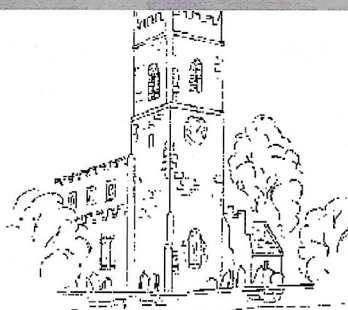
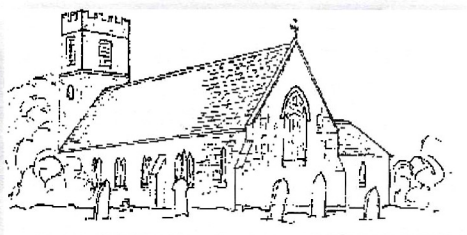


# September 2025

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 of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE**

**Priest in Charge – The Revd Lesley Sutherland**

The Vicarage, 1, Lee Hill Court, Lanchester DH7 0QE

Tel 01207 529166 email:-reverendsutherland@gmail.com

## **Parish of HARELAW & ANNFIELD PLAIN:**

**Vicar - Father Keith Freeman:** email keithfreeman66@hotmail.com

### **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 3rd Sunday 9.15am Said Eucharist

2nd Sunday All Together Service (at All Saints')

4th Sunday 9.15am Explore (informal exploration of a Bible passage and worship)

Café Church 6.00pm at The Community Centre every second Tuesday of the month

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**SECRETARY** Muriel Molloy 521441

### **SERVICES AT ST THOMAS'S HARELAW AND ANNFIELD PLAIN**

**These timings may change.**

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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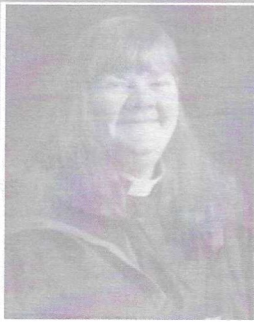
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*All dialling codes 01207 unless already included*

**Contributions to the Church Magazine are always welcome. The copy deadline for the October 2025 issue is Sunday 21st September**

*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.*





If you stand on the plinth of the statue of St Aidan in the grounds of the parish church on Holy Island, and look up, you will see the face of the saint looking out towards the mainland. The face is elongated, elegant, angular; with sharply delineated cheekbones, a wide brow, and wise, sunken eyes. If you have stood there, you will carry away this image of Aidan; but it is wholly drawn from the imagination of the sculptor. We have no contemporary portrait of Aidan. Bede, Aidan's biographer, tells us nothing personal; no description, no account of Aidan's early life; no story of how his call came, no description of what drew Aidan from Ireland to Iona, or of his early years there. What Bede gives us, instead, is a spiritual and missional biography...

Aidan came to the North East because King Oswald of Northumbria wanted the people he ruled to 'be imbued with the grace of the Christian faith', so he asked the Irish elders who had baptised him when he was exiled there to send a bishop to teach his subjects. They sent Aidan who was then living on Iona and Oswald established his see at Lindisfarne. Oswald and Aidan then worked together: Aidan preached and Oswald interpreted since he was fluent in the Irish tongue. More missionary monks came, people were baptised and churches were built. Oswald was killed in battle and his head was eventually buried in Cuthbert's shrine in Durham Cathedral. Aidan continued his ministry, normally travelling on foot, but he was given a fine horse by King Oswin to enable him to ride whenever he had a difficult or urgent journey. It wasn't long before Aidan had given the horse away to a beggar and, when the king asked him as they walked into dine one day, 'why did you give the royal horse away when we could have supplied a less valuable one for the beggar?' Aidan replied, 'Is this child of a mare more valuable to you than this child of God?' King Oswin took this to heart and, kneeling by the fireside, asked for forgiveness and promised never again to question how much of the royal bounty Aidan gave away. Bede recounts various miracles that are ascribed to Aidan and that he died after serving sixteen years as a bishop, having included among his disciples the future bishop Chad. Our most renowned Northern Saint, Cuthbert, was inspired to enter monastic life by Aidan's death.

This is the bare account; but Bede nuances it by pointing up Aidan's idiosyncratic approach to mission. Not for Aidan the fire and brimstone preaching of his brother bishop Corman, who first came to the stubborn, unreachable people refusing the light of Christ and preferring to live in the darkness of unbelief. Aidan, instead, chose to set his mission in context, preaching and teaching with gentleness, learning the mind and spirit of the people he served, literally walking alongside them. Bede says of Aidan; 'He cultivated peace..., purity and humility; he was above anger and greed, and despised pride and conceit.' Aidan, following in the footsteps of his saviour on the rough roads and hills of Northumbria, believed in love.

This has been a year of increasing awareness of our failed stewardship of creation. From the devastating storms of last autumn to the record high temperatures we struggle to deal with over the summer months and water shortages across the country, from the devastating floods in Pakistan, the effects of global warming are more and more noticeable. Soaring prices for fuel and the prospect of a freezing winter for many underline the consequences of failing to husband and share our resources; the war in Ukraine causes famine in Africa and destitution for many. We cannot agree a way forward at global, national or local levels. We will never be able to do so whilst self-interest, greed and fear are our sole motivations.

But St Aidan shows us another way.

Aidan models for us a love, care and desire to spread the Gospel to all of society. No-one is judged or excluded; all are met where they are, valued for who they are;

Aidan reminds us to learn both the people and the land and deal gently with both;

Aidan turns away from wealth and privilege, and shows us how to share our resources so that all can be fed and housed and so that our world is not despoiled by our greed;

Aidan walks with us, if we will, on the pilgrim way of love.

So as the descendents of the barbarous, ungovernable people to whom he was willing to be sent, aren't we glad that Aidan persisted? Can we, his people, do less than follow his example of unwavering commitment to follow wherever God leads?

Will you, too, walk the way of Love?

*Written on St Aidan's day, August 2025*

With every blessing,

Lesley



# NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

## Mothers Union Lanchester



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September when we are hosting the quiet hour reflection and contemplation with Mothers Union members from other Churches. The service will start in Church at 2pm, followed by refreshments in the Chapter House where we will enjoy each other's company. Do join us if you can.

**Margaret Brown**

## Mothers Union Burnhope



Our July meeting was held on Monday the 7th.

We had a discussion on 'how anger can be an expression of love'.

Our Strawberry Supper raised £455.

We are looking forward to our September meeting when Lesley is bringing us Communion.

**Muriel Molloy**

## July's 100 club draw.

These are the 'winners' from July's draw made 13 July in the Chapter House.

The winning numbers are

31, 13, 135, 102, 53, 111, 73, 55 and 98.

There was no draw in August. September's draw is the next one.

**Sue Smith and Olga Walker**

## Church Wives

As the nights are drawing in, we look forward to meeting again in September. Our first meeting on Thursday 11th is our Faith Supper night. Please bring either savoury or sweet to share plus your own drink. It's a night to catch up with what everyone has been doing over the summer months. We also get a copy of our new programme, compiled by our secretary Gladys Robson. It starts on Thursday 25th September when we have Ian McArdle talking about Thomas the Tank Engine. We had to defer Ian's talk as we had a double booking on our last programme. We meet at 7pm in the Chapter House and visitors are very welcome to attend.

**Deanna Leyland**

## Last Night of the Proms

Please join us in the Chapter House for the evening of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September for The Last Night of the Proms on TV. Bring and share supper bring a bottle, enjoy the music and have fun. No admission fee.

**Sue Smith and team**

## Julian Meeting dates this Autumn

September 1st

October 6th

November 3<sup>rd</sup>

December 1<sup>st</sup>

All meetings at 2.00pm in the Chapter House

**Pam Baggot**

## Table Top Sale

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September from 9-30 till 12.30 at 1 Deanery Cottages, we are holding a Table Top Sale in aid of Church Funds. This is a good reason to clear out your attic or garage (you know you have been waiting for an opportunity).

There are spaces available for 20 tables for a £8.00 fee. Bring your own table or hire one for an additional £1.00. There will be two general tables for donated items which will be sold in aid of Church Funds. Large heavy items can be dropped off at the bottom of the drive. PLEASE NOTE NO PARKING IS AVAILABLE. Set up after 8 AM.

All unsold items are to be removed by their owner before 1.00pm

Book your slot by ringing SUE SMITH 520031 (01207)

Tea, coffee and scones, are available on the morning. We hope to see you there.

**Sue Smith on behalf of the Fundraising and Social Committee**



## **From the Churchwardens**

As ever the Wardens work to support Lesley in her ministry in both parishes and beyond.

August is generally quiet for the church but we have sadly said goodbye to two of our church stalwarts Ann Hunter and Stephen Burt this month. On both occasions the Church was full to overflowing. At Stephen's funeral it was apparent that there is a problem with the processional cross. It was repaired in 2013 when it was discovered there was a split making it unsafe. The cross was brazed and has served fine since then. It would appear to have fallen from the shelf where it is stored and the brazed repair has split. It was noticed during Stephen's funeral and was unwieldy to carry. It has now been taken to Brass, at Ferryhill who specialise in brass repairs. They are busy and the cross repair may take a couple of months. We have in the meantime borrowed the processional cross from St John's to maintain our Sunday tradition.

It is almost time for the fire extinguishers in both churches to be serviced. We anticipate that several of the current batch may be reaching the end of their useful life and will have to be replaced.

Meanwhile preparation of the church for regular services and special services continues, ensuring supplies of consumables are maintained, cleaning of the church, and church clock timekeeping are all now in the Wardens' remit as we now look forward towards Harvest, Advent and Christmas

**Rob Matthews for the Churchwardens**

## **From St John's**

September is my favourite month. I love the first steps into Autumn, warm days filled with sunshine and cool nights for a more restful sleep. After the dry summer where wildfires have ravaged the moors and forests we have seen nature at its worst, we now see nature starting to prepare for the long months of winter. Leaves on the trees are changing from vibrant green to gold, orange and red. Wildlife is storing up food for over the winter or preparing for hibernation. We as a Church start to look towards, and prepare for, our harvest services, reminding us to be grateful for the bountiful blessings in our lives and to appreciate the rewards that come from hard work and dedication.

An eon ago, when I went to school, September meant new shoes, new clothes and, my favourite, new school supplies; the new exercise book (waiting to be backed with school regulation brown paper), and shiny pencil case. Life has changed since those days – no more new shoes or shiny pencil cases, but instead I am privileged to see, through my involvement with 'Open the Book', a future generation starting school with the same trepidation, excitement and the looking forward to new beginnings.

For those readers who may not know what Open the Book is, or the part it plays in school assemblies, it is a way of bringing the Bible to life through storytelling, mime, and drama in a way that is fun, exciting, interactive and memorable. Children are encouraged to take part in the short stories, which are great fun, and children enjoy the experience enormously, judging by the number of hands which shoot up when we ask for volunteers to become soldiers, disciples and other biblical characters. C S Lewis wrote 'A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest'. Needless to say our small team have as much fun and enjoyment.

Open the Book first began in 1999 in Bedford as a millennium project founded by Dave Todd. A group from local churches began regular visits to their local primary school using a Bob Hartman Bible Story Book which he originally wrote for his children and grandchildren. From this small initiative it was recorded in January 2013 that there were 8,439 volunteers going into 1,473 primary schools. The production of the material since January 2013 had been taken over by the Bible Society.

The small Open the Book Team of 6 from All Saints, St John's and St Thomas' go into 3 infant/primary schools, Catchgate, Annfield Plain and Burnhope. We would love to take Open the Book to other schools, so we would love to hear from anyone who would like to know more about what we do or would like to join us. Please contact Fr Keith 07591864517, Rev Lesley 01207 529166 or Jane Makepeace email – [jane.makepeace100@gmail.com](mailto:jane.makepeace100@gmail.com).

Psalm 78 encourages us to – 'tell the next generation about our wonderful God so that in turn they will tell the following generations. Then they will put their trust in God'.

Whether you are celebrating a birthday like me or simply enjoy the season, may your September be filled with joy, love, blessings and spotting a hedgehog or two!

**Pauline Hall**





## LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



The end of the academic year was, once again, highly charged with emotion and expectation. Our Year 6 Leavers' Service was another exceptionally well-attended event and led by our highly mature and eloquent Year 6 children. With memories from staff shared about each and every Year 6 child, we laughed, we cried, and we felt great pride in them all.

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and also Jane Natrass who presented the much-coveted Henry Dancer Award. This was awarded to Ryan - a very special young boy who only joined us last year and yet managed to show his true personality in that short length of time.

This year was also very special, due to our Year 6 children working so closely with their Reception buddy throughout the year. I don't think we had quite anticipated the sadness of our youngest children when they realised their special buddy was leaving. There were some really poignant moments in the last week when both Reception and Year 6 children gave some very special cards to each other and shared some lovely moments. These bonds have been very special, and the buddy scheme is something we will continue into next year.

As we welcome 2-year-olds into our school, as well as a full cohort of new reception children and a large number of children transferring from other schools, we are thankful for the break we have all had during the last 6 weeks. We always really appreciate this holiday to recover from the year (and in my case, catch up on much needed sleep!), recharge our batteries and then wind ourselves back up for the start of another action-packed year.

We are expecting our SIAMs (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) this term and thank you all in advance of your support for this. It will all be based around our vision of being 'A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish'. Thinking about our Year 6 children, we can say with great confidence just how much they have flourished during their time with us.

Here's to another very successful academics year- Christmas will be here before we know it!

**Jane Davis (Head Teacher)**

**Lancaster EP Primary School**

**Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter): @LancasterEP**

### Parish Register Lancashire, Burnhope,



#### **Baptisms**

**3 August**

Zac Elliott All Saints'

Sophia Rose Iveson All Saints'

*"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"*

#### **Funerals**

**31 July**

Ann Hunter All Saints'

Stephen Burt All Saints'

*'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'*



# Dates for the diary

Dates are always difficult to judge. Lesley would like to take some holidays and 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 pewsheets and / or 'A Church Near You' for the latest information.

## September

- Sun 7th** 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 8th** 2.00pm MU, St Thomas's Community Room
- Tues 9th** 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 10th** 9.45am Eucharist, All Saints'  
11.30am Faith, Food and Fellowship, St Thomas's  
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 11th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's  
7.00pm Church Wives Faith supper, Chapter House
- Sat 13th** 9.30am Table Top Sale, 1 Deanery Cottages  
7.00pm Last Night of the Proms, Chapter House
- Sun 14th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'  
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's  
10.30am All Together Service, All Saints'
- Mon 15th** 11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages  
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 17th** 9.45am Eucharist, All Saints'  
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 18th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's  
11.00am Eucharist, Lynwood House
- Sun 21st** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'  
9.15am Eucharist, St John's  
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's  
10.30am Eucharist, All Saints'  
3.00pm Messy Church, All Saints'
- Tues 23rd** 11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages  
5.30pm Bible and Bait, St Thomas's  
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 24th** 9.45am Holy Communion, All Saints'  
12.30pm Social Lunch, Burnhope C Centre
- Thur 25th** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's  
7.00pm Church Wives, Ian McArdle-Thomas the Tank Engine, Chapter House.
- Friday 26th** 2.00pm Stoneleigh Care Home,
- Sun 28th** 8.00am Eucharist, All Saints'  
9.15am Explore, St John's  
9.30am Eucharist, St Thomas's  
10.30am Eucharist, All Saints'
- Tues 30th** 11.00am Meditation, 1 Deanery Cottages  
7.00pm Compline via Zoom, Margaret & Adrian
- Wed 1st** 9.45am Eucharist, All Saints'
- Thurs 2nd** 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Thomas's  
7.00pm Church Wives, Chapter House

## Future dates for your diary

- 7 October Harvest Soup Lunch Chapter House  
13 October Pie and Pea Supper, St Johns  
22 November Christmas Fair, St John's  
29 November Christmas Fair, All Saints'

## On hymns – ancient and more ancient

From The Rectory  
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

So, your church does not bother with hymnbooks but uses one of those hideous screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar. I suppose I am not bothered, as wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics.

In my - fortunately limited - experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but wrong verse, or the right hymn and right verse, but all upside down. In any case, the turnover from one verse to the next always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started. This means that the congregation, having been silenced for lack of words, is then faced with the challenge of singing two lines at double time.

When we decided to move from *Hymns More Ancient* to *Hymns Slightly Less Ancient* some years ago, our Sunday attempts to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord' threatened to get lost in the noise of battle.

Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command, the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies wanted those they had sung at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thine's or 'wouldst's. Then a vicious rumour started that the new hymnbook might even offer hymns written in the last 50 years. At this, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village (and church).

Eventually we reached the perfect solution: we did nothing. Instead, Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. But there was still a crisis to come: her young (and radical) niece decided to add a note in the front of every copy. It suggested that if the page for the hymn you wanted was missing, then you could share with the person sitting next to you. Of course, no one has done that yet; it would be an experience almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace.

And so, we struggle on with our *Hymns More Ancient*, whenever we can find the words. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



## Cantabile in Concert

Music lovers gathered at All Saints on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July, to enjoy the sweet tones of the wonderful Cantabile Choir from Teesside. They delighted the audience with an uplifting concert of wonderful singing from their repertoire.

The pleasure of the evening was enhanced by a highly professional compere who was both knowledgeable and humorous.

It is hoped that we can persuade Cantabile to make a return visit not to be missed

**Pam Hasler**



## ♥ All things Macmillan ♥

Many thanks to everyone who continues to support our fund raising for Macmillan. It is a sad fact that someone is diagnosed with cancer every 90 seconds in the UK. Macmillan's services are needed more than ever at a time when most charities, Macmillan included, are experiencing a drop in income.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Quiz Night in April which raised an amazing £569.

We will be holding our Annual Coffee Morning on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at Lanchester Community Centre from 10am till midday. Entry is free, as are hot/cold drinks and something delicious to eat. Everyone is welcome! There will be the usual cake and preserves stall, lavender bags for sale, a raffle and 'a guess the name' competition. It would be lovely to see you there!

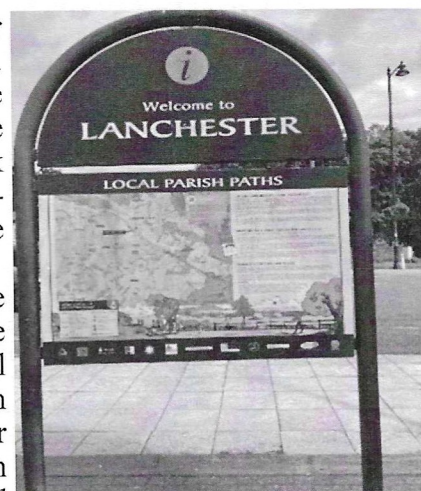
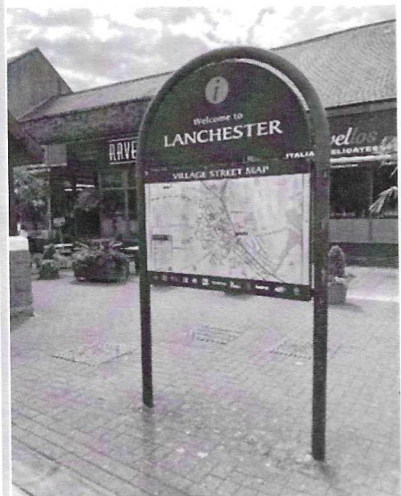
**Jackie Easton - Macmillan Volunteer**

## I remember when ....

As a continuation of the "I remember when" series, here is one of my memories. I was part of small group called the Pathfinders set up by the Lanchester Partnership to monitor and maintain the rights of way in Lanchester Parish. There were only four of us and we would meet once a month and using the definitive map of the rights of way supplied by the County Council, we walked all the paths noting any obstructions or unsuitable stiles. For any work or replacement stiles we would contact local businesses for an estimate, submit it to the County Council and if agreed with them and the farmers get the necessary work done.

The purpose of this was to encourage more people to use the rights of way to enjoy the outdoors and protect the future of the local paths and bridleways. We were proactive in this aim by leading walks in the summer months and exhibiting photos of the work in "before and after" displays in Lanchester and County Hall. The most obvious sign of our work to most people in the village is the map of the village and on the reverse side the map showing the foot-paths in the vicinity. This was a long and sometimes frustrating journey but with help from the Friends of the Roman Fort we managed to complete the task. I just hope that the paths are still being walked and people get pleasure from the views over the valley

**Eric Gaskill**







**Lanchester**  
Lily and Rose Florists

# ▲ CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS ▲

**TEL: 07845560222**



**Venue:**

Chapter House,  
All Saints Parish Church  
Durham Road, Lanchester,  
DH7 0LJ

**Door Wreath Workshops**

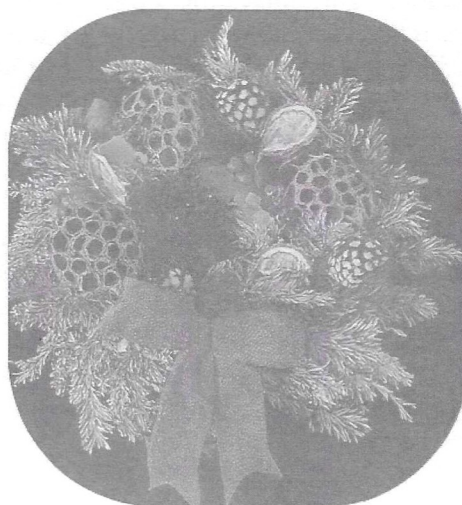
- Sunday 30th November –  
2:30pm to 5:30pm
- Saturday 6 December –  
6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Saturday 13 December –  
10:30am to 1:30pm

**Table Centre Workshop**

- Tuesday 23rd December –  
6:00pm to 9:00pm

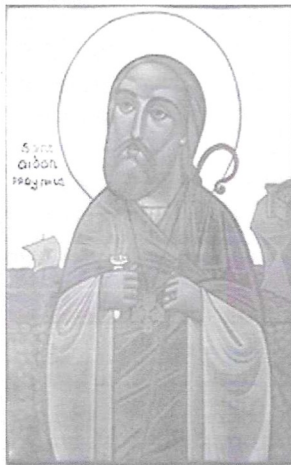
**Workshop Cost: £35 per person**  
includes:

- All materials to create your wreath  
or table centres
- Refreshments: tea, coffee, juice or  
a glass of sparkling wine
- £5 Gift Voucher off your next purchas

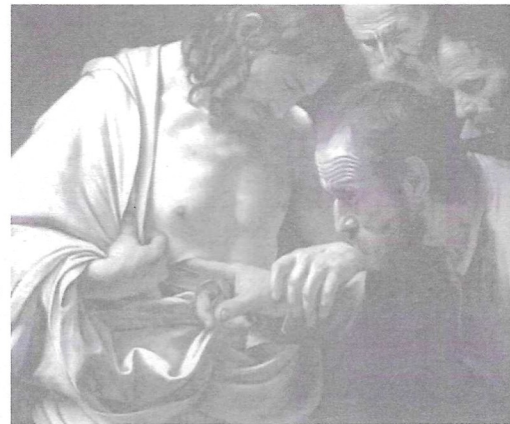


To book your place  
call: **07845560222**





Here at St Thomas we are doubly blessed with our saints. Not only do we have St Thomas himself as our patron saint, but we also have that most wonderful of all the great Northern saints, St Aidan. This blessing was bestowed upon us when our church here at Harelaw was merged with that of Saint Aidan's of Anfield Plain, and we always acknowledge both saints' days. Our new Vicar, Fr Keith Freeman celebrated St Thomas patronal as his first service with us and also dedicated the final Sunday in August to St Aidan - St Aidan's day is 31st.



I'm sure that we all have a particular fondness for the saints to whom our churches are dedicated, but I really think we hit the jackpot here at Harelaw with Thomas and Aidan.

Thomas the Doubter, Didymus - the Twin, Thomas the Martyr - he had many epithets and the first was considered derogatory which was certainly unfair. Thomas wasn't prepared to blindly believe anything and everything he was told, even by brother disciples, but he didn't doubt Jesus. He was, in fact, the first to declare Jesus "My Lord and my God." when Christ appeared to him following the resurrection. We should be grateful to Thomas because he has given us all the space to question and to doubt - and as the theologian Paul Tillich said, "Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith". Doubt is a natural - perhaps even an essential - element of our journey as we struggle to understand the great mystery of the Lord. Writer Anne Lamott expanded this and said "The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns." Faith isn't for the faint-hearted. It can be hard work.

In spite of those early doubts, Thomas became the most widely travelled of all the disciples, earning himself the new title of "Apostle of India". It is claimed that Thomas found his way to Persia and deep into Southern India, and it is said that he even had doubts about his mission, - but he brought the message of Christ to those peoples.

Legend says that whilst in India, Thomas learned that the Virgin Mary was near to death at Ephesus. He hurried back, but she had died, and he reached her tomb just in time to see the Virgin's body ascending. When Thomas cried out to her, she gave him her belt with a blessing. Thomas returned to India with this most precious relic, and it became the most valued treasure of his disciples, whose descendants came to be known as the St Thomas Christians. This group represents one of the oldest Christian traditions in the world. They are still vibrant in their communities, and in the 21st Century there are about 4 million St Thomas Christians in India. Even today ceremonies are held with Christians, Hindus and Muslims all celebrating the life of the Virgin Mary, a wonderful testament to the way all religions can live together in love and harmony.

St Thomas was martyred in or near Mylapore around AD72. (Ironically his killer King Mazdai later converted to St Thomas Christianity.)

Six hundred years later, the story of our second saint, Aidan began when King Oswald sent to Iona for a bishop who would preach the gospel in Northumbria.

The first who tried, Cormac, soon came back angrily complaining that the Angles were impossible to work with. Northumbria was a land of darkness. The stubborn, unreachable people refused the life-giving light of Christ. Bede writes in his history that, a meeting was called to discuss the problem. An Irish monk called Aidan felt his heart moved with compassion for these people. "O Lord" he prayed, "Give me springs and I will water this land. I will go, Lord. I will hold this people in my heart". Aidan gently suggested that Cormac had been unreasonably harsh with his unlearned listeners, and "did not first, as the Apostle has told us, offer them the milk of less solid doctrine". Aidan was told, in not quite so many words - "If you can do better, go yourself." So, he did.



## The Father of our Church (continued)

King Oswald himself acted as interpreter until Aidan learned the language, and when the king died, Aidan worked with his successor, Oswin. Aidan was a man of great gentleness and humility. He travelled all over Northumbria on foot so that he could easily talk to the people he met on the same level as they were. Oswin tried to help him by giving him a horse to use - and Aidan promptly gave it to a beggar. When the king was angry Aidan asked "was the son of a mare more precious than a son of God?" The king apologised and never again questioned Aidan's decisions.

Aidan inspired scores of monks to help in his missionary work, building churches and schools, and spreading Celtic Christian influence, making Lindisfarne one of the most important centres of Christian England. He founded classes for the education of Anglo-Saxon youths - among them the Saints Eata and Cuthbert. He was appointed as the first bishop of Lindisfarne and made it a centre for Christianity.

Aidan lived a life of frugal holiness. He used money that he was given to buy slaves and free them. Many of these became Christians, too. During Lent he would retire to the tiny Farne island to pray and fast. Among the many miracles attributed to Aidan was that he was on Farne in 651 when he noticed that there was smoke rising from the nearby mainland town of Bamburgh, which was under attack by King Penda of Mercia. The flames were threatening to burn the town and all in it. Legend has it that Aidan prayed for the safety of the town - and the wind changed and the attackers were driven back.

Fire is associated with another legend about Aidan, too. He is said to have died leaning against a wooden post of his own church. Some years after his death in 651, the church burned down - all except for that one post, which remained untouched by flames.

## Pauline Meek

### The Aidan Prayer

Leave me alone with God as much as may be.  
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,  
make me an island, set apart,  
alone with you, God, holy to you.  
Then with the turning of the tide  
prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world  
beyond,  
the world that rushes in on me  
till the waters come again and fold me back to you.

Submitted by Malcolm Meek

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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.

### Fresh ideas for doing church

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"

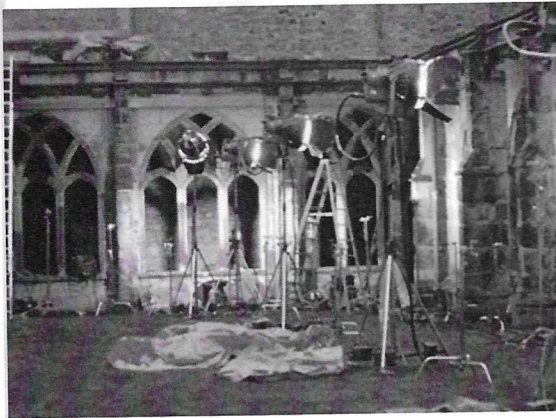
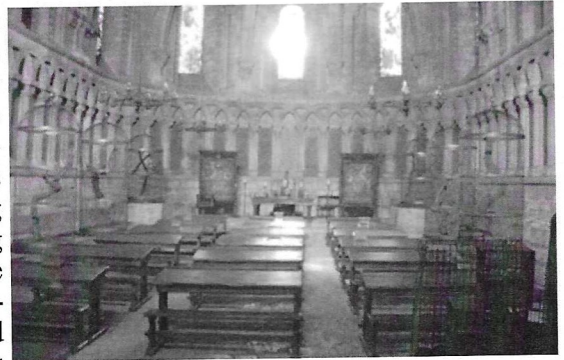
Source The Parish Pump



## Magic came to Durham Cathedral

Most of our congregation know that before I retired, I had the privilege to serve as Clerk of Works at Durham Cathedral for 18 years in charge of the Works Department. Over the years I was involved in many projects of maintenance and improvements. One area I did not expect to experience was to be involved in the many films and events that used Durham Cathedral. Ivanhoe, Jude the Obscure, Lumiere, and for me the most enjoyable and most stressful the first two films in the Harry Potter series Philosophers Stone and The Chamber of Secrets.

I was introduced to the person whom I was to liaise with regarding what they could and couldn't remove to turn the Chapter House into Professor McGonagale's classroom, (Right) the Cloister and Quadrangle into Hogwarts Cloisters, and the South Triforium into the Secret Corridor (with Fluffy, the four headed dog). That person turned out to be location manager Simon King, fresh from a 007 film. Simon, after Harry Potter, launched his probably more famous role as one of the Hairy Bikers with the lovely Dave Myers. We became friends during the making of the two films but occasionally crossed swords when they wanted to move something. It was a very busy time trying to maintain all the other events and activities but very interesting. I spent a great morning watching them film the scene where Harry, Ron and Hermione were hiding from Mrs Norris, Argos Filch's cat. I was there with the Fire Brigade officers, as we were worried about the spiders' webs they had installed, which they assured us were not combustible. They were and were positioned above one of the lighting columns which were gas and flared when someone passed; an accident waiting to happen!



Lots of scenes were filmed in and around the cloister including turning the Cloister Garth into a snow scene. It made you feel cold despite it being summer. I got to meet many of the cast except the child actors, who were, when not filming, being schooled in the Priors Hall.

Of course, when it was all over everything that was altered had to be restored to what it had been with one exception. They had covered the ugly Fire Water dry riser pipe which allows the Fire brigade to send water up to the roof with imitation stone panels. I obtained permission to allow it to be retained hiding the pipes. It was an amazing experience to be involved with, which was to be enjoyed again when they filmed the second story.

**Rob Matthews**

## Holiday Club Summer 2025 Burnhope Community Centre

All children who attended the Burnhope holiday club this year were issued with passports. However, we did not leave Burnhope. Over the summer we have crisscrossed the globe, visiting 11 countries in total. These were Japan, France, Canada, Tanzania, Italy, Australia, China, Egypt, Switzerland, Mexico and South Africa. Craft activities were based on the country that we were visiting, so we had sand art sphinxes, Chinese lanterns, pasta photo frames, a biscuit leaning tower of Pisa, weaving baskets, and tricorne hats to name but a few.

Each session also included a meal that was similarly based on the country that we were visiting. So of course, for Australia we needed to have a barbie. The weather was not quite as good as Australia, but not far from it. The kitchen team were fantastic, serving over 700 meals with a smile. All meals were well received, and some kids expanded their taste buds!

Over the summer we welcomed over 70 children and their parents/carers. Some of these were from Messy Church contacts and some from the village. Many conversations took place, and the children really enjoyed the activities and looked forward to whichever country was to be visited next. This could not have been done without the coordination of Cath from the centre. We are also grateful for several grants which have enabled the activities to be paid for. On a Tuesday there was also a bible verse or meditation that went along with that day's activities. For example, Switzerland was about peace. In South Africa we had the chance to float prayer-soaked peace lilies.



In addition to the regular holiday clubs, there were three outings. The first two of these, to Hall Hill Farm and to Adventure Valley, were fully subscribed. The third one was to Bowes Museum where, as a community group, the children were asked to paint things that reminded them of Burnhope on a big, cat-shaped inflatable. We understand that this is now on permanent display at Bowes Museum.

**Ann M**





## An extract from The Parish Magazine of September 1901 and 1898

My dear Friends:

First of all it is my sad duty to have to record the death of our beloved and revered Bishop. It was so recently as May 31<sup>st</sup> that Mrs Westcott was buried in the Chapel at Auckland, after being in failing health for 2 or 3 years; and exactly two months later that same grave is re-opened to receive all that was mortal of the Bishop. His departure seemed most Providential; he had completed another year of hard work, and was about to leave for a holiday; his wife had been taken to eternal rest, "for 48 years his unfailing counsellor and stay"; his Chaplain for over 11 years had just left him, on being preferred to an important living; all these things seem to point to the end of a great career. He was taken ill on his return from preaching to the Miners in the Cathedral, and died the following Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and so ended a great and noble life.

On Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, we had our Sunday School Excursion to South Shields, which proved a great success, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, notwithstanding the great heat that prevailed. Our warm thanks are due to all those friends who so kindly contributed to the cost of the outing. Shields is a very ancient place, at one time an extensive Roman Station; then in later history one of the centres of work for St. Hilda the Abbess of Whitby, to whom we owe so much of Church life in this northern part of the kingdom, the very place being named after her, Saint Hilda, then Shilds, and afterwards Shields; and once more the town is famous for having been the birthplace of the Lifeboat, with which are associated the names of Henry Greathead and William Wouldhave, the monument to their memory being erected at the pier end in 1889.

### and from the Magazine of September 1898

It is with great regret that we have to record the death Mr J.T.Foster. It was he that presented our Church with the handsome brass Eagle five years ago, and at one time was a constant worshipper in the congregation. For some time past he had been very ill at York, where he died July 31<sup>st</sup>, and was buried at Washington.

And so we are to lose our Inspector of Police. Whilst regretting his departure, we most heartily congratulate Superintendent Daley on his promotion, and wish him every success in his new sphere of work in Houghton-le-Spring. He is to be succeeded by Serjeant Dryden, another well-known officer in the Police Force, and who is said to be the tallest Policeman in the Kingdom, standing 6ft. 7½ins.

Yours faithfully  
GEORGE JEPSON  
Vicar and Surrogate

Peter Smith (Archivist)

### Celebrating 200 years of the public railroads

Two hundred years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1825, the world's first public railway opened at Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

Inspired and supported by a prominent Quaker, Edward Pease, and backed financially by the Government, the railway has been described as "the great theatre of railway operations", sparking the explosion of the railway age and boosting the industrial revolution. About 20 miles of the original 25 mile stretch still exist on the Stockton and Darlington Rail line.

The technical expertise behind it all came from George Stephenson, an extraordinary self-taught engineer, whose expertise, which originated in the mines, stretched beyond railways. His *Locomotion No 1*, built for the Stockton and Darlington line, was the first steam locomotive to carry passengers on a public rail line. He worked with his 18-year-old son Robert, who is known for creating the more famous *Rocket* four years later.

The first Stockton and Darlington train – which in fact ran from Old Etherley Colliery, some distance north of Darlington – was led by a man on horseback with a flag. The motto of the organising committee was "At private risk for public service".

With brakemen stationed between the wagons, the train reached 12 to 15mph and was greeted by an estimated 10,000 people at the Darlington junction, where some passengers left and more boarded. The average speed was calculated at about 8mph. Six wagons of coal were given to the poor by way of celebration.

A nine-month festival in County Durham and the Tees Valley – with artwork, spectacles and community events – is marking the bicentenary of the opening of the railway.

As a tribute to his life and achievements, a bronze statue of George Stephenson was unveiled at Chesterfield railway station in 2005. An earlier statue stands in Neville Street, Newcastle.

More info at: <https://railway200.co.uk>, <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk>

The Parish Pump





# Poems and things to make you smile

## Flowers

Another verse from 'A Book of Last Words' by Robert McFarland and illustrator Jackie Morris.  
I hope you enjoy this verse.

## Heather

Heather is never only heather, as more is never merely more  
Ever lain down in heather, got its measure seen how it shares its weather with  
Asphodel and bilberry, crowberry and cotton grass grows together with  
Tormentil's flower, moss's cushion lichens feather?  
Hold a heartful of heather never, let it wither  
Even as you travel far from a crag and river  
Remember heather the company, it keeps, it's treasure.



Submitted by Audrey Newton

Thoughts: some may make you smile. Submitted by Anne Whitley

## For Golfers.

A Salvation Army captain, a keen golfer, was invited to play a round on Sunday morning. Feigning a headache, he sent his wife to do the meeting and made his way to a golf course some distance from home, where he was sure he wouldn't be recognised. St. Peter looked down on this and said to the Lord, "What do you think of this Sir?"  
"Not much," said the Lord. "Just wait and see." The third hole was a difficult par 3. The captain teed off and the ball went straight into the hole for a superb hole in one. "What's happening?" said Peter. "I thought you were going to punish him." The Lord said with a wry smile, "Who's he going to tell?"

## Parking

A vicar parked his car in a no parking place in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windscreen wiper that read, "I've been round the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."  
When he returned, he found a message from a traffic warden, along with a note. "I've gone round this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

## Growing Old Gracefully

We're living longer! There are now over 3,000 centenarians in Britain, nine times as many as thirty years ago. And there's a large increase in the number of over 80s and 90s too. How can we make the best of those bonus years of retirement that lie ahead of an increasing number of us? Here are some guide lines.  
START YOUNG! To make a success of old age, as with so many other things, it's advisable to start young.  
CULTIVATE the kind of interests that can be carried forward into retirement. Stipendiary magistrate the late Claud Mullins wrote, "Ever since my name appeared in 'Who's Who', reading, writing and walking have been recorded as my hobbies, and each fits well into the conditions of retirement." Another obvious activity is gardening, where there's always something to expect - and often what you don't!  
KEEP in touch with the younger generation, even if you can only take them in small doses later on! "Fill your hearts with the love of little children, and you will never grow old," wrote Dr. Barnardo.  
DO find good causes to support. Let your love be outgoing, not ingrowing.  
NEVER give up learning, and that will involve never giving up listening to people either!  
FIND time to talk to God, and to listen to Him too.  
WHILE you've a contribution to make never say, "I've done my share. Now I'm leaving it to the young."  
Remember that the young person's contribution is energy, and the older person's is experience.





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