

**St Mary and St Cuthbert's Church**  
**Chester-le-Street**

# **OCTOBER**

## **2020**



Original - hand painted by Ruth Chou Simons

Dear friends

Two stockbrokers were overheard drowning their sorrows in a City wine bar. “All these changes in share prices scare the life out of me” said one “in fact I worry so much, I either can’t sleep or have terrible nightmares.” The other one said “I am sleeping like a baby – I wake every three hours and cry!”

Jesus said that we shouldn’t worry and St Paul wrote in a key verse in one of his letters “*don’t be anxious about anything*” (Philippians 4.6).

But to be honest – I struggle with worry. I worry about the future for the church and the problems we face – I get anxious. I do literally wake up in the night – not crying, but certainly worrying. God keeps telling me to trust Him.

We as a church are having to take tricky delicate decisions about what we open up to do within the government and Church of England guidelines. Some people think we are going too quickly, others that we are being too cautious. We have significant financial challenges and that is also true for the diocese of Durham which we are part of. We are living in difficult times.

I think there are some key spiritual ways of tackling worry and anxiety, that we all need to put into action:

1. Live in the **Present** – don’t look too far ahead. I am being asked what will we do at Christmas, and I can only respond with “I really don’t know”. We need to be able to live with uncertainty, we are all being taught that in these days. There is a spiritual classic book written by a Franciscan monk called “The sacrament of the present moment.” We need to value today, for everyday is a gift from God. Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.
2. Express **Praise** to God – as St Paul went on in that chapter to the Philippians to write about the importance of thanksgiving. Counting your blessings as the old hymn puts it. You may know the practice that some Christians find really helpful; to spend time each day reflecting on the previous 24 hours to take note of the countless gifts of God that you recognize – to be stirred to give thanks and praise God.
3. Bring your **Prayers** to the Lord. Prayer and worry are not easy bedfellows – they are like fire and water.



## Rector's Letter

Cont. from page 2

Again, in Philippians 4.6 we read *“in everything, by prayer and petition...present your requests to God.”* We are to pray when things are going well and when times are tough.

This verse in Philippians leads into the wonderful verse 7, which is the basis of the most famous blessing that we regularly use in our services of worship.

*“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4.7).

Lord Jesus, give me; Lord Jesus, give us all; that peace in these days to guard our hearts and minds.

God Bless

**David**

## CHURCH SERVICES

### SERVICES –

- Each **Sunday** there are services at 8.00 am HC (BCP), 10.00 am & 6.00 pm in Church.
- There is also an **online service** broadcast each Sunday at 10.00 am on our church Facebook page. This is now coming live from the 10.00 am service in Church or the Centre.

We entirely appreciate that a lot of people cannot or would prefer not to physically meet and we want to serve and include them in our worship and fellowship.

- **Thursday** 10.45 am HC (BCP) will continue during October.

Numbers are very limited in the church because of the social distancing and one way system, it is difficult to get more than about 35 in for any particular service. You should wear a face covering in the church building – though the leader, preacher, Bible readers, intercessors do not wear them when they are speaking.

We are not allowed to sing – but we do play some music.

We ask people to book places for these services in the church building and also for the Parish Centre services (see below) via the Parish Office. Please book via Jan [jrowland@clsparish1.plus.com](mailto:jrowland@clsparish1.plus.com) or phone her in the Parish Office on 0191 388 3295. Specific places are then allocated in church.

## PARISH NORTH and PARISH SOUTH

These congregations have not met in their normal venues of the C of E Primary and Hermitage Academy since mid-March and lockdown. They would like to start meeting for those who want to physically gather – with their respective curates - Rev Mark and Rev Simon.

They are not going to meet in the schools yet, but will arrange services in the large hall in the Parish Centre. There will be limited numbers in the hall – with social distancing, though the capacity will be larger than in the church building. These services will be organised by Parish North and Parish South, but anyone can attend.

**Through October they will meet on alternate Sundays at 10.00 am in the Centre. South will meet on October 4 & 18; North will meet October 11 & 25.**

Booking places for these services is required via Jan in the Parish Office – see page 3

## PCC NEWS

The PCC had hoped to meet physically on September 22 for the first time since January (though we did meet on Zoom in early June and late July). However new Covid 19 measures meant we again met via Zoom .

- We looked at our 2019 Church Accounts with our Accountant, David Natrass who answered questions.
- We discussed Area Services and Online services
- We decided on what we should pledge to the diocese for our 2021 Parish Share. For 2020 we pledged £100,000 (and we are really struggling to get anywhere close to that figure). The Guided Parish Share has been calculated for every parish by the dioceses. The diocese used four factors – the number of people, number of incumbents (for us 2, Rector and Associate Vicar), level of deprivation and financial income. Our Guided figure was £106,409. We decided to pledge £75,000 for 2021, because of how COVID is likely to affect our income streams into 2021
- We heard that following Jon's departure the Archdeacon will come to the November PCC meeting to talk about future staffing and appointments in the parish.
- David also announced that he will be retiring in May 2021 (he is 65 in January) - after 12 years as Rector.

# THE Postponed ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Is to be on **Tuesday October 20 at 7.00 pm** (not as previously state 7.30 pm) in Cuthbert in the Parish Centre. Churches were allowed to postpone their APCM in the spring, but we have to have them before the end of October. Legally this meeting has to happen physically. We at least have a very large hall in which to meet. People should wear a face mask, which can be taken off if they come to the microphone to speak. It will be slightly awkward, but there is no alternative.

We elect churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members at this meeting.

In preparation for this we are updating our **Church Electoral Roll** (our membership list, which gives voting rights at the APCM). Anyone who is baptised, is at least 16 and either lives in the parish and/or worships regularly with us is entitled to fill in the very simple form to come on the Roll. The Roll can be added to up to Monday **October 5**.

There are forms at the back of church and in the Parish Office, if you are not sure if you are already on the list please ask Jan in the office. Normally we would have an Electoral Roll list for people to check at the back of church, but we cannot do that in the present circumstances

## FROM THE SEPTEMBER REGISTERS

### Funerals

#### August

28 Sylvia Cummings (93)

#### September

4 Jean Harrison (63)

7 Irene Dazley (81)  
Margaret Doreen Underwood (91)

10 Margaret Marshall (82)

11 Valerie Harrison (84)

23 Christine Bell (76)

### Baptisms

#### September

20 Luca McMillan

## DAWN HUDSON

Dawn is to be ordained in summer 2021. She is to be curate at Gateshead Fell (where I served as Rector 2000-2009) and Windy Nook. Her training incumbent there will be Danie Lindley. They knew each other in Parish South.

Dawn worked with Church Army for about 7 years and then she returned to our parish and felt called to ordained ministry. After going through the selection process, she started her theological college training in September 2019 in Durham. Do pray for Danie and Dawn and those parishes in Gateshead.

## Film Crew Visit

On Sunday September 6 – Joanna Lumley, the actor and TV presenter visited our church with a TV crew.

They are producing a travelogue for ITV about places connected with her. Apparently, she has traced her family tree back a few centuries and there is a link with the Lumleys of Lumley castle fame.

She wanted to see the “Lumley Warriors” in our church – the stone memorials of knights next to the north wall of church.

On that afternoon two of our church wardens looked after Joanna and the TV crew – here they are pictured with her - Dorothy Hall (and her husband Dennis) and Dave Mallams.



## ENVELOPES for GIVING

A lot of people have stopped using the envelopes and transferred to the Parish Giving Scheme or a standing order, which is good news. It means greater reliability in our income, less work for us and less physical handling of money.

We do not want to waste money by ordering too many envelopes for 2021.

**So, if you have stopped using envelopes please inform Jan in the Parish Office to make sure our records are up to date.**

# **JON WILKINSON as he said farewell on Sunday September 13 at 8.00 am & 10.00 am – preached about God’s character and promises**

## **God’s promises:**

I will be with you.  
I will protect you.  
I will be your strength.  
I will answer you.  
I will provide for you.  
I will give you peace.  
I will always love you.  
I will build my church.

### **I will be with you**

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

*Deuteronomy 31:8*

### **I will protect you**

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him. *Nahum 1:7*

### **I will be your strength**

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. / *isaiah 40:29*

### **I will answer you**

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. *Jeremiah 29:12*

### **I will provide for you.**

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*Matthew 6:31-33*

### **I will give you peace**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. *John 14:27*

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### **will always love you**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

*1 Chronicles 16:34*

### **I will build my church**

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

*Matthew 16:18*

## **Thank you from REV JON WILKINSON**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, kind words, cards, and your wonderfully generous gift. One of my hopes for retirement is to walk some of the world's great treks, and when circumstances allow, I will be putting your gift towards a trip to Peru.

Thank you for your wonderful send off, and I take with me many lovely memories. With my heartfelt prayers and thanks,

Jon

P.S. I would like to thank the person who gave me the book 'beyond the Footpath.' Unfortunately there was no name attached so sadly I cannot thank you in person.

## **Parish Centre Coffee Lounge**

The Parish Centre Coffee Lounge is open -  
**Monday to Friday 10.00 am - 12.30 pm** (starting slightly earlier now.)

There is a clear one-way system and most of the tables are in "Mary," with 2 metres social distancing. We are operating waitress/waiter service to the tables. Customers will not go to the hatch. Only one household per table.

There is a "welcome" in the foyer to explain the procedures. As required by the Government Test and Trace system you will be required to give your name and contact details to the welcomer.

At present there is a limited menu: sandwiches, soup, chips, scones, cake and drinks and revised prices. There is now one main course option each day.

We hope people will come and feel comfortable, welcomed and safe. Do come along and enjoy the food, friendship and chat. All are welcome so please spread the word.

## Finding Peace

I craved for quiet,  
Rest at last,  
A troubled world to face.  
I found a room to be alone,  
But worries grew apace.  
In sleeping,  
Dreams invaded quiet,  
And woke my resting sense.  
While shopping, distanced, set apart,  
Made me very tense.  
At home,  
I worry endlessly,  
Of family, friends and work,  
There was so little I could do,  
Yet so much I must not shirk.  
Cook, shop, wash up, prepare,  
The things of life roll on,  
But when in church,  
Alone with God,  
Peace, was all around.

***K E Brown***

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## Observations

Gentle breezes shake the trees,  
All in the garden green.  
I watch and listen,  
Try and imagine,  
Things that remain unseen.  
What buds will burst?  
What fruit will swell  
And drop onto the sward?  
Where nodding flowers,  
And tall grasses hide,  
A miniature busy world.  
A beetle scuttles 'neath a leaf,  
Worms cast on the grass.  
Hover flies, mist the air,  
Insects scurry past.  
Then at last, in search of food,  
Two bright eyes,  
Like beads of jet,  
Ears erect,  
A country mouse, in velvet coat,  
Clever paws, takes the fruit,  
Deep in the grass,  
Scuttles home,  
To eat at last.

***K E Brown***

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## MOTHERS' UNION

After requests from some members the committee are currently considering holding a Mothers' Union service on Monday 2nd November and Monday 7th December at 2.00 pm in church.

However this will very much depend what the current Covid regulations will allow at that particular time. A final decision will be made near the end of October about the November service.

Members will be notified with final arrangements nearer the end of October

## HARVEST FESTIVAL – Sunday October 4

We gather to remember with gratitude God's bountiful provision of the food and drink enjoy. There are a lot of people struggling for all sorts of reasons at the moment and we expect there will be more redundancies coming over the coming months. Foodbanks are one thing that can help people in our local community.

At Harvest we invite you to contribute dried and tinned food for our local **Foodbank**. Bring items to the church or Centre on the Sunday. Also, they can be brought to the Parish Centre on the Friday (2<sup>nd</sup>) or Monday (5<sup>th</sup>). We will take all that is given to the Foodbank distribution centre on the Tuesday.

Also, we think that there will be people who want to contribute financially to a local charity – we suggest the **People's Kitchen** helping homeless people in Newcastle. Put money in marked envelope on a collection plate on the Sunday or give in to the Parish Centre by Monday 5  
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