

TINK

April 2019

The newspaper for the Diocese of Newcastle

INSIDE:

- Page 3 An Evening of Peace and Unity after the New Zealand massacre
- Page 4 Bishop Christine's St Oswald's Way Pilgrimage
- Page 5 Together Newcastle and Tyne and Wear Citizens
- Page 6 Homelessness and hot chocolate
- Page 7 Easter Pilgrim



Mark Wroe installed as Archdeacon of Northumberland

HUNDREDS of people filled Newcastle Cathedral to watch the Reverend Mark Wroe installed as the new Archdeacon of Northumberland.

Mark, who was previously vicar at Holy Trinity Jesmond, Newcastle, is now the Venerable Mark Wroe.

He was appointed Acting Archdeacon last year after the

Very Reverend Geoff Miller, his predecessor, became Dean of Newcastle.

Following his appointment, Bishop Christine said: "Mark brings with him great warmth and deep faith. He has been an inspirational incumbent at Holy Trinity Jesmond, and has served the wider Church with wisdom and dedication as Area Dean, and since January last year, as Acting Archdeacon of Northumberland.

The Bishop of Berwick, the Right Reverend Mark Tanner said: "Mark brings a wealth of experience and a lovely mix of godliness, wisdom, compassion, and lively hope; he will be much missed at Holy Trinity, but will continue to be a blessing to the Diocese in this new role. I am delighted at his appointment, and look forward to working with him."

For more photos, visit: www.newcastle.anglican.org

Bishops' Diaries

April

This is not a full list of the Bishops' engagements, but includes the items we think might be of particular interest to you.

BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| 7th | 10.00am | St. John, Kingston Park |
| | 4.00pm | St. Thomas the Martyr, Newcastle – Licensing of The Revd Ben Doolan |
| 8th - 10th | | Bishop's Senior Staff Residential Meeting |
| 11th | 8.30am | Warkworth, Acklington and Shilbottle Interviews |
| | 1.30pm | Cathedral Council |
| 11th - 12th | | Northern Church Leaders, Hinsley Hall |
| 14th | 9.15am | HMP Northumberland, Sunday Eucharist, Baptism and Confirmation |
| 15th | | Deanery Walk - Corbridge |
| 16th | 8.30am | Bishops and Archdeacons Meeting |
| 17th | 10.00am | Reconciliation and Brexit Meeting |
| 18th | 11.00am | Chrism Mass, Cathedral |
| | 7.30pm | Maundy Thursday Eucharist – St. Bartholomew Newbiggin |
| 19th | 2.00pm | Good Friday Liturgy, St Bartholomew, Newbiggin |
| 21st | 9.30am | Easter Day Eucharist, St Bartholomew Newbiggin |
| 29th | 11.30am | Rural Schools Conference, Hexham |
| 30th | 10.00am | North East Regional Bishops Meeting |

BISHOP OF BERWICK

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| 1st | 8.30am | Morning Prayer and Coffee, Chapel in Northumbria Hospital |
| | 2.00pm | Evangelism Task Group |
| | 7.00pm | Licensing Louise Taylor-Kenyon, St Aidan, Bamburgh |
| 2nd | 10.00am | Short listing meeting for North Sunderland and Beadnell |
| | 12.30pm | St Ceowulf Church of England First School, Norham |
| | 7.15pm | Reader Executive |
| 4th | 10.00am | Resource Church Steering Group Meeting, Pegswood |
| | 6.00pm | Diocesan Ministry Council, Church House |
| 6th | | Morning Men's Breakfast |
| | | Greeting the new High Sheriff |
| 7th | 11.00am | Morning Eucharist, St Andrew, Newcastle |
| | 4.00pm | Licensing of The Revd Ben Doolan |
| 8th | 9.00am | Bishop of Newcastle |
| 8th - 10th | | Senior Staff Residential, Shepherds Dene |
| 11th - 12th | | Northern Church Leaders' Retreat, Hinsley Hall |
| 13th | 10.30am | Central Readers Council, London |
| 16th | 8.30am | Bishops and Archdeacons Meeting |
| | 11.00am | Appointment Interviews for North Sunderland and Beadnell |
| 18th | 11.00am | Chrism Mass, Newcastle Cathedral |
| | 6.30pm | Eucharist of the Last Supper, Newcastle Cathedral |
| 19th | 2.00pm | Liturgy of the Cross, Newcastle Cathedral |
| 21st | 10.00am | Festal Eucharist, Newcastle Cathedral |
| 30th | 10.00am | North East Regional Bishops, York |
| | 6.30pm | Tyne and Wear Citizens Assembly, Tyne Theatre and Opera House |

Email scam – please be aware!



We want you to be aware of emails reported in this Diocese trying to extort money from people illegally. The scammers are somehow able to see email traffic, often between two individuals – one of the individuals will then receive an email claiming to be

from the other asking for money, for example to settle an invoice. Only pay invoices if you are sure they are legitimate, and if the invoice is unexpected, please check it out and do not open any attachments in the email.

Gospel Readings

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Monday | John 443-end | Wednesday | John 13.21-32 |
| Tuesday | John 5.1-3, 5-16 | Maundy Thursday | John 13.1-17, 31b-35 |
| Wednesday | John 5.17-30 | Good Friday | John 18.1-end of 19 |
| Thursday | John 5.31-end | Saturday | Matthew 27.57-end or John 19.38-end |
| Friday | John 7.1-2, 10, 25-30 | Easter Day | John 20.1-18 |
| Saturday | John 7.40-52 | Monday | or Luke 24.1-12 |
| 5th Sunday of Lent | John 12.1-8 | Tuesday | Matthew 28.8-15 |
| Monday | John 8.1-11 | Wednesday | John 20.11-18 |
| Tuesday | John 8.21-30 | Thursday | Luke 24.13-35 |
| Wednesday | John 8.31-42 | Friday | Luke 24.35-48 |
| George Selwyn, Bishop | John 8.51-end | Saturday | John 21.1-14 |
| Friday | John 10.31-end | Saturday | Mark 16.9-15 |
| Saturday | John 11.45-end | 2nd Sunday of Easter | John 20.19-end |
| Palm Sunday | Luke 22.14-end of 23 or Luke 23.1-49 | Monday | John 15.18-21 |
| Monday | John 12.1-11 | Tuesday | Mark 13.5-13 |
| Tuesday | John 12.20-36 | | |

Comings & Goings

APPOINTMENTS

The Revd Ben Doolan, currently Resource Church Leader, is also going to be Master of St Thomas the Martyr, Newcastle, with effect from 7 April 2019.

The Revd Mike Hills, who currently holds PTO in this Diocese, is going to be Vicar, Newcastle St. Andrew and Chaplain to the City Centre Chaplaincy, with effect from 9 July 2019.

The Revd Helen Mary Lunn, previously Honorary Assistant Curate at St Michael with St Lawrence, Byker, had been appointed Honorary Assistant Curate at St Martin and St Anthony, Byker, with effect from 1 March 2019.

RESIGNATIONS

The Revd Canon Richard Brian Hill, currently chaplain St Mary Magdalene and Holy Jesus Trust, Newcastle, and assistant ecumenical officer, is to resign with effect from 22 April 2019.

RETIREMENTS

The Revd Canon Steven Harvey, currently Residentiary

Canon at the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, is to retire, with effect from 31 May 2019.

The Revd Canon Richard Hill, currently Chaplain to the St Mary Magdalene and Holy Jesus Trust, is to retire with effect from 22 April 2019.

VACANT PARISHES

The Bishop and Archdeacons are currently looking to make appointments to the following vacant parishes in the Diocese and would welcome expressions of interest for any of the following vacancies:

Scotswood (HFD)
Cramlington TV
Ellingham, N Sunderland and Beadnell
Warkworth w Acklington and Shilbottle
Denton
Tynemouth St. Paul
Gosforth, St. Nicholas

This does not represent all the parishes currently vacant in the Diocese, other parishes will be added at an appropriate stage in the vacancy process.

CONTACT US



The Link, Church House, St John's Terrace,
North Shields, NE29 6HS.
Tel: (0191) 270 4100.
Email: link@newcastle.anglican.org
Facebook: [m.me/ncldiocese](https://www.facebook.com/m.me/ncldiocese)
Twitter: @ncldiocese
Instagram: @NclDiocese

Link is produced ten times a year by the Diocese of Newcastle, with joint issues for August/September and December/January. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Diocese or the editor. The editor is pleased to consider articles or letters of not more than 350 words for publication. Where possible, articles should be accompanied by a good-quality digital photograph of 250dpi or higher. Please contact the editor before submitting obituaries.

For advertising rates and deadlines see www.newcastle.anglican.org/link.
Copy date for May issue: Monday 22 April 2019

An Evening of Peace and Unity after the New Zealand massacre

THE Very Reverend Geoff Miller, Dean of Newcastle, and the Diocese of Newcastle held an 'Evening of Peace and Unity' following the massacre in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Everyone, of all faiths and none, was invited to attend the event at Newcastle Cathedral.

Imam Abdul Basit from Newcastle Central Mosque, Granger Park Road, spoke, as did representatives from a number of different faiths to denounce extremism. The names of the victims were read out and candles lit in their memory.

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, David Down, Leader of the Council Nick Forbes and many community leaders stood in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters, while a powerful letter written to the killer from a Muslim woman in New Zealand was read at the end of the Vigil.

Geoff Miller commented: "We were all shocked by the terrible killings of worshippers in Christchurch. In Newcastle, as in New Zealand, we are united against all forms of extremism and the event was an opportunity for every one of us to stand in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters. We will show that we are welcoming to all faiths and cultures, and that we value highly the relationships we have with our Muslim communities."



PICTURES: SIMONE J RUDOLPHI



Bishop's Letter

with Mark Tanner

"Father, the hour has come..." says Jesus at the beginning of John 17. It is finally time; not for crunch decisions about Brexit (however it might feel as I write this, and who knows how it will feel when you read it), nor for any human plans however significant they might be. Here Jesus is preparing for the death He knows He faces in order that the sovereign grace of God might be set free in all its fullness in this disordered world over which we are appointed stewards.

And in this moment Jesus prays. It is important just to note that, incidentally, He prays. And He prays a number of really interesting things. He prays that the Father will glorify Him, that He may glorify the Father. His forthcoming death is processed in prayer and settled in Jesus' desire that His life and His death might all be grounded in the glorification of God. This sentiment, picked up in the Jesuit motto, *ad majorem Dei gloriam*, captures the heart of the believer in life-giving purpose even in the midst of trauma and perplexity.

More than this, Christ prays for us in this moment; never asking that the Father would remove us from trials but that He would guard and guide us through them... and that in all of this we might be one. Our unity, even, perhaps especially, in the midst of perplexity and trial both glorifies God and draws others into the freedom and life we have discovered in Him.

I have no idea where we will be as a nation by the time you read this. More, I know that the many readers of the Link will have different views even on where we *should be*. In all of this, Christ prays that we may be one. Our unity as Christians is not simple good citizenship. Rather, as we focus on the greater glory of God which always transcends our difference, we find we are united in a way which rebuilds community, establishes hope, and draw others into the possibility of the transforming love of Christ. This is just part of the Easter hope we inhabit.

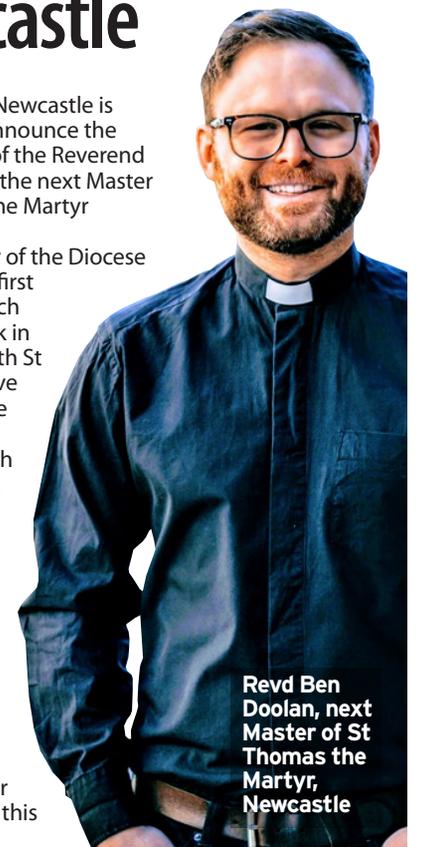
So, happy Easter when it comes, and *ad majorem Dei gloriam!*

New Master for St Thomas the Martyr Newcastle

The Bishop of Newcastle is delighted to announce the appointment of the Reverend Ben Doolan as the next Master of St Thomas the Martyr Newcastle.

Ben is leader of the Diocese of Newcastle's first Resource Church which will work in partnership with St Thomas' to serve the city and the wider diocese 'growing church bringing hope'.

Ben will be licensed as Master by Bishop Christine on Sunday 7th April at 4pm. Please keep Ben, his wife Ellie and all at St Thomas' in your prayers during this exciting time.



Revd Ben Doolan, next Master of St Thomas the Martyr, Newcastle

Bishop Christine in this year's Greenwich Portraits



PICTURE: DIANE PATRICE PHOTOGRAPHY

Bishop Christine features in this year's Greenwich Portraits, the first time a representative from the Church of England has been included in this important collection.

The Portraits honour former alumni of the University of Greenwich who are making their mark on our society.

This year, sixteen people are featured, including a lunar pioneer, an award winning author and leading TV producers - all graduates from the University of Greenwich.

An invitation to join Bishop Christine in praying for our Diocese

BISHOP Christine will be walking the St Oswald's Way from 20th - 25th May this year as a pilgrimage of prayer for the Diocese and our vision 'growing church bringing hope'.

She invites you to join her in one of the following three ways:

Walk, talk, and pray with her for a day

If you would like to walk with Bishop Christine and her team for one of the days of the pilgrimage, please book a place with Ruth at Bishop's House by emailing ruth.stradling@newcastle.anglican.org.

There are ten places available for each day of the walk.

N.B. The walk is fairly strenuous and briskly paced; you will need to be able to walk long distances and be appropriately equipped. You will also need a packed lunch and arrange your own transport to the starting place and from the finish. Because of the nature of this walk, it is not possible to join part of the way through the day. Start times and places will be provided on booking.

20 May: Heavenfield to Kirkwelpington - 17.5 miles

21 May: Kirkwelpington to Rothbury - 15 miles

22 May: Rothbury to Warkworth - 18 miles

23 May: Warkworth to Craster - 13.5 miles

24 May: Craster to Bamburgh - 14 miles

25 May: Bamburgh to Holy Island - 19 miles

Meet and pray with her at a church along the route

At the end of each day, Bishop Christine and her walking companions will be meeting with a local church community for prayers. All are welcome to join them.

20 May: St Bartholomew, Kirkwelpington at 5.30pm

21 May: All Saints, Rothbury at 5.00pm

22 May: St Lawrence, Warkworth at 5.30pm

23 May: St Peter the Fisherman, Craster at 5.00pm

24 May: St Aidan, Bamburgh at 5.00pm

25 May: St Mary the Virgin, Holy Island at 5.00pm

Pray with her from your home

Each day, the Bishop will be praying for specific places and aspects of the life of the Diocese. You can join her in prayer from your home using the prayer diary for the pilgrimage, which can be found at: www.newcastle.anglican.org/pilgrimage_of_prayer/

Choose the UK's most trusted home insurance provider and we'll donate **£130** to your church

Take out a new home insurance policy with us before **31 December 2019**, and we'll donate £130* to a church of your choice through our Trust130 promotion.

Find out more at www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance or

call our team on 0800 783 0130 and quote **Trust130**.

* Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.



Together Newcastle and Tyne and Wear Citizens



By Steve Forster, Together Newcastle

THE Diocese of Newcastle was one of the founding members of Tyne and Wear Citizens when it was founded in December 2015.

It is a diverse organisation, made of community and voluntary organisations, schools, a mosque, the Quakers, Roman Catholics, as well as congregations from parishes across the Diocese.

Following a listening campaign engaging with thousands of people across Tyne and Wear, a Launch Assembly took place in November 2017 with a radical plan for action, focusing on four key areas:

- Improving mental health service provision for young people
- Safer cities - tackling hate crime and misogyny
- Real living wage - work with local businesses and institutions to secure a real living wage for low paid staff
- Just Change - ensuring that children on free school meals are treated fairly and receive their full allowance

So far, we have:

- Trebled the number of living wage employers in the region from thirty to more than ninety



- Negotiated four schools to re-model and operate a fair change system, bringing more than £60,000 back to young people in receipt of free school meals
- Took public action to 'Reclaim The Metro' and won a Hate Crime Charter on public transport - jointly signed by Nexus, Arriva, Stagecoach and Go-North East
- Took action against hatred forming a

human chain around Newcastle Central Mosque

- Launched a Citizens Commission on Mental Health which has involved 700 people; including holding three public hearings in Sunderland, Durham and Newcastle; Launched the report Living Well: Mental Wellbeing and Public Life in the North East; Held a Mental Health Assembly with 450 people.

North of Tyne Combined Authority

In May 2019, a new North of Tyne Combined Authority will be set up with an election to decide its Mayor. As the largest civic society alliance in the region, Tyne and Wear Citizens are coming together to have their say on what the new Mayor should do and how power can shift to local people and communities.

To do this, it is holding a North Of Tyne Combined Authority Assembly on **Tuesday**

30th April 6.30pm - 8.30pm at the Tyne Theatre Westgate Road, which it is hoped will be attended by all five candidates. We are planning to fill the Tyne Theatre which is critical and demonstrates the power and influence we can have when we work together, so to have a strong representation from congregations across our Diocese would be fantastic. **You will need a ticket - however it is free.**

You can call Steve Forster on 07791369625, email steve.forster@together-newcastle.com, or visit www.citizensuk.org/ntmayor or www.northoftynedevelopment.com.

Finally, just to remind anyone who has not yet registered to vote on 2nd May, the closing date to register is 12th April. To register you need to contact your local authority Electoral Services office.



View from the Lantern

Catherine Mair, Director of Operations, writes from the mother church of the Diocese of Newcastle

www.stnicholascathedral.co.uk

The liturgy of the nails



Since coming to join the staff of the Cathedral over three years ago, one of the things I really miss is that I no longer get to preach through the big Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter as I used to in parish ministry. The first year it felt like a novelty, but increasingly it is a cause of regret. Now, before the gentle rumble of weary parish clergy across the Diocese muttering "lucky her!" gets too loud, I do, I can assure you, have plenty of other things to be getting on with! But nevertheless, I miss the annual round of homiletic rumination, because it was always a good opportunity and discipline, in all of the busyness, to be forced to spend some time dwelling deeply in the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus... to ponder again what it all really means.

This year, therefore, I was delighted to have the opportunity to do a bit of pre-Lenten study, thanks to Professor Lesley Twomey of Northumbria University. She was keen to revive the work of a 15th Century Spanish nun called Constanza, who had written services in both Latin and medieval Spanish (Prof Twomey's subject) for her community of nuns in Castille to sing. As far as Lesley knew, they hadn't been heard in public for 600 years! The music had not survived, but her words had... and what challenging words they were!

The plan was for Schola Cantorum, the Cathedral's women's choir to sing this "Liturgy of the Nails" in Latin - but the Protestant in me wanted those who listened to be able to understand and appreciate Constanza's theology, as well as the beauty of her verse. As I worked on the translation, I began to hear her voice travelling across the centuries, in tones deeply unfamiliar, uncomfortable and yet profound. Hers was a meditation emerging from a very different world view from ours. A world in which life, for most, was brutal and short, and the fear of hell was very real.

For Constanza's peers, the agony of Christ on the Cross was visceral in a way that few of us reading this paper could bear to contemplate. She sees the nails that held him on the Cross as both the ultimate weapons of torture, but also "sweet and lovely" instruments of God's grace. She pulls no punches describing their cruelty, as "silenced and bound... with violent malice (they) were made to cut and stab and pierce your skin and flesh, your muscles and veins, your hands and feet." They should remind us, she says, of the "fangs of the jaws of Hell" from which Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross has saved us.

None of this makes comfortable listening to modern ears, does it? But I am grateful to Constanza for reminding me of the importance of dwelling with the pain, at this time of year in particular. There is such suffering in our world. Whether victims of war, famine, natural disaster or extremist violence, there are millions in our world whose lives are still brutal and short; millions who are experiencing a "living hell" as victims of abuse, addiction or mental illness - some of them on the doorsteps of, and inside, our churches, and certainly our Cathedral. Our inclination may be to turn our eyes from the ghastly sight of the Cross, but Constanza demands that we look at it in all of its horror. For only by first doing that, can we begin to grasp the costly enormity of what Christ has done there: once, and for all.

Spring Harvest



SPRING HARVEST

SPRING Harvest returns once more to Harrogate from 13-17 April.

The Harrogate Convention Centre offers a superb modern venue for gathering together a wide range of people, from those who are seeking faith in God for the first time through to those who have been Christians for years!

Harrogate is also an exciting venture as it provides something fresh and alternative to the regular annual gatherings at Minehead and Skegness.

The theme of 2019 is 'Unlimited: When You Pray', also known as #WhenYouPray as there is a focus on the joy, importance and immediacy of prayer in our lives.

As well as the usual challenging teaching and great worship each year, there will also be a number of prayer rooms and places to escape and talk with God.

A spokesperson for the event said: "Our real hope is that whole churches will come to Harrogate as families to engage with God and then return home challenged to have deepened levels of prayer."

■ For ticket prices, full event details and online booking, visit springharvest.org/harrogate

Homelessness and hot chocolate



The Community of Aidan & Hilda presents:

Celtic Summer School

Learning about Celtic Christianity for today & deconstructing myths

August 7th – 14th 2019
Being held in Durham

With teaching from

Kenneth McIntosh
Dr Ian Bradley
Penny Warren
Graham Booth
Ray Simpson
Greg Valerio
Simon Reed
Ash Barker
David Cole

Saturday: Celtic art workshops with
Mary Fleson of Lindisfarne Scriptorium



Saturday night: Concert with
Dave Bainbridge & Sally Minnear



Sunday: An evening
with Andy & Anna
Raine of the
Northumbria
Community

Tickets: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cah-celtic-summer-school-tickets-47851986580

As we hear more and more about the increase of homelessness in our country and in our area the Hot Chocolate youth group at Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill, decided to take action. To help the homeless the group made a guy filled with donated clothing for The People's Kitchen in Newcastle.

"Our congregation were so generous with clothing donations" said Revd Julie Mooney, Team Vicar and Minister at The Church of the Good Shepherd. "Not only did we fill the guy with brand new items of clothing but we also collected three more large bags full of donations. One of our young ladies, Joanna, even knitted a huge bag full of scarves." The People's Kitchen

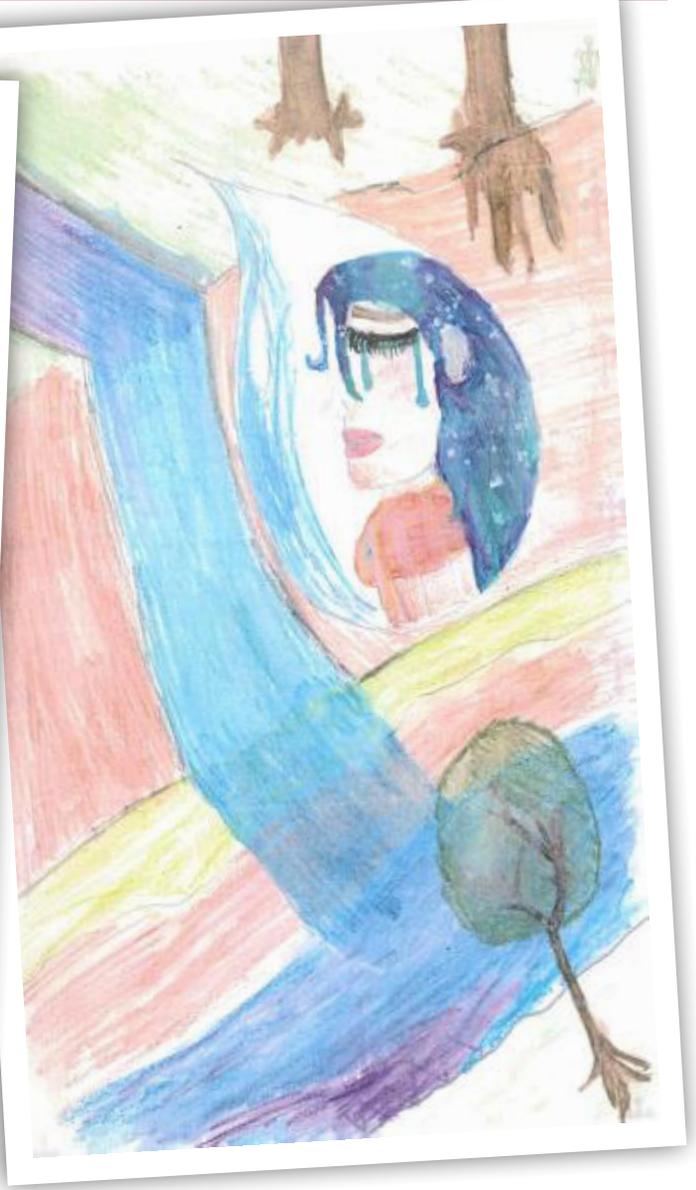
were thrilled to receive the clothing.

At the hot chocolate session the young people talked about the issues of homelessness and they shared their perceptions of the stigma of being homeless, the risk of harm and abuse and the problems of drug and alcohol addiction. They also discussed issues around the unstable and abusive home life that some people experience and can drive them to homelessness.

Making the guy and donating the clothing was a wonderful way for the youth group and church congregation to work together to help the homeless. The perceptions of the youth were used in the sermon for Homelessness Sunday in January and left the congregation with a powerful and thought provoking message.



Left to right, God Is life, God is love and God is our tears



ON Tuesday 5th March, St Andrew's was delighted to welcome the Bishop of Newcastle to its termly service of Holy Communion. The Bishop officiated over the celebratory service but it was the children who led the sermon, prayer and song.

The theme of the service was 'What is God like?'. The children had explored the different ways God is described in the Bible and chose one of the descriptions to illustrate and write a short reflection based upon it. This led to further exploration of God as the Trinity and the talk given by the children explored the place of God in the big story of the Bible including God, as the Father in Heaven and creator, God as Jesus on earth, and God as the Holy Spirit as the power of God acting in the world today.

The children portrayed the life of Jesus through dance and movement to Revelation Song by Kari Jobe, and ended their talk with a challenge to everyone present to think about how they could show the light of God in what they do each day.

The reflections about God provided the prayers, which were moving and thought provoking; challenging ideas about what God is like.

Bishop Christine led the Holy Communion sharing the bread and wine with staff, parents, grandparents and the wider community, and giving the children a blessing if they wished. She also shared with the children information about her regalia, including the mitre and crozier.

The congregation enjoyed the vigorous and joyous singing of contemporary worship songs as well as joining in with the dance movements.

Bishop Christine leads Holy Communion at Heddon-on-the-Wall St. Andrew's CE Primary School



Bishop Christine with students from St. Andrew's CE Primary School

Successful Launch of #LentPilgrim and #EasterPilgrim

The Church of England's 2019 Lent and Easter campaigns have been successfully launched and are designed to take followers from the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, through to Easter with the Lent Pilgrim reflections, and on from Easter Day to Ascension Day with Easter Pilgrim reflections.

The Easter Pilgrim booklet, 40 Days of

Reflection on The Lord's Prayer, written by the Bishop of Oxford, is ideal for anyone to use daily during Easter – starting from Easter Day and finishing 40 days later on Ascension Day – though it can be used at any time of year.

Booklets can be ordered from Church House Publishing www.churchofengland.org/lent.

The Pilgrim Journeys booklets are ideal daily companions for anyone seeking to grow in the Christian faith. Daily reflections are also posted on the Church of England social media pages www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland or sign up to emails or download the app at www.churchofengland.org/pilgrim



Pioneers and beachcombers

BEACHCOMBERFX

exploring life and spirituality in and around the coast



By Beth Rookwood, Pioneer Curate, Parish of Morpeth

For our newly re-vamped, and first-of-the-year, Pioneer Learning Community, 12 of us, ordained and lay, cosied up at The Vicarage in Widdrington Station, hosted by the wonderful Ian and Joanna Dobson. We travelled from nearly all four corners of the Diocese (we'd love some South West representation!) and spent a day together chewing over what it means to be called by God as a pioneer minister in the Church of England.

Rob Wylie, Fresh Expressions enabler in Whitley Bay, shared his story of coming to faith as a teenager, of a strong calling to evangelism and seeing people come to faith, yet struggling to help them belong in local churches. Rob spoke of his current work – to lead Sunday @ the pub, which has just celebrated ten years of gathering and is a community

of followers of Jesus looking to share faith and life and show God's love in the area where they live. It was so interesting to hear of the work expanding into Beachcombers FX; scavenging, collecting, wandering and gathering; each one of these a different aspect to the ministry. Have a look at their website for more details: <https://beachcomberfx.wordpress.com/>. Our next gathering is Monday 10th June and we will be hosted by Jac Atkinson in Denton. If you are a pioneer, or sense God's call to build Christian community with those beyond the current reach of church, do get in touch with revbethrookwood@gmail.com. We'd love to have you along!



Pioneer Ministry

International Women's Day 2019



Bishop Christine



Dame Margaret Barbour



Heidi Mottram



Sarah Glendinning

THE Bishop of Newcastle is among 50 women listed as some of the most inspiring in the North East.

International Women's Day was held on 8th March, and represents an opportunity for us to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women across the world.

The Newcastle Evening Chronicle listed 50 inspirational women in our region who inspire us as entrepreneurs, scientists, community leaders and women of vision. Bishop Christine was recognised for her work in the Diocese of Newcastle, House of Lords and the Church of England's General Synod. Other women recognised for their achievements were Dame Margaret Barbour, the Duchess of Northumberland, Northumbrian Water chief executive Heidi Mottram and CBI regional director Sarah Glendinning.

Why can't all parishes have their own Priest?

By Canon Alan Hughes

My car registration M16 CAR, by converting 6 to Roman VI, reads MY VICAR. Once upon a time everyone could speak of "my Vicar", the Church of England striving for centuries to maintain a Vicar in almost every community. Sole Vicar of Berwick for twenty years, with NHS, Military and Police duties, I previously served four Yorkshire parishes over 100 square miles. When a Vicar retires today they can leave multiple buildings needing temporary cover.

Since retiring six years ago, I have had the privilege of helping other retired clergy cover

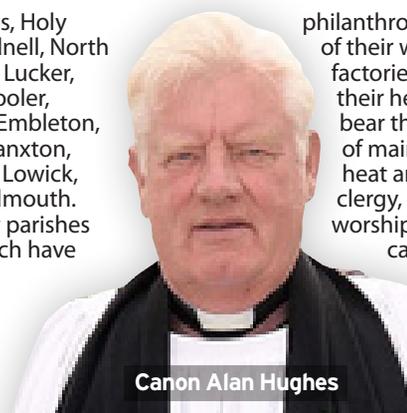
22 vacant rural churches, Holy Island, Bamburgh, Beadnell, North Sunderland, Ellingham, Lucker, Belford, Kirknewton, Wooler, Doddington, Ilderton, Embleton, Eglington, Carham, Branxton, Norham, Cornhill, Ford, Lowick, Etal, Ancroft and Tweedmouth.

I am often asked why parishes are linked, why can't each have its own Priest, why are parishes vacant for so long? Most of our rural and city churches were built by wealthy land owners or industrial

philanthropists, to meet the spiritual needs of their workforce, on the land or in factories. Except in rare circumstances, their heirs and successors no longer bear the considerable financial burden of maintaining them today. Insurance, heat and light, repairs, paying clergy, now falls to the present day worshippers, without State aid. Although called The Church of England, as with other denominations or religious groups, we are not funded by local or national taxes, not supported by Community Charge,

simply the generosity of regular worshippers and supporters.

It has been an enormous privilege to witness the selfless love and care given by Churchwardens and people, working tirelessly and generously to ensure that their churches not only remain open but host active worship, discovering new ministries for a new age, pursuing the diocesan vision of growing church bringing hope. New gifts being released as congregations reflect on what it means to be a Christian, what it means to be human in this age. Archbishop Wulfstan of York wrote a thousand years ago that "The Christian faith ought to teach us who we are, where we come from and what our end will be."



Canon Alan Hughes

Singing Success Across the Years

THERE has been much excitement in the small village of Heddon-on-the-Wall since the local school choir brought home two cups from the Ryton and District Music Festival.

On the 8th March, St Andrew's Singers, from Heddon-on-the-Wall St Andrew's CE Primary School, won the Marion Taylor Trophy in the Song Class of the Junior Children's Choirs. They were awarded the trophy for their own choice song, 'Chariot's Comin'. The adjudicator judged the performance to be energetic and exciting and awarded the choir a distinction.

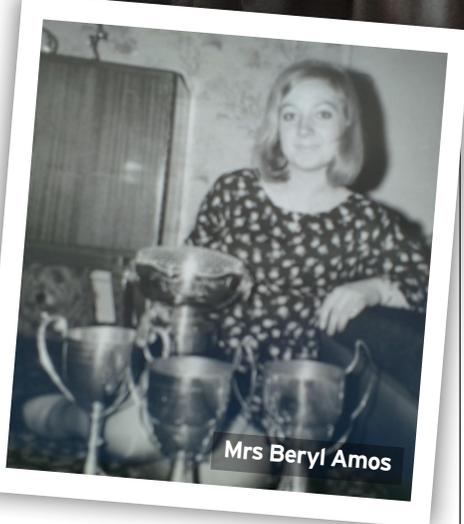
The choir's performances across both the Song Class and the Hymn Class were of the highest standard and St Andrew's Singers were also awarded the W. A. Mears Memorial Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the choir achieving the greatest scores in the choir class.

But St Andrew's Singers are in good company in Heddon as one Heddon resident, Mrs Beryl Amos, (nee Cockburn) was a regular competitor in the Ryton Music Festival. In 1968, she won all four trophies in her class and one year she was awarded a trophy to keep after winning one class for three years in a row. A further twist in the tale is that Mrs Amos worked for many years at Heddon-on-the-Wall St Andrew's Primary School and the success of St Andrew's Singers comes exactly sixty years after her first win.

Mr Andrew Wheatley, Headteacher at St Andrew's said "This success also gives us a moment to reflect on what a wonderful opportunity it is for everyone in our area, young and old to be able to take part in such a fantastic, rewarding and professionally organised festival such as The Ryton Music Festival."



St Andrew's Singers, from Heddon-on-the-Wall St Andrew's CE Primary School



Mrs Beryl Amos



The Bus Stop is a Yorkshire based charity that uses a converted double decker bus to help churches reach out to their local communities. Come along and see how they might partner with your Church and check out their website: www.busstop.org.uk

Thursday 11th April

12:00-1:00 Meet the driver

St Martin's Centre Come and see the Bus. Rosie, who drives the and Scarborough Bus, will

5:00-6:00 be available to ask questions and chat

St Silas' Church with over food.

1:30-3:30 See it in action

Walker Park We will be spending time with children and their families, and and with other members of the

6:15-8:00 community, inviting them to enjoy some time on the bus and

Byker Wall try out an Easter prayer space

Friday 12th April

12:30-2:30 See it in action

St Martin's Centre We'll be out again, so and if you can't make it on

3:00-5:00 Thursday don't worry!

Location TBC

These events are being hosted by Mission Initiative Newcastle East (MINE) in Byker and Walker.

contact

thisisachoicebyker@gmail.com

[facebook.com/MINEYouth](https://www.facebook.com/MINEYouth)

@thisisachoice (twitter)

@mineyouthbyker (instagram)

'This works!' How Messy Churches create new space for faith



PHOTO BY MIKE FOX ON UNSPLASH

Significant new research from the Church Army's Research Unit confirms the serious effectiveness of Messy Church. Playfully Serious: How Messy Churches create new space for faith proves that Messy Church is not 'just a bit of fun', as some critics persist in believing. Rather, it is reaching people who weren't previously attending church, it is growing disciples and it is modelling new patterns of leadership - and it is doing so across a wide range of economic and social contexts.

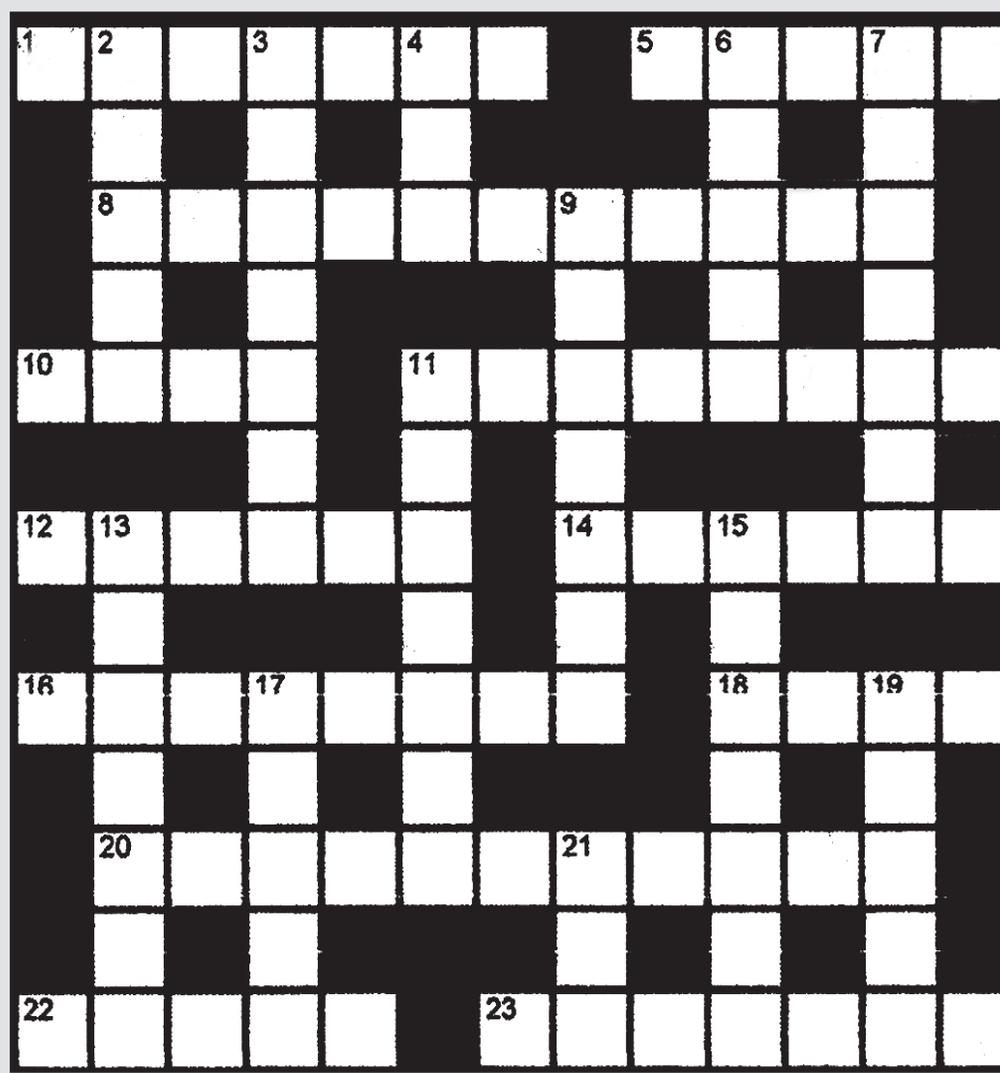
Founded in 2004 by Lucy Moore, and supported throughout its remarkable development by The Bible Reading Fellowship, Messy Church now numbers over 2,800 registered groups in England alone and some 3,500 worldwide. Lucy comments: 'I'm thrilled that the report recognises what we've been hearing from churches for the last 14 years: Messy Church is working... There are so many findings to celebrate... Every page of this report is so full of delights that it's impossible to list them all!'

■ For more information visit www.messychurch.org.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY

Anything catch your eye in this month's LINK? Something on your mind? Or in your prayers? Send an e-mail, message or letter to LINK and we'll publish the best of them:

Have your say. LINK, Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields NE29 6HS. Email us: link@newcastle.anglican.org

**Link Crossword 151** *Compiled by Mary Sutton***ACROSS**

1. Salary of priest getting helpful hint in post (7)
5. Group given roll before church (5)
8. Low Church member finding wandering clan alive, e.g. (11)
10. Lazy hero, reportedly (4)
11. Dogma Ron cited by mistake (8)
12. Average boy with priest (6)
14. Some seed I blend is fit to be eaten (6)
16. Female with correct directions getting scare (8)
18. Manage to get vestment (4)
20. One of the flock from French capital greeting one royal (11)
22. Something valuable when hardened (5)
23. Green, it spoilt number (7)

DOWN

2. First of tops with rip in fashion (5)
3. Quiet man seen before the queen's intercessions (7)
4. Scold horse (3)
6. Cruel eccentric, sore (5)
7. Officer, single, in county, large (7)
9. Learner, recent, breaking stand (7)
11. University lecturer, having consumed seconds, contributes (7)
13. A professional attitude mostly fitting (7)
15. Fragrant smoke in unusual scene (7)
17. Stuff coming from ravine (5)
19. Super new money pouch (5)
21. Popular Northern pub (3)

Prayer Gardens in Northumberland

Does life seem too busy to take a break? Why not stop the clock for a while, reconnect and experience the presence of God?

Across the country there is a network of private gardens and public spaces facilitated by the Quiet Garden Trust which provide quiet space for anyone to take time out, slow down, breathe deeply and experience the presence of God. In Northumberland, there are some local people who have opened up their gardens for people to come and pray. If this sounds just the kind of break you could do with, these gardens and public spaces are a welcome place for you to spend an hour, an afternoon or a whole day just stopping the clock and reconnecting. We all need an inner health check every now and then. In our busy and stressful lives, it is a wise choice to tap into the words of Jesus,

“Come with me, by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest”

If you would like to visit a prayer garden, here are the details of two gardens in Northumberland affiliated with the Quiet Garden Trust for you to contact.

Albafarne, 29 Grange Rd., Shilbottle, Alnwick. NE66 2XN.

Bob and Mary Bain (tel. 07988564299)

Angerton Walled Garden, Hartburn, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 4ES.

Stephen and Ann Attwood (tel. 07891 177152)




IMAGE BY ALEXAS_FOTOS ON PIXABAY

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 149

ACROSS: 8. Sabbath 9. Olive
10. Alert 11. Oversee 12. Passage
14. Aisle 15. Ovoid 17. Untried
19. Endless 20. Copes 22. Basic
23. Angelic
DOWN: 1. Asia 2. Abbeys 3. Fast
4. Shrove Tuesday 5. Covenant
6. Misses 7. Reverend 12. Proverbs
13. Audience 16. Oldest 18. Impale
20. Cage 21. Sack

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 150

ACROSS: 1. Modify 4. Teacup
9. Congregations 10. Bat
11. Unearthly 12. Oodles
13. Casino 16. Moth-eaten 18. Hat
19. Knowledgeable 21. Retire
22. Stated
DOWN: 1. Mac 2. Donated
3. Fortune-teller 5. Entertainment
6. Cloth 7. Pussyfoot 8. Agree
10. Bookmaker 14. Inhabit
15. Study 17. Trout 20. End

Our crossword is sponsored by St Thomas the Martyr Church, One World Shop (at The Haymarket, Newcastle upon Tyne).

A voucher to spend in the shop will be sent to the Crossword winner.

Many thanks to the One World Shop

Completed entries to Competition 151 should be sent to: Competition 151, Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields, NE29 6HS. Closing date: Monday 22 April 2019.

Inspired North East



WWW.INSPIREDNORTHEAST.ORG.UK

With Ian Bapty

Inspired North East

GOING BATTY

Church buildings have many uses, not all of them necessarily foreseen by those who originally built them. They are, of course, treasured places of worship and also act as community spaces which serve people in many other ways. They have become a core part of our cultural and physical landscape, and act as anchor points for our sense of place and identity in an ever changing world. But they have also often become home to many uninvited guests in the form of a wide range of wildlife, and bats in particular have found a longstanding haven in many church roofs and towers.

Much as we value our furry winged friends (and bats are legally protected), this co-habitation is not always an easy one. Nationally at least 60% of pre-16th Century churches are estimated to contain bat roosts and at least eight species are known to use churches. Indeed, with loss of wider habitat and roosting sites - bat populations saw dramatic declines in the 20th century, hence their legal protection - this means that church roosts are ever more important for bat conservation. However, the problem is that bats (and especially the corrosive effects of bat droppings) can cause serious damage to historically significant church monuments and memorials as well as having potential negative effects upon the people who use the buildings. This can place a significant burden on the volunteers who fund, clean and care for church buildings, and in extreme cases church volunteers have found themselves having to cancel events for safety reasons, or have to undertake cleaning on a daily basis.

With a £3.8 million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, a partnership made up of Natural England, the Church of England (Cathedral and Church Buildings Division), Historic England, the Bat Conservation Trust and the Churches Conservation Trust is now working together to use the latest research to provide innovative solutions



to this issue. Working with church communities and managers, the four year project (which ends in 2022) will:

- Find practical solutions to enable 102 of the most severely impacted church communities nationally to reduce the impact of bats on the church, without harming the bats;
- Create a new network of fully trained volunteers who can undertake bat surveys and support congregations who have bat roosts at their church;
- Train professional ecologists and historic building specialists in new techniques and knowledge to improve their advice to congregations;
- Collect and collate up-to-date data from over 700 churches across England, helping to build a specialist knowledge base bats and their use of churches;
- Strengthen local communities so people value and engage with their local natural and historic built heritage.

Another key element of the project is to work with Natural England to develop and test a Bats in Churches Class licence, which aims to make it easier for church managers to legally manage bats on a daily basis in circumstances where large bat populations are causing unacceptably high levels of damage to church fabric and monuments and disruption to congregations. The class licence will enable professional ecologists to work with those who care for churches to plan and then implement work to reduce the impacts being caused while facilitating the best outcomes for bats and for the buildings in which they live.

So this is an important project which will have implications for many churches, and hopefully will create an easier process for churches to cope with bat related problems and, indeed, to better value their uninvited guests. You can keep an eye on developments at the Bats in Churches website www.batsandchurches.org.uk. In the meantime do get in touch with Inspired North East if you need any immediate advice on this issue, and we can point you in the direction of suitable professional help.

INSPIRED NORTH EAST CONTACT DETAILS:

IAN BAPTY, INSPIRED NORTH EAST PROJECT OFFICER

TEL: 0191 2704123 E-MAIL: I.BAPTY@NEWCASTLE.ANGLICAN.ORG.UK

INSPIRED NORTH EAST WEBSITE: WWW.INSPIREDNORTHEAST.ORG.UK

LIKE A METAPHOR

Tim Hardy (formerly of the Religious Resources Centre) writes at www.timbo-baggins.co.uk and spends the rest of his time raising a two year old and riding a bike around Leamington Spa.



Eye-Plucking and lacklustre chocolate

I walked along the street and broke off a chunk of a big bar of chocolate. I bit off a couple of squares and kept walking. After a couple of dozen yards, I had another couple of squares, and repeated the process until the chunk was gone. If I'm honest, I didn't really enjoy it - it wasn't the greatest chocolate in the world, but it was there and had been cheap at the supermarket. I broke off another chunk, and carried on eating. Half way home, I was feeling quite full - unsatisfied, but full. I broke off another chunk. By the time I got home, I had an empty wrapper in my pocket, a slightly queasy feeling in my stomach, and I didn't enjoy dinner half as much as I should have. I thought about giving up chocolate for Lent. Or, at the very least, lacklustre chocolate.

Following a move of house halfway down the country, I now attend a church that is very much more at the low-church-evangelical end of the spectrum than previously. It's about as devoid of rite and ritual as you might expect. So, it came as a bit of a surprise to learn that, on Ash Wednesday, there was going to be a eucharist with the imposition of ashes. Of course, I went along and sang and prayed and received both bread and wine, and ash in the shape of a cross on my forehead - "You are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ." And remembered where I came from. And thought about where I was going. And considered how I could be better faithful to Christ. But I didn't think too much about

my sin or turning away from it.

Years ago, a flatmate moved out and took his television with him. My remaining flatmate and I realised that we had been getting home from work and turning the TV on whilst we sorted out dinner and, all of sudden, that was the end of the evening. Every night. We decided not to buy a replacement. And, for the next few years, we chatted, read books, listened to music, went out, and were generally very deliberate about our entertainment choices. We didn't miss having a telly at all. It was wonderful.

Jesus said, "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out." on the rationale that it is better to enter the kingdom maimed than not at all. Cheap chocolate and bad telly might not be among the Great Sins that Screwtape would praise and desire for us, but life without them leads to better digestion and a healthier, more balanced use of free time. Often, the things that get in the way of us being the people we have been created to be are small, fiddly, repetitive, unsatisfying things that leave us bloated and guilty, cursing our lack of self control. Sometimes, it's easier to cut things off at the root and see what grows in its place.



Noticeboard

Monday 1 April, 11.30am-5.00pm, A Day with Lord Curry: Contemporary agriculture and the future of rural communities. Slaley Commemoration Hall, NE47 0BQ. An invitation to rural clergy and laity to join Lord Curry who will help us to reflect on the contemporary issues confronting agricultural communities across the diocese, especially in the light of forthcoming Brexit. He will also help us engage in a conversation about the future of rural communities themselves in our diocese. Alongside Lord Curry's input, the Revd Jonathan Mason, the Bishop's Adviser for Rural Ministry, will be helping us reflect theologically on our local context and its implications for the rural strand of the diocesan strategy growing church bringing hope. There is a charge of £10 per person payable on the day. To book a place contact govier@newcastle.anglican.org or telephone 01670 503810.

Saturday 6 April, 10am-3pm. Through Holy Week with the Ikons of the Eastern Church, led by John-Michael Mountney North Northumberland Spirituality Network, Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1DF. This interactive and illustrated presentation covers a brief history of iconography and what constitutes an ikon according to the Tradition, touching on the Iconoclastic Controversy and the practice of venerating of ikons, and how the Church in the West abandoned this tradition.

The presentation focuses on the message of the ikons of Great Lent and the Great Week (Lent and Holy Week) concluding with Pascha (Easter). The day will include short acts of Orthodox worship. Please note this is not be an ikon painting workshop. For more details contact Revd Lyn Phillips at lyn.phillipsuk@gmail.com or 07702 022501.

Saturday 6th April 12.30pm, Stella Hadjineophytou (Violin) Concert, St John the Baptist Church, Grainger Street, Newcastle, NE1 5JG. Free entry, with retiring collection. Tel. 07854 516 933 www.stjohnthebaptistnewcastle.co.uk E: sjohnsmusic@gmail.com

Saturday 6 April, 7pm, Black is the Colour of my Voice, St Cuthbert's Church, Norham, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2LE. This inspiring one-woman play tells the compelling story of jazz singer and civil rights activist, Mena Bordeaux. TICKETS: Adult £8; U16 £6; Family Ticket £24 are available to buy at <http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk/whats-on-info.aspx?sid=747>.

Sunday 7 April, 6.30pm, JS Bach St Matthew Passion, St Andrew's Church, Corbridge. Directed by David Stancliffe. Admission by programme £12, concessions £10, students £5, children free of charge. For further information contact admin@corbridgechurch.org.uk

Thursday 11 and Friday 12 April, Come and see The Bus Stop. The Bus Stop is a Yorkshire based charity that uses a double decker bus to help churches reach out to local communities. Attend an event to find out how they might partner with your church. See page 9 for details or visit www.busstop.org.uk

Thursday 28 April, Wedding Fair, St Andrew's Church, Corbridge. This event will bring together, in the impressive St. Andrew's Church, a range of exhibitors displaying and explaining their wedding products and services. For more details, visit www.corbridgechurch.org.uk or email admin@corbridgechurch.org.uk.

Thursday 28 April, 5.30pm, The Enraged Musician, St Michael and All Angels Church, Warden, Hexham, NE46 4SN. A revival of the music of Michael Christian Festing (1705 - 1752) together with music by Corelli and Geminiani. Tickets £10 at the door, to include refreshments. Young people in full-time education free of charge.

Tuesday 30th April 6.30pm - 8.30pm, North Of Tyne Combined Authority Assembly, at the Tyne Theatre Westgate Road. Tyne and Wear Citizens are coming together to have their say on what the new Mayor should do and how power can shift to local people and communities. It is hoped the event will be attended by all five candidates. See page 5 for details. Tickets are free

but must be booked on 077913 69625, steve.forster@together-newcastle.com, or visit www.citizensuk.org/ntmayor or www.northoftynedevelopment.com.

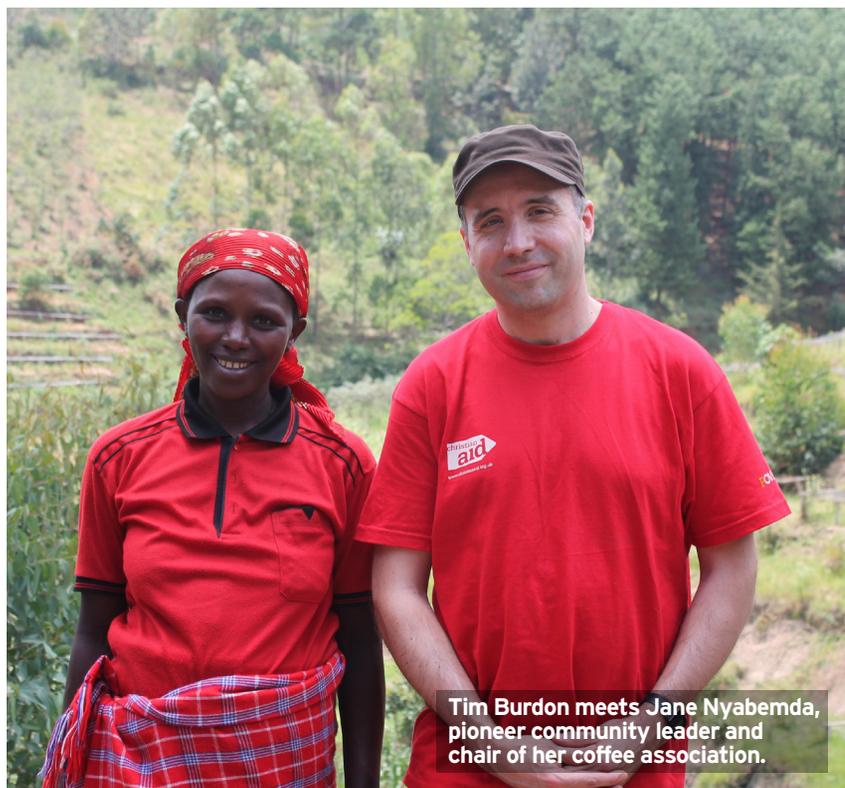
Saturday 11 May, 11am-1pm, God's Tent: A conversation at the RRC with Revd. Benjamin Carter, Church House, Percy Main, North Shields, NE29 6HS. God's Tent is a new expression of worship, which explores ancient patterns of faith in new ways in the beauty and richness of God's creation. This is an opportunity to talk about how God's Tent could grow in the varied landscapes and contexts for the North East. All welcome. Please book by contacting RCC on 0191 375 0586 or enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk

Sunday 23rd - Wednesday 26th June, Retreat for clergy spouses - Finding God Amidst Life's Changes, Shepherd's Dene. This June there will be another silent retreat for spouses of serving, retired and non-stipendiary ministers, as well as widows. They are a varied group and would welcome more people to join. The retreat leader will be Rev'd Hazel Ditchburn, and her theme is 'Finding God Amidst Life's Changes'. The retreat at Shepherd's Dene, is from 4pm on Sunday 23rd June, until after breakfast on Wednesday 26th June. The cost is £210 for the full retreat, but there is the option to come to part only. A deposit of £42 secures a place. For more details please contact Mary Steventon on 01833 660237, or email messymary@btinternet.com.

Keep up-to-date and see more details at www.newcastle.anglican.org/events

News from Christian Aid North East with **Tim Burdon, Regional Coordinator - Durham, Darlington and Teesside**

Burundi coffee farmers learn the art of beekeeping



Tim Burdon meets Jane Nyabemda, pioneer community leader and chair of her coffee association.



Tim with children at Nyamurenra, Commune in Ngozi province, Burundi.

AT the end of February it was my immense privilege to travel to Burundi to see the work of Christian Aid first-hand. This was my first opportunity to visit Christian Projects, since joining the organisation at the start of 2018. Bordering Rwanda, Tanzania and DR Congo, this East African country is one of the poorest in the world. Average life expectancy is 50-years-old, and GDP per capita is just \$900. Despite this desperate poverty, I was humbled and overwhelmed by the joy and resilience of the people I met.

The main reason for the trip was to accompany Harry Owens, an 83-year-old beekeeping expert from the Isle of Man. Harry has been keeping bees for over 50 years, and there's nothing he doesn't know about the subject! We

travelled to Burundi so that Harry could share his expertise his coffee farmers who are diversifying into beekeeping. The income they gain from the honey produced will mean an extra level of security, rather than relying solely on their coffee crop. While we were there, Harry trained over 200 people in essential beekeeping skills. He also taught carpenters to make modern hives, and tailors to sew protective suits! Christian Aid is funding two 'Honey Hubs' where the beekeepers bring their product for processing. Produced among the coffee trees, the honey is a rich, dark colour with an incredible flavour - with definite hints of coffee!

During the visit I met a young coffee farmer called Jane. With Christian Aid's support, the co-operative of

which she is a member has just been awarded Fairtrade certification. Jane told me about the impact this will have in her life. She said "One of the benefits we get from Fairtrade is that we can deal more effectively with health issues. We can have access to health insurance and medication". Her co-op has also been assisted to diversify into maize production, providing a further source of food security.

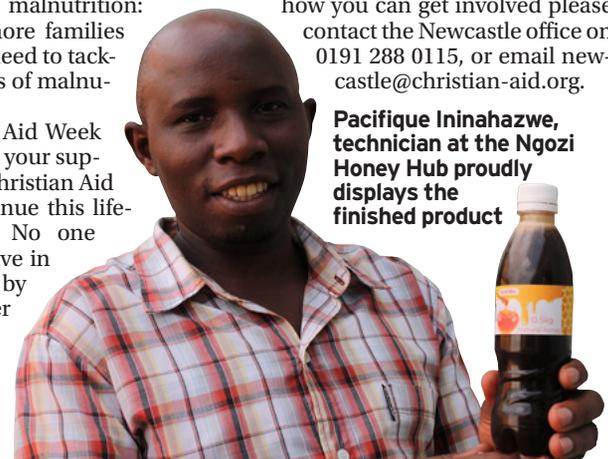
One of the most moving parts of the trip was a visit to two families whose children had been hospitalised with malnutrition. Through a partnership between Christian Aid and the Anglican Church in Burundi, the children received healthcare and support, and are now out of danger. Travelling with me, Burundian priest the Revd Simion

Kinono said "We need prayers. There are so many additional families we could also be working with who are suffering with malnutrition: more than 40 more families in this area. We need to tackle the root causes of malnutrition".

This Christian Aid Week is 12-18 May and your support will mean Christian Aid are able to continue this life-changing work. No one should have to live in poverty, and by standing together in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world, we can make a

change. For more information about resources for Christian Aid Week 2019, to book a speaker or to find out how you can get involved please contact the Newcastle office on 0191 288 0115, or email newcastle@christian-aid.org.

Pacifique Ininahazwe, technician at the Ngozi Honey Hub proudly displays the finished product



Safeguarding training and policy. What can a parish expect from the Diocese?

This is the heading of the second section of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. A complimentary printed copy will be coming out to all parishes very soon.

So what can you expect from the Diocese?

- Safeguarding policy and guidance
 - Safeguarding advice and support
 - Safeguarding training
 - Safer recruitment support
 - External scrutiny of safeguarding
 - Complaints procedure (with regard to safeguarding)
 - Whistleblowing
- Each of the members of the Safeguarding Team plays a part in

TOWARDS A SAFER CHURCH

With Training and Policy Adviser **Linda E Hunter**



www.newcastle.anglican.org/safeguarding

giving this support.

In my role of policy and training adviser, I am responsible for the delivery of the Safeguarding Training Programme and the implementation of policies and procedures across the Diocese.

Safeguarding Training

We currently offer a range of C1, C2, C3 and refresher trainings at central points across the Diocese.

However, we are increasingly finding that parish sessions (or a few parishes local to each other grouping together) are proving more beneficial to the participants. Why?

In the front of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook Archbishop Justin Welby says, "Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches."

Training helps to equip

participants to have the confidence and skills to begin to change the culture in their parish. Safeguarding isn't just the task of the incumbent or the PSO but everyone, and as with other areas of church life working together enables changes to happen.

Already this year we have delivered five parish sessions and 11 more are booked in. How about encouraging your parish or deanery to book a session?

Policy

National guidelines for parish roles and responsibilities are laid out in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook (first section). Parishes are required to assess their safeguarding arrangements, identify strengths and areas that need further work by using the Parish Safeguarding checklist.

In this Diocese this is the audit form that all parishes have been asked to complete, in addition the actions from the audit should then be transferred onto an action plan. A copy of the action plan along with the Parish Safeguarding Policy, which has been adopted at a PCC meeting, should be sent in to us. The action plan should be updated yearly and some people find the best time to do this is round about the APCM.

If you have not yet completed your audit and action plan and would like some help now is the time to do it.

If you would like to book a parish or deanery training session or would like some support with your audit and action plan please get in touch with Linda Hunter, training and policy adviser, on 01434 633742 or email lehunter@btinternet.com