A Church Near You' website for up to date information on events and special services. When asked for location use Lanchester, Burnhope or Harelaw.



Trinity Sunday 2025.

This summer marks the 1700th anniversary of the formulation of the Nicene Creed - the Creed which usually forms part of our worship and sets out our doctrinal confession of who God is, and what he has done for us in Christ. Churches Together, and the Anglican church, have published several resources to help us understand and celebrate the Creed.

But sometimes doctrine has divided us. The Trinity is an elusive concept; sometimes attempting to put a mystery into words and crystallise it in time is counter productive. Sometimes all that we can do is praise.

So here is another approach to the Creed and the Trinity; completely unauthorised, of course...

*We believe in the Creator — the Source of all breath and beginning,
who paints galaxies with light, and sees sparrows fall.
The One who calls creation good,
who made us not out of need but of love,
and who is still creating.*

*We believe in the Christ — the face of God we could touch,
who healed and fed and wept and laughed,
who called the unqualified, ate with the outcast,
and walked into death with open arms.
Jesus, crucified and risen to show love.
Jesus, who joins the human story, so no one is alone again.*

*We believe in the Spirit — fire and breath and wild wind,
comforter and disrupter, who speaks in many languages and lands on every head.
She is the whisper and the roar, the wind that won't be boxed,
who prays in us when we cannot, and calls us into God's dream for the world.*

*We believe God is not one voice but a harmony.
Not a hierarchy but a dance.
Not power over, but love poured out.*

*We believe the Trinity is a lived experience.
That to be made in God's image is to be made for community.
That love is our origin, our calling, and our future.
That God is not a solitary throne, but a table with space for all.*

*We believe that when we baptise, we enter this dance;
When we break bread, we share in this life;
When we forgive, we join in this grace;
When we say yes to love — we say yes to God.*

*We believe the Trinity teaches us God is bigger, wider, wilder than our words.
And so we won't try to explain God today.
We will simply breathe, in awe. And bathe in worship.
The Trinity is not a test of faith. It is the shape of our faith.
It's how we pray, and live, and love.
It's why we believe community matters.
That justice is relational. That faith is not a ladder but a circle.
Trinity belongs us to a God who is never alone — and never leaves us alone.*

*And so today, we come, not with explanations, but with awe, hope, and love. We come to say: this is the God we don't understand, but we trust.
This is the mystery we live in, and the dance we choose to join.*

Continued on bottom of the next page.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester

Our July meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 8th July in the Chapter House. This will be our AGM followed by strawberries, cream, shortbread and bubbly. This is an important meeting, so please attend if possible. We have our summer break in August (a much needed rest) and will resume in September.



Maragaret Brown

Mothers' Union Burnhope

Our June meeting was held on Monday 9th June.



Mrs Park reported on the Deanery meeting. Of note, Low Newton Prison is the only prison in the country with a Mothers' Union branch. Two of our members will be joining others from the Parish to attend the Ordination of Ann Lipscombe on 29th June at Durham Cathedral. On Monday 14th of July at 7pm we are having our Strawberry Supper, tickets - £5.

Muriel Molloy

Mothers' Union St Thomas

In June we went for a delicious meal at The Burrow at Flint Hill. A very enjoyable time. We look forward to welcoming Pat Reid in July and Richard Huggins in August.



Anne Whiteley

Church Wives

July is a very short month for our group. On Saturday 5th July, we have our day-away to Woodhorn Museum near Ashington, leaving at 9.15am from the village green. As a group we will be having a guided tour and talk on the Pitmen Painters, after which we are free to roam around ourselves. After lunch, we will be spending a couple of hours at Boundary Mill, Shiremoor. This is a trip that many of our ladies are looking forward to, as it is quite difficult these days negotiating the route through Newcastle. After our shopping expedition, we go on to Trenchers Restaurant in Whitley Bay where we are booked in for our evening meal. At 6pm a pianist will arrive to entertain us with music on a grand piano, a nice note to round the day off.

On 10th July we have our AGM and Strawberry Supper. Thanks to Jen and Gillian for volunteering to sort the evening out for us all. My thanks, in advance of the AGM, also go to Audrey Newton, my deputy, Gladys Robson, secretary, Jen Irwin, treasurer and Gillian Nichol, our publicity officer. We meet again on 11th September when we have our faith supper evening. Have a lovely summer everyone.

Deanna Leyland

100 Club

June's draw was made in the Chapter House on Wednesday 8 June. The winning numbers are 68, 34, 162, 144, 126, and 1.

Olga Walker and Sue Smith

Lesley's Trinity message continued

This dance, this relationship, this God, always sends us outward.

To believe in the Trinity is to believe in relationship: In communion, in radical welcome, in community that reflects the very heart of God.

To believe in an all-embracing Trinity means we welcome the refugee and challenge the voices that say otherwise.

To bear the name of the Trinity dares us to embrace a slogan that says all are welcome, and mean it.

And challenge ourselves when we don't.

Across the summer, I hope that this will be our creed. As we work with the children at Holiday Club, as we offer our Social Lunches, as we support the social events in each of our churches, as we engage with new colleagues in our deanery and look towards blessing our parishes in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all, I hope that our table will be wide, our arms open, our decisions compassionate, and that we will look more and more like the Trinity: diverse, loving, active in service.

Blessings,
Lesley

From the Churchwardens

From the Wardens of All Saints'/St John's

The Wardens, as always, continue to support Lesley as she continues her role with three churches. It is hoped that the forthcoming installation of the Reverend Father Keith Freeman to the new joint Benefice of St Thomas, Harelaw and Annfield Plain and St James, Burnopfield and Dipton will ease her work burden, to the benefit of All Saints and St John's.

Thursday 20th June was the date of the Archdeacon's Visitation Service for the Durham and Lanchester Deaneries held at Stanley St Andrews. Doreen Park, Pauline Hall, Eric Gaskill and Rob Matthews, who were elected as Churchwardens for All Saints and St John's at the recent APCM, attended and were duly sworn in to serve for another year.

At All Saints, a team from E-Bound AVX hasb attended to carry out the annual service of the roof alarm which was found to be in good order. One sensor was replaced within warranty.

The piano in church has also had its annual tuning and arrangements are in hand for the annual service of the church boilers.

The annual energy footprint tool, a document required by the Diocese, has been compiled for both churches. As expected our energy cost has well exceeded previous years totals. Early encouragement to monitor usage in times of rising fuel costs.

A replacement light to the Organ pedalboard has been fitted. It is a slimline light emitting diode fitting and replaced the cumbersome light which had been poorly placed sometime in the past and which made it very difficult for the organist to use the pedals. The result is a happy organist.

There is no summer fair to prepare for this year, but there is a summer coffee morning (23rd July) and a concert by Cantabile (19th July) at All Saints and a Strawberry Supper (14th July) at St John's

Rob Matthews for the Churchwardens

Thoughts from St John's ...

Looking forward to Summer?

It's been a bit of a slow burner but as I write this we are baking in Mediterranean temperatures! Many of us are looking forward to taking some time off and perhaps holiday plans are looming. It has been a busy few months and as always, Doreen and I are grateful to all who work tirelessly in the background to sustain us and support in helping with all things church related. Things will quieten a little over the coming weeks?? Not really!

For our young people we're planning to work with the community centre again to provide food and activities throughout the summer holidays. St John's sessions will be on Tuesdays from 10-12.30, including the provision of a hot meal. The Community Centre will run sessions on 24th July, 31st July, 7th August, 14th August, 20th August, with St John's running the kitchen. Everyone has a great time young and old! So if you feel you would like to help out on any or every day, contact Rev Lesley on 01207 529166.

St John's Lunchtime Social at the Community Centre on a Wednesday (excluding the first Wednesday of the month) from 12.30pm to 2.00pm continues throughout the summer. Pop along if you would like a free 2 course meal and some social get together. Social time is focused on the over 55s.

The Strawberry Supper will be held on Monday, 14 July at 7.00pm at the Community Centre. Tickets are £5 from Doreen Park. a nice way to spend a Monday evening. Fill your buffet plate, including all things strawberry. There will also be a raffle and a game of bingo to chance your luck.

Once again a big thank you to our hard working volunteers, who do so much in making these events possible, to those who donate raffle prizes and support these events and to you for your generous donations; you are all much appreciated.

As for fundraising, I came across a novel idea for both St John's and All Saints (for those who don't know St John's is in the Parish of Lanchester)

COST OF PREACHING... One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

I'll leave this one for Rev Lesley to decide!

Pauline Hall



LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



There has been a lot of awe and wonder for our children in the wonderful month of June. Our Year 6 children have had a wonderful visit to Northern Ireland and they experienced a wonderful moment of spirituality as they took in the wonderful sight of the Giant's Causeway – something they will never forget! Other visits this month have included Reception having a day on the beach, Year 1 visiting Raby Castle, Year 2 going to St Mary's Lighthouse, Year 3 going to Jarrow Hall and Year 5 to Beamish Museum. Another action-packed month which is finishing on 30th June with a Water Day – the highlight of the year for many!

It is also the time of year when we prepare to send our Year 6 children off for the next exciting stage of their lives. It is always a bittersweet time of the year, as we have watched these children grow from young 3-year-olds into young adults. At the start of Year 6, I always tell the children that it doesn't matter what SATs results they achieve. What is much more important, and what we will remember them for, is being a kind, caring, loving individual with our school values of love, hope, joy, trust and kindness firmly at the heart of their lives. We are looking forward to our Leavers' Service, which will take place in church at 1.30pm on Thursday 17th July.

We are welcoming a full cohort of 60 children into our Reception year in September and are looking forward to getting to know them and their families very well over the next seven years they have with us. We are also welcoming a lot of new starters into different year groups too, so September will be an important time for lots of children.

I am also delighted to let you know that we have, once again, been successful with our Turing Application and have been granted almost £50,000 to take some children to visit our partner schools in Delhi, Dubai, Istanbul and Shanghai. This is the fifth consecutive year we have been awarded this funding which is just amazing. It enables us to give around 30 of our children a once in a lifetime trip!

We are expecting our SIAMs inspection sometime in the Autumn term. SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections focus on how a school's theologically rooted Christian vision enables pupils and adults to flourish. The key inspection questions explore the impact of this vision on the curriculum, collective worship, school culture, and religious education. Inspectors assess whether the school's vision is effectively shaping its work and whether it is leading to positive outcomes for all members of the school community. It would be amazing if a member of the church would be able to come along to talk to the inspector on the day of our inspection about the work our school does. Please let Revd Lesley or myself know if you would be willing to do this.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for the summer holidays and our staff team are more than ready for a break to re-charge our batteries before starting another year. Thank you all for your amazing support again and I hope you all manage some special time with your families over the summer months.

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher, Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School

Thank You

Thank you so much for all your prayers, love, cards, letters, flowers, fruit, chocolates, fresh eggs, cakes, and pastries that have been sent and given to me in the past month over my stay in hospital with pneumonia and later at home with many visits and phone calls. I have been overwhelmed with it all, as has my family. It makes me feel so humble but what a joy to know I have such friends and church family. God bless you all.

I would also belatedly through unforeseen circumstances wish to thank our Church and Churchwardens for all their unforeseen and hard work given during lent leading up to a wonderful Easter, Sunday.

God bless you all

Margaret Brown

Dates for the diary

Dates are always difficult to judge, Lesley may need to cover other Churches in the Deanery. St Thomas' - please check all times and dates as Father Keith may amend activities or times. Please check the current pew sheet and / or 'A Church Near You' for the latest information.

JULY

- Sat 5th** 7.00pm Installation of Father Keith St James, Burnopfield
- Sun 6th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.15am Service of the Word, St John's
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.30am Eucharist, All Saints'
- Mon 7th** 2.00pm MU, St John's
2.00pm Julian Prayer meeting, All Saints'
2.00pm MU, St Thomas's Community Room
- Tues 8th** 11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages
2.00pm Lanchester MU, Chapter House
5.30pm Bible and Bait, St Thomas's
6.00pm Café Church, Burnhope C Centre
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 9th** 9.45am Holy Communion, All Saints'
11.30am Faith, Food and Fellowship, St Thomas's
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 10th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's
7.00pm Church Wives, Chapter House
- Sun 13th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.30am All Together Service, All Saints'
- Mon 14th** 7.00pm Strawberry Supper, St John's
- Tues 15th** 11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 16th** 9.45am Eucharist, All Saints'
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 17th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's
11.00am Eucharist, Lynwood House
- Sat 19th** 7.00pm Cantabile in concert
- Sun 20th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.15am Service of the Word, St John's
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.30am Eucharist, All Saints'
3.00pm Messy Church, All Saints'
- Tues 22nd** 10.00am Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages
5.30pm Bible and Bait, St Thomas's
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 23rd** 9.45am Holy Communion, All Saints'
10.30am Summer coffee morning All Saints'
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 24th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's
3.00pm Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
- Friday 25th** 2.00pm Stoneleigh Care Home,
- Sun 27th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.15am Eucharist, St John's
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.30am Eucharist, All Saints'
- Tues 29th** 10.00am Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 30th** 9.45am Holy Communion, All Saints'
11.30am Eucharist, Castle Court
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 31st** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's
3.00pm Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre

AUGUST

- Sat 2nd** 10.00am Coffee and Cake, St Thomas's
- Sun 3rd** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.15am Eucharist St John's
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.30am Eucharist, All Saints'
- Mon 4th** 2.00pm MU, St John's
2.00pm Julian Prayer meeting, All Saints'
2.00pm MU, St Thomas's Community Room
- Tues 5th** 10.00am Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages
5.30pm Bible and Bait, St Thomas's
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 6th** 9.45am Holy Communion, All Saints'
- Thur 7th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's
3.00pm Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
- Sun 10th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.30am All Together Service, All Saints'
- Tues 12th** 10.00am Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages
2.00pm Lanchester MU, Chapter House
6.00pm Café Church, Burnhope C Centre
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 13th** 9.45am Eucharist, All Saints'
11.30am Faith Food & Fellowship, St Thomas's
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 14th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's
3.00pm Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
- Sun 17th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.15am Service of the Word, St John's
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.30am Eucharist, All Saints'
3.00pm Messy Church, All Saints'
- Tues 19th** 10.00am Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages
5.30pm Bible and Bait, St Thomas's
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 20th** 9.45am Holy Communion, All Saints'
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope, C Centre
- Thur 21st** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's
11.00am Eucharist, Lynwood House
3.00pm Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
- Sun 24th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.15am Eucharist, St John's
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.30am Eucharist, All Saints'
- Tues 26th** 10.00am Holiday Club, Burnhope C Centre
11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 27th** 9.45am Holy Communion, All Saints'
11.30am Eucharist, Castle Court
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 28th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's
- Frid 29th** 2.00pm Stoneleigh Care Home,
- Sun 31st** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's
10.00am Joint service at St John's

A tale of sheep, fish and thankfulness (John 21:1-19)

How remarkable that the reading for Sunday May 4th, the day of my leaving the parishes, should be the exact same readings that Lesley came in on! And what a wonderful reading it is – a tale of sheep, fish and the unfailing love of Jesus!

I like sheep – something about their stoicism and resilience (and their silly faces!) But a farmer friend of mine once told me that, for sheep to thrive, they need to be ‘hefted’, a Northumbrian word meaning that they need to be somewhere they know and belong. Jack was a wise man because he also knew that the same is true of people. By “belonging” I don’t mean “fitting in”. When you try to fit in, you adapt yourself to others’ expectations. When you really belong, you don’t have to change a thing; you’re accepted the way you are. It turns out that you lovely people accepted me, just as I am, and I’ve definitely felt ‘hefted’ here with you all.

When I first arrived here on placement, unsure of my direction, not really wanting to listen to God’s call on my life, like Peter, I had all sorts of reasons for denying Jesus. In my head, I had heard Jesus saying, ‘Follow me,’ on and on, for almost two years, but it was only when Lesley asked me one Sunday morning if I thought I was on the ‘right pathway’ that finally I listened. At that recognition, the solid rock of my resistance crumbled and I began to see what I hadn’t wanted to. With Lesley’s support and encouragement – for which I thank her and God! - I finally recognised my call to the priesthood and, with it, a complete change in my life. Your acceptance and support have all been a significant part of that change and the journey on which I find myself and I thank God for you too.

In the reading, there’s a little detail that’s helping me to come to terms with moving on. It’s that Jesus gives the fishermen a simple command to change the way they do things, and, when they do as he says, they find their net full of fish – and, importantly, *it didn’t break*. Their capacity to catch fish grew with their obedience to Jesus’ commands and Jesus doesn’t let them fail. Maybe I can learn something about obedience and trust from that?

That same powerful love that Peter felt where he expected condemnation continues today for us. We can look to Jesus in our uncertainties, and he will look back at us, with the same understanding and forgiveness that he showed Peter. We are loved and forgiven and Jesus asks only that we take care of his sheep - to love one another, to take care of one another, to forgive one another. Jesus calls us all to meet him on that seashore, to know the depth of his love for us.

“Follow me,” Jesus says, an invitation to me now to fish in a different and new place; one I pray will be full of opportunity and hope.

And I sense that Christ has an invitation to all of you good people too. The very last line of John’s gospel reads, “But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” There are so many other things that Jesus did that John couldn’t imagine writing them all. And there are so many things Jesus is *still* doing - through us - that the stories of them would fill all the books of the world. So, sisters and brothers, an invitation to all of you - to continue in the work the disciples began so long ago, an invitation to a life full of Jesus-shaped love and work, a sense of purpose in these wonderful churches where you are all ‘hefted.’

Abundant thanks and blessings, love and shalom, in all you do and are, in the glory of the risen Christ.

Ann Lipscombe



Did you know That:

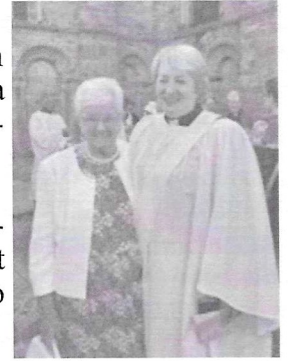
- An Anglian Vicar, Chad Varah, founded the Samaritans in 1953;
- An Anglian Curate, Wilson Carlile, established the Church Army in 1882;
- The Rev John Ashley established the Bristol Channel Mission in 1836 which became the Mission to Seafarers in 1856;
- The Mothers Union was started by Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector, in 1876;
- William and Catherine Booth, Methodist preachers, started the Salvation Army in 1865;
- Sisters Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton founded the Save the Children Charity in 1919;
- Lionel Lukin designed the world’s first unsinkable boat in 1785 and because of it, in 1824, Sir William Hillary started the RNLI;
- The Rev Benjamin Waugh in 1884 founded the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, now the NSPCC;
- A legacy left by Betty Trussell, helped Paddy and Carol Henderson to start the Trussell Trust in 2000; and
- The Rev Ken Leech created Centrepoin, the charity for young homeless people in 1969.

Submitted by Richard Hall

Stop the Press Report from the Mother Church

A jolly band of pilgrims set off on the feast of St Peter to witness the ordination of Ann Lipscombe as deacon. Ann had spent a little while with us as 'Curate' and proved to be a very popular member of our clergy. 33 of us boarded the coach and set off on a gloriously sunny morning. Several others used their own transport to get there.

We had a very uneventful journey, arriving in good time at Palace Green. Despite organising and paying for a pass to enable us to drop off in-front of the cathedral the guard at the gate said we couldn't get in. After much harrumphing and explaining, he agreed to allow us access.



We were greeted at the entrance by Ann hugging everyone saying "These are my people". We took our seats by 9.30am and the cathedral was buzzing with excited chatter. The service itself was beautiful and, although it was a long service, it didn't seem so. The choir sang beautifully in the majesty of one of the world's most beautiful buildings.



As Bishop Sarah lead the newly ordained deacons to the rear of the church Ann waved excitedly to all who were there to support her. In the procession was our own Doreen Park and Rev Stephen Martin who had popped over from Barton Bridge to support Ann.

A lady behind me in church said, "Are you with Ann?" She told us she was at Ann's new parish at Bearpark; to which we replied, "You are very lucky indeed".

After the service we all poured out onto Palace Green to shouts of congratulations and hugs and hundreds of photographs.

Our time was short, as we had to board the bus back to Lanchester. Once back in the village there were two parties; some went to Ravello's and the rest (19 of us: the rabble) retired to the Kings Head for Sunday lunch. Considering we were a fairly large party the service was good and all the food delicious. There was very little left on the plates.



All agreed it had been a thoroughly lovely day, and we all wish Ann much love and joy in her new parish. Come back and see us soon ,Ann.

Sue Smith

Strawberries and Cream. All Saints'

40 people were treated to a delightful afternoon of tea, cream scones, and strawberries and cream. Several takeaways were provided for those unable to come to the Chapter House.

Everyone agreed it was a lovely atmosphere and a good opportunity to chat and socialise.

Sue Smith



The Mystery of the Trinity

We had a lovely Trinity service led by “Mick the Vic” (Rev’d Mike Dixon) who always brings a breath of fresh air into our church with his knowledge and his wry and gentle humour.

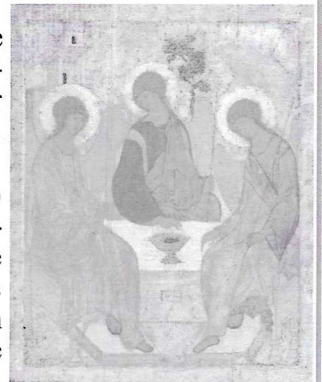
The Trinity is something that we’ve all talked about informally, as we try to think of ways to make this very complex subject accessible to children. We are aware that our explanations are simplistic, and that theologians wouldn’t be impressed with them. I know that at least one member of our church was once told that that the way she tried to describe it to a child was “rubbish”, which I thought unfair because it was couched in a way that a child could understand even though it wasn’t what might be called “accurate”.

In fact, none of our explanations of the Trinity can be called accurate, no matter how clever or well educated we might be. It’s one of those topics that defies understanding, because we are not God. God is beyond our mortal comprehension - that three separate, distinct and independent beings can also be at the same time a single being? How can a mortal mind cope with that? It is something that we feel instinctively is right, but must take on faith because we can’t, and will never be able to, understand the mystery of God.

Mike used the famous Rublev “Troitsa” icon - “The Hospitality of Abraham” to illustrate his sermon. It’s considered one of the most impressive works of art in all of history. Written by a Russian monk, Andrei Rublev, (icons are “written”, not painted) in around the 5th century. It depicts a scene from the Old Testament - Genesis 18 - the occasion where Abraham was visited by three strangers and welcomed them with lavish hospitality. The strangers proved to be angels, and predicted that God would bless Abraham and Sarah with a son, even though they were well beyond the age for parenthood. Rublev took the story a stage further, and depicted the three angels as the three members of the Trinity. The icon, like all icons, is rich in symbolism and depth of meaning.

Mike explained some of the symbolism to us - as much as could fit in a sermon slot! He spoke of the significance of the colours of the angels’ robes. Each of them wears a blue garment (which indicates divinity) coupled with a garment of another colour appropriate to their role in the Trinity.

The figure on the left is God the Father. He shows just a hint of the blue chiton (inner robe) because God the Father is hidden from us and chooses not to reveal himself. The figure’s outer robe is ethereal gold shot through with red - royal colours - and with a sheen of green, the colour symbolic of life. (I love it. To my mind the way it is painted makes the figure look as though he is clothed in light.). He holds a staff pointing straight up and down - all authority in heaven and on earth is his. Behind him is a house - a symbol of hospitality (and, of course “In my Father’s house there are many mansions.” - John 14:2).



The centre figure depicts God the Son. He wears a divine blue outer robe covering a dark brownish-purplish chiton with broad gold stripes, one of which can be seen. The blue outer robe shows that Jesus revealed his divinity to the world, the inner one that he took on an “earthly” body. Kingship is shown by the gold stripe and the hint of royal purple in the earthy brown. Behind him is a tree. This shows the oak of Mamre (where Abraham offered his hospitality) and is symbolic of the Cross, which is also a transformation to new life.

The third figure is that of the Holy Spirit. He wears the divine blue chiton - much more fully revealed than that of God the Father because he works with and in us. His outer robe is pale green, the colour of new life in the Spirit, who is the “Giver of Life”. Behind him there is a mountain - the high places are so often where heaven and earth meet, and are holy. It is a place where many encounter God.

Mike pointed out that the icon showed that the three figures were looking at each other and continually interacting with one another in a dynamic and active way. God is not a passive being in our lives, but is constantly moving within and around us, and the three persons of God are constantly moving within and around each other.

This icon holds so much more than there was time to describe. Mike urged us if we could, to look at it online, as the pictures he was able to give us were small and didn’t do it justice. I hope that reading this persuades you to do just that. As I said - there is far more in this icon than Mike had time to cover - people have written whole books about it describing the symbolism, the structure and the content.

However, there is another thing to mention about the Holy Trinity that I’d like to add, because I think it’s a very important one, and to me the icon clearly shows it. The figures sit around three sides of a table, a chalice in front of them. The fourth side of the table is towards the viewer of the scene. The figures are looking at each other, and yet at the same time gaze out at us as observers; like the Mona Lisa, their eyes meet our own. It is an invitation.

As we look at the image before us, we are drawn into the scene. God, in all three persons is reaching out to us, inviting us - “Come. Sit at the table of the Lord. A feast is set before you. You are welcomed, and you are loved.”

Pauline Meek

Flowers

These verses are from "A Book of Lost Words" by Robert Macfarlane and illustrated with beautiful pictures by Jackie Morris, who has illustrated over 40 books. She studied at Hereford College of Arts and Bath Academy

I hope you enjoy the verses

Bluebell

*Blue flowers at the blue hour, late day light in a bluebell wood
Under branch, below leaf, billows blue so deep, sea deep
Each step taken in an ocean, blue flows at the blue hour:
colour is current, undertow
Enter the wood with care, my love, lest you are pulled down by the
hue,
Lost in the depths drowned in blue.*



Fern

*Ferns first form is furled,
Each frond fast as a fiddle-head.
Reach, roll and unfold follows, fern flares
fern is fully fanned.*



Submitted by Audrey Newton

St Thomas—Faith, Food and Fellowship

Our group was led by Anne Whitely this month. She read us a very moving story about a young boy who was inspired and encouraged by a particular teacher. It was a wonderful story - and it literally had almost all of us in tears.

Anne told us that the story was supposed to be true, but because it had seemed "too good to be true", she checked it out - and alas, it was too good to be true! It was supposedly based on the author's experiences as a teacher, but wasn't a true story per se.

It was a wonderful jumping off point, though, for our own memories of our schooldays - of those teachers who had inspired us (we could all remember their names and could tell a little tale about them) and other children we went to school with. We talked about how easy it could be to encourage a child who was struggling, and most of us had done that in one role or another in our lives, teachers or not - and also how very, very easy it could be to destroy a child's confidence with a single thoughtless word. We said how glad how we were that awareness of such conditions as dyslexia was so much greater now, and children weren't written off as "stupid" anymore.

As ever, it was a lovely, thoughtful gathering. There is always a great feeling of the warmth and love of Christ with us when we share our experiences. In a world which seems very uncertain sometimes, it is a reminder that there is more love around us than hate, and that God moves among us always.

Pauline Meek

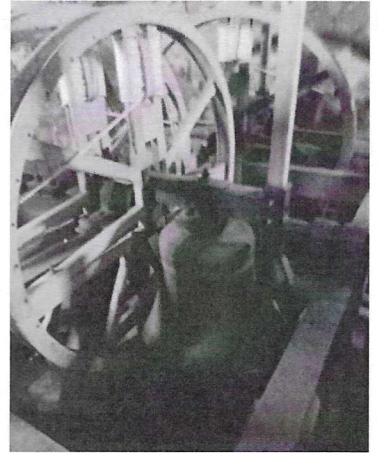
Thank you

We were staggered by the total you all helped raise at our garden party on 28 June. The day, more or less, kept dry but windy. Many good conversations were had, with a mixture of people from Burnhope and our 'old friends and family'. We raised £1,736 on the day. This will be split equally between St John's (maintenance costs) and Willowburn. Thanks also go to our band of helpers', we could not have done it without you.

Thank you all so much, **Peter and Maria Turner**

I Remember When 20 Years ago Lanchester Parish Church Bell Restoration Project

The major bell restoration project took place in 2005. It took approximately eight months to complete. Hayward Mills of Nottingham was chosen to do the work. This included a new steel frame to house the six bells with extensions for eight bells. A new floor was to be installed under the bells, but lower than the existing floor. Of the six bells, the fourth and the tenor bells were new and were cast by Castings International of Sheffield for Hayward Mills. The treble, second, third and fifth bells making up the six, would return complete with all new fixtures and fittings.



On Tuesday 15th February work started. The restoration project was underway. The bells fell silent in Lanchester, probably the first time since the Second World War; even the church clock was out of commission for a few months. The clock was covered and sealed so that dust and debris could not cause any damage. The fixtures and fittings of the bells were dismantled and then carefully one by one the bells were lowered through the trapdoors down to ground level. Some of us arrived just after the tenor bell had been lowered, but we were able to see the other five bells go through the same procedure.

It was amazing just how quickly they worked. Many people came to view and photograph the bells during that week. The bell frame was taken apart and lowered into the church with great precision, the floor under the bells was demolished and all that remained by the end of the week were the support beams between the clock chamber and the tower roof. The lorry arrived bright and early on Friday 18th February to take the bells to Nottingham. Each bell was carefully loaded separately onto a low trolley. It then took the route out of the South Door and was then wheeled along to the church steps ready for the crane to lift the bell over the gates and onto the lorry. Quite a lot of people passing by stopped a while to watch this rare and historic event. It was quite an emotional moment for some of us just watching our beloved bells sitting neatly arranged on the back of a lorry just waiting to go!

During the next three months a clean-up procedure took place in the tower with the help of a few parishioners, some of whom had helped in the tower during the work on the bells. It was late August, when Hayward Mills returned to fit the new bell frame and, below it, the new floor. The bells arrived later that week and were blessed during the service that weekend. The following week each bell was carefully raised up into the tower and gently placed into the new frame. All fixtures and fittings were added - wheels, stays, sliders, ropes etc; the work was finished! However a practice ring unfortunately proved the tenor bell had not been tuned finely enough. It was quickly removed and taken back to Hayward Mills.

Ten days later the tenor bell was returned to its rightful place in the tower. All six bells sounded wonderful and were so much easier to ring. The ringing chamber was decorated within a week! The service of Dedication and Rededication took place on Sunday October 9th. The Dean of Durham, The Very Reverend Michael Sadgrove was in attendance. The bells rang out in certain parts of the Dedication and after the end of the service. Refreshments were served in the Chapter House afterwards; a perfect end to the Restoration Project.

Let us not forget however, it was through a generous bequest by Harry Thompson, who died in June 1979, that this restoration work on the bells was able to take place. Harry was a bellringer, tower captain and a resident of Lanchester. I cannot believe that 20 years have passed since the major restoration of the six bells.

Shortly after completion, at Easter 2007, it came to our knowledge that a generous donation had been given for two new treble bells to be added, to make a ring of eight. The two trebles were cast for Hayward Mills in the Netherlands by the Royal Eijsbouts Bell Foundry and were installed at Eastertide 2008.

Olga Walker

An extract from The Parish Magazine of July and August 1898

It is our painful duty to record the death of John Wilson, from inflammation of the lungs, after a very brief illness. His, indeed, was a very sad case; it appears that many years ago, in order to deter him from some boyish mischief, a dog was set upon him and bit him; the shock to the nervous system was so great that it brought on epileptic fits, which continued until he died; this affliction not only was a source of deep anxiety to his parents, but also totally disabled the poor fellow from doing any kind of work.

A full muster of the Choir was the order of the day, when they set out Wednesday, June 15th, for their Annual Excursion. Leaving Lanchester at 7.30 a.m., we spent the morning at Bishop Auckland, where we were shewn over the castle, by the Bishop's son, the Rev. H. Westcott, who pointed out, in a very lucid style, the various objects of interest; some time was also spent in that historic place, the Chapel, where we sang one of our favourite hymns, "Fight the good fight". After a good dinner, we proceeded to Barnard Castle and Rokeby, by rail and road, and saw that lovely part of Teesdale at its best; a perfect day of sunshine added materially to the enjoyment of the outing, and we agreed that the next pleasant excursion should not be very long deferred.

The weather has not been treating us very kindly for some time past, cold and wet seem to have been very prevalent, with but little sunshine; on May 30th, snow was lying on the Pennines to the depth of two inches, and the day following we experienced a severe hail storm here; dense fogs that could be "cut with a knife," as someone expressed it, have infested certain localities. Strange weather for June, and yet there appears to be a good prospect for the farmers, and a wonderful show for fruit. On June 20th, our gracious Queen completed the 61st year of her reign; had it been possible, the Church Flag would have been hoisted, as on other previous occasions, but the bells rang out a merry peal in the evening to keep alive the spirit of loyalty and allegiance to the Throne. God save the Queen.

Following upon the Choir excursion, which proved such a success, and which all thoroughly enjoyed, we come to the annual Festival of the Girls' Friendly Society. The day fixed was Thursday, June 30th, but as it rained steadily until noon it was decided to postpone the outing until the next day and not run the risk of catching severe cold. The weather was all could be desired, and about 40 Associates and Members journeyed to Finchale Abbey for the afternoon and spent a very enjoyable time. A short Service was held within the ruins in what formed originally the Cloister, and the Vicar based his remarks upon the action of the captive Jewish girl of whom we read in II Kings V and pointed out two or three traits in her character that are worthy of imitation. Though stolen away from home in one of the Syrian raids, she was full of the spirit of forgiveness, and bore no bitter feeling towards her captors; then she was courageous; not forgetful of the God of the Hebrews, the God of her fathers, she witnessed for God in a strange land and amid surroundings so totally different from the old home life in Israel; besides she was anxious to do what she could for others, and really desired the recovery of her master Naaman, and so anticipated the injunction of the Apostle which forms the motto for the G.F.S ----- "Bear ye one another's burden, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Peter Smith (Archivist)

Yours faithfully
GEORGE JEPSON
Vicar and Surrogate

Parish Register :- Lanchester, Burnhope, Harelaw and Annfield Plain

Baptisms - St Thomas's 4th May George Dunn
All Saints' 20th June Sebastian Ray

'We welcome You into the Lord's family'

Wedding All Saints' 28th June David Almond to Catherine Walker

'May God's blessing be upon you in your new life together'

Funerals. All Saints' 16 June Father Peter Sinclair
All Saints' 4 July Barbara Irvine
All Saints' 14 July John Wyles

'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'



More Church News

GYPSY, ROMA, TRAVELLER FRIENDLY CHURCH

In 2024, All Saints proudly became a Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Friendly Church, responding with joy to an invitation to host a 'comfort break' for Traveller's journeying to the Appleby Horse Fair. As a congregation committed to inclusion and kindness, we were delighted to open our doors and hearts.

A small but enthusiastic team of volunteers created cheerful and inviting posters, displayed around the church grounds, and placed a chalkboard at the gates to ensure no one passed by unnoticed. Washroom facilities were offered, and both indoor and outdoor refreshment tables were prepared—with hot drinks, snacks, and a warm smile to greet everyone who stopped. Buckets of water were laid out for the horses, honouring the needs of the whole travelling party.

The atmosphere was one of genuine welcome and respect, with great conversations shared throughout the day. It was a wonderful reminder of what it means to be church—meeting people where they are, offering rest, and extending friendship without condition.

This year we were delighted to have a performance of Crystal's Vardo, written by Suzanna King. The play tells the story of Crystal as she travels through time on an extraordinary journey through Romani history in her time machine Vardo. Brimming with a wealth of colourful characters, humour, music and storytelling, Crystal's Vardo brings to life the rich tapestry of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history and culture. The play appeals to both young and old; children from the EP school were certainly very responsive. This was a time-travelling experience we will not forget. This performance is an enormously important achievement. Apart from erecting a Vardo (thankfully minus the horse) in the Chancel of All Saints, the play raises awareness about the racism and injustice faced by Gypsies and Travellers today.

Pauline H



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- ☒ Choose a date of remembrance
- ☎ Call Ann-Marie Emmerson on 07845 560222
- ❀ Share your loved one's name and arrange your donation
- £ *Minimum recommended donation: £15 per date

Each month's memorial names and dates will be printed in the All Saints Church magazine for the wider congregation to reflect and remember.

To reserve a date or find out more, contact Ann-Marie today.

Children's Society. Annual Collection



All the boxes, cheques and cash are collected in, and the money has been sent to the Society.

The excellent total was £1,570.42.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual collection.

Receipts. For box holders it's the sticky label on the underside of the box. Otherwise on request only by e-mail.

If anyone would like a box or to have their name on the collection list, please let me know 01207 52 0749 or steve24c07@aol.com

Steve Craddock



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