

September 2026

**For in hope
we were saved.
Now hope that is
seen is not hope.
For who hopes
for what is seen?
But if we hope
for what we
do not see,
we wait for it
with patience.**

'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.

If you have a concern, our Safeguarding Officer, Rachel Dowdeswell can be contacted by ringing 07984 698859 or by emailing rachel.dowdeswell1@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



It's been a busy summer! Beginning with Laura and Wayne's wedding, and the EP school Leavers' Service, we plunged in to Holiday Club, feeding an average of 60 children and adults twice weekly, and sharing some fun activities with them. A summer at the seaside was the theme, with lots of fishy crafts, including a 'fishing for compliments' game which reminded us all that we are special, and gave us a prayer net full of fish!



Alex and Jorden's beautiful wedding took place on August 1st, followed by Sharni and Kieran's wedding blessing and the baptism of their little girl, and the baptism of Sam and Lee's lovely daughter Khloe.



And all the while, behind the scenes, some fabulous volunteers were working hard on our missional project to be launched at the restored Lanchester show on 15th and 16th August. We were lucky to be given a free tent at the show by the organisers, Ken and Alison, and used it to great effect. We were full each day with adults and children making peg portraits to add to our Nativity, and had some wonderful conversations. Never has evangelism been such fun (or so tiring!)

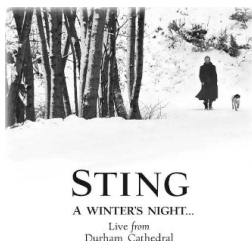


You'll find invitations to our Christmas services, plus all you'll need for taking part in The Greatest Story Ever Told, at the back of church. Huge thanks to our volunteers for both projects, to the Wardens and to Fr David Heron, whose generosity has freed me to concentrate on outreach this summer. Please pray for all those encounters with people who have never thought about faith or church- and be encouraged by how busy my summer has been!

With every blessing,

Lesley

Durham Cathedral I remember when----- Sting – "On a Winters Night"



Following on in my series of memorable distractions from my Works department duties at Durham Cathedral; with Harry Potter now a distant memory in 2009 we were called to a meeting to discuss arrangements for a special concert. Sting was coming to the North East to film a special Concert, 'A Winters Night' which was to be rehearsed at and performed over two nights at Durham Cathedral. It was being made to accompany Sting's 'On a Winters Night' album.

It was arranged that a sound stage would be erected in the Chapter House which was a major feat of its own because it came all prefabricated and was erected by a special team. The musicians who arrived and rehearsed for many days were superb. Many were of the best in their field and they included our own Kathryn Tickell and her brother Peter on Fiddles as well as Northumbrian pipes; Julian Sutton (melodeon); Dominic Millar (Guitar); Vincent Segal (Cello); Mary Macmaster (Scottish Harpist); Ira Coleman (Bass) Chris Gekker (trumpet); David Mansfield (Violin and Mandolin); a Percussion section and vocalists.

The stage was positioned below the Scott Screen and crossing, right at the heart of the church. With falcon lighting crisscrossing the vaulting and ceiling ribs; it took many days and much discussion to get the lighting perfect. The 'state of the art' lighting fixtures enchanted the interior of the most wonderful Cathedral in England. The programmers knew their craft and supported the mood of the songs in a gentle way as Sting and his band performed for the 'On a Winter's Night Album'.

It was a most interesting experience and was filmed over two evenings. Eileen and I were at the second filming. I was also very pleased during the production to accompany Sting on an upper-level tour of the cathedral, (the Heineken Tour - the tour that reaches the parts that others don't reach!). The Concert is available to view on You Tube and is well worth a search.

Rob Matthews



Goodbyes are the Hardest Part Of All

It is hard to believe that we have, once again, said goodbye to another wonderful group of Year 6 pupils and felt very proud of the super young people they have grown into. Our Big Question for that final week was, 'Is it an end or is it a beginning?' – very apt for our Year 6 children! But we wish them all the best and know that they are ready for the next exciting stage in their little lives.

We also said goodbye to Mrs Jadine Burke who took early retirement. Mr Burke has worked with us for 12 years, mainly in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 and she is now looking forward to the next stage in her life too. We wish her all the best for whatever comes next and hope she has a very long and happy retirement.

SIAMS Inspection

We had our SIAMS inspection at the end of June after waiting all year for the call! It was still a very intense week prior to the inspection taking place but we really felt though that the inspector really gained a good impression of the life and ethos of our school both from the paperwork and the day itself.

The inspection seeks to answer 6 questions:

1. How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision enable pupils and adults to flourish?
2. How does the curriculum reflect the school's theologically rooted Christian vision?
3. How is daily collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?
4. How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well?
5. How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create an active culture of justice and responsibility?
6. Is the religious education curriculum effective?

The full report can be read on the school website but here are the headlines:

Notable Strengths

- Leaders, including governors, are driven by a shared vision for the school to provide a 'rich soil' in which all can grow. Thorough monitoring and evaluation ensure that this is the case.
- The caring community nurtured within Lanchester Endowed Parochial (EP) Primary School is encouraged to act justly and responsibly by an intentionally planned curriculum and extracurricular programme. As a result, pupils independently challenge injustice in their community and beyond.
- Vision-led, bespoke and bold support creates a caring and cared for community where lives are changed.
- School leaders are committed to providing a wealth of impactful experiences. These enable pupils and adults to celebrate diversity and grow as individuals.
- Opportunities for spiritual development are varied and resonate with the school community. Consequently, pupils and adults flourish spiritually.

Development Points

- Maximise identified opportunities for spiritual development in the curriculum. This is so that pupils can fully benefit from the planned rich experiences for awe and wonder in their daily lessons.

Other comments from the body of the report are:

- Leaders are clear that members of the Lanchester EP School community are unique and valued.

- Governors benefit from partnerships with the diocese and local church groups

- The school's extremely broad curriculum and enrichment is thoughtfully and ambitiously shaped by their vision. Notably, global travel and impressive experiences in the arts bring cultural diversity that meets the needs of the school's context.

- Pupils highly value the school's regular 'mindful moments' sessions. These enable them to challenge their thinking and develop spiritually.

- The school's reciprocal partnership with the local church has enabled both worshipping communities to grow as well as providing honest evaluation

- Planned time in woodland spaces enables pupils to experience the tranquillity of nature. Through this, pupils experience a sense of calm that enables them to think more deeply.

- Staff work in a supportive environment where they are given training to grow and develop. This extends to school support staff who are clear about the often life-changing impact that opportunities have on them. The school are aware of the challenges faced by some families and provide loving and knowledgeable support.

- Through a skilfully planned curriculum, pupils are equipped and empowered to act with justice and responsibility. The school inspires pupils to explore the impact that their decisions have on each other and the wider world. They frequently take the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom through voluntary acts of service in the community.

- RE is given priority within the curriculum and governors ensure this is the case through knowledgeable and effective support and challenge.

We are now looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of children to our school and ready to continue to build upon everything we do in order to ensure our school continues to improve year on year.

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 October 2026 issue is

Thursday 10th September

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.

Henry Dancer Days

A Thank You from

Henry's Mum

Henry Dancer Days is a family charity which raises funds for children with cancer and their families in memory of my son, Lanchester's Henry Dancer, who lost his life to cancer aged 12.

We support children in 2 ways:

1. Offering Hardship Support to families to help with bills, travel, food and accommodation whilst a child is in hospital. It can cost families over £700 more each month and parents often need to give up work to care for the young patient (Young Lives vs Cancer 2026).

2. Delivering "Distraction" projects in the Paediatric Oncology Wards of 9 children's cancer centres, from Aberdeen to London and from Birmingham to Newcastle. We employ professional Storytellers to help children have fun, use their imaginations, and simply be kids again as they undergo the gruelling treatment associated with Childhood Cancer. We hear silliness and laughter in the last places you'd expect to find it.

Since Henry Dancer Days commenced, 2 years after his death, we've raised nearly £1.5 million, supported over 1,000 families experiencing hardship and delivered Distraction sessions to over 30,000 children and young people.

I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who's supported us – including the PCC of Lanchester and Burnhope. We always ensure that funds given by local people go towards our work in the Great North Children's Hospital, where all children from our area are treated.

I miss Henry terribly, but feel his kindness as we help struggling families, and hear his infectious giggle in the laughter of the children with our wonderful Storytellers. I know he's smiling down on all we do.

Thank you from a very grateful Mum,

Jane Nattrass.



Sponsored Bike Ride

Following the last day of term and leaving Lanchester EP Primary School to move on to Consett Academy, Ollie Thompson decided he wanted to raise some money as a parting gift for "Henry Dancer Days".

So on Sunday 19th July he set off from Consett AFC, the club where he plays football on a weekly basis and rode to the Stadium of Light in Sunderland where he enjoys watching his hero's play.

In all Ollie raised £622.50 including Gift Aid for the charity.

"Well Done Ollie"

Michael Knowles

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers Union Lanchester



After our summer break our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th September at 2pm in the Chapter House where we will have Kathleen Wilson speaking on Mothers' Union work in prisons. If you wish to join us, come as a visitor, you will be made most welcome, sharing tea and biscuits after the talk.

At our AGM in July, which was well attended, I had the privilege of presenting long service awards to three of our members: Judith Jobling and Angela Lee, each for forty years' service and Margaret King for thirty years' service and I was presented with my certificate from our secretary, Audrey Newton for seventy years' service. We then all enjoyed strawberries and cream with shortbread and lots of bubbly afterwards!

Margaret Brown (Branch Leader)

Mothers Union St John's



Hope you all had a good holiday.

The Mothers' Union meeting will take place on Monday, 7th September 2.00pm at the usual location. Please contact the Secretary for details of venue or if you are unsure. All members, as well as anyone interested in joining, are warmly invited to attend. Rev Lesley will be conducting the service, and we will be preparing for the Pie and Pea Supper to be held in the Community Centre 7.00pm on 12 October. Our guest speaker in October will be our own Cecily Lindsay giving a talk on the lovely island of St Helena. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share, and support one another within our community.

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

Pauline Hall (Branch Secretary)

Church Wives

After a lovely summer we are preparing for our September meetings. Our first date is Thursday 10th September when we have our faith supper and catch up with what everyone has been doing in our 9 weeks' break. On the 24th of September we look forward to hearing from our own Rob Matthews talking about Durham Cathedral and his time spent there as Clerk of Works. I know he will have lots of interesting information for us. Should anyone wish to visit we meet in the Chapter House on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm. After the talk we enjoy a cuppa and biscuits and lots of chat.

Deanna Leyland

Calling all Florists!

One of the flower teams at Lanchester really needs your help! We arrange the church flowers at All Saints, every other month from October. We meet each week in the church on Friday mornings from 9:30/10:00 am and we really need some extra helpers. No experience needed; full training will be given.

If you could spare an hour or two on Friday mornings, every other month please contact:

Ann – Marie on 0784556222. You will be made very welcome.

Flags and Religion

There are 195 official national Flags in the world today. So, what is the significance of the Colours and Symbols on a National Flag?

Here are some of the major world religious symbols, Christianity is a cross, Islam is the crescent and star, Hinduism is the Aum Letter, Buddhism is the Dharmachakra wheel, Taoism is the Yin and Yang symbol, Shinto is the Torii Gate, and lastly, Judaism is the Star of David. Unsurprisingly, religion is strongly featured in 64 national flags.

There are seven major colours in flags. So, what is the meaning associated with the colours? Red: passion, courage and revolution. Blue: tranquillity, harmony and loyalty. Green: nature, hope, and fertility. Yellow: sunshine, wealth and optimism. White: purity, peace, and innocence. Black: strength, determination and mourning. Orange (Saffron): joy, strength, passion and enthusiasm

Christian symbols are found in 31 national flags, from Europe, Asia and the Pacific and the Americas. Islam has 21 national flags in sub-Saharan Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and in the Middle East and North Africa. The Buddhist and/or Hindu religious symbols appear on 5 national flags.

So, let's investigate some individual national flags.

The 'Union Jack' incorporates the crosses of St Andrew, St Patrick and St George and this flag is featured in another 22 national flags throughout the world, for example from Australia, New Zealand to Saint Helena, Falkland Islands and the Cook Islands (mainly because of the Commonwealth).

The Nordic Countries, like Norway, Sweden, Denmark Finland and Iceland feature the Nordic Christian Cross.

The Dominican Republic features a central white cross holding a Bible and Shield (the Bible is open at John 8:32, which reads 'and the truth shall make you free'). It is the only national flag with a bible!

On a lot of Islamic national flags, the crescent moon and star appear with the colour green being prominent as on the national flags of Algeria, Azerbaijan, Libya, Pakistan. However, not all Islamic countries have the crescent and star. Saudi Arabia is green with Arabic inscription of the Islamic creed (shahada): "There is no god but God; Muhammad is the messenger of God" with a white sword underneath, which stands for safety and justice. Whilst the national flag of Bahrain is a white band (for peace) on the left separated from the red (for the blood of martyrs and battles of Bahrain) on the right by five white triangles symbolising the five pillars of Islam.

India features the Navy Blue Ashoka Chakra (Wheel) at their centre which represents the Dharmic Wheel connected to Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

Bhutan features the 'Druk', the Thunder Dragon from Tibetan Buddhist mythology.

The Japanese Flag has a Red Sun Circle (Hinomaru), which ties back to Shinto roots and the Sun Goddess Amaterasu.

The flag of Israel is the only flag with the Star of David.

South Korea and Mongolia are the only two countries with national flags that shows the yin and yang (Taijitu) symbol.

Nepal's flag is the most unusual. It is the only non-rectangular national flag in the world, evolving from centuries-old tradition double-pennant triangular designs. The Triangles represent the Himalayan Mountains and Hinduism and Buddhism (being the two main religions). The Moon and Sun symbols on the flag symbolise the hope that the nation will endure as long as the Universe. The flag contains the colours of crimson red (representing the rhododendron flower) and a blue border standing for Peace.

There are other national flags which are uniquely designed. The national flag of Mozambique features: a hoe, an open book and a modern AK-47 assault rifle. The Paraguay national flag is different on the front to the back. The flag for Cyprus shows the entire map of the island with two olive branches for peace and Argentina has a face on the sun in the centre of their flag (relating to the Incas').

There are many countries which don't have any religious imagery and focus on political ideals, (e.g. China's large yellow star relating to the Communist Party); national history, (e.g. France's tricolour flag relates to their Revolution), or national geography (Canada's maple leaf flag).

However, not all religious flags show religious images! The republic of Ireland flag is a tri-colour of green, white and orange which shows the union between the majority Catholic religion (in the Green) and the minority Protestants (in the Orange) with the white showing the peace between to the two religions.

Richard Hall

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will be holding our annual Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September from 10am till midday at Lanchester Community Centre. Entry is free as are hot and cold drinks and a piece of cake or a cookie. There will be a cake and preserves stall, lavender bags for sale and a raffle with lovely prizes. Everyone is very welcome and we hope to see you there for a cuppa, a chat with friends and something delicious to eat and buy.

We are so grateful for the support we receive each year, which is so vital when one in two people are diagnosed with cancer.

Jackie Easton

Coat Hangers Appeal

As you know I have been producing sets of pretty, patterned cotton covered, padded coat hangers to sell for Church Funds. So far, I have worked my way through a heap of 80 hangers but have finally come to the end of my supply of plain, single, curved wooden hangers. If anyone has any or knows where I could acquire further supplies, I would be very grateful. Please ring Margaret on 01207 521214 if you think you can help. Many thanks.

Margaret Walters

Children's Society

The 2026 Children's Society is complete, and proceeds sent to the Society
The Total was £1,622.16
A big thank you to everyone who contributed.

Steve Craddock

From The Wardens

As ever, the Church Wardens continue to support Lesley in her ministry between the two churches.

All Saints remains closed throughout the week, until further notice, following a decision by the PCC. The situation has improved and the measures taken by the church to deter past problems are still in place and have helped to alleviate the problem. It is hoped to reopen the church at a future date. Until then a notice has been placed on the noticeboard giving information of who to contact if passing Pilgrims or indeed anyone wish to access the church for prayer.

Sadly, we have not had anyone come forward to offer help in our request for additions to our cleaning teams which is disappointing but we have had to reorganise ourselves.

We will be arranging over the next month or so to have the heating serviced and the fire alarms serviced ready for the next heating season. We shall also be making arrangements for the second organ service of the year in preparation towards Advent and Christmas.

We have had several false alarms from our roof alarm caused by the large tree alongside the South door which has grown so much over the years that it is encroaching the stonework on the aisle roof and overhanging the roof gutter. In extreme windy conditions it activates the roof alarm and we get an alert from the alarm company. We have discussed this with the council who are sending an arboreal team to lop the branches.

We have received notification from our Architect with a date for our quinquennial inspections: 13th August for St Johns and 26th August for All Saints.

At St Johns we are still relying on the volunteers from the probation service who carry out clearance works in the grounds of the church. We are currently considering options for path repairs.

For the Churchwardens

Rob Matthews

Church Fundraising Activities

On the warm Wednesday morning of the 17th June, we held our Coffee and Cake Morning with a raffle and pop-up shops and what a pleasant morning this was! The Chapter House was full to the brim with plenty of chat, laughter and fellowship shared and we made a total of £514.50. Many thanks to all who supported us, to the workers behind the scenes and a special thanks to Sara Allison who kindly made and provided our lovely cakes.

Then on the afternoon of Thursday 23rd July, we held our Strawberry Tea with jam and cream scones and shortbread. Again, the Chapter House was full. A good time was had by all and we were given quite a few donations which brought our total amount raised to £332.00. Once again, many thanks to all who came for your continued support.

Last, but not least, four of us from Lanchester went to the Strawberry Supper on Monday 13th July in the Community Centre at Burnhope. We were given a warm welcome and had a good night. Thank you from all for of us and roll on the next event!

Margaret Brown

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

Table Top Sale

at Deanery Cottages on Saturday 12th September

Last Night of the Proms Social

at Chapter House on Saturday 12th September

Parish Register - Lanchester & St John's

Baptisms;

Oliver Cook and Archie Mason 28th June

Vinnie Lee New 25th July

Joshua Jet Brown 26th July

Elias Taylor 2nd August

Khloe Harrison 9th August

Emma Clark 23rd August

Penelope Carole Howarth 30th August **at St. John's**

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

Marriage;

Alexander Colby to Jorden Pinkney 1st August

Wedding Blessing and Baptism;

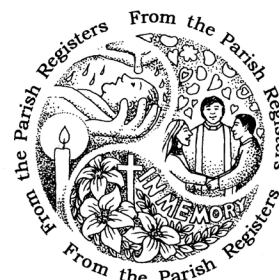
Sharnie and Kieran Rankin, Lyla Iris Rankin 9th August

Deaths;

Peter Bridgewater 24th August

Hilary Rose 26th August

"May they rest in peace and rise in glory"



Jennifer Ann Denise Bell (DENISE)

5th June 1947 to 14th May 2026

"A lovely Lanchester lass has gone away"

Some words from her husband Robin

Denise Richardson was born on 5 June 1947 in Annfield Plain, County Durham, to John (Jack) Richardson and Norah (nee Stephenson). She was their only child. Norah herself was the eldest of five children so Denise had many cousins in the area and they still remain very close and are to attend her funeral. The family moved later to the small village of Lanchester, to the Garths and later to Mount Park Drive.

After local primary school, in 1958 Denise went to Annfield Plain Girls' Secondary Modern School where she was in the "A" stream for all 5 years and left with her Headmistress' sincere commendation and 8 GCEs at "O" level to boot, the highest in her year group. Aged 16 she joined the Post Office Savings Department in Durham as a Clerical Officer on the princely annual salary of £315, and was a civil servant for about 32 years, moving to the Department of National Savings and then HM Customs and Excise in Southend – where VAT was introduced – before it merged with HM Inland Revenue to form HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) in the 1980s. Reports show she was "better than good at her job" and thus rose to a senior level and was in charge of personnel matters (HR) for about 2,500 staff (employed by an HMRC "collection" based in Wembley NW London). She retired in the mid 1990s for, perhaps, a less stressful life!

On 30 June 1980 Denise was married to Robin Bell at Lanchester church by Canon Chase – a most happy occasion despite Jupiter Pluvius, followed by a 2 week honeymoon in the Highlands which they both loved and visited over 20 times during their long marriage. Her parents, Norah and Jack, spent many visits to Denise's Surrey home – and vice versa – until they died in 2010 and 2018. Norah was the home maker with a design flair and excellent skills in flower arranging, especially at Lanchester church, skills and attributes passed down to Denise who, until her death, remained the quietly confident chief flower arranger at our church, St John the Baptist in Windlesham, where her funeral took place on 17 June.

Meanwhile Jack, after devastating exposure to the horrors of WW2 on the North Atlantic convoys, became a valuable asset to the village – butcher, rent-collector, church warden, parish clerk, clerk to the magistrates, etc and Bedesman at the Cathedral in Durham during his latter years. In many ways his strong personal qualities are reflected in Denise's life – love, hard work, helping others where she could. She is already missed by all who knew her.

We spent a good few rather hot holidays in the Med area – France, Spain, Greece, Crete, Turkey, Sicily, but in advancing age we gravitated to more cultural venues – Rome, Venice, Paris, Barcelona to name a few, and Denise was a trip planner par excellence. Twenty years ago we visited the Scilly Isles for the first time, and sadly it was on our last trip there that Denise was taken so very ill. She passed away quite suddenly at 10pm on Thursday 14 May 2026 in the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro with her husband at her side. She was only 78 and had a very happy life cut too short.

Robin Bell, Husband - 1 June 2026

Sea Sunday 19 July 2026

John Gueran who is a retired naval officer and a member of the congregation at All Saints' Lanchester was asked to speak on Sea Sunday.

This was his address:

Bible Passages:

Jonah 2, Jonah in the Whale

Matthew 8:23-27, Jesus calms the Storm

Acts 27:27-37, Paul shipwrecked



These 3 passages clearly indicate that the Sea can be a very dangerous place!

Today is known as Sea Sunday in the Anglican calendar.

Sea Sunday was initially proposed in 1975, in the UK, by 3 Christian organisations working with the Merchant Navy: one Anglican, one Roman Catholic and one working for the Free churches. The purpose of Sea Sunday was to recognize the dangers for those who "ply their trade" at sea and to appreciate the special sacrifices of the merchant seamen who spend many months away from home delivering the essential goods we need in this country. 90% of everything we can buy in the UK comes into this country by sea. Since then, Sea Sunday has been adopted by the Anglican Church and has, quite rightly, expanded to include: The Royal Navy, RNLI, Coast Guard, Fishermen, Ferry operators amongst others. A lot has also changed since 1975. Now, most of all merchant seamen come from the Philippines. The British Fishery Fleet has diminished considerably and there are only a few major ports in the UK: Immingham near Grimsby, Felixstowe, London, Southampton and Dover. Thank you, Lesley, for inviting me to speak on Sea Sunday. I'm sure it is because I have served at sea with The Royal Navy. Today, I will focus on my time "taking the Queen's shilling" in the Royal Navy.

My family background includes other family members who served at sea. My grandfather, Pop, was a tugboat commander in a Belgian Port during the first World War and the family lore is that he was involved with his small craft in the evacuation from Dunkirk. Whether that is true or not is a matter of speculation. However, we had a saying in the Royal Navy, "never let the truth spoil a good story!" My mum's eldest brother Edward Birch, telegraphist 2nd Class, went down with his ship HMS Achates on the run to Northern Russia, Murmansk in the Second World War. I managed to get his North Atlantic medal for mum before she died. My son Daniel joined the Royal Marines in 2012 and is still serving his country.

I joined the Royal Navy in 1982 and started my Officer Training at BRNC Dartmouth. I rose through the ranks to eventually become Instructor Officer, Lieutenant Commander. I was mainly involved in training but had two sea appointments and served onboard 12 ships at sea. When I started in the Navy, I was a devout atheist but went to church every Sunday because that was an hour in the week where nobody shouted at me! The Chaplain, or Padre, was the Rev Simon Golding, who went on to become Chaplain of the Fleet, the Senior Padre in the Naval Service. It very soon became apparent that The Royal Navy was a deeply Christian organisation. It had a Navy chaplains branch with chaplains from the Church of England, the Roman Catholic church and the free churches.

Also, at that time there were 6 Articles of War which had been established on 25th December 1749. These had to be posted in every Navy Ship and Establishment. The First of these was:

1. 'Divine Worship. All Commanders, Captains and officers, in or belonging to any of His Majesty's Ships or vessels of war, shall cause the public worship of Almighty God, according to the liturgy of the Church of England established by law, to be solemnly, orderly and reverently performed in their respective ships; and shall take care that prayers and preaching, by the chaplains in holy orders of the respective ships, be performed diligently; and that the Lord's day be observed according to law'.

Now I would have thought the first duty of the Commanding Officer would be to blast the enemy out of the water with all due haste, but no, Almighty God is to be worshiped! There remains to this day an obligation on Commanding Officers for public worship of God every Sabbath while the Ship sails at Sea. Attendance is not now compulsory and tends to be roughly the same as our congregation in Lanchester. However, I had a friend who served on HMS Liverpool, who was a member of the Naval Christian Fellowship, when they were sailing through the Med, towards the First Gulf War who told me that Church attendance rose considerably as they sailed towards the shooting. The expression in the military is that "there are no atheists in a fox hole!"

The highlight of my Naval Service was when I was sailing across the Atlantic Ocean to the West Indies in HMS Fearless. (It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it!) The captain stopped the ship exactly halfway across and announced: "Hands to Bathe" i.e. go for a swim if you want to. So, I swam in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, with the nearest land 1000 miles away.

I would like to finish with 2 prayers from significant Naval Commanders. The first is Admiral Lord Nelson's prayers before the Battle of Trafalgar.

On the morning of October 21, 1805, just before the decisive Battle of Trafalgar, Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson recorded a prayer in his journal.

He prayed:

"May the great God, whom I worship, grant to my country and for the benefit of Europe in general, a great and glorious victory; and may no misconduct in anyone tarnish it; and may humanity after victory be the predominant feature in the British fleet. For myself individually, I commit my life to Him who made me, and may His blessing light upon my endeavours for serving my country faithfully. To Him I resign myself, and the just cause which is entrusted to me to defend. Amen."

The second is Sir Francis Drake's Prayer.

O Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through him who for the finishing of thy work laid down his life for us, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

There is great humility in both these prayers. They both lived in times where there was a greater acknowledgement of God. They both lived close to great danger and have a lot to teach us today in terms of trusting in God.

I used to keep Sir Francis Drake's prayer in the fore front of my mind whenever I had a task to perform in the Royal Navy.

John Gueran, Lieutenant Commander, Royal Navy (retired).

FROM CHURCH CLOCK TO MYSTERY CLOCK

Imagine for a moment a humble bus ticket, a small slip of card that holds the promise of movement and connection. Now, imagine that same ticket nestled inside the casing of an old clock – a fragment of everyday life preserved quite literally within the passage of time. This is the story of a ticket, bus or rail for the route between Durham and Lanchester, found inside the workings of a clock – a surprising intersection of history, travel, and memory.

The mystery clock was found at a 'Vide-grenier', which is basically a street market similar to a car boot sale, in the small French village of Courcité, close to where my family live.

It's not a vintage clock, they were probably mass produced for the European market around 1930. The designer may have purchased a bundle of tickets online and Durham to Lanchester was in that bundle and scanned and copied them, who knows. It is still, however, fascinating how a small piece of the northeast history managed to travel all the way into European home décor. To be purchased for 4 euro by my son who until his move to France lived in Lanchester.

Is it a bus or train ticket? Is it a combination of the two? The literal meaning of 'Voie' is train. The literal meaning of 'Voie Express' is expressway, dual carriageway, highway. Is it a design of the French clock that just happens to have Durham to Lanchester printed on the encased ticket.

To discover a bus ticket (for ease of writing, I am calling it a bus ticket) in an unlikely place is a curiosity in itself. Tucked behind the glass, amidst the gears and hands of a clock, it is as though time itself has chosen to preserve this fleeting artefact. Is it the original? Was it hidden there on purpose? Perhaps a memento, a reminder of a special journey, or simply the result of a passenger's absentmindedness? The purpose remains a mystery, but the symbolism is undeniable: travel and time are inextricably linked.

The bus then as now is a familiar sight to those journeying between the cathedral city of Durham and the village of Lanchester. Winding its way through the rolling countryside of County Durham, the service embodying the region's enduring connection between urban culture and rural tranquillity. For years, passengers have relied on the Lanchester-Durham route for daily commutes, visits to family, and the simple joy of travelling on to other destinations.

Clocks have always represented the relentless march of time, marking out the hours of our lives with measured precision. By enclosing a bus ticket, the clock transforms from a mere timekeeper into a time capsule. The ticket becomes more than proof of fare; it stands as a testament to a moment lived – the anticipation of departure, the passing countryside, the anticipation at journey's end.

For many, routes like the one from Lanchester woven into the fabric of everyday memory. A person's commute to work, a student's return from university, a day out in the city – each ticket represents countless stories, both extraordinary and mundane. To find such a ticket protected inside a clock is to be reminded that our lives are measured not just in hours and minutes, but in the journeys we undertake.

The connection between Durham and Lanchester, is more than a simple bus journey. It is a thread that runs through personal histories and shared experience, connecting communities across the north-east. The ticket in the clock, whether copied from an original or is the original, or is that combination of the designer, asks us to pause, if only for a moment, and reflect on the journeys, big and small, that shape our sense of time and place.

In the end, the Durham to Lanchester Voie Express number 23 ticket preserved within a clock is a poignant tribute to the way movement and memory are intertwined. Clocks keep time, tickets capture journeys; together, they remind us that every journey – no matter how routine – is a moment worth holding onto. So next time you board the X5/X15, or catch a train, consider the slip of paper in your hand: it may just be a ticket to a treasured memory, waiting to be rediscovered in the ticking heart of time.



Pauline Hall

ST JOHN'S CHURCH – THE ROLE OF THE CLOCK IN COMMUNITY LIFE

The clock and clock tower of St John's, Burnhope, are cherished landmarks at the heart of the local community. Their history is intertwined with the development of the village itself, bearing witness to generations of change, continuity, and communal pride. St John's Church was established in Burnhope during the late 19th century, a period marked by industrial growth and population expansion in County Durham.



In 1923 the Church Tower, clock and tubular bells were officially dedicated as a First World War memorial complete with a commemorative plaque listing the names of 64 men of the then Parish of Holmside who died fighting in the 1914-18 war; many of whose families still live in Burnhope. The official opening was carried out by Mr U A Ritson, a prominent mine owner who operated multiple collieries across County Durham, and dedicated by Dr Henson, Bishop of Durham. The tubular bells were installed by the renowned Harrington, Holland and Co; the system featured tubes measuring 58 inches and 87 inches, sadly no longer there. For many decades, the St John's clock was more than just a timekeeping device; it regulated the rhythm of daily life in Burnhope. The clock's chimes marked the hours for colliery workers, shopkeepers, and schoolchildren alike. Its presence offered reassurance through the clarity and regularity of its sound, especially in an age when few households owned personal timepieces.

The early to mid-20th century brought considerable challenges and changes to Burnhope. During the second World War, the clock tower would have served as a symbol of continuity and hope. Its face was sometimes dimmed during blackout periods, but the bell continued to toll, providing a sense of normality during turbulent times. After the wars, as technology advanced and lifestyles shifted, the clock's role as the village's primary timekeeper gradually diminished, but its symbolic value remained undiminished.

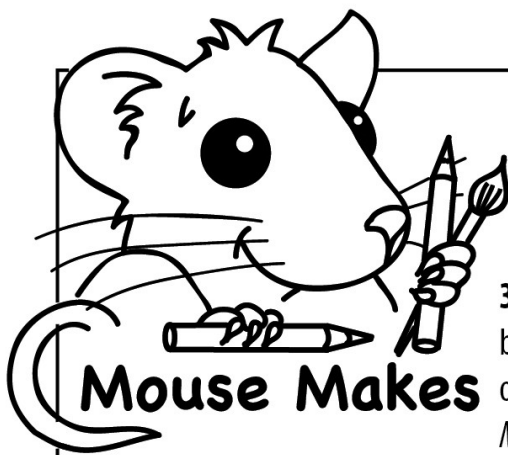
Like all mechanical devices, the clock has required regular maintenance over the years in maintaining its original character and craftsmanship. This would not have been possible without the love and dedication shown by Mr Ted Coates over many years and when Ted passed on, the baton was picked up by his son Derek, who has continued until recently to show the same love and dedication.

However, all hope was nearly lost for the clock as 19th January 2024 saw another storm spreading across the Country wreaking havoc, uprooting trees, people having to be rescued from their cars and houses. As we watched and heard this major incident unfolding on our radios and TV's, little did we realise that our lovely village Church would also be a victim of Storm Isha. Severe damage was caused to the south facing clock, the centre panel was blown in, which in turn caused damage to the pointers and the spindle which was weighing on the cogs of the clock. There is a marvellous community spirit in Burnhope and soon the community rallied round to ensure its preservation, fundraising for repairs and restoration.

Today, the clock and its tower remain iconic features of Burnhope. They continue to serve as a physical anchor of safety, history and shared identity during times of both celebration and crisis an enduring spirit of the community, linking past, present, and future generations.

The history of St John's, Burnhope clock and clock tower is a microcosm of the village's own story—one of resilience, tradition, and shared identity. As Burnhope continues to evolve, the clock tower stands steadfast, marking the passage of time and serving as a reminder of the community's rich heritage.

Pauline Hall, Churchwarden



1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

EGYPT



JERUSLEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JOURNEYS

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

JUDEA

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