

## JANUARY 2020

## BC:AD

This was the moment when Before Turned into After, and the future's Un-invented timekeepers presented arms. This was the moment when nothing Happened. Only dull peace Sprawled boringly over the earth. This was the moment when even energetic Romans Could find nothing better to do Than counting heads in remote provinces. And this was the moment When a few farm workers and three Members of an obscure Persian sect Walked haphazard by starlight straight Into the kingdom of heaven.

Reprinted with permission from *Christmas Poems*, by Ursula Fanthorpe, Enitharmon Press, 2002

## CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR, TYNEMOUTH

www.holysaviours.org

## .uk

## Worship at the Church of the Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

#### **SUNDAY**

8.00 am Holy Communion [said]

10.00 am Holy Communionand Sunday Club for children in term time.

> On the second Sunday of each month the children join in the Parish Communion for a specially adapted liturgy at our All-Age service

#### 6.00pm Evening Prayer

On the last Sunday of the month a Book of Common Prayer Evensong is celebrated.

#### MONDAY

5.15pm Christian Meditation in

the Parish Centre

#### WEDNESDAY

11.00am Holv Communion [said] according to the Book of Common Prayer This service is held in the chancel. Coffee and biscuits are served in the Parish Centre before the service. from 10.15 onwards

#### AT ALL TIMES

The Church is open during the hours of daylight and the **Lady Chapel** – recessed on the south side of the chancel – is available for personal use.

The Votive Candle stand beside the pulpit may also be used as an aid to prayer, remembrance and dedication. Please leave money for candles in the box on the stand. You may find the following prayers useful when lighting a candle.

Lord Jesus, look kindly on my

work and the work of my friends today...... Flickering candle, help me in my difficulties and decisions...... May this candle be a light for you to enlighten me...... May it be a fire for you to burn out of me all pride, selfishness and impurity..... May it be a flame for you to bring warmth into my heart; warmth towards my family, my neighbours and all whom I meet...... Jesus. I place in your care, this, my special need and concern.....by sharing this candle, I wish to give you something of myself; the love of my heart.....Jesus, help me to live closely to you in prayer today.

[These prayers are edited from the website <u>https://www.daily-</u> <u>prayers.org/</u>]



### VICAR

o visit the w housing o church n, so she t ways to nunity, to lecided to r events;

picnics and sports days on a green in the middle of the housing estate. After a while, a small congregation began to meet in the school. The next year, the minister ran similar events on the green

and the relationships with the fledgling church and neighbours deepened. On her third year in the estate, the minister decided to make some changes to the events. However, this was met with some significant resistance. 'You can't change it, we've always done it like that,' came the cry from some quarters. It is quite amazing how quickly people want to create traditions and become fixed on certain ideas. We are all capable of behaving in a similar way.

The beginning of a new year is always a time for looking back and looking forward. As we enter the 2020's there will be much change. The national church faces many challenges as it tries to witness to the good news of God's word in relevant ways. To meet these challenges there must be change. However, many of us are resistant to change and want to hold on to long held treasured traditions and which enhance our sense of belonging and security. When we attempt to repeat the same traditions handed down by former generations we might think we are doing things in exactly the same way, but we simply cannot. We are different people to

the previous generation and have been influenced by a very different culture. I suspect that someone from a past generation looking at what we think is the same might recognise the basic outline but would see that our practices and perspectives are very different from theirs.

The book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 3, famously begins with the words

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance.....

These verses point us to the constant nature of change. In our generation the pace of that change may have quickened but the cycle of change continues. And each time we go round that cycle we inevitably do things differently and, hopefully, with the benefit of learning, better.

So, as we enter the 2020's I hope we can resist the phrase, 'we've always done it like this...', and embrace the challenges and opportunities change offers as we seek to bring God's good news to a changed and changing Tynemouth.

#### **Steve Dixon**

## EDITORIAL

John Pearce writes: It is a truism that Christmas, as we celebrate it in the western world, has been debased out of all recognition. Once a religious festival, it is now a grotesque commercial orgy, greed in excelsis. The only recognisably Christian element in it. apart from church services which are attended by about 4% of our population, is the seasonal increase in charitable activity. Food banks enjoy a surge of donations [which enables us to go on ignoring the fact that, in a country as rich as ours, the existence of food banks is an obscenity]; churches, schools, charities, the Salvation Army, Crisis at Christmas organise special seasonal projects to succour the lonelv. reiected and alienated, and groups like The Peoples' Kitchen, Nite Bite and Walking With redouble their efforts to ensure that a few crumbs from more wellappointed tables fall where they will do some good.

What is perhaps less apparent is the fact that the retail industry has systematically plundered our church calendar to underpin its own commercial agenda. By the time this is read, it will be only six weeks before the feast of St Valentine will dominate our weekend shopping. horribly ornamented by an enormous and ghastly frieze of red satin hearts. heart-shaped chocolates and greeting cards for the true loves whom we can all toast in sparkling white wine acid enough to clean silver. Supermarkets now look to February 14<sup>th</sup> to energise the fourth biggest spike in their profits throughout the commercial year. This vulgarisation of St Valentine is probably what led the Vatican in 1969, to remove him from the list of saints whose dav is internationally recognised.

Easter, by contrast, has not been vulgarised so much ลร bowdlerised. You will never find the two central images of Easter a man crucified, in the extremity of an unimaginably painful death, and, three days on, the same man's empty tomb - on an Easter greetings card, or decorating the Seasonal Goods aisle in а supermarket. Instead we have the unspeakably naff Easter Bunny – a twee version of the Easter Hare celebrated in the mediaeval church because of the legend that hares were hermaphrodites and

could fertilise themselves. thus echoing the virginity of Christ's mother. The other symbol of Easter, the egg, is, of course a pre-Christian pagan symbol of fertility and rebirth, and, as a boy, I remember hard-boiling eggs in onion skins [which turned the eggs a rich golden colour] to exchange with other family members on Easter dav. Instead of this we now organise Easter Egg hunts for our children - a festival of gluttony which would only make sense if it were preceded by six weeks of abstention from chocolate.

Of All-Hallow's Eve the less said. the better. Christians who claim that Halloween is a satanic festival need, in my view, to grow up; they are often the same people who claim that the Harry Potter novels are pagan propaganda. At the same time, I remember a Friday evening when I arrived at Newcastle Central Station on the late Saturday evening of Halloween, and the horrifying spectacle that unfolded through my taxi window on the way home people dressed as skeletons, ghosts, vampires, zombies, demons. witches and warlocks. It was grotesque; but what made it horrible was

knowing that very few of the young men and women on their Saturday night out would connect their fancy dress party with the truth of All Hallows: thinking of and praying for those whose love once enriched their lives in reality but who now could only do so in the memory of those left behind, including these scantily dressed ghosts parading their goosepimples along Grey Street.

It is this sense of disconnection between the reality of our Christian beliefs, and the illusion of their commercialisation, which I find depressing. Just before Christmas. I was in our local supermarket, joining a grim-faced crowd of revellers panic-buving cranberries, whilst a group of singers from the North Tyneside Disability Forum sang Christmas songs and rattled their collection boxes. Their singing was lively and infectious, and as I walked around I joined in with them – not loudly, but audibly. The effect was remarkable. One or two people [Ding dong! Merrily on high...] actually edged away from me; rather more [Five....gold....rings!] gave their companions looks which clearly said things like "poor old soul, I'm surprised they let him out on his own" or "what a shame, care in the community has a lot to answer for": and a small girl who pointed at me was violentlyshushed by her mother before she could even begin to ask her question.

On the way out I stopped beside the NTDF group, gave them some money, told them what had happened and said "I feel like climbing on to one of the checkouts and shouting at the top of my voice It's supposed to be fun, but I don't suppose it would go down too well". At the same time that moment crystallised for me what it is about the commercialisation of the Christmas year which annoys me so much - the retail industry has hijacked our festivals, destroying their their mystery, their joy, otherness, their glimpses of the numinous, replacing them with a balance sheet where the birth of the Redeemer is celebrated in terms of profit and loss.

For me, the most memorable sermon Revd Martin Jacques ever preached was about sanctity, in which he began by sanctify saving that to something was to set it apart, to emphasise its disconnection from material human concerns. It seems to me that in continuing to the assent to commercialisation of our Christian festivals. Christians have surrendered something which, as a church, we need seriously to think about retrieving. The antonym of sanctification is desecration: and we who assent to desecration need to think very hard about why we do and whether it should continue. How can we sanctify Christmas again, set it apart once more, begin to undo its desecration next December?

For once, I am asking a question to which I don't think that I already know the answer. The Lead Your Church into Growth course last December taught me two things. The first was that Holy Saviours has an extensive presence - the Galilee map - in our parish, only one aspect of which is church attendance. and that this is something upon which we need urgently to exploit and capitalise on. The second is that we, as a church, do not seem to have taken on board the urgency of the task that faces us if we are to survive a worshipping community. as Maybe a first step could be to devise a plan locally to begin to reclaim Christmas as a religious festival. If we want to do so, then we need to start thinking about it now. The finance company Park Christmas Savings is alreadv advertising its Christmas Club scheme for 2020, with the slogan, Spread the Cost, Spread the Joy. As Christians, we should prioritise the joy long before we count the cost. Any ideas?

## NOTES AND NEWS

Tynemouth Village Christmas Tree: the Fditor writes: l was delighted to print a picture [December Parish News, page 121 the tree-lighting of ceremony on November 21st. sponsored by North Shields Rotary and the Tynemouth business community. The photograph was sent in by Pat Waller, who understood at the time that it had been taken by his Rotary colleague and friend Adrian Fairbairn. Pat found out, after the News had gone to print, that the photograph had been taken by professional photographer David Christie. of David Christie Imaging [contactable at

#### davechristieimaging@live.co. uk]. The picture was then forwarded to Adrian. who sent it to Pat who then submitted it to me for publication; regrettably [and far so ลร Т can see inexplicably], David Christie's name for crediting was not forwarded at the same time.

As editor of *The Parish News* I have thus been responsible

for printing a copyright image without obtaining permission or assigning credit, a mistake though, which made in good faith by everyone concerned, could have had legal [and financial consequences. As it is, I apologise to David Christie of Dave Christie Imagining for both of these omissions, and thank him for good-tempered and being so generous as to give retrospective permission to print his photograph without charge.

I have given such a detailed explanation of this mishap because it draws attention to a very important point. If you submit а photograph for publication in the Parish News, please be sure that either you own the copyright [because you took the picture yourself] or have the written permission of the copyright owner to do so. It is also wise [not to mention good manners] to ask anyone who appears recognisably in the picture if they mind its being published. If there are children in the photograph, it is essential that the permission of their parents or is obtained for its carers publication this latter \_ requirement is a safeguarding issue.

Altar flowers: Sheila Park writes: There is a new Flower List on the porch notice board for

2020. If you would like to donate to the cost of altar flowers please sign vour name against your chosen date. Barbara Walker or I will be pleased to purchase and arrange the flowers on your behalf. The weekly cost is usually between £25.00 and £30.00. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the cost of church flowers in 2019. Your generosity allowed us to have arrangements at the altar, Lady chapel and the porch throughout the whole year. Additional help - with arranging, sweeping up. making cups of tea, is always welcome. If you would like to volunteer, please speak to Janice Torpy at 0191 296 2462.

This month's cover and matters arisina: the Editor writes: I am verv grateful to Stephen Stuartof Smith. Fnitharmon Editions Limited, for his kind permission to use U A Fanthorpe's poem **BC-AD** as this month's cover illustration. This poem, like the other twenty-nine in her anthology Christmas Poems. started out as the text for a Christmas card sent by Ursula Fanthorpe and her partner Rosie Bailey with a drawing bv Nick

Wadley [also included in the book]. In an interview she gave in 1994 she laid out her poetic credo: "I'm particularly involved with people who have no voice: the dead, the dispossessed, or the inarticulate in various wavs. I'm not carrying on a campaign on their behalf but this is the theme I recognise as having a call on me: people at the edge of things." And so, in Christmas Poems we read poems written by the angels, the donkey, the sheepdog [there must after all have been one] and imaginary figures like the Wicked Fairy at the Manger. The language is resolutely "un-poetic" - simple, direct, powerful and clear and, like all great poetry, perfectly calculated in its effects. If you haven't done so, may I ask that vou read the front cover now. and note how the straightforward and spare language of the first twelve lines perfectly sets up the reader to be surprised and thrilled by the wonderfully rich imagery of the last two lines [read it aloud if you don't believe mel? This is a typical Fanthorpe effect, and comes in part from her Quaker faith, which seeks the element of the godhead to be found in everyone. You can buy U A Fanthorpe's Christmas Poems online for £8.99 or consult the Enitharmon Press website at www.enitharmon.co.uk. As the back cover of the book states she "covers a broad range of seasonal

characters, from angels to personified Christmas trees, and a variety of styles to match, from moments of beautiful the lvricism to touchinalv comic." Ursula Fanthorpe was that rare poet. one who was hugely popular with the general public and also highly regarded by her fellow poets. Something of that dual quality comes through in one of the best poems ever written on the subject of love, Atlas.

> There is a kind of love called maintenance Which stores the WD40 and knows when to use it Which checks the insurance, and doesn't forget The milkman: which remembers to plant bulbs: Which answers letters: which knows the way The money

goes; which deals with dentists And Road Fund Tax and meeting trains, And postcards to the lonely; which upholds The permanently rickety elaborate Structures of living, which is Atlas.

And maintenance is the sensible side of love, Which knows what time and weather are doing To my brickwork; insulates mv faulty wiring; Laughs at my dryrotten jokes; remembers My need for gloss and grouting; which keeps My suspect edifice upright in air, As Atlas did the sky.

This is truly the art that conceals art – behind each of those everyday images lies a complex weft of associations, implications and inferences, drawn together by wry self-knowledge which explores and explains but does not seek to excuse. U A Fanthorpe's Christmas Poems are published by Enitharmon Press, who also publish Fanthorpe's Selected Poems and her love poems, From Me To You. Find out more at

www.enitharmon.co.uk

ALL-AGE WORSHIP AT HOLY SAVIOURS SUNDAY JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 This will be a service of Holy Communion especially adapted so that children of all ages can participate. Music and songs will be accompanied by the Church Band.

Christmas The tree Festival: Chris **Benneworth** writes: Α great big thank you to everyone who contributed to make this year's Christmas Tree Festival a success - to the organisations who decorated the trees, to

stewards who gave a friendly welcome to visitors.



The church simply looked wonderful, particularly when the lights were low and the trees shone out, and we welcomed lots of visitors who simply enjoyed the decorations around the church and the refreshments.



It would be invidious to pick out any one tree as "the best in show" because it was the variety of approaches that caught the eye – from the Beavers bottle-top tree to the ingenuity of the Wine Club tree and the elegance of the Flower Arrangers display.



And the children's activity (Hunt the Playpeople) kept children of all ages entertained. The reaction to the whole event was summed up by a Mum who, on leaving on Thursday evening, said "This is so good I'm going to contact all my friends and encourage them to come along." So now we can start looking forward to and planning for next year's – see you there.

in Hospital and Music Janice Care Concert -Torpy writes: On the first Thursday in Advent, Holy Saviours was host to a musical evening which was held to raise funds for MUSIC IN HOSPITAL AND CARE Joy through live music, It was a very enjoyable evening where those who attended listened to the calming notes of Harp and Flute playing Christmas carols. There was also some audience participation when we were invited to join in singing some of them. This delightful evening was brought to us by Rebecca Mills a well known harpist and her husband Geoff Guntren who played the flute.



Rebecca is a local girl hailing from 12

South Shields and was inspired to take up the harp by watching the old Marx brother films with her grandad, her favourite being Harpo of course. She is also a former pupil of the Kings School in Tynemouth where she was encouraged to play the harp by her music teacher Stephen Pettitt. She met her husband Geoff. who originally comes from lowa. in the middle of the Atlantic when they were both working on board a cruise ship as professional musicians. Geoff's first instrument is Saxophone and he likes jazz but was accompanying Rebecca with the flute on this occasion as she only had eight weeks to go before her due date for their first baby, a boy. This was also the reason that Rebecca played her small harp.

On a personal note, I can remember attending one of Kings School's Parents Carol Services at St George's Church, Cullercoats and taking part was a young woman playing the harp in a corner of the church, it was Rebecca. Her playing was beautiful and really added to the service. I didn't know then how successful and well known she would become, but I am

not at all surprised. If you would like to hear her, she has recorded several CDs, the latest one being *The Journey. [See* <u>http://www.rebeccamillsharp.co</u> <u>m - Ed]</u>

MUSIC IN HOSPITAL AND CARE Joy through live music, is a very worthwhile cause and I know through personal experience that music plays a big part not only in helping people's recovery, but can also help those suffering from Alzheimer's and Dementia. They may not remember things that have happened to them, but never seem to forget the lyrics and tune of a song, or ever stop being reached emotionally by music.

## WHAT'S ON

## The Mothers' Union: Cathy Duff writes:

Thursday 16th January12.30Meal at Davantis<br/>Monday 3rd February2p.m.Annual GeneralMeetingSaturday 15th February10.30Coffee morning<br/>Thursday 20th February2p.m.Talk by Sheila Park

"The members behind the kneelers"

### All meetings start at 2.00 pm.

## Dusting & Gardening

**Dates**: The team meets every other Friday from 9am onwards to clean the church and the Parish Centre, and tidy the garden - followed by coffee, chat and lan Crawford's famous Cheese Scones at about 10.45am If you are able to give any time, the next dates are January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup>

## Knitting (and

**nattering) for fun** Our get-togethers take place on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. This month we will meet on **January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup>**. Bring some needles and wool or a project you are working on – you'll be most welcome. If you prefer to sew, that's fine.

The Soup Lunch Club meets every Wednesday at 12noon in the Parish Centre. Soup and and bread are followed by cakes and tea or coffee, all of which costs only £4.00. If you are able to help by providing soup or cakes, please use the sign-up sheet at the back of church - the sheet for the current guarter available. is now and volunteers are still needed. If vou know someone who

might like to join the Lunch Club, Saviours then please enourage them to come along at 12.00 on a Drinks and Nibble Wednesday, bring them if you can, Period di or if they need transport, contact Stuart Crozier in the Parish Office Bring your friend or email John Pearce at the Parish entertainment o News email address. TIME OUT YOGA A night of Music for you to dance to, featuring far songs from the 50s, 60s and 785 THE Songs you remember about [a with a foul[] Ladies Handbags in the middle a prerequisite BOOK IN ADVANCE Performed by Me and My Shadow www.timeoutyoga.co. and uk The Aggie Christie The style of Yoga is plus guest singers. HA - the original Holy Saviours Church Half, st Onch January, 2020<sup>trengthening poses,</sup> breathing technique, Starting at 7:30 litation in motion promoting peace of Tickets £10.00 available from Holy

relaxation techniques. If you yearn to take time out, to stretch out tensions, to strengthen the whole physical body, to reduce discomforts and find more peace of mind - then this could be the style of Yoga for you. Fully gualified British Wheel of Yoga teacher - Maria Houston-Knight - with over 20 years Yoga teaching experience in putting you at your ease making Yoga your own — SUITABLE FOR FVFRYONF



Hatha Yoga for Beginners <u>book early - limited</u>

spaces Sunday 19th January 2020 10:45am-12:15pm Holy Savio ur's Parish Hall-Beginners Workshop MANOR ROAD, TYNEMOU TH NF302LD SAINTS ALIVE! [9]

**Ciive Harper writes:** St Barnabas is a good saint for this season, for as we all embark upon a New Year we need some encouragement and Barnabas was known as the 'Son of Encouragement'. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit. It is likely he was one of the early followers of Jesus, perhaps numbered among the seventy-two who were sent out by Jesus on an early missionary journey.

After St Paul had his dramatic the road to conversion on Damascus it was Barnabas who brought him to the Apostles to help convince them that Paul's conversion was genuine; Paul then went away for a time, but the Church needed missionaries and Barnabas went in search of Paul. He found him in Tarsus and brought him to Antioch where there was a strong and growing Christian presence. It was from there that Barnabas and Paul. the two of them together, were sent out by the Church into the world out to spread the Good News of the Gospel and to make disciples.

The conditions were right: there was a settled society under the Romans: the Roman roads were there to facilitate travel: Paul. though a Jew, was a Roman citizen; and the Greek language was the 'lingua franca' of the known world; people could understand what they were saying; and they could travel in relative safety though they did suffer persecution as thev proclaimed the message of the Gospel.

Indeed, such was the persecution that, one day, in about AD 61, in the city of Salamis in Cyprus (and Cyprus was where Barnabas came from) Barnabas was dragged out of a Synagogue in which he was preaching and stoned to death. It was a harsh reminder that preaching about Jesus was, and still can be, a dangerous business; for Jesus himself said that a prophet is seldom recognized in his own country.

His actual name was Joseph but in the church he is Barnabas and he is regarded as the founder of the Cyprian Church and the Patron Saint of Cyprus. He was also, as we have previously said, a cousin of the Gospel writer St Mark.

His feast day is 11<sup>th</sup> June and one of the Church Fathers, Tertullian thought that Barnabas was the author of the Book of Hebrews in the New Testament.

So, as we begin a New Year we salute our brother Barnabas who followed in the footsteps of His Master and gave his life in the process.

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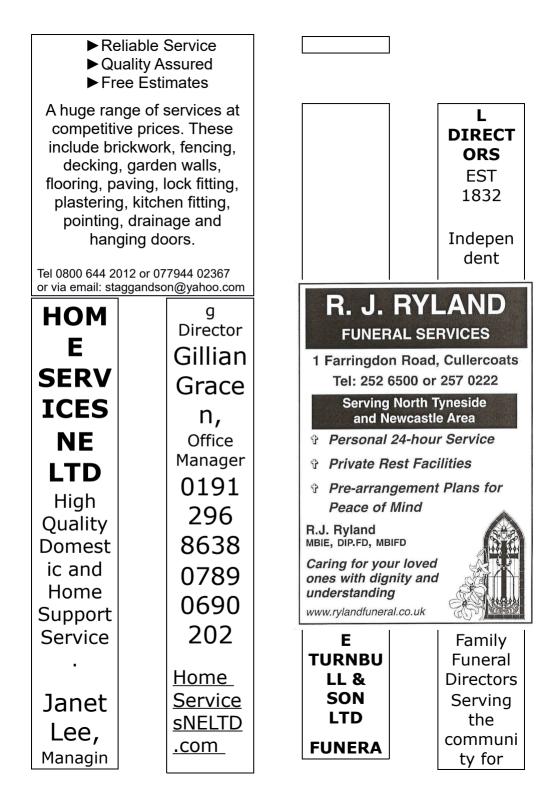
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JONATHAN BENNETT –



#### Services

Sundavs 8am Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion 6pm **Evening Prayer** [4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Evensongl Wednesday 11am Holy Communion [BCP] Sunday Club Sundays 10am To discuss arrange ments for Baptisms & Wedding s, please speak to the Vicar after the 10am Sunday service For further information please telephone the Parish Office on 0191 597 9815 or email Stuart Crozier, the Parish

Administrator, at hstcrossway@ gmail.com

Vicar

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> <u>ww.</u> holy savi ours .org .uk

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Centre	Scout Hut		
Debbie Baird	bookings:		
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1663	Tel: 257 0574		
Rainbows			
Lucy Skillen	Tynemouth Village		
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