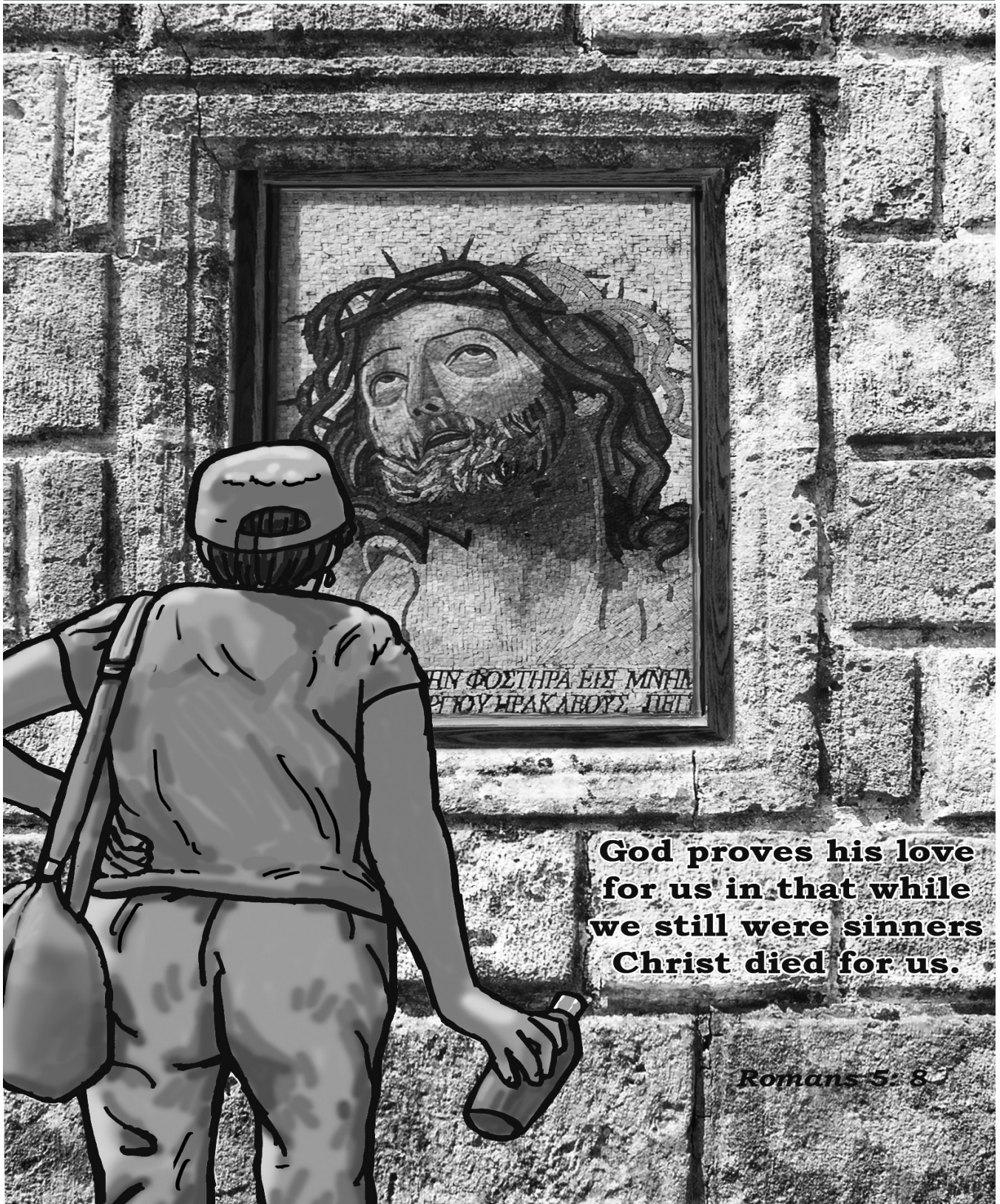


# April 2026



**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  
May 2026 issue is  
Thursday 9th April**

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.



My parents ate to live. No extravagant dinner parties for them; no experimenting with 'foreign' food, using new ingredients or eating out. Our mince went into the oven covered in plain water to stew, with no seasoning and not even a dumpling in sight; our concept of dining was strictly utilitarian. When I asked my dad, 'dad, what's pumpkin like?' the reply was 'horrible'; I should have asked, 'have you ever tried it?' because the truth, of course, was that he never had and never would. It wasn't until 6th form French A-level that my horizons widened. Our teachers encouraged some of us to join a spoken French group at the (then) Sunderland Polytechnic, and suddenly we were propelled into a world that held French cheese and wines, and occasional forays to the French Blackboard restaurant in Cleadon. But I finally learned the real power of food on an exchange visit to Nantes, France.

My host family grew their own vegetables, had their own vines, made rough red wine and breathtakingly alcoholic apple brandy. With them I tasted oysters, raw and briny and fresh from the sea; I was introduced to Brie and Camembert and Pont l'Eveque and Roquefort. I ate filet mignon, rare, and shopped with my friend Caroline for the family's pain quotidien. At the weekend we drove out into the Loire valley, visited famous chateaux and feasted on duck rillettes and coq au vin and quenelles de brochet, sauce Nantaise. I came back to Hetton-le-Hole firmly convinced that we should all live to eat. The golden thread of the Gospel according to St John is, I think, living to eat. Significant points in Jesus' ministry centre around food and drink- the wedding at Cana, when Jesus turns water into the best wine, comes at the start of the journey. Jesus offers living water to everyone at Jacob's well, breaks bread with the multitude as he teaches, and then tells the crowds that he is the living bread. On the night before his betrayal, trial and death he breaks bread with his friends, all the while treating them to some of the most memorable parts of what is now known as the 'farewell discourses'; 'you did not choose me, but I chose you...' 'abide in me...' 'greater love has no-one than this, that they lay down their life for their friends...' 'in my Father's house are many dwelling places...I go to prepare a place for you...' 'do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid. Believe in God; believe also in me...' And of course the Gospel is bookended by one of my favourite images, the picture of God in Christ Jesus cooking a barbecue on the beach for those he loves. AMAZING.

Jesus very consciously uses food and drink throughout his ministry, in parables and in storytelling but perhaps more crucially in using the rituals and customs surrounding sharing food to foster community. Jesus knows that those who break bread together are more likely to come to an understanding of one another's viewpoint, even if there is continuing disagreement- and he knows that love shared in the preparation and cooking makes food taste better and life all the sweeter. No wonder that he leaves us the Eucharist, and the startling notion that he, himself, is food for the starving and drink for the thirsty. No wonder that those of us who enjoy exploring culture through food, who relish sitting at table with people who are very different from us and finding points of contact, who live to eat, are drawn to such a practical demonstration of God's abundant love for us. No wonder that, on Easter day, as we share in the Eucharist, we understand that, living to eat, we are also eating to live.

The discovery that I made in France- that food is exciting, fun, and the catalyst for connection- irrevocably changed my life. It propelled me into encounters with Japanese hospitality over raw fish and sake, into flatbreads and bedouin tea brewed with evaporated milk in the shade of a desert wadi, to serving home-made soup in a foodbank in Easington Lane. In each moment I met Jesus, in whom all hungers are satisfied, and in each moment I experienced the joy of resurrection and renewal. Former Archbishop Rowan Williams memorably writes; 'the believer's life is a testimony to the risen-ness of Jesus: he or she demonstrates that Jesus is not dead by living a life in which Jesus is the never-failing source of affirmation, challenge, enrichment and enlargement—a pattern, a dance, intelligible as a pattern only when its pivot and heart become manifest. The believer shows Jesus as the centre of his or her life.' Your Easter feast may be roast lamb or a humble chicken, Greek Easter biscuits or Italian panettone; your dessert may be an Eastern European Paska cheesecake or a Polish babka. However you are celebrating, may the living bread be at the centre of your life, and may you truly know the joy of living to eat.

Easter blessings!

*Lesley*

# NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

## Mothers Union Lanchester



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th of April in the Chapter House at 2:00 PM. We have Mr Jeffrey Hewitt speaking on "Unexplained encounters - (people I have met in church)". I am sure this will be most enjoyable judging by the title! We will be very happy for anyone to come and join us and enjoy a cup of tea and biscuits afterwards.

**Margaret Brown (Branch Leader)**

## Mothers Union St John's



Our next meeting will be on Monday, 13 April at 2.00pm. This is due to our regular April meeting date falling on Monday of Easter week, and a bank holiday. At the meeting on the 13th, we will have one of our intrepid Churchwardens, Rob Matthews, as our guest speaker. Rob's talk will be 'A year in the life of Durham Cathedral Works Department'. So, if you have ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes and some of the hidden secrets of our magnificent Cathedral come along. We welcome visitors at any of our meetings to share friendship, social time and a cup of tea.

**Pauline Hall (Secretary)**

## Church Wives

We have three meetings in April. Our first is on Maundy Thursday on 2nd April. We will attend at the church service in the evening and after the service we will have tea and biscuits courtesy of Ann Stephenson. On the 9th April, we welcome Dave Griffiths talking about the artist Berthe Morisot. Later in April, on the 23rd, we have Janice Hutchinson showing how she paints with wool. Please do join our meetings if you are interested in either of these topics. We meet at 7pm in the Chapter House and you will be made very welcome.

**Deanna Leyland**

## A Prayer of Guigo the Angelic, a Carthusian monk and prior of the 12th century.

Lord, how much juice **you** can squeeze from a single grape,

How much water **you** can draw from a single well.

How great a fire **you** can kindle from a tiny spark.

How great a tree **you** can grow from a single seed.

**My** soul is so dry that by itself it cannot pray;

Yet **you** can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers.

**My** soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;

Yet **you** can draw from it boundless love for you and for my neighbour.

**My** soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy;

Yet **you** can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.

**My** soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;

Yet by **your** power my faith grows to a great height.

**Thank you** for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith;

Let me **always** be prayerful, loving, joyful, faithful.

**Amen.**

**Submitted by Margaret Walters**

## Role of Churchwarden Part 2

Last month I wrote about the role and responsibilities of our churchwardens looking after the 'fabric' of both St John's and All Saints. Eric Gaskill, Rob Matthews, Doreen Park and I make up this small and intrepid team.

The role and responsibilities of a Churchwarden are many and varied. I am one of the younger ones, by that I mean I have only been a churchwarden for 5 years. In that time, I have learned several important points about the role: not only the best way to unblock a toilet, and humanly catch mice but also how to dismantle and reconnect a plug. I did not, however, appreciate the number of meetings that go with a churchwarden's role. These include PCC, Standing Committee, Churches Together meetings, "Open The Book" meetings, meetings to prepare for meetings, meetings to reflect on meetings, meetings to discuss whether we should have a meeting, not forgetting zoom meetings! I live in my diary which rules over my family. They tell me this when I occasionally come home.



Church wardens may not always be loved by our parish, but the Diocese loves us. Diocesan officers contact us daily with invitations to come to see them at Cuthbert house, (not for tea and cake but to attend endless training days and complete forms). Necessary training for churchwarden includes:

- safeguarding at all levels.
- understanding the roles and duties of churchwardens.
- how to complete faculties (forms to gain permission to do work in a church).
- how not to complete faculties.
- what happens if you don't have a faculty in the workers started.
- keeping your church safe.
- keeping your church well maintained.

All these pieces of work require endless form filling. God loves us but even he would be astounded at the level of form filling required in the office

However, alongside all this our church requires people in the engine room. Churches do not function on prayer alone. They are held aloft by people willing to obtain quotes, argue with builders, sit through meetings

## **Role of Churchwarden Part 2 (Continued)**

and training days, complete forms; so that others are able to worship freely and safely in church, to serve and belong.

So as Rob, Eric, Doreen and I go about with our keys, our files, diaries and at times our stubborn persistence to have things done right, something important is being held together for the good of the community.

By the way, we will be holding a **St John's Churchyard Spring tidy on Saturday, 25 April at 10.00** everyone is welcome to come and help for however long they can spare. Speak to any of the churchwardens and let us know, (so we can mark you down on the form), if you would like to help or just turn up. We will be having a meeting about it soon!

## **Pauline Hall - Churchwarden**

### **From the Churchwardens**

The Wardens as ever continue to assist Lesley in her ministry between the two churches and beyond.

Now Easter is fast approaching, we are preparing to assist in all the services and Easter events. This entails ensuring that all requirements for the different events are to hand.

Recent problems with the boiler ignition at All Saints have been rectified by the Heating Engineer and we trust we have no need of him again until the Annual Service in July.

Sadly, All Saints continues to remain closed during the day because of ongoing concerns. A decision by PCC to reopen may be approved possibly at the next meeting.

A meeting took place recently, at All Saints', with Michael Howard Diocesan Surveyor. This was looking at how churches can move towards meeting a Net Zero carbon target in the future. We discussed the possibilities available to us when the time comes to replace our boiler; (not imminent). We have several alternatives to consider, and a small committee continues to monitor the situation and investigate our best options.

At St John's we continue to seek prices for various building works but are finding it frustratingly difficult to find contractors, who will a) come ; then b) quote!

## **Rob Matthews for the Churchwardens**



# LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



February has been a wonderfully spiritual month for the children in our school. On Tuesday 10th February, we held our first Eucharist service in school – the first in over 8 years! This was such a special, joyous and spiritual service. All children in Years 5 & 6 have received preparation about the Eucharist from Revd Lesley over the last few months. Obviously parental permission was requested for children to receive communion. With a large number of 59 children expressing a wish to partake, we really were quite overwhelmed. It was a very special event. Those who did not wish to receive communion had the opportunity to have a blessing from Revd Lesley. Our worship leaders were all asked to help give the wine to the children as well as staff and parents who also attended. It was a very reflective and spiritual service, and the children were highly respectful of the occasion. It may be our first for a while, but it most certainly won't be our last!

Then, on Ash Wednesday, Revd Lesley joined us for an Ashing Service. This was for all children from Year 1 to Year 6 and again it was a very special occasion. Our Worship Leaders, helped to 'ash' all the children and adults and once more, it took place with a great sense of spirituality.

We are so fortunate to have Revd Lesley who is so committed to leading Worship in our school and developing spirituality for both the pupils and adults. We are now looking forward to our Easter services which will be held both in All Saints' Church for our older pupils and in school for our younger pupils.

*Jane Davis* (Head Teacher)

**Lanchester EP Primary School.**

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## Parish Register - Lanchester & St John's

### **Baptisms;**

Rosie Helen Xhaferi      22/3/26 at All Saints

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

### **Funerals;**

Jean Hunter                      16/3/26 at All Saints

*"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 HOLY WEEK AND APRIL

### 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

## Introducing the new Bishop of Durham



Downing Street has announced that His Majesty the King has approved the appointment of the Venerable Rick Simpson, currently Archdeacon of Auckland, as the next Bishop of Durham.

Rick will succeed the Right Reverend Paul Butler who retired from the role in February 2024. Reacting to his appointment, Archdeacon Rick said: "I am humbled and delighted to have been called to be the Bishop of this diocese, which I love.

My deepest hope is to be able to walk alongside and encourage our local Christian communities as they seek to both show God's love in action and help people to come to life-changing faith in Christ – and through this see our churches grow. It is also an honour to be tasked with representing the needs and voices of people in this region in the national church and the House of Lords."

Acting Bishop of Durham, the Right Reverend Sarah Clark said: "I rejoice in the Venerable Rick Simpson's nomination as the next Bishop of Durham. God's clear call of Rick, confirmed by the Durham Crown Nomination Commission, places a person who already loves the people, parishes and communities of Durham Diocese and the North East at the heart of this hopeful new season. The voice he will bring to the wider church and national roles will be shaped by his long experience of the challenges and joys of life and faith in this land of Cuthbert, Bede and Hild."

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell comments; "Archdeacon Rick has served the Diocese of Durham with dedication over many years. He has a wealth of experience in supporting and enabling parish ministry. His deep local knowledge of the Diocese will be an asset in his new role as Bishop of Durham. Please join me in praying for Rick and for the Diocese as he begins a new chapter of ministry, inspiring all to grow in mission, leadership, church life, and in engaging younger generations."

The Dean of Durham, Dr Philip Plyming, said: "I am delighted that Rick has been called to be the next Bishop of Durham. He is well known and widely respected across the Diocese and his blend of missional energy and wise leadership, both rooted in a deep sense of trust in God, are what we have been praying for in our next Bishop. At the Cathedral we look forward very much to working with him and seeing God continuing to be at work in this generation."

Rick has served in the Diocese of Durham since 2006 when he came to be Priest in Charge of St Brandon's, Brancepeth, helping the church to thrive and develop its mission and was the Initial Ministerial Education (IME, Phase 2) Officer for both Newcastle and Durham, supporting curates and training incumbents. He became Archdeacon of Auckland in February 2018. He served previously in the Diocese of Newcastle where, as Vicar of Holy Trinity Jesmond, he saw the church grow strongly in number and discipleship over ten years.

Rick enjoys the outdoors, especially wildlife photography, playing the guitar, sport, films and novels. He is married to Rachel, and they have ten godchildren and one cat. He will be consecrated Bishop in the summer, until which time the Right Reverend Bishop Frank Wright will stand in as Acting Bishop of Durham.

## **The Crusades (continued from March)**

Let us look at the two of the best-known Religious orders of the Crusades.

### **The Knights Templars**



The Knights Templars were formed in 1119 by a group of nine French Knights led by Hugues de Payens, (the first Grand Master). Their flag has the symbol of a red cross on a white background. They wanted to safeguard and protect Pilgrims making their way through the Holy Land and the city of Jerusalem. Their home was at Temple Mount, Jerusalem, (believed to be King Solomon's Temple). This gave the order its title of 'Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon'. This title highlighted their roles in both military and religious duty.

Due to excelling in both wielding of sword and fulfilling their obligations with unwavering devotion, the Templars rise to prominence was swift. In 1129, the Pope Innocent II, gave official recognition to the Templars, moving from mere protectors on horseback, to an organised force endorsed by the Church, which changed their course in history. The Templars, managed donations and other riches by introducing a type of banking system for pilgrims. They bought and built-up estates throughout Europe and the Middle East, building a substantial fortune. The Templars became both respected and dreaded through their pivotal roles in battles which influenced the political arena of that time.

Their downfall began in 1307. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, (some associate this to the origins of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> as an unlucky day), when King Philip IV of France (heavily in debt to the Templars, and looking to seize their financial assets, property and their power) ordered the arrests of numerous Knights Templars. These accusations included: greed, heresy, sodomy and blasphemy, among others. Trials were held, with confessions often obtained by interrogation, (torture). The arrests and trials continued until 1312, when finally, Pope Clement V dissolved the Order.

The legacy of the Knights Templar can still be found today. In London, the Templars land became known as Temple, which led to the 'Temple Bar', the 'Temple Church' (which was built to represent the Church of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem) and 'Temple Underground' station. Lawyers rented ground so two of the four Inns of Court are called the 'Inner Temple' and 'Middle Temple'. They are still elements of the Templars around the world, for instance, in England there is, the Order of Knights Templar of England and Wales which focus on charity, faith and Templar traditions, and the Freemasons have a 'Templar Degree'.

## The Knights Hospitallers



The Hospitallers started in 1080. Their flag has a white eight-pointed Cross on a black background. They founded a hospital, dedicated to John the Baptist, under the guidance of the Benedictine Brother Gerard, (the blessed Gerado Sasso). They were helped by donations from Merchants from Amalfi (Italy), to care for Pilgrims who became ill on their travels to the Holy land. This created a new Religious Order recognised by the Church in 1113, known as the "Hospitallers". They cared for anyone, without distinction of race or faith.

After the Crusaders captured Jerusalem, the Hospitallers took on a more military role, becoming known as the "Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem" or the "Knights Hospitallers". The Order left Palestine when the Muslim Forces recaptured it, moving briefly to Cyprus, and then in 1309, to Rhodes. The Order remained in Rhodes until 1522, when the Turkish Sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, conquered the Island. The Order then moved to Malta. After a famous siege by Suleiman in 1565, (which both the Knights Hospitallers and the People of Malta survived); a new capital city was built called Valletta.



The Order had by this time, ships, which protected the Christian ships from the pirates which patrolled the Mediterranean. They remained on Malta until 1798 when Napoleon took the island. The Knights Hospitallers were then scattered over Europe, with the largest community being in St Petersburg.

Today the Knights Hospitallers have been overtaken by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, based in Rome and recognised for their continual work in hospitals, medical centres, first aid corps, daycare centres and specialist foundations. In England, the Knights Hospitallers' Crusader Surcoat of a White eight-pointed Maltese Cross on a black background, can be seen on the side of the St John's Ambulance Brigade, reflecting their link with the Knights Hospitallers through the Most Venerable Order of Saint John, the British order of the Sovereign Military of Malta.

**Richard Hall**

## **Mothers Union All Saints Parish Church Lanchester**



As a Christian Mission charity, we seek to support our families in whatever way we can. Our branch has 26 members, and we have well attended meetings, and are an active group. At our monthly meeting we have interesting and varied speakers.

We support Lanchester parish Church's our own church's activities in regular and one-off events. We frequently support Sunday School and Messy Church for example. One off events (which may be annual) including Coffee Mornings, Social Evenings and Soup Lunches. We support local projects such as the Consett Food bank, Derwentside Women's Refuge, Baptism Teddy Bears (where appropriate), Emergency Toilet bags for hospitals along with cot blankets and baby bonnets.

We put our craft skills to good use: - we supplied 170 Christingle decorated oranges last December and for Remembrance Sunday, (again last year) we knitted 200 poppies including a wreath and decorated our wonderful church with them. A wreath is laid every year at the Village War Memorial on behalf of the Mothers Union. We are helped a great deal on all these projects by non-Mothers' Union members within our own church.

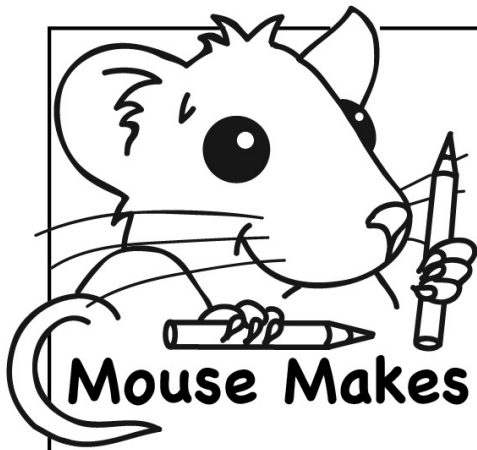
Mothers' Union nationwide has its own charity work which includes over-seas work called AFIA ("Away From It All"). As a branch we gave them a donation of £300 towards helping to send a small family for a break in holiday time. Many years ago, we also supported a schoolgirl in Africa (Harriet) through her school days until she graduated from university, which enabled her to join the staff in the bishop's office.

We also participate in various Deanery and Diocesan events including the yearly Festival Service in Durham Cathedral. This year we are celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union in the Durham Diocese. We celebrated our own branch centenary in 2007. We also supported and attended special M. U. events such as Lady Day, Quiet Afternoon, Social Afternoon and an Autumn Deanery Day.

One of our projects this year is to support the Mission to Seafarers providing them with scarves, hats, fingerless mittens, socks, chocolate and soap bars. We shall do our very best to support this initiative.

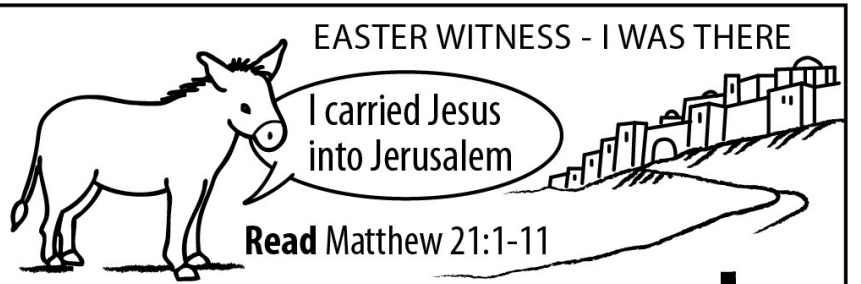
We meet on the Second Tuesday of each month (except August) in the Chapter House at 2pm, and anyone wishing to join us would be made most welcome.

**Margaret Brown Branch Leader**



G O O D N E W S  
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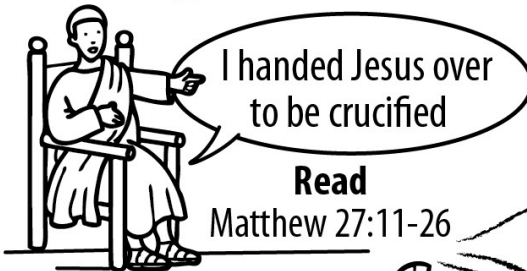
JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
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 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE

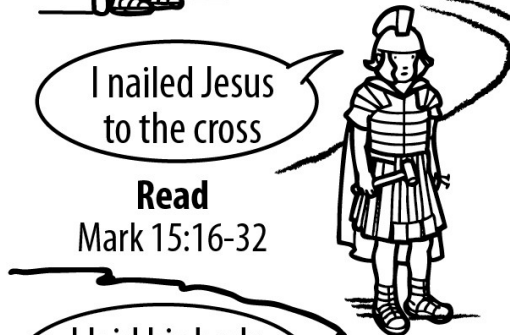
I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



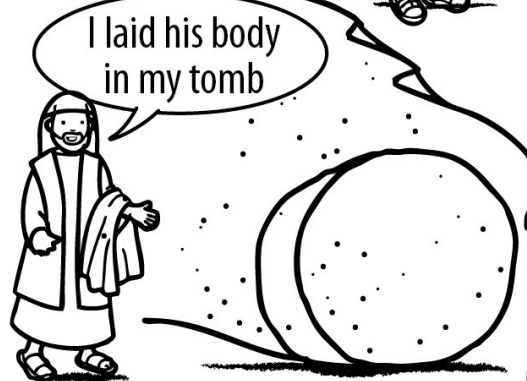
I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41



I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

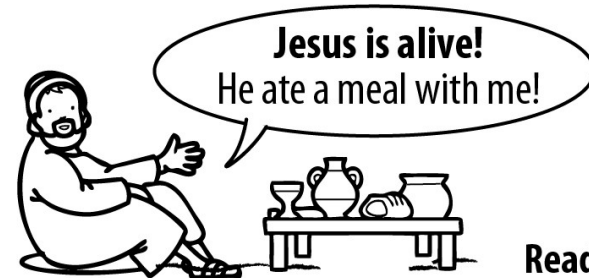
Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

and spoke to the angel

Read Matthew 28:1-10



Jesus is alive!  
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

## **Messy Mothers' Day!**

Our theme for Messy Church until Easter is family- so it was wonderful to hold a very special Messy gathering on Mothering Sunday. We thought about the role that Mary played in the miracle at the wedding at Cana, and then we made lots of gifts for those who love us - posies, vases and mugs, decorated biscuits and cards. We had a fabulous time as you can see from our pictures, and ate hotdogs and cake together. Our next Messy is after Easter- we'd love to see you there!

**'Come on April 19th to our next Messy Church'**



## **Ladybirds Hibernating in St John's Tower**



Picture by Derek Coates



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**Pity Me:** Front Street Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5DQ

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