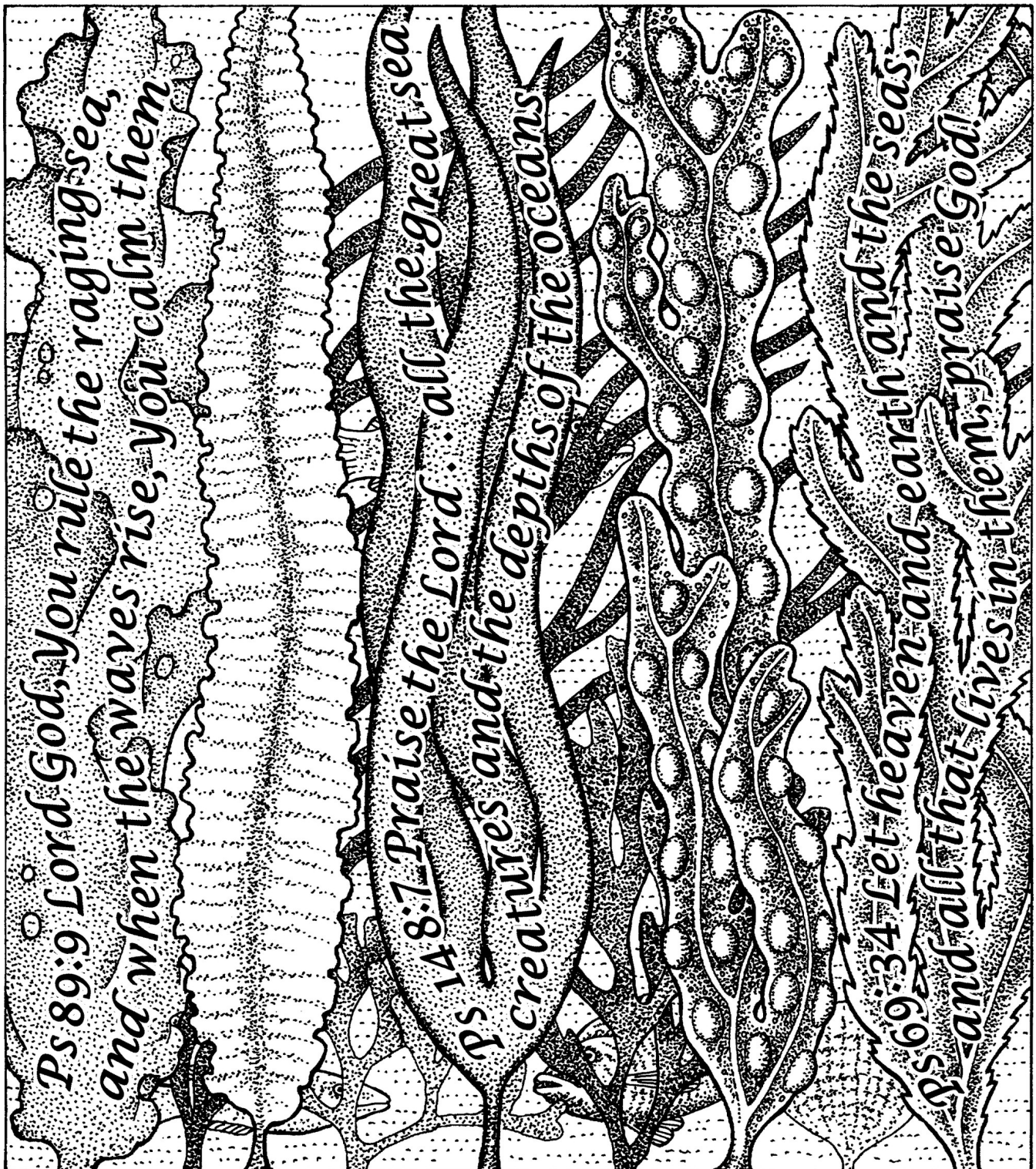


July & August 2026



'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

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

READERS

Doreen Park 07359 688897

CHURCH WARDENS

Robert Matthews 771044

Doreen Park 07359 688897

Pauline Hall 520393

Eric Gaskill 521690

VICE CHAIR PCC Margaret Walters 521214

TREASURER Michael Horsley 07719 708764
lanchesterpcctreasurer@gmail.com

GIFT AID Miranda Donnelly 231570

TOWER CAPTAIN Olga Walker 01740 621865

CHURCH WIVES GROUP

Deanna Leyland 504616

MOTHERS' UNION LANCHESTER

BRANCH LEADER Margaret Brown 529714

SECRETARY Audrey Newton 520728

TREASURER Dorothy Beadling 658990

MOTHERS' UNION BURNHOPE

BRANCH LEADER Elva Hockaday 520019

SECRETARY Pauline Hall 520393

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Ann M 07723 759178
annbham@yahoo.com

All dialling codes 01207 unless already included

PASTORAL TEAM Rev Lesley Sutherland

JULIAN PRAYER MEETING Lorna Berry

MEDITATION GROUP

Sue Smith 07967 402479

CHILDRENS GROUPS/ MESSY CHURCH

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:

Address: Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham DH1 3RY - Mobile: 07968 034075

Email: beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk or beth.miller@durham.anglican.org



One of the best things that I do is to prepare our Year Fives in school to receive the Eucharist, and then to ready them for confirmation.

This year, seven children came forward –

Sienna Louise Vandeppeer-Church
Evangeline Grace Fernandez
Georgia Louise Robinson
Alexa Amanda Tickell
Grace Isabelle Anthony
Katie Heatherington
Sophie Rose Moore

with Sienna, Evangeline, Georgia and Alexa also being baptised by Bishop Frank during the confirmation service. Our preparation was enlivened by the presence of John Gueran, who was our only adult candidate for confirmation. Together we explored the foundations of our faith, finding out who God is and who we are, thinking about Jesus and how we are called to follow as best we can, and tracing church from the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to what – and who!- church means now. On the way we learned how to pray using Haribos (only Starmix will work), enjoyed an icebreaker involving Skittles, and made the tallest structure we could out of marshmallows and spaghetti...



We emerged (slightly sticky and on a sugar high) having learned that we are all beloved children of God, that Jesus calls all of us to bring our gifts and talents to transform ourselves, one another and the world, and that church isn't a building, but a group of people working together with the oddest materials (marshmallows, string, tape and pasta!), having fun and making something awesome as we do so!

The service took place at Leadgate St Ives' on 11th June, St Barnabas' the Encourager's day. Bishop Frank was awesome, reminding us that it's people God sends -not emails, What'sApp messages or TikTok videos- and remarking on how God has sent John and Rachel to us, and for us.

Discipleship is not only about learning who Jesus is, or learning from Jesus, Bishop Frank said. It's about being sent by Jesus, responding to Christ's compassion for the world around us, and acting as his hands and feet in seeking to heal the wounds, stand in solidarity with the oppressed, respond to the needs of our communities and our world, and tell those who haven't heard what we know. We don't need to be perfect before we are useful to God. We don't need to have all the answers. We just need to be willing: to notice pain, to respond with love, to answer God's call and to allow our faith to become practical.

(Continued overleaf).

It was a wonderful night, shared with wonderful people, and inspiring for all of us. The service ended with a re-commissioning that you might like to share;

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

Please pray for our newly baptised and confirmed Christians.

We will be celebrating them at a special service in July.

With every blessing,

Lesley





LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



I was so very proud of seven of our Year 5 pupils who were all confirmed at St Ives Church last week. It was made extra special due to the fact that Rachael Dowdeswell's husband, John, was also confirmed at the same time and after attending classes at our school with our children too.

It always gives me a great sense of pride when children are confirmed as it is such an important step on their spiritual journeys. As always, it was lovely to be there to support them. Once again, Revd Lesley has done a great job and I would like to pass on my huge thanks to her for her continued support of our children and school.

This is always a hard few weeks for our Year 6 children. They are ready to move on to their new schools in so many different ways, but at the same time, find it quite challenging, knowing their safety net of the EP is going to be drawing to a close. As usual, we aim to make these next few weeks as special as possible for them all.

What we hadn't been prepared for last year was the reaction of our Reception children when their Year 6 buddies left the school. They were very upset that they were leaving them all alone! We are more prepared for that this year though and will be able to support both our younger and oldest pupils.

Our Leavers' Service takes place in church on Thursday 16th July at 1.30pm and it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible!

Jane Davis (Head Teacher)

Lanchester EP Primary School.

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

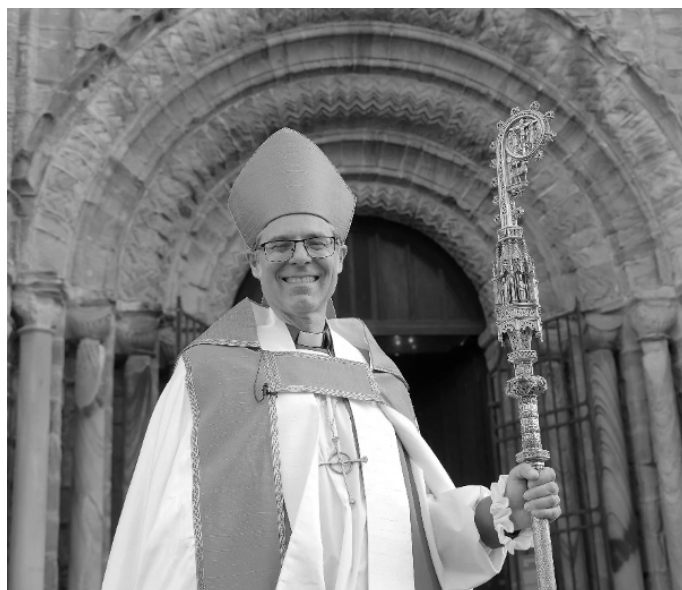
All Saints needs YOU!

We've got a busy summer coming up, with a regular weekly Holiday Club at St John's, and a stand at the revived Lanchester Agricultural Show on 15th and 16th August. Could you give us some of your time? We're looking for volunteers to help with kitchen and crafts for the Holiday Club, and for teams to help run our stand at the show from 9-5 on both days.



Please speak to
Rev'd Lesley if
you're
interested, or
ring
01207529166

A NEW BISHOP FOR DURHAM



A packed Durham Cathedral watched on Sunday 7th June as the Right Reverend Rick Simpson was installed as the new Bishop of Durham.

The service of installation and welcome at the Cathedral brought together civic leaders and local politicians, visiting bishops, and representatives from churches across the Diocese of Durham, with many more joining online to share in the celebrations.

Bishop Rick, who previously was Archdeacon of Auckland, was announced as the next Bishop of Durham in February and consecrated by the Archbishop of York at York Minster in April.

Led by the Dean of Durham, the service began with Bishop Rick knocking at the North Door of the Cathedral to be formally welcomed in where he made a Declaration of Ascent and was finally installed in his cathedra, his seat in the Cathedral Church.

Our new Bishop holds the fourth most senior position in the Church of England and is entitled by right to a seat in the House of Lords.

At the service Bishop Rick vowed to serve the Diocese with humility and said;

'I am here to try to bring love and encouragement to our local churches, schools and all places where Christians are trying to help people know they are loved by God...'

Bishop Rick had previously given his first address to Diocesan Synod, summarising the task we have to do together;

'... as we come to a time when few profess to be Christian any more unless it is real for them, we have the chance to show the difference Christ makes. It's hard to do that when everyone is a bit Christian-ish. But in this world now facing many fears, wherever hope in Christ is real, the difference the good news makes is visible again.

To do that, to become a church of missionary disciples, we need now to learn more deeply who we are, grow in our discipleship and our ability to live and share a life-giving faith. We will bless the world most by knowing we have something distinct and wonderful, by the grace of God, to offer it. And through that we have the chance that a renewed version of this national church, present in every parish place, both deeply local and humbly Godly, can be born.'

Please pray for Bishop Rick as he begins this crucial new ministry.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers Union Lanchester



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th July in the Chapter House at 2pm. This will be our AGM followed by strawberries and cream, shortbread and bubbly. I shall be presenting long service medals to some of our members. As you know, this is an important meeting so please attend if you can. We are looking forward to a good afternoon.

I would also like to extend a huge thank you to Joe and Audrey Newton for their hard work restoring the Mother's Union Garden to its former condition on a very hot holiday Monday morning. My thanks also to the Church wardens for their support and hard work.

Margaret Brown (Branch Leader)

100 Club

The May draw took place in the Chapter House on 20 May. These were the winning numbers: 102,34,37,68,39,86,15, and 97.

Sue Smith

Mothers Union St John's



An apology, mea culpa, mea culpa, the date for the **Strawberry Supper is Monday, 13 July 7.00pm at Burnhope Community Centre** and not as in last month's magazine, Monday, 6 July. Tickets costing £5 are available from myself or Doreen Park.

The Mothers' Union meeting will take place on Monday, 6 July 2.00 at the usual location. Please contact the Secretary for details of the venue. All members, as well as anyone interested in joining, are warmly invited to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share, and support one another within our community.

The meeting generally starts with opening prayers and welcome, followed by updates on upcoming events and activities, and a discussion of community initiatives; finishing with refreshments and fellowship.

We look forward to seeing you there and enjoying another meaningful gathering together.

Pauline Hall (Branch Secretary)

Church Wives

July is our final month on this year's programme. Our AGM and strawberry supper are on 9th July. Then, on Saturday 11th July, we have our annual day out. This year we leave Lanchester at 9.30 on the bus bound for Preston Park in Stockton on Tees. Following this, we board the Teesside Princess and have afternoon tea sailing down to Yarm School and back.; a day we are all looking forward to. Dates for our next programme will be in the September issue of the magazine. Happy summer holidays to everyone.

Deanna Leyland

All Saints' Cleaning

For the last few years, we have relied on two teams to carry out the cleaning at All Saints', on alternate weeks dusting and polishing the pews, vacuuming and dusting the Church and cleaning the floors and surfaces in the Chapter House, kitchen and WC. Sadly, we have lost, through illness, one member of each team. Hazel Gaskill and Deanna Leyland alternated on the Chapter House rota and since Hazel has been unable to carry on, Deanna has carried on this duty each week without a break. We would request, if possible, a volunteer to come forward to share this duty with Deanna. It requires a maximum of one and a half hours once a fortnight. Is anyone willing?

Rob Matthews

From The Wardens

As ever, the Churchwardens continue to support Lesley in her ministry in our two Churches and beyond.

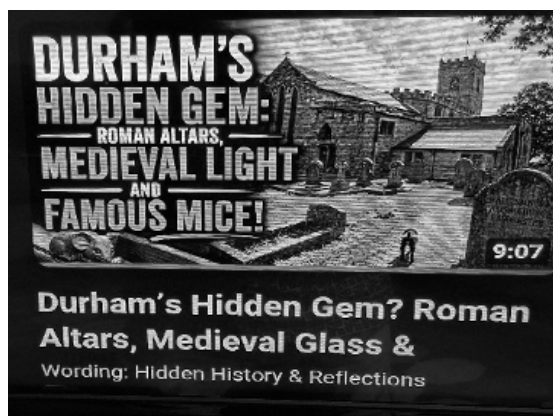
At the APCM on 20th May, Pauline Hall, Doreen Park, Eric Gaskill and Rob Matthews were re-elected to serve another year as Churchwardens. They were sworn in on 14th June at Durham Cathedral at the Bishop's Visitation by the new Bishop of Durham the Right Reverend Rick Simpson.

Sadly, as we have reported before, our church still remains closed during the day, but we do now have camera coverage and we continue to liaise with the local police. We have also installed PIR detectors to switch on the external lights automatically thus illuminating the path by the Chapter House. This is also helpful to groups using the Chapter House on dark evenings in wintertime, as the lights will come on automatically as people leave. This also eliminates the need to switch off the light which on occasions people forgot, with the lights being left on until someone eventually noticed.

We have finally persuaded the Council to replace the burned-out bin which was used mainly by dogwalkers, for a designated dog bin. We have asked the Councils permission to paint it a colour more in keeping with the position, which they have agreed to. We would ask anyone wishing to access the church please to let us know and we will be pleased to make arrangements when we can. One such request came from a pilgrim who requested to look around the Church. As it coincided with our commitment to a visiting band of ringers, we were able to help. The visitor's name was Robert A Wilde, and he has made a YouTube series on churches. His latest offering is on our own beautiful church. Please take the time to look it up on YouTube; you won't regret it it's a wonderful tribute to our wonderful church. The link to look for is on the picture above.

For the Churchwardens

Rob Matthews



MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING- ST ANDREW'S OPERATIC SOCIETY

This is an evening of choral works from the classics, from musicals, shows, film and pop. Stately choral works with hauntingly beautiful numbers and quiet reflective pieces: there are jolly tunes and mighty choruses:

music to reflect with and songs to click the fingers to and get the feet tapping.

So come along and join us as we provide 'comedy tonight', while 'dreaming a little dream', and 'catching a falling star':

we will try to provide 'what the world needs now' by 'making music', and 'bringing sunshine' to the 'Rhythm of Life'.

There is a Shepherd and a Fair Lady to name a few.

Let us entertain you with music from A to Z; from Abba, Karl Jenkins, Mozart, Lerner and Lowe, Sondheim and Sullivan.

A wide ranging mix of music – something for everyone

*Music for a
Summer Evening*

Choral Music from past to
present, from sacred to swing!

7.30pm July 3rd

All Saints Parish Church

Lanchester

Tickets £10 including
refreshments

Available on the door, from
Social Committee members
or ring

01207 529166



Open the Book at Burnhope Primary School

Last month we celebrated volunteer's week, highlighting and recognising the incredible impact volunteers make across our community. Without their dedication we would not have had a successful Gala or indeed one at all, the litter pickers, those who serve tea and coffee and lunches at the Community Centre. This is just a tip of the iceberg of Burnhope volunteers. The list could go on.

So, I thought I would highlight one small part of volunteering carried out through St John's volunteers. Some of you may know about it already, some not so. **Open The Book.**

Open the Book is an inspiring initiative designed to introduce children to the captivating and timeless stories found within the Bible. Through storytelling, drama, and creative engagement, children are given the opportunity to explore biblical narratives in a way that is both accessible and memorable.

A small team of volunteers, once a fortnight, join the children's assembly at the end of the day in Burnhope School. We use scripts, props, and costumes to present stories from the Bible, making them fun and understandable for children of all ages. The approach is inclusive and non-denominational, focusing on the narrative and moral teachings rather than doctrinal specifics. The children also get involved by being invited to dress up, play characters from the stories, wear masks or just being the sound effects. Everyone is part of the story.

Alongside the fun and theatrical elements, the 10/15-minute sessions include quiet moments where we ask the children to think about the feelings of the characters and reflect on things in their own lives.

The stories, drawn from the Lion Storyteller Bible by Bob Hartman, tackle themes like forgiveness, hope, courage and kindness. As volunteers, we enjoy sharing these stories with children helping them explore important values, build empathy, and develop their imaginations. Children get to know positive role models within the Christian community, fostering a sense of belonging and importantly an intergenerational connection.

Our story sessions have included

- **David and Goliath:** This tale of the young shepherd boy defeating a giant against all odds shows that bravery and faith can help us overcome challenges.
- **Daniel in the Lions' Den:** Daniel's unwavering faith while facing danger inspires children to be strong and stay true to their beliefs.
- **Samson:** teaches that while Samson had physical strength, he lacked strength of character. It is a cautionary tale about the destructive power of pride and temptation, the dangers of compromising our values.

On another cautionary tale the children also enjoyed the fight scenes, destroying the temple and chasing Samson to arrest him!

Open The Book is much more than a story told once a fortnight in assembly, it is a gateway to the rich history and wisdom of the Bible. By engaging children in active, enjoyable sessions, it helps them make sense of the world, think deeply about values, and imagine new possibilities. It is a wonderful way for children to discover, discuss, and delight in biblical stories. The volunteers enjoy it too! Thanks to Ann, Andrew, Cecily, Anne, Dee, Jane, Rev Lesley and the school for inviting our small team to be a part of the school community.

Pauline Hall

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

Dates for the Diary - Social

Strawberry Tea

at St John's on Monday 13th July

Strawberry Tea

at All Saints on Thursday 23rd July

Parish Register - Lanchester & St John's

All at All Saints

Marriage;

Wayne Ayre to Laura Tate, 20/06/2026

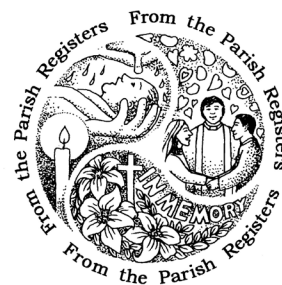
Baptisms;

Georgia Jayne Owens 07/06/2026

Oliver Robson 14/06/2026

Oliver Cook 28/06/2026

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"



Gypsy Roma Traveller Month

In February 2019, the General Synod of the Church of England passed a resolution in February 2019, which included asking all dioceses to appoint chaplains for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. Synod acknowledged the frequent occurrence of serious racial prejudice, alongside episodes of hate crime, and significant poor outcomes in health, education, housing and other measures of social well-being for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Slowly, a network of Gypsy, Roma Traveller- friendly churches began to form. In 2024, All Saints and Saint John's became part of the network as a result of the work done by our own Julie Gorman-Cliff with the chaplaincy development team in our Diocese. Working with our Church warden Pauline, Julie opened All Saints as a stop off for travellers on the way to Appleby, and a small team are currently laying the foundations for a GRT homework club together with the EP school.

June is GRT History month, so Julie was asked to preach on our Sunday reading from the Gospel of St Matthew. For those of you who missed it, here is her very powerful sermon;

Lesley

Sermon preached for GRT history month June 2026.

Reading Matthew 9: 9-12, 16-26

"I wonder whether you have ever noticed how quickly we form opinions about people. Sometimes it happens before we have even met them properly. We hear where they come from. We hear something about their life. We hear a story from somebody else. And before we know it, we have begun to place them somewhere in our minds.

Respectable.

Not respectable.

One of us.

Not one of us.

It can happen in any community. It can happen in churches. It can happen in families. Often it is not deliberate. Sometimes it is habit. Sometimes it is fear. Sometimes it is simply the stories we have heard from others without ever really questioning them.

Matthew chapter 9 invites us to examine those habits. Because the passage we have heard today is full of people with labels. And Jesus refuses to let those labels have the final word.

There is Matthew the tax collector.

There is a woman who has been bleeding for twelve years.

There is a grieving father whose daughter has died.

What strikes me is that Jesus sees each of them differently from everybody else.

Others see a tax collector.

Jesus sees a disciple.

Others see an unclean woman.

Jesus sees a daughter.

Others see a dead girl.

Jesus sees life.

That is the thread running through the entire passage.

Jesus sees people differently.

Let's begin with Matthew.

We can easily forget what Matthew's life was like before he became a disciple. We know him as Saint Matthew, one of the chosen Twelve and the author of a Gospel. But at this point, nobody thinks of him like that.

He is simply Matthew the tax collector.

Corrupt, a man many would have crossed the street to avoid.

Imagine him sitting there day after day in the tax booth, ignored by some and despised by others, becoming everything people disliked. Matthew becomes his occupation.

He becomes his reputation.

He becomes a label.

And then Jesus walks by.

Notice what Jesus does not do.

He does not interrogate him.

He does not shame him.

He does not demand an explanation.

He does not say, "Sort your life out first and then come back."

He simply says: "Follow me." Two words. That is all.

Yet those two words change everything.

Because Jesus sees something nobody else sees.

Others see corruption. Jesus sees calling.

Others see failure. Jesus sees possibility.

Others see somebody to avoid. Jesus sees somebody to invite.

He sees beyond Matthew's past to what Matthew might become and Matthew gets up and follows him.

The remarkable thing is that the next scene is even more scandalous.

Jesus sits down at a table with Matthew and other tax collectors and sinners.

The religious leaders are horrified.

"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Notice the distance in the question.

Why does he eat with **those** people?

Why does he welcome **them**?

The question reveals far more about the Pharisees than it does about Jesus.

Because once people become "**those** people", it becomes much easier to keep **them** at a distance, to make assumptions about **them**, and to see a label rather than a person.

For the Pharisees, Matthew was a tax collector and the others gathered around the table were sinners.

Their stories no longer mattered.

The label had already done the work.

For them, holiness meant separation.

For Jesus, holiness meant restoration.

For them, holiness meant drawing boundaries.

For Jesus, holiness meant building bridges.

And Jesus replies:

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."

Then he says:

**"Go and learn what this means,
'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'"**



I desire mercy.

Those words lie at the heart of Matthew 9.

Not reputation.

Not status.

Not respectability.

Mercy.

Seeing people as God sees them.

The Kingdom of God begins with mercy. The Church is not meant to be a gathering of people who have got everything right. It is a gathering of people who have encountered mercy and are learning to extend that mercy to others.

Perhaps that is why Jesus is found at this table?

Not because he approves of everything people have done but because he refuses to give up on people whom others have already written off.

That same pattern appears in the story of the woman who has suffered for twelve years.

Twelve years of pain, disappointment, and waking each morning with the same burden.

But her suffering was not merely physical.

According to the religious understanding of the time, her condition rendered her ritually unclean. It affected where she could go, who she could mix with, and how others viewed her. She had become defined by her condition.

After twelve years, it is not difficult to imagine how she might begin to accept the judgments of others and believe that this was simply her place in the world. Living at the edge, unnoticed and unwelcome.

So she approaches Jesus quietly and does not ask publicly because she does not want attention.

She simply reaches out and touches the fringe of his cloak.

It is the act of someone who has learned not to expect very much and has become accustomed to living in the margins, on the edge of society.

She thinks:

"If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."

But Jesus will **not allow** her to remain hidden.

He turns.

He stops.

He sees her.

And then he says,

"Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well."

Daughter?

Before he restores her health, he restores her identity and belonging.

Before the crowd she is no longer the unclean woman.

She is daughter.

She belongs.

She matters.

The crowd sees a condition.

Jesus sees a daughter.

And perhaps that is one of the most **profound** miracles in the entire passage.

Because healing is not only about bodies.

It is also about dignity.

It is about restoring people to community.

It is about restoring what has been lost.

It is about reminding people that they are more than the labels, assumptions, and burdens they have carried for years.

It is about helping people discover once again **that they are seen, known, and loved by God.**



The same pattern appears immediately afterwards in the story of the ruler's daughter. The situation could hardly be more hopeless. People have already concluded that the story is over, mourners have gathered.

The crowd has reached its verdict; death has the final word. There is nothing more to be done and nothing more to be hoped for.

Yet Jesus sees something different.

He enters the house.

He takes the girl by the hand.

And she rises.

Once again, Jesus refuses to accept the verdict others have reached.

Where others see an ending, **Jesus brings life.**

Perhaps that is why these stories continue to speak so powerfully to us.

The temptation to judge, label, and dismiss did not end here, it remains one of the great temptations of every age.

A few years ago, I heard a story that has never left me.

A two-year-old boy from an Irish Traveller family died in tragic circumstances in another part of the UK. His parents wanted a Christian funeral.

Four churches refused to accommodate them because of them being Irish Travellers. Eventually, a priest (whom I was with at Appleby Horse Fair yesterday) heard about the situation and agreed to help.

An old cemetery chapel was opened. It had no heating and no electricity. A picnic table was used as a make-shift altar. A tablecloth was spread across it. Two candles were lit. The little blue coffin rested on a rusty tea trolley. And there, in that simple place, that child was laid to rest. As someone who comes from an Irish Traveller family, I found that story particularly difficult to hear, because I recognised something of the experience.

The feeling of being judged before being known.

The feeling that a label can sometimes speak louder than a person's story.

But what troubled me most was not the poverty of the surroundings.

It was the rejection.

The fact that a grieving family had been rejected by closed doors.

They were not simply a Traveller family.

They were a mother and father carrying the deepest grief imaginable.

They were parents mourning their child.

And as I reflected on that story, I found myself returning to the Gospel.

And I found myself wondering what Jesus would have seen.

Would he have seen a Traveller family?

Or would he have seen grieving parents?

Would he have seen a reputation?

Or would he have seen a child made in the image of God?

By this point in the Gospel, I think we already know the answer because throughout these stories Jesus looks beyond the label to the person.

That is the thread running through every story we have heard today.

Where others see a reputation, Jesus sees a person.

Where others see a problem, Jesus sees dignity.

Where others see an ending, Jesus sees possibility.

And that is why his words to the Pharisees are so important:

"I desire mercy, not sacrifice."



Because mercy begins when we learn to see people as God sees them.
 Not because worship and devotion do not matter, but because true worship always shapes the way we treat other people.
 Mercy is not an optional extra for Christians; it lies at the very heart of the Gospel.
 And perhaps that is where the challenge lies for us.
 How do we see?
 Do we see the person behind the reputation?
 Do we see the person behind the stereotype?
 Do we see those whose stories we have never taken time to hear?
 Because what we have heard today is ultimately not about tax collectors, illness, or even death.
 It is about a Saviour who looks at people everybody else has already decided to judge and says:
"I see more."
 He sees a disciple where others see a tax collector.
 He sees a daughter where others see a problem.
 He sees life where others see an ending.
 And if we are to follow him, perhaps the first miracle he wants to perform is not in those we judge, **but in us.**
 The miracle of teaching **us to see as he sees.**
 To see beyond labels and recognise the image of God in those we might otherwise overlook.
 Every person we meet is someone known and loved by Christ.
 May God give us eyes to see and hearts of mercy.
 And may our churches become places where every person knows that they are seen, known, loved, and welcomed by God.....

Julie Gorman Cliff

Margaret's 90th Birthday party, and early Wake!

Margaret Brown's 90th Birthday party and early Wake (but not yet awhile) took place at Lanchester Social Club on Saturday 18th April with a buffet and disco provided. It was attended by family and friends and a lovely night was enjoyed by all.

A special surprise entertainment was provided by four of Margaret's friends who are now known as the 'Four Degrees,' with a special version of a well-known Abba song with new lyrics entitled 'She is The Singing Queen,' all limping on to the stage wearing facemasks with Margarets face on.



Everything was organised by some of Margaret's friends (you know who you are),
 Thank you everyone for cards, flowers, wine and chocolates etc. Guests were asked if they wished to give a donation to Willow Burn Hospice. Many thanks for the donations totalling £485, which was taken to Willow Burn the following Monday.
 Thank you everyone for a fantastic evening.

Margaret Brown

I Remember When: Durham Cathedral Harry Potter – Again?

I remember the buzz around the place in 2002 when the word got out we were again going to be one of the locations for the third film of the series, *The Chamber of Secrets*. It was wonderful news for the Cathedral because we did so well financially from the first film. As the production staff were the same people and we had worked so well with them the first time, setting up was easier and less stressful. Once again, the Chapter House was Professor McGonagles



This photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-

Transfiguration classroom but with a difference. There were cages all around this time and during filming they were

filled with all manner of exotic birds, reptiles and insects. The Choir Vestry had to be converted to provide the right conditions for keeping them safe in between filming and of course overnight. The Monk's Garden was filled with the owls; loads of them. The Cloister and Cloister Garth were used as the Hogwarts courtyards and where the Eat Slugs scene, the iconic moment where Ron Weasley's slug vomiting spell backfires was filmed. This time a new tactic was employed where they conducted an extensive survey of the Cloisters, which they did under our supervision. The benefit of this to Warners was they were able to recreate a 'Durham' set within the studio at Leavesden. Eileen and I had the pleasure of being invited by Simon King to travel down there to visit the studio (now 'Harry Potter World'). We had a wonderful day wandering around Diagon Alley, Dumbledore's office, the underground Lair of the Basilisk, and Privet Drive, Harry's house and garden. We even had lunch with the Weasley Twins who were there giving their parents a look around. The big surprise for me was finding myself walking along a corridor which looked remarkably familiar. It was the final scene where Dobby got his freedom in the film. It was the Durham Cloister built in Leavesden using AI technology from the survey they had carried out with such care at Durham. What a day we had, and such a privilege to be invited. Now that the films could be made in the studio and with advanced technology being employed, we had had our day. However, in 2008 our hopes were raised when they were filming *The Half Blood Prince* (J K Rowlings 6th Book); we were in the frame for a revisit. However, one of their requests was permission to dig a small section of the Cloister Garth, for which Warners paid for a ground radar survey of the Cloister, which on its own was so beneficial to the Cathedral for historical reasons. Several meetings of the DAC committee rejected their request eventually. Also, the proposed filming was to be done over two concurrent nights, and the weather forecasts were not favorable. But it was good while it lasted; and of great benefit in many ways to the Cathedral.

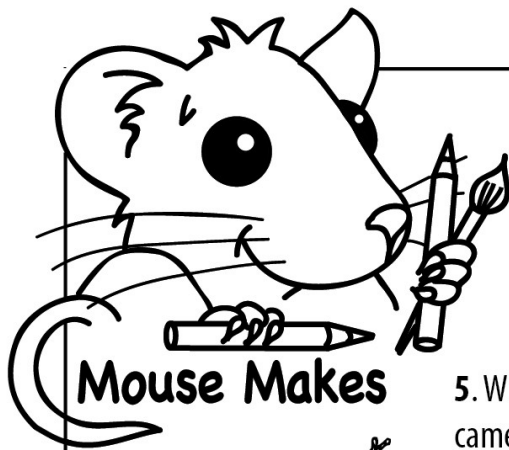
Rob Matthews

Contributions to the Church Magazine are always welcome.

The copy deadline for the September 2026 issue is Thursday 6th August

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.

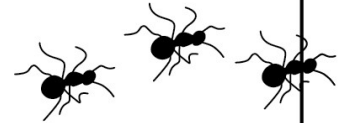


Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes
it's nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4

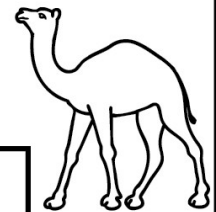


4. What insect
can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

5. What plague
came out of the
River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would
go through the eye
of a needle easier
than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



7. Which animal
was Jesus
compared to?
John 1:29



8. What bird did Noah release
from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.

In what creature's mouth
was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



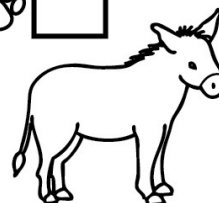
9 down.

What lives
in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird
did the
Holy Spirit
appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal
did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



14. What bird did God provide
for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the
"mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



B I B L E

CREATURES

ADVERTISE HERE

Call Rev'd Lesley on 01207 529166

PAUL LOWE COUNSELLING

Are you currently struggling with a mental health or life issue?

I can offer help using a range of therapeutic approaches

Including Walk and Talk therapy and mindfulness.

Please contact or visit:

Paul Lowe/Counselling Directory.

Tel: 07598 437 118

The darkest times can bring us to the brightest places.

There is always hope

DAVISON'S

FOR THE BEST IN FASHION

Front Street, Leadgate

Telephone: 502355



Unit 51
Birtley Business Centre
Birtley
County Durham
DH3 1QT

Re-upholstery & repairs to modern
& antique furniture
for domestic & commercial customers
Bespoke headboards

Tel: 0191 660 6407

Mob: 07543 900 583

www.taylorsupholstery.com

SUNFLOWER

CARE & COMPANIONSHIP

A new, local company which provides a trusted, thoughtful companionship and home-help service throughout Lanchester and neighboring locations to both the young and old.

*Respite provision for full-time carers
Conversation and a cuppa
Light housework/Gardening
Essential non-medical care
Preparing meals*

*Accompanying you to appointments
Collecting shopping/prescriptions*

*Please contact Becky Haynes to find out more. Tel: 07713 567 993 or
email: sunflowercare67@gmail.com
www.sunflowercare.co.uk*

LANCHESTER LILY AND ROSE FLORISTS

Telephone : 07845560222

Email: lilyandroseflorists@gmail.com

Facebook: Lanchester Lily and Rose Florists



Small family business catering for all your floral event requirements. All personal requests and budgets catered for. To discuss your personal requirements or place an order please telephone or message our Facebook page

Derwentside Funeral Service

Proprietor David Forster

Consett 01207 504256
Rowlands Gill 01207 504256
Annfield Plain 01207 234444
Stanley 01207 234444

24 hour professional service

Private chapels of rest - Floral Tributes
In house catering service- Prepayment plans
www.derwentsidefuneralservice.co.uk

OLYMPIC TYRE SERVICE

CAR - VAN - 4X4 TYRES
TRUCK & FARM TYRE SPECIALISTS

Tel: 01207 236200

Mitchell Street, Annfield Plain, Stanley.
 Co.Durham, DH9 7SX

MK Print Solutions
 Commercial & Security Printing
 Computer Supplies - Stationery

Over 40 Years combined experience in
 printing for the funeral industry



Personally printed funeral stationery for that Lasting
 Memory and perfect Keepsake of your loved one

www.mkprint.co.uk | info@mkprint.co.uk
01207 529784 - 07850 690220



MSD Building Services Ltd

Gas Boiler Installations
 Service & Repair
 Landlord Safety Checks
 Plumbing and Drainage
 Kitchens and Bathrooms
 Easy access baths and showers
 Garage and Loft conversions
 Fully Insured, Time Served
 Family Run Local business

Office 01207 521604
Mobile 07939672948

mick.msd@sky.com



- * Complete funeral service to all areas**
 - * Private Chapels of Rest**
 - * Silver Fleet**
- * Funeral pre payment plans by Golden Charter**
- * 24 hour service**
- * Established 1992**

Tel: Durham 0191 386 3850



For more information
www.stuartwrightfunerals.co.uk

Head Office: 38 Sunderland Road, **Gilesgate**, Durham, DH1 2LG

Pelton: 3 Front Street, Pelton, Durham, DH2 1DB

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

Langley Park: 43 Front Street, Langley Park, Durham, DH7 9SA