

May 2026

'SPECIAL BURNHOPE FOCUS'

*Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.*

Psalm 25: 4



'Subscription £8.00 - Single Issue 85p'

The Parish Magazine

All Saints' Lanchester and St John's Burnhope

Parish of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

Priest in Charge – The Revd Lesley Sutherland

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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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Caroline Roxburgh

Safeguarding Statement;

The Parish of Lanchester and Burnhope is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and nurturing environment for everyone, especially for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It has adopted and approved the Church of England policy for promoting a safer church.

This policy deals with all aspects of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

As we are currently recruiting a Parish Safeguarding officer and Safeguarding Team Members, to discuss any safeguarding concerns relating to All Saints Lanchester or St John's Burnhope, in the first instance please contact:-

The Parish Priest, Rev'd Lesley Sutherland, 01207529166, reverendsutherland@gmail.com

Concerns can also be raised with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer,

Mrs Beth Miller – she can be contacted as follows:

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1926.

The 'Roaring Twenties,' that hedonistic reaction to the ending of the 'War to end all Wars' and the pandemic that followed; but the country is already teetering on the cusp of the great Depression. Interest rates are high, UK exports expensive, coal reserves have been depleted during the War and Britain imports more coal now than it mines. All this and the lack of investment in the new mass-production techniques in industry leads to a period of depression, deflation and decline in the UK's economy. Poverty amongst the unemployed contrasts strikingly with the affluence of the middle and upper classes, and unemployment in the northeast climbs towards 70%.

Civil war erupts in Ireland. The UK government, riven by internal argument, crumbles and falls. The BBC begins to broadcast. TS Eliot writes 'The Waste Land.'

Burnhope, 1926

The golden days of Hedley and Ritson, the reading room and the polo pitch, the park and the lake, the shops and picture houses, are passing; the grandiose war memorial is being built. This year there will be a general strike, and Burnhope will forge its unique place in history by offering to host the Durham Miners' Gala, the only occasion that the gala has ever taken place outside the city.

Christianity is revolutionary. The events of Easter, the crucifixion and resurrection and ascension of Christ begin a new age, an age in which the old certainties of power and wealth are overturned in favour of the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and mercy in which no-one is left on the margins and everyone is valued. In the Kingdom of God a pregnant teenager finds a voice to sing of God's abundant provision for all; in the Kingdom of God the poorest widow can give hospitality and hope to a harassed and hungry prophet; in the Kingdom of God, women are the first to give the good news of the resurrection; in the Kingdom of God new communities are formed, possessions held in common, and ordinary people help each other through the tough times.

A century has passed. We are vicariously – and practically- at war; like our grandparents and great grandparents we have lived through a pandemic; and, like them too, we are experiencing a cost of living crisis. The mines have gone; polo is no longer played in Burnhope. The shops have closed, and the cinemas, and sadly the chapel behind the war memorial. Some say that the church is dying, that Christianity is no longer relevant, that we must all look out for ourselves in a society that encourages individuality above all.

But Burnhope is the village that refused to die, a place that still knows the meaning of community; and Christians know that the events of Holy Week are all about calling us into a new community. It is entirely fitting that the church is deeply involved in commemorating the events of 1926, when the village welcomed over 40,000 people to gather in solidarity and look to the future in hope. On Friday 15th May we will be parading from school to church, with the banners being blessed by the Dean of Durham Cathedral, Rev'd Dr Philip Plyming. On Sunday 17th May the Acting Bishop of Durham, the Rt Reverend Frank White, will preach and preside for us in a service of thanksgiving for the life of Burnhope, and for the hope that lies ahead for us. You are all welcome to come to our services and to be part of what promises to be a historic occasion.

And as we share in Burnhope's celebration of long faithful service, let us pledge ourselves afresh to the vision; of a world in which everyone prospers, communities thrive and we all know what it means to love and be loved.

Easter blessings!

Lesley

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers Union Lanchester



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th May at 2pm in the Chapter House.

Our speaker will be Mr Paul Jackson, from Willowburn, a place very close to all of us.

Visitors are welcome to join us for the talk and tea and biscuits afterwards.

Margaret Brown (Branch Leader)

Mothers Union St John's



St John's MU will meet on Monday, 4 May at 2.00pm.

Our small branch revolves around community outreach and spiritual growth. We help families in practical ways, such as providing UHND with hospital bags, for new patients and for new mothers, who may not be prepared for a hospital stay. We also provide Treetops Ward with activities for their young patients. If you think you can donate either for a hospital bag or for Treetops we will be very grateful.

Pauline Hall (Branch Secretary)

Church Wives

Here we are into May already and the nights are lighter for our meetings. Our first speaker is on 14th May when we welcome Marc Jackson talking about the Salvation Army. I'm sure we are all looking forward to hearing about all the good work that they do. Our second meeting is on 28th May when our very own Doreen Park from St John's, Burnhope, will tell us about when she collected her Maundy Money from King Charles. It's always good to hear firsthand what this entails. If anyone wishes to join us for any meetings then please come along to the Chapter House for 7pm and you will be made most welcome.

Deanna Leyland

From The Wardens

The Wardens as ever continue to support Lesley in her Ministry between the two Churches and beyond.

We have now passed Easter and are pleased to report all the services and preparations for them were successful and well received.

Sadly, because of ongoing problems outside church of which the Police and Council are aware of, we are still unable to have the Church open as we would like but are working with those services to restore an open Church for the benefit of our congregation and the local Community.

We are considering changing our external lights by the addition of PIRs which will operate when activated by passers-by, which will benefit normal foot traffic but illuminate other users of the path who are not so innocent. We have asked the electrician to quote for the work and await a decision from PCC.

At St Johns we are continuing to maintain the fabric as best we can until we have the go ahead to move on to the next phase of the repairs. Similarly in the churchyard after the spring tidy, we will continue monitoring the ivy growth with again, hopefully, the community pay back scheme returning during the summer

Rob Matthews for the Churchwardens

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

EXTRA SERVICES

If there is no Deanery Ascension service,
there will be a **Eucharist of the Ascension at All Saints, 14th May at 7pm**

Burnhope Gala:

Blessing of the Banners with Rev'd Doctor Philip Plyming, Dean of Durham;
Banners parade from school to church for a service to begin at 10.30am on 15th May.
All welcome.

Service of Thanksgiving for Burnhope

Acting Bishop of Durham Rt Rev'd Frank White to preside and preach,
17th May at 3pm
All welcome!

All Saints

Thy Kingdom Come! Prayer and Praise, 19th May at 7pm
Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 20th May at 6.30pm for Communion
Meeting starts at 7pm



LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



It has been wonderful to be able to celebrate Easter both in All Saints' Church for our older children and in school for our younger ones. This was the first time that we could not invite parents and carers to church for our special Easter service. This was simply due to numbers, but we will look to change this for next year as it was just not the same at all. Our Year 5 children led the service with the Lenten Cross, re-telling the events of Easter Week with symbols placed on the cross. This was triumphantly changed to a wonderful symbol of new life, adorned with daffodils as the events of Easter Sunday were shared. It is always a very symbolic and uplifting service, and this was no different. The singing of the children was particularly powerful and enjoyed by all.

Meanwhile, our youngest children had their special Easter service with Reverend Aileen Innes leading it in school. Again, they enjoyed the symbolism of a much smaller cross and singing with great gusto!

March has been quite a significant month for world events and one which has brought great worries for many. The conflict in the Middle East has impacted so many people and our hearts go out to those in countries who are facing such suffering. Some of our families have relatives in Iran and are obviously so concerned about their safety. We can all just hope and pray that there is a peaceful end to the war for all involved.

I certainly felt the warmth and love of the Lanchester community when my family and I were stuck in Dubai at the beginning of the month. Thankfully, the children and other staff from school were not due to fly until the Monday after the conflict started. For the last few years, we have always flown on the Friday of the half-term week, and I will be forever thankful we changed it to the following week. However disappointing it was for the children not to go on their great adventure, I was so thankful they did not have to experience the explosions, emergency alerts, uncertainty and worry of what was happening.

However, what helped me remain so positive during our 10 days of being stuck out there, was the love and messages of support and encouragement I had from so many of the Lanchester community. I will be forever grateful to you all. We were the lucky ones being able to come home – our thoughts and prayers remain with those in the Middle East for whom home is currently a battleground.

Jane Davis (Head Teacher)

Lanchester EP Primary School.

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

Contributions to the Church Magazine are always welcome.

The copy deadline for the June 2026 issue is

Thursday 14th May

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.

BURNHOPE CELEBRATES GALA CENTENARY



100 years ago, during the General Strike, Durham Miners' Gala was cancelled. Burnhope miners were militant and hastily decided to hold the annual gala within their own little upland village.

According to newspaper articles at the time and the mine manager's journal, between 35,000 and 40,000 men, women and children descended on the village, carrying their lodge banners and accompanied by colliery bands. They marched in from as far afield as Chopwell, Easington and Silkworth, having walked all the way as there was no public transport.

The miners' union leader, A J Cook, was smuggled in on a farmer's cart, and gave a rousing speech to the assembly, uttering the famous words, "Not an hour on the day, not a penny off the pay."

This event has become known locally as The Forgotten Gala, as documents simply state that the Durham Miners' Gala was not held in 1926! In the history of this prestigious gala, it is the only time that it has been held outside the city.

To celebrate the centenary, Burnhope is hosting a weekend packed with festivities on Friday 15, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17th May, with something for everyone.

Starting on Friday morning with the children parading from school to St. John's Church, with their banners, alongside Burnhope Miners' Banner and the newly commissioned Parish Banner (proudly hand made by Burnhope Crafting Companions), accompanied by a small band. The banners will be blessed in the church by the Dean of Durham Cathedral. Burnhope school families will return to school for their annual Heritage Week picnic.

On Saturday morning Miners' banners from other villages, and bands will parade from the Wheel crossroads through the village, ending at the cricket field, they will be preceded by a Staglyn truck, vintage motorbikes and tractors.

The cricket field will be the show ground where there will be speeches, live music, a funfair, stalls, food vans, games etc and the cricket club bar will be open throughout.

In the evening the Garage Bar and Grille will be hosting a nostalgic event celebrating 100 years of music and dance. Period costumes are encouraged. The finale, on Sunday afternoon, will be a Service of Thanksgiving in St John's Church.

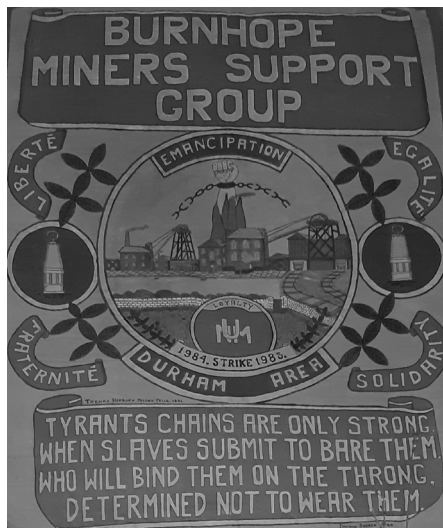
In the Community Centre there will be a complimentary afternoon tea for senior Burnhope residents (booking essential.)

The children at our local school will be studying the history of Burnhope in their Heritage week before closing for the May half term holiday.

Burnhope's new Heritage Trails will officially be opened on the anniversary of the Forgotten Gala in July. Look out for further information.

Cindy Brockington

St John's Burnhope



St John's was built in 1865 from contributions made by the miners of the Fortune Pit, one of many mines located in Burnhope, of which my great grandfather, grandfather and father were one of those miners, along with many other families in the village. The wheel at the top of Burnhope, a commemorative pit wheel honouring the area's deep mining history, and St John's situated at the bottom are like mining history bookends. So as a Church with a long mining history, we are looking forward to being part of the miner's centenary gala. On Friday, 15 May we are parading from the school to Church, where the banners are to be blessed by the Dean of the Cathedral. Then, on Sunday, 17 May, we have a thanksgiving service in Church led by the Acting Bishop of Durham, Rt Rev Frank White.

St John's has always been part of the diverse community of Burnhope. An anchor at times in a sea of turbulence;

when the village was beset with poverty, ill-health, families whose children went to the colliery school with no shoes having failed to reach means tested criteria for free shoes and, the aftermath of 2 world wars, when the village was left to die when the last colliery closed in 1949 and a category D notice was applied to the village.

Today St John's is still playing an active part in the life of the village. Not just the spiritual side of service, baptisms, weddings, funerals and a warm welcome given to anyone who visits St John's, but an active part in the heart of the community. The lunchtime social was set up on the back of the 2022 'warm spaces' programme. We get together in the Community Centre every Wednesday (apart from the 1st Wednesday in the month), at 12.30pm for a free 2 course lunch with tea and coffee, social time to meet friends, make friends and do some shopping in the pantry, where there is always an abundance of lovely vegetables, cake, tinned food and everything else you need. We love our old faces, but it would be lovely to see some new faces.

St John's also takes an active part in the life of the school. During Easter the church and school came together with parents in St John's for a school led service. The children read the Easter story; the school choir led the hymns and at the end of the service the children came up to the altar where the wooden cross was laid and thatched it with daffodils. We are continuing the story telling in school led by Rev Lesley; a fun time where the children interact with a different bible story by dressing up as the characters and acting out the part, being part of the background and the sound effects.

St John's enjoys running the holiday clubs at the community centre during school holidays. Through crafts, food, stories and music we have been to the circus, around the world, the winter Olympics and many other adventures.

The branch of St John's Mothers' Union meets on the first Monday of the month and plays an active role in the village. This year we will be holding our Strawberry Supper with bingo and raffle, pie and pea supper and Christmas Fair, and a host of other fundraising ideas for St John's. On that note I would, on behalf of the Churchwardens at St John's like to thank the generosity of the people of Burnhope for all their kind donations towards the desperately needed repairs to our lovely little Church. As the cost of living rises as does the cost of building materials; it seems like a never ending process. However, we have had the Chancel step replaced and are awaiting the go-ahead for the second phase of the work.



A Little Country Church by Drybones

There is a little country church on a hill outside of town,
The paint is cracked and peeling, and the ceiling's sagging down,
It's not a grand cathedral, but God's spirit dwells within,
And it offers a sweet refuge, from the outside world of sin.

There is no fancy stained-glass windows, or gold upon the door,
The pews are scarred and battered and there's scuff marks on the floor.
But there's no place this side of heaven, where you know I'd rather be,
Than that little country church, where God's spirit speaks to me.

Pauline Hall

Explore?

One of the wonderful things about our community at St John's is that we're open to trying new things, both in mission and in our regular services. Our Café Church, well-established now, takes place in the Community Centre on the second Tuesday of every month, and is a lovely space in which we enjoy fellowship, eat together, and play with worship.

Explore! - our new service on the fourth Sunday of the month, has evolved from some impromptu bible study in the sermon slot, into a non-Eucharistic service that allows us to sing, share our prayers, read the bible together and ask some fascinating questions. We've thought about the significance of names in the Old Testament, dug deeper into some texts of terror from the prophets, and asked how we should read the Book of Genesis in the light of science. It's a wonderful time when we can stretch our theological muscles together!

And the good news is that it's not just for St John's! It would be wonderful to see some Lanchester faces with us at both Café Church, and Explore...

Lesley

Burnhope Garden Party.

Advanced Notice for 27 June 10am to 4pm Yonside, Holmside Lane.

Plant sale, Tea, Coffee and Cakes.

Donations of any raffle prizes or plants for sale, would be gratefully received.

All proceeds split equally between Willow Burn Hospice and St John's Church.

Under the Carpet

As you walk from the Chancel, by the choir stalls within church to the Chapter house there is a gravestone set in the floor, which is now, almost illegible. I thought that it is a shame that it will soon be gone and I wondered how many more people are buried our church.

I started to research this using books by JW Fawcett and Canon Chase and I discovered that there are thirty recorded burials inside the Church. For this article I have focussed on the graves in the Chancel area. There are eight graves under the carpet.

Enough of the preliminaries let's roll back the carpet. The earliest of those buried is a simple brass plaque to Dean Rudd who died in 1490. He is remembered because of his involvement with a little service book known to us as the Esh Missal. This 15th century service book is a beautiful manuscript copy which Rev Rudd sent to Esh Laude, not far from Lanchester and has survived all the changes in religious upheaval over the centuries. It is now in the archives at Durham University but was in Ushaw College library for a long time. Lanchester Parish Church was fortunate enough to borrow it for a short time and it was displayed as the centrepiece in a flower festival some 500 years after it left us .

The next grave is that of George Baker the son of Sir George Baker a royalist who distinguished himself at the siege of Newcastle but was subsequently punished by the Puritan government and died in obscurity. The family lived at Crook Hall (the one near Consett not the one in Durham). The hall was demolished in 1900 but had been the home of the Catholic students at the English College of Douai France when they were expelled from France in 1795 after the revolution. The college moved to a new location at Ushaw College. This is another connection we have with the Catholic college on the hill.

Around and under the chest in the chancel are three gravestones all belonging to the same family. The Whittingham family, (no not the ones with the cat), arrived in Lanchester, at Holmside in 1613. Timothy Whittingham was the son of the Dean of Durham and a staunch Puritan. Canon Chase states that this family took a leading place in the parish for the next sixty years and their influence can be seen in the selection of Churchwardens and members of the Four and Twenty (a body of Church elders) as the puritan order took over

Confusingly there is another grave for a William Widdrington. There is no record of his burial and it is speculated that he was the same William who was baptised at Lanchester in 1671 and related to Widdringtons of Cheeseburn, Northumberland.

Probably the most visible gravestone in the Chancel is that of Samuel Sanderson of Hedleyhope with a coat of arms and a crest belonging to Samuel's family. His father was Henry the constable of Brancepeth Castle and his father-in-law was the keeper of Brancepeth Castle for King James 1. His wife Barbara was daughter of Thomas Liddell of Ravensworth Castle.

Finally, we are back to where this started to the well-worn grave at the door of the Vestry almost illegible now with the passage of time and feet. This belongs to Anthony Meaburn of Pontop a barrister and interestingly, he was excommunicated from the Church twice.

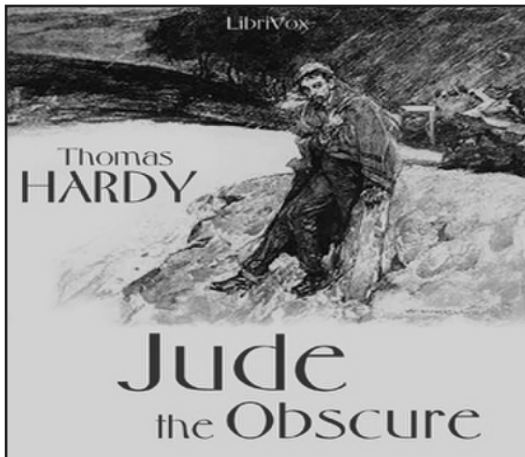
Firstly, for refusing to be Churchwarden at Tanfield after being appointed to that position. Secondly in 1675 for not attending church. It makes me wonder how he was buried among the great and good at Lanchester.

Well, that completes the graves in the Chancel perhaps you may think about them when you go for communion and a cup of tea in the Chapter house. If you would like to know what else is under the carpet let me know, the church holds many secrets.

Eric Gaskill



I Remember..... Durham Cathedral Unexpected Responsibilities.



When I applied for the post of Clerk of Works at Durham Cathedral the job description was to manage and run the Works Department. This involved carrying out maintenance works to the Cathedral Church, the Claustral Buildings and The College (the clergy houses, offices and the Chorister school in the Cathedral Close). These responsibilities I was ready for, otherwise I wouldn't have applied for the job.

Durham Cathedral is a World Heritage site and probably one of the most photographed buildings in England. It attracts interest for filmmakers, and production companies to make films, documentaries and live concerts. What I wasn't expecting and proved to be a

bonus, but challenging at times, was to be part of the team to manage the Film and production companies, to ensure that what they were wanting to do, we would allow them to do and that they carried out any intrusions to the fabric and space within their permitted brief.

In this short series I would like to share an insight into some of the productions in which I was privileged to be involved, even in a small way. Over the 18 years I was at Durham, the productions we had to keep tabs on included Jude the Obscure (Thomas Hardy)1996; Ivanhoe (TV mini-series)1997; Elizabeth 1998; Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone 2001; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets 2002; Sting- A Winters Night Concert 2009 and Inspector George Gently 2011. I was also involved in the planning (from a Cathedral perspective) of three Lumiere festivals up till my retirement in 2013.

I shall start with my first experience; Jude the Obscure (Thomas Hardy) starring Christopher Eccleston and Kate Winslet. This is a story about Jude played by Eccleston who aspires to be an academic but is hobbled by his blue-collar background and works as a stonemason trapped in an unloving marriage. The story is of his efforts to improve himself.

Durham was chosen mainly for exterior shots. Part of the site was turned into a mason's work yard (which it partially was anyway). There are some rather nice carved grotesques on the East elevation of the South Transept which they wanted to use in a shot. They wanted to erect a scaffold as used in the 19th century which was made with timber. I, as Cathedral safety officer, condemned it, as I was convinced it would not support the weight of the actors, stone, and cameras. As expected, the producer disagreed, but I brought our safety advisor across who ruled in my favour and I won that battle. Most of the "Masons" used as extras came from York Minster as they were used to carving fine stone capitals. One lad brought his own Corinthian capital college piece which disappeared after filming finished. (Years later I discovered it had been purloined by the then Cathedral Architect for his collection of garden stones).

Most of the problems I had to face came from Health and Safety issues. The Director came and asked if it was possible to take down the scaffolding which was in use on the Northeast Pinnacle; one of Durhams current projects. I wholeheartedly refused for many reasons including cost, safety and delays to my own projects. They came up with a suggestion that they would cover the entire scaffold with a white fabric and have 'Medieval' timbers protruding through disguising the modern scaffolding. I agreed, with the proviso that, as the shots would take only part of the day, the material had to be stripped down at the end of filming, to avoid any problems with the student population who regularly used our scaffold as a challenge.

I was still travelling to Durham from Cramlington at that time and, as always before starting my journey used to watch the Northeast News. I was flabbergasted to see shots on TV of the Northeast Pinnacle covered in flames. My mind was racing as I made my way in, I was relieved to see, as I passed up North Bailey, that no damage had transpired and the flames had gone. I was met by the Head Porter who told me before going to my office, I was required to see the Chapter Clerk at home. When I assured him of my instructions to the film company and the arrangements I had agreed, I was quite surprised that the filming was allowed to continue. The Chapter Clerk was definitely gunning for the producer when I left him. The students had been involved and set fire to the sheet which spread like wildfire but caused no damage. This was my first experience of working with film crews; I would be more wary next time.

Rob Matthews

THE MASTERSINGERS



Concert Season begins in May with a very special offering-a visit by the acclaimed ensemble, the Mastersingers.

The concert takes place on **9th May, beginning at 7pm.**

Entry is £10, and includes refreshments. Look out for more details!

Formed originally as an ensemble of male voices over 30 years ago under the direction of Alan Simmons, The Mastersingers has evolved into its present format of four female and eight male voices - a unique combination.

Over the years the group has provided backing for many popular artists and performed regularly on both TV and radio. They have recorded many albums, including at the legendary Abbey Road Studios, London and have performed in prestigious locations from cellar theatres and churches through to stage platforms and cathedrals, across the UK and Europe.

The Mastersingers has formed special relationships with composers over the years including the late Sir Malcolm Williamson, and count amongst their personnel several talented musicians, writing to showcase the versatility of the group and their supporting band of piano, bass and percussion.

The group's repertoire ranges from medieval French carols through to clever arrangements of folk and pop and they are never frightened to explore new works! Audiences are always delighted with the 'surprises' on offer!

To find out more about The Mastersingers, visit our website at;
www.mastersingers.co.uk



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since it began in May 2016, with invitations from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream with possibilities into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the days from Ascension to Pentecost in the hope and prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Every Christian across the globe is invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

This year's 'Thy Kingdom Come' is all about the presence of God through His spirit, the God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him.

Each year a number of resources are produced to inspire, support and prompt individual prayers, including a prayer journal and a Novena- which is a traditional form of petitionary prayer, repeated over nine days. This Year Archbishop Sarah has written the Novena. In her introduction, the Archbishop writes; 'Prayer shapes the pray-er. God reshapes us, as the potter reshapes clay, moulding us into a truer reflection of his image. 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand,' (Jeremiah 18:6).

And God wants to transform us into people who make the changes we want to see in the world.

Because, if we truly mean them, our prayers have to be accompanied by action, just as the Apostles burst into action after Pentecost, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

If we truly long for our Five to encounter God, why should it not be through us? With God's help, we hold the possibility of being the answer to our own prayer. It's as Teresa of Avila wrote:

'Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.'

We can be the hands of Christ to those who need them.'

This year we'll be participating in Thy Kingdom Come, with special services to mark its beginning and ending, and a gathering for prayer and praise on Tuesday 19th May at 7pm. We'll also have some of the resources available, so that you can use them throughout the eleven days until Pentecost. Let's pray that, together, we can become humbler, holier, and more fruitful, transformed into a people and a church fit to serve others- and to make new disciples!

Every blessing, *Lesley*

All Saints and St John's need a Safeguarding officer/members of our safeguarding team!

One of the most popular and easily understood descriptions of Jesus is as the good shepherd; committed to looking after the sheep, whatever the danger might be. And before Jesus talks of himself as the shepherd, he says; 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full...' At the centre of our faith is the belief that each of us is unique, special, beloved of God and therefore deserving of protection, safety and the space in which to thrive.

And that's why the role of Safeguarding Officer/Team member is vitally important.

After our last PSO Sue Smith stood down, having done a fantastic job, we've looked again at safeguarding and have begun to put together a safeguarding team. We are looking for team members and for one person to be the initial point of contact - someone who loves people, ideally has a background involving safeguarding, and who is eager to keep everyone safe so that we can all reach our potential and flourish together.

Read on - and if you think you fit the profile, please do contact me,

Rev'd Lesley Sutherland, *reverendsutherland@gmail.com*

for a first instance chat and an application form.

Safeguarding is the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture and is a shared responsibility across our church communities, Diocese and nationally. Safeguarding promotes the protection and consideration of the welfare of our vulnerable especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. Together we strive to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is the key link between the diocese and the parish concerning safeguarding matters. She/he will have an overview of all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults and will seek to ensure the implementation of safeguarding policy.

The role can be taken by one person or be shared; for example, one person might cover children and the other vulnerable adults.

The key tasks of the parish safeguarding officer are to:

1. Have an overview of all church activities involving children and vulnerable adults and keep a record of these activities.
2. Be familiar with diocesan safeguarding guidance and ensure that leaders of activities are fully aware of, and are implementing, this guidance.
- 3 Liaise with the incumbent over safeguarding issues.
4. Keep in touch with the leaders of all activities and offer them advice and support over safeguarding matters.
5. Liaise as necessary with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers. Report all concerns or allegations against church officers to the DSA.
6. Attend diocesan safeguarding training offered for PSOs.
7. Assist with safeguarding training in the parish as appropriate.
8. Attend a meeting of the church leadership team (PCC) at least annually to ensure safeguarding issues are discussed and that the church leadership adopt the annual Church Safeguarding Policy.
9. Ensure that the Church Safeguarding Policy and contact details are displayed in all Church premises.
10. Keep good records of any safeguarding concerns that may arise and ensure that others do the same.
11. Promote inclusivity in places of worship and within church activities.
12. Keep the church leadership informed of good safeguarding practice.
13. Undertake a regular parish safeguarding self-assessment in the format offered by the Diocese.

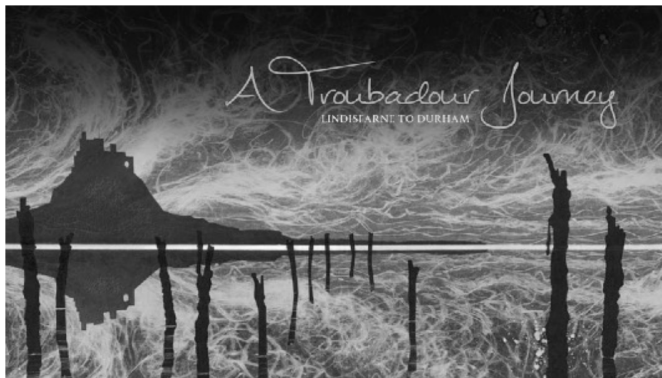
The Parish of Lanchester and Burnhope is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and nurturing environment for everyone, especially for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It has adopted and approved the Church of England policy for promoting a safer church. This policy deals with all aspects of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. A full text can be found here:

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/61d750a40a35a/content/pages/documents/diocese-safeguarding-policy-2025-final.pdf>

A TROUBADOUR JOURNEY : LINDISFARNE TO DURHAM

A Songwriter's Adventure Along the Pilgrimage Trails Of St Oswald's Way & The Way of Light

In June 2025 singer-songwriter Gareth Davies-Jones walked from the Holy Island of Lindisfarne to Durham Cathedral via St Oswald's Way and The Way of Light (Northern Saints Trail). Wending their way through a captivating landscape of coast, castles, valleys and mountains, these special routes transport the traveller through the ancient Kingdom of Northumbria, land of the Northern Saints and cradle of the industrial revolution. As Gareth walked he carried a small guitar on his back and performed concerts for local communities everywhere he stopped. The journey provided the inspiration and raw material for a new album of original songs written on retreat in the Cheviot Hills and back on Lindisfarne in the Autumn of 2025. The new album, recorded with producer and guitarist Graeme Duffin (WetWetWet!) in Glasgow and called "A Troubadour Journey : Lindisfarne to Durham" is released in physical form on Friday 24th April 2026 and on all streaming services from June 2026.



During 2026 Gareth takes "A Troubadour Journey" out on tour including a series of events back along the pilgrimage trails in June. The concerts will gather together the stories and experiences woven into new music from his time walking through these beautiful parts of Northumberland and Durham. For audiences the events promise a vivid and entertaining musical encounter with the sights, sounds, history and contemporary heart of these Northern pilgrimage trails. As well as the new material, the concerts will also feature selected songs from across Gareth's career that capture a sense of journeying and particularly the spirit of the Northern Trails - for example "Lindisfarne" about Eadfrith and the writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels.

About Gareth Davies-Jones www.garethdavies-jones.com

Singer, songwriter, story-teller and producer, Gareth Davies-Jones has been writing, recording and performing as a professional musician for over twenty years. The lead songwriter from Howay The Lasses, a collaborator with folk luminaries like Celtish, Megson, Calum Stewart, and Yvonne Lyon, from community halls to concert halls, he has travelled the length of the country armed with a rich distinctive voice and two decades worth of perceptive, compelling songwriting spanning sixteen albums and song-writing collaborations. His solo performances are known for gathering people together, inviting audiences to travel with him into a world of landscapes, history and characters all underpinned with assured vocals and a vibrant array of beautifully played stringed instruments. An evening with Gareth is as much story-telling adventure as it is musical entertainment.

www.garethdavies-jones.com



GDJ Mobile : 07821395452

GARETH DAVIES-JONES

LIVE IN CONCERT

A Troubadour Journey

LINDISFARNE TO DURHAM

A songwriter's adventure along the pilgrimage trails
of St Oswald's Way and The Way of Light

All Saints Parish Church

Durham Rd, Lanchester, DH7 0LJ

Saturday 20th June

Doors Open 7:00pm

Tickets : £10 advance, (£12 on the night)



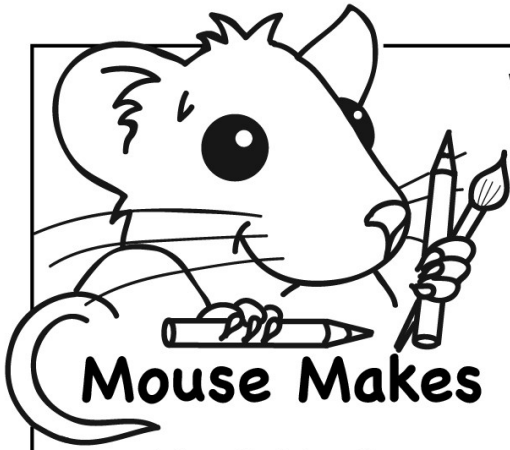
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Illustration "Sun Down" by Rebecca Vincent | www.rebecca-vincent.co.uk





WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

 Genesis 1:2

The

 of the Father.
 Acts 1:4

The Spirit of
 A _____
 Romans 8:15

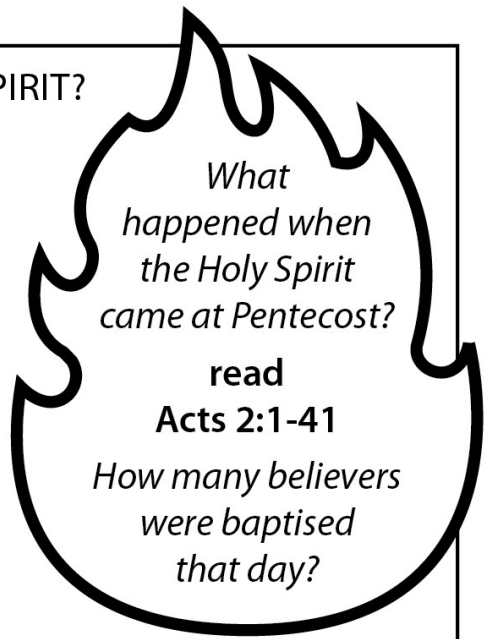
H _____
 John 14:26

The Spirit of

 John 16:13

The Spirit of

 Acts 16:7



O G C O M F O R T E R L C
 K E O N P P E A C E G O D
 I N U F A K J D H J R R F
 N T N A T L O V E O A D H
 D L S I I O H O L Y C D L
 N E E T E A I C P L E E G
 E N L H N D E A E D E B L
 S E L F C O N T R O L J O
 S N O P E P T E A C H E R
 J S R J O T R U T H F S Y
 R S P I R I T I L U I U K
 K P P R O M I S E R S R
 I D W I N D D O V E W

The Fruit of the Spirit
 Galatians 5:22-23

___ O ___
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 ___ N ___

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

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 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND



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