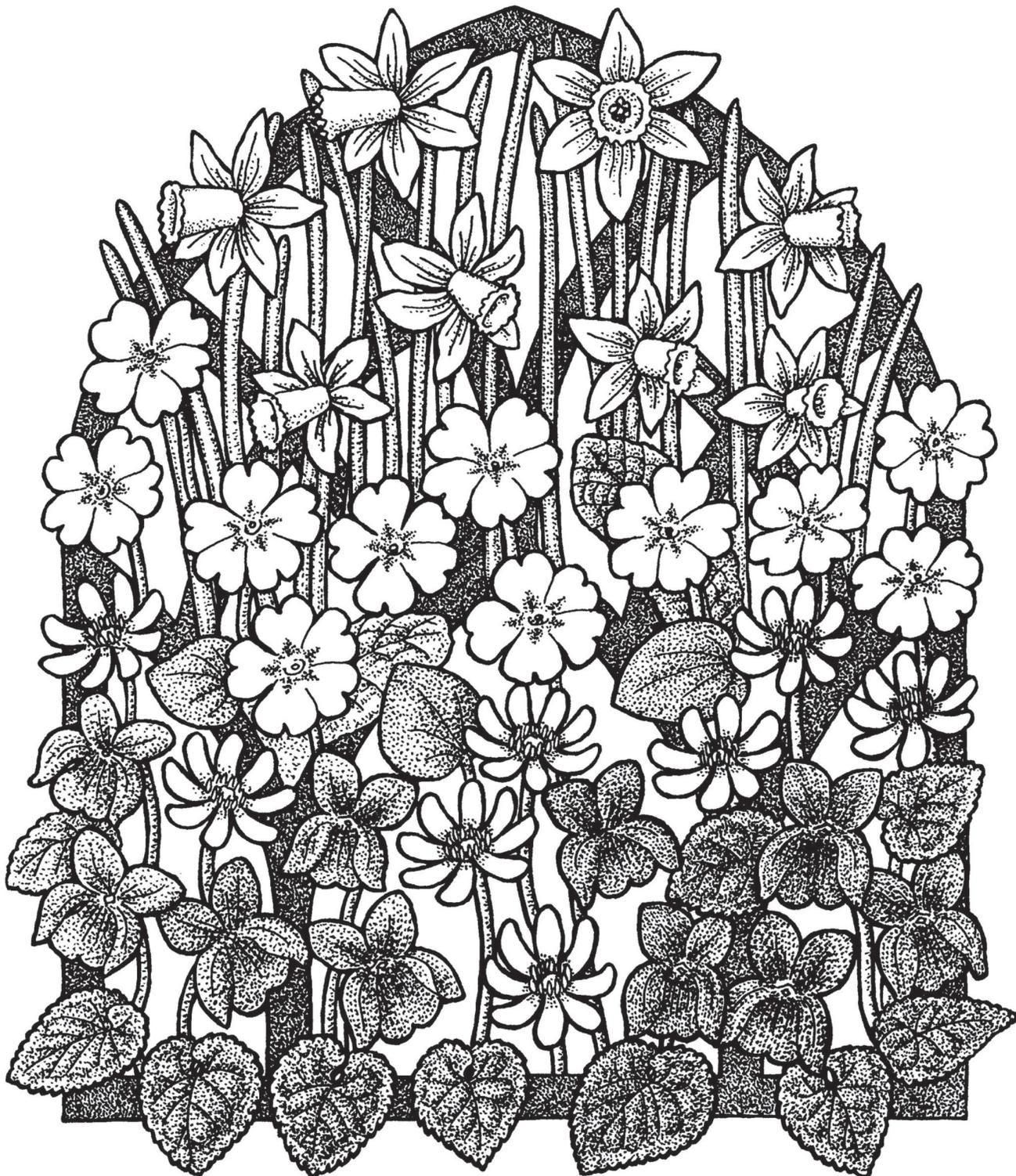


March 2026



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of
Songs 2:12

The Parish Magazine

All Saints' Lanchester and St John's Burnhope

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

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS' LANCHESTER

8.00am 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

3rd Sunday 3.00pm Messy Church

Wednesdays 9.45am Holy Communion

Home Communion at Lynwood House

3rd Thursday of the month at 11.00am

HOLY BAPTISM, WEDDINGS & 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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**Contributions to the Church
Magazine are always welcome.
The copy deadline for the
April 2026 issue is
Thursday 12th March**

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

A Letter from Bishop Sarah

Tuesday 27 January 2026



Dear friends,

'We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ'. (1 Thess 1:v2-3)

It has been announced this morning by 10 Downing Street that I am to be the next Bishop of Ely. I realise that, as with all such announcements, this appears to come 'out of the blue' but in fact, my nomination comes at the end of a long, prayerful and searching discernment by both myself and the Ely Crown Nomination Commission. I am still full of wonder at my nomination as I have experienced what I can only describe as the surprising work of God's Holy Spirit in guiding the discernment to this outcome. I feel both humbled by and joyful at this turn of events.

There is of course real sadness for me in leaving Durham Diocese. I believe it will have been obvious to you that I have loved being here and have been at home in the North-East, in the communities we serve and in the Diocesan family. It is amongst you that I have learned what it means to be a bishop, called to serve and care for the flock of Christ, with the pattern of the Good Shepherd before me. You have shaped me and helped me grow into the bishop that God has called me to be. I know that all I have been and done has only been possible because of the wonderful people I have shared ministry with.

I do realise that the news that I am leaving will spark many questions given that we are awaiting the announcement of the next Bishop of Durham. Please be assured that work is already ongoing by the diocesan leadership with Archbishop Stephen to make interim arrangements for the remainder of the episcopal vacancy and I am sure that all will be well. The timings of my move are yet to be confirmed, and I will write again when these are clear.

There will be other opportunities for me to share my thankfulness for you and for 'the work of faith, the labour of love and the steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ' that we have shared over the past seven years in which I have been Bishop of Jarrow. I continue to pray for you with love and with hope for the future that lies before the parishes, people and communities of Durham Diocese.

Please pray for me in this time of change.

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be yours.

Bishop Sarah

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers Union Lanchester



At our next meeting on Tuesday March 10th in the Chapter House, and with it being Lent, we have the Reverend Meg Gilley speaking on 'Thankfulness'. This will be a most interesting meeting (as are all our meetings), so if you wish to come as a visitor, you will be made most welcome.

Margaret Brown

Mothers Union St John's

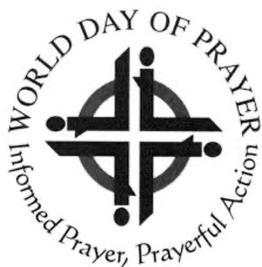


The monthly meeting was held on Monday, 2 February.

The MU is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year and St John's MU is looking forward to being part of the celebrations. We will be attending the festival service in Durham Cathedral, the service in St Paul's, London and the provincial service in Manchester. We are a small but busy group. We are also knitting up a frenzy with our Seafarers' Mission contributions and collecting 5ps in a jar. If knitting is not your thing, there are so many other projects to be involved in. There is something for everyone so why not start your year with a taster and be part of an organisation that turns faith into action. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 2 March. Contact info is at the front of the magazine.

Pauline Hall (Secretary)

World Day of Prayer 2026



The 2026 World Day of Prayer service has been inspired and prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian Women living in Nigeria. The Theme of the service this year is "I will give you rest, come" (Matthew 11:28-30)

Wives and Friends group of Lanchester Methodist Church is hosting the service on Wednesday 4th March at 1:30pm and all are welcome to join us in prayer and in hearing about the womens' shared struggles in recent times and how they can inspire us to work towards a world devoid of injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair.

The offering taken during the service is for the work of "World Day of Prayer" and for projects run by Christian charities at home and abroad. Similarly, proceeds from the coffee morning which was held at the Methodist Church on Saturday 28th February will be donated to "World Day of Prayer".

Dianne Emmerson
(Local Secretary WDP)

Church Wives

At our first meeting on 12th March, we welcome back Patricia Hodgson talking about her subject "Been Misbehaving". When she came last year, she had everyone in stitches. On March 26th we also welcome back Carol Dean talking about The Land Girls. It really is good that people still offer talks to groups of people on so many different subjects.

If anyone wishes to enjoy one of these talks then please remember that our meetings take place in the Chapter House at 7pm. Visitors are made very welcome and it's so nice to enjoy a cuppa and chat afterwards.

Deanna Leyland

Thank you,

Thank you everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers and messages of love and support I have received over the last three months. Looking forward to being with you all in the near future, Love

Hazel

From the Churchwardens

As ever the Wardens work to supporting Lesley in her ministry of the parish and beyond.

As we prepare for Lent and Easter we continue to look after our Churches and assisting where necessary at services. Currently as previously reported the clock face illumination is currently off, also missing are the quarter chimes. Fortunately, the annual Clock servicing is almost due, and we have been in touch with Smiths of Derby who shall be attending 3rd February to service the clock and will inspect and remedy the chimes and renew the lamps illuminating the clock face, We have also had the heating checked following the Church boiler not firing. Nothing untoward was found so we shall keep the situation under observation. We did however find the batteries on the Chapter House Heating thermostat required replacing which has been done. Tree removed after Candlemas and the memorial table reinstated in the North Aisle.

Upon turning up to open the Church on Saturday 17th January we found that all of the bins had been destroyed by an arson attack which we discovered had occurred between 06.30 and 07.00 and had been attended by Durham Fire Brigade. We have also been targeted by an individual taking dog poo bags out of bins and spreading them around. We have been in contact with the Police as the anti-social behaviour has continued around the church and village and reluctantly decided for the moment keep the Church locked. This is unfortunate but, in the circumstances, necessary. We are currently in conversations with the Council with the help of Allison Gray our DCC member. Initially the council were going to charge for replacement bins (£300) but have backtracked on that decision. We are also investigating whether the council may install a camera as they have done elsewhere to check on fly tippers. We trust the church being closed during the day is a short-term measure.

We have in the Chapter house a new piano due to the generosity of Margaret Walters the old one has been disposed of (not destroyed)

At St Johns we continue to seek quotation for remedial works.

Rob Matthews for the Churchwardens

Churchwarden Headaches!

The roles and responsibilities of a Churchwarden are many and varied. Some of the responsibilities are self-evident, but some are not so, like being custodians of the Parish property, legally responsible for all movable furniture, books, vestments, ornaments and plate and keeping accurate records for inspection by the Archdeacon on one of her surprise visits, and making sure there are sufficient wafers and wine for communion. The list can go on

However, one of the more mysterious aspects of the role is the care and repair of the 'fabric' of our two churches, St John's and All Saints. The 'fabric' is not just the stonework, roof, drains, windows, gutters, floors, pews, doors, bells, clocks, noticeboards, churchyard walls, paths and gates, but includes anything else that vaguely needs attention (we won't mention the septic tank again). I wrote in my 'The Churchwardens Pocket Book' which I found hidden on a shelf, behind Escape to the Country, that it does not include the Altar frontals, church linen and vestment cleaning and repair I am not convinced!

An even more mysterious aspect of the role is securing basic maintenance. We are a parish positively tripping over builders, with leaflets through letterboxes, adverts in windows, a check-a-trade flyer delivered by the postie, builders' vans parked up with doors open displaying all their necessary equipment for enlarging, extending, remodelling, renovating practically, it seems, every dwelling in both villages. But trying to get a builder to come and look at a piece of churchwork is like summoning 'Elijah from the whirlwind'. (2 Kings 2)

I meet them on site; I send them photographs of repairs needed. One or two hardy souls come to look, measure, um and ha and tut. Then like Elijah they mysteriously disappear and are not seen or heard of again!

However, after waiting a good while for the desperately needed work to be started on the 'fabric' of St John's, we can now say that we have good news. We have permission for the first phase, the repair to the step leading to the Chancel. This is crumbling at a rate of knots. We still have a long way to go regarding the other maintenance problems but, that's a problem for tomorrow.

Pauline Hall, Churchwarden



LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Spirituality in Our School.

The aim is for Collective Worship in our school is to enhance the spiritual flourishing of both children and adults. We have varied acts of worship but on a Monday morning, we introduce the Big Question of the Week. This Big Question is then discussed in our Mindful Moments that we have at the start of the afternoon sessions. During this time, we ask the children to reflect on the Big Question. So many of them think so spiritually and deeply. This week the Big Question was, 'When do you need to have courage?' This prompted so many very reflective thoughts from the children with one child stating that he needed courage when moving to new foster carers. Food for thought for us all... Another Big Question has been, 'What brings you Joy?' I am sure you can imagine the thoughtful discussions this inspired.

We define spirituality with the children by the simple yet profound practice of **Looking In, Looking Out, and Looking Up**. We have very carefully considered the spiritual development of our children by linking it to our School Vision and providing children with opportunities to reflect and think about:

- Themselves (**Looking IN**)
- Their relationships with others (**Looking OUT**)
- God and Jesus's teachings (**Looking UP**)

'Through God's Love, (UP) We are the rich soil (IN) Where roots grow and seeds flourish (OUT)'

This Bible verse is the theological underpinning of our vision of 'A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish'.

Next month I will share with you the wonderfully varied Collective Worship sessions we have in school every day.

Jane Davis (Head Teacher)

Lanchester EP Primary School.

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

Parish Register - Lanchester & St John's

Baptisms;

Alicia Holmes 01/02/2026

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

Funerals;

Brenda Gibson 23/02/2026

Ann Hutchinson 26/02/2026

Mary Austin 28/02/2026

"May they rest in peace and rise in glory"



DATES FOR THE DIARY

REGULAR GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Weekly

Tuesday 11.00am Meditation 1 Deanery Cottages
Tuesday 7.00pm Compline on Zoom, Margaret and Adrian

Other monthly meetings in Lanchester

1st Monday 2.00pm Julian Prayers
2nd Tuesday 2.00pm Mothers Union
2nd and 4th Thursday 7.00pm Church Wives
3rd Thursday 11.00am Eucharist Lynwood House

Other monthly meetings in Burnhope

1st Monday 2.00 Mothers Union
2nd Tuesday of the month Café Church 6.00pm at The Community Centre

SERVICES IN MARCH

Each Tuesday; Lent Bible Study followed by Compline.
Bible Study 6-7pm; Compline 7-7.30

Holy Week:

Monday 30th March: Reflection 7pm

Tuesday 31st March: Reflection 7pm

Wednesday 1st April: Reflection 7pm

Thursday 2nd April: Eucharist of Maundy Thursday with Washing of Feet 7pm

Friday 3rd April:

Good Friday Liturgy 11am St John's

Good Friday Liturgy 2pm All Saints

Saturday 4th April

Easter Vigil begins 7pm in the Chapter House with First Mass of Easter following as darkness falls

Sunday 5th April

10.30am Joint Festal Eucharist for Easter Day followed by the thatching of the cross on the Village Green

Social Events in March

Spring Coffee Morning Wednesday March 18th Chapter House from 10.30am.

I Remember When

Durham Cathedral Nine Altars Pinnacle 2005



I was Clerk of Works at Durham Cathedral for 18 years from March 1995 till May 2013 and was responsible to the Dean and Chapter for the running of the maintenance department at the workshops. This was, at the time, a traditional and historical post. Until the Cathedrals Measure changed in 2000, then all Cathedrals had by statute to have a Cathedral Architect, a Clerk of Works and a Head Verger.

I am a joiner (by trade) and previously worked for J & W Lowry for 25 years gaining specialist experience in church work and stone restoration work. I have worked on many churches in the dioceses of Newcastle, Northumberland, and County Durham – Hexham Abbey, St Nicholas’ Cathedral, Bywell Church – Corbridge and many others.

I have also worked on stone repair and restoration on other heritage properties such as Newcastle Keep, Warkworth Castle, and Blackfriars in Newcastle City Centre. My first experience at Durham was in 1981 when the old bell frame was replaced with a new steel frame. It was my first experience of working on such a vast structure and the logistics of moving materials to great heights was challenging. I later went on to work on new lead roofing to the Prior’s Hall, several houses in The College and part of the Chorister School.

With this background, when the job at Durham became available in 1995, I applied (one of sixty applicants). I felt it was a chance not to be missed and happily, I got the job.

When I arrived on my first day I was met and welcomed by the then Dean, John Arnold then by the Sub Receiver who had been looking after the works department following the death of the previous Works Superintendent (who hadn’t the title of Clerk of Works). He handed me a big pile of documents saying “Welcome” and then left. Unflustered, I worked through the box and eventually managed to make sense of things.



The main job being undertaken by the masons at that time was the renewal of the Northeastern pinnacle of The Chapel of Nine Altars. This had been found to be leaning seriously due to exfoliation of iron cramps which were rusting and making the structure unstable. It had been demolished, stone by stone, and was to be rebuilt using new Dunhouse sandstone (from Dunhouse Quarries at Staindrop) along with reusable stone from the original structure fixed with stainless steel cramps, and it wasn’t going well! After discussions with the Cathedral Architect, the problems being experienced were the templates. The masons had made these, but they were incorrect. I made the decision to scrap all the templates and start again.

It took over a week to recalculate and set all the lines back up to the anticipated pinnacle termination. This decision didn’t go down well with the masons.

They started recutting and dressing the stones to the new lines and angles which fortunately started to come together. We then became reasonably good friends; I had broken the ice. At that time, the Cathedral policy was to arrange for senior staff appointments to be interviewed by the TV. An appointment was made for Look North to come. I can't remember the presenter's name but she chose to interview me at the top of the scaffolding. I don't know who was most nervous; she because of the height of the scaffolding above the ground or me because of being on TV. It happened several times again in the ensuing years and I got used to it and radio interviews. I even met Carol Malia once; I liked that.

Once we got the system right, the stones measured and ordered, and deliveries coordinated, the pinnacle was finished in about 18 months. All went smoothly. It was completed around Christmas 1996 and I took the Dean and Chapter Clerk with a Christmas tree for a topping out ceremony. We also built into the pinnacle masonry a time capsule with the names of all those who worked on the project with photographs of the works staff. We also included the newspaper of the day, coins, notes and other memorabilia. Hopefully it won't be recovered any time soon. Many interesting projects and experiences followed. I liked my job

Rob Matthews

New Piano for Chapter House



It is a couple of years now since we received our new church piano. The Chapter House had the old piano, which was not often used and in quite poor condition. This has now gone. Thanks to the generosity of Margaret Walters, she has donated to the Church her piano which is a beautiful full keyboard Weiner Piano. It is smaller, more compact, and a wonderful addition to our facilities in the Chapter House. We hope that this new addition will encourage current users to make use of the facility and that it will give give more opportunity for ongoing usage of the Chapter House. We are most grateful to Margaret for this generous gift.

The Wardens

Crusades



The Crusades were campaigns throughout Europe and the Middle East. The Middle East Crusades are better known than the European ones of the Baltics and Spain. All these Crusades (i.e. religious wars) took place between the 11th and 13th centuries and were sanctioned by the Latin Catholic Church of that time. They were primarily initiated to reclaim the Holy Land, especially Jerusalem, from Muslim rule and to stop the expansion of Muslim states, including Spain (the Iberian Peninsula), and the Baltic (although the Crusade in the Baltics, was more to do with heretics than Muslims!)

The First Crusade to the 'Holy Land' was (1095 to 1099), launched by Pope Urban II, in response to a Byzantine request for aid. Pope Urban II, promised forgiveness and pardon for all of their past sins of those who would fight to reclaim the Holy Land from Muslims, and to 'free' the Eastern Churches. This pardon also applied to those fighting the Muslims in Spain. This First Crusade armies captured Nicaea, Antioch and then Jerusalem, resulting in the massacre of many Muslim and Jewish inhabitants. This established Four Crusader States: The Kingdom of Jerusalem, the County of Edessa, the Principality of Antioch, and the County of Tripoli.

The Second Crusade (1147 to 1149) was launched in response to the fall of Edessa to the Muslims in 1144. This Crusade was led by King Louis VII of France and Emperor Conrad III of Germany. This ended in failure, with both parties suffering defeat at Anatolia and failing in the siege of Damascus.



The Third Crusade (1189 to 1192) was launched after the Muslim Sultan, Saladin, united Muslim forces and recaptured Jerusalem in 1187. This was led by King Richard I (the Lionheart), King Phillip II Augustus of France and Frederick Barbarossa of the Holy Roman Empire. Alas, poor Frederick drowned en-route, and King Phillip returned early, leaving Richard the Lionheart to continue this Crusade. He achieved victories at Acre and Arsuf but failed in his attempt to retake Jerusalem. However, he negotiated a treaty with Saladin that allowed unarmed Christian pilgrims access to the city.

The Fourth Crusade (1202 to 1204) was launched to conquer Egypt, which would then be used as a base in retaking Jerusalem. This Crusade was a total failure, mainly due to the Venetians, as they would divert this

Crusade for their own political and financial reasons. This resulted in the Crusaders sacking Constantinople, a Christian city and capital of the Byzantine Empire, which permanently damaged East-West Christian relations.

The Fifth Crusade (1217 to 1221) was also launched to conquer Egypt and was led by Andrew II of Hungary and Leopold VI of Austria. Whilst they had initial success, finally, they did not achieve their aims or goals for this crusade and had to withdraw.

The Sixth Crusade (1227 to 1229) was led by Frederick II and was extremely unusual as it achieved its aims with very little fighting! Frederick took advantage of a raging dispute between the Sultan of Egypt, Palestine and Syria with his brother, the Governor of Damascus. Finally, after diplomatic discussions (and because of the strength of Frederick forces) a Treaty was signed in February 1229 by the Sultan, for giving Frederick control of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth, and a corridor to the coast for supplies. Frederick, in return, promised not to fortify Jerusalem, to respect Muslim control of holy places and mosques, and to protect the Sultan's interests from all adversaries (including Christians) for the length of the 10-year truce!



The Seventh Crusade (1248 to 1254) was led by King Louis IX of France. This Crusade followed some of the earlier Crusades by targeting Egypt. It ended in complete failure with Louis and many knights being captured and held for ransom. Louis returned to France in 1254, after his release, in Acre, in 1250.

The Eighth Crusade (1270) was again led by King Louis IX of France, but this Crusade was stopped when Louis died from dysentery shortly after arriving on the shores of Tunisia.

So what did these Crusades achieve? They helped to reshape Europe and the Middle East, boosting trade (through the rise of the merchant classes and Italian city states, like Genoa and Venice); bringing new goods (spices, silks, cotton, sugar) and new ideas (science, maths, medicine) to the West; weakening feudalism by strengthening monarchies (due to nobles dying or selling their land) and increasing Church power. However, there was a deepening of the divides and distrust between Christians, Muslim and Jews with has lasting negative impacts.

Richard Hall

One of the great privileges of being a priest is the work that we do with children; and for the last two years it has been an expectation that we spend at least one day per week in schools and childrens' work.

It was our pleasure to welcome a visit to St John's in January by the children from Burnhope School's Early Years unit as part of their curriculum unit on Special Places.

The children listened to the story of Jesus' special place (the Temple), and thoroughly explored the church, sitting at the organ...



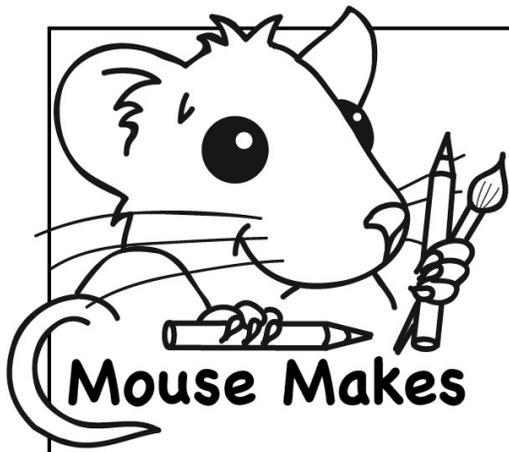
Learning about the light of Jesus, and why we keep a miner's lamp burning on the altar....

Enjoying dressing up in our lovely robes and finding out why we do it.....

And waking up the neighbours by ringing the bell as they left! They had a wonderful time, as did we and they'll be back at Easter, for their Easter service.

Thank you, Mrs Bryson and staff, for a fabulous beginning to our week!





The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers are: 1 (top right), 2 (right side), 3 (top left), 4 (middle left), 5 (middle left), 6 (middle right), 7 (middle left), 8 (middle left), and 9 (bottom left).

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2

Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26



Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

Mar26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

11th February was a very special day in the life of the EP school- because it was the day when a communion service in school was re-introduced for years 5 and 6 and their parents and carers. Over 40 family members attended, and nearly 70 children received the sacrament for the first time after a thorough preparation in school. Teachers commented on how moving and sacred the service was, and three of the children came back for a blessing after sharing in the Eucharist because they were so excited!

A service of communion will now be a regular part of worship in school each half term, along with a prayer written specially for the service which reminds us of our school values-trust, hope, kindness, joy and love. Here it is for you to use in your devotions!

Generous and loving God
You created the world around us in all its beauty
You give us families and friends
Our school, for learning and laughter
The freedom to discover who we are
And all that we need to grow and to thrive
Help us to be kind to others
To be loving
To live joyfully
And hopefully
And to trust in you.

With every blessing,
Lesley

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