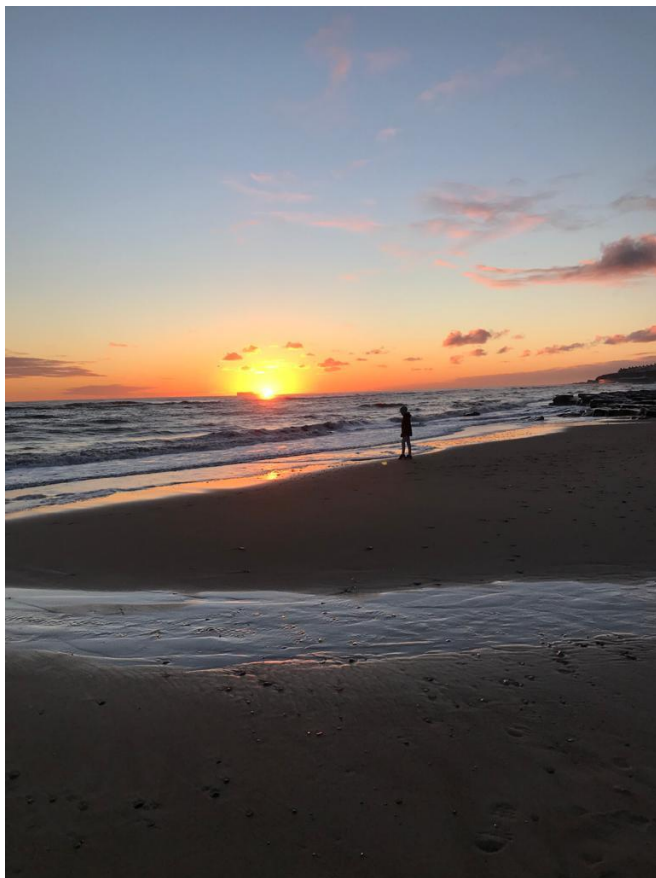


PARISH NEWS



MARCH 2021



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR, TYNEMOUTH
www.holysaviours.org.uk

March at Holy Saviours

[correct at the time of publication on line – FEBRUARY 28th, 2021]

IN THE PARISH UPDATE ON TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY,

REVD STEVE DIXON WROTE:

Dear brothers and sisters,

At its meeting on Tuesday 23rd February, the PCC took the decision to continue with the current suspension of public worship until Monday 29 March; the day that the 'stay at home' order is to be lifted. This also coincides with the beginning of Holy Week, so I am delighted that we will be able to resume our worship in church for this special week of the year and be able to celebrate Easter Day together. We will provide live-streamed worship each Sunday during March and will continue to do so once we return to public worship for those who feel unable to attend worship.

Our livestreamed Service of the Word at 10am each Sunday in Lent – February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st and March 28th, followed by Simple Communion, can be viewed at Holy Saviour's youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkW1sSFuDg8jQ0WtjVWAoww>

All services are available to view later.

Please also join us for Evening Prayer at 6.00pm each Sunday on Zoom. The meeting ID is 932 5122 1332 and the passcode is 932986.

Morning Prayer also continues at 1030 on Wednesdays, before the usual virtual coffee and chat. For these meetings, there is a new Zoom link: 970 9701 3865 and the passcode is 036447.

And don't forget to book for our Quiz Night at 7.00 on Friday March 5th on Zoom in aid of church funds. Please email vicar@holysaviours to obtain the link. A donation of £5 per link is suggested, and can be paid by bank transfer [reference *Quiz Night*] to the church bank account – Holy Saviours PCC, Tynemouth, 55-81-19, account number 08010323. You could also pay by cheque on in cash, in which case please deliver this in an envelope marked with your name and the label Quiz Night to 19, Ashleigh Grove. We are working on the facility to have teams taking part, so please indicate if you would like to join another household – virtually of course – as a team.

We are also holding a virtual Easter Festival to encourage some creativity during these last few weeks of lockdown. See the poster from Linda and Chris Benneworth on page six. And finally we will soon also be considering early entries for designs on the front of our Easter card, so get crafting and send us your photographs soon.



THE VICAR WRITES.....

I have noted an understandable air of optimism rising after the government's roadmap out of lockdown was announced on 22nd February. People are starting to plan family visits and holidays, dream of warmer weather and a life where restrictions are less of an inconvenience. No doubt the first signs of Spring are also helping to raise our spirits, and for many, the prospect of getting out into the garden again is a relief.

We are also planning for the resumption of public worship at Holy Saviour's in time for Easter. However, we still have several weeks before anything changes and it is very tempting to think we can bend the rules a little in advance of the lockdown relaxation. We will have to be patient.

This reminds me of the Christian understanding of the kingdom of God. We are living in the post-resurrection era where Jesus has won the victory over sin and death through the cross and his rising again. But we are still living in a time when the world is not yet fully redeemed and perfect. Sin and evil affect every part of life, personally and globally. While we know that God's grace abides with us, we fail to appreciate its full effect. We know that one day, at the time of God's choosing, sin and evil will finally be banished and we will live fully in the love of God and realise the wonders of God's kingdom.

St Paul describes our current state when he says,

*For now we see in a mirror, dimly,
but then we will see face to face.
Now I know only in part;
then I will know fully,
even as I have been fully known.'*

(1 Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 12)

We are living in the now, *but not yet* of the kingdom of God, and we struggle with the tension of this. We dream of the time when we will know fully and are frustrated that we still find ourselves tangled in our own imperfections and the tainted nature of the world.

As we continue in our journey through Lent, perhaps we can use our enforced waiting to reflect on our own tangles and remember that God has not left us helpless in our liminal state of the *now, but not yet*. Jesus calls us to be constantly

reconciled to him through the cross, and the Holy Spirit within us prompts us to seek God's forgiveness in the here and now, as we wait for the fullness of the promised kingdom.

We can also call on God to give us a divine patience; a patience with our imperfect selves, a patience with the imperfections of others, and a patience which gives us peace and resilience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve".

EDITORIAL

John Pearce writes: It is not for me to presume to read anyone's mind, let alone the mind of an archbishop. All the same, I cannot help wondering if the renewed postponement of the 2020 Lambeth Conference until some point in 2022 has caused relief rather than regret to Justin Welby. Even eighteen months before the conference was due originally to convene last year, he had been constrained first to defend the church's decision not to invite bishop's same-sex spouses to the conference and then acknowledge a public disavowal of that decision by the University of Kent, who were to host the conference. It seems unlikely, in these days when a demonstration can be assembled at the drop of a placard, that this would have been the last we heard of the matter. Nor, looking back, could he derive much comfort from remembrance of difficult episodes at past conferences.

In 2008, African bishops had boycotted the conference in protest at the liberal attitude of the American Episcopal Church in matters of sexuality, and the setting up of the Global Anglican Future Conference – GAFCON – which met for the first time a month previous to Lambeth was seen by some as a preliminary to schism, given that 200 bishops attended who did not later come to Lambeth. Ten years earlier, the 1998 conference had witnessed extraordinary scenes when the Nigerian Bishop Chukwumba had attempted to exorcise the “homosexual demons” of Richard Kirker, a refreshingly un-demonic and down to earth priest.

Sexual politics in general seems to have been a theme of Lambeth for many years past. In 1948, the question of ordaining women was dismissed as needing no further consideration – although, to be fair, the bishops did manage to agree that racial discrimination was un-Christian. The conference having condemned contraception [even within marriage] as un-Christian in 1920, it was a further thirty-eight years before it decided [quite correctly] that such decisions were for the couples involved and none of its business. It was in 1968 that archbishop Michael Ramsey dozed off during a debate, possibly the one during which the arguments for and against the ordination of women were found to be

inconclusive. It must have been the consciousness that no-one was obliged to take the slightest notice of Lambeth resolutions that led to the passage of resolutions both in 1978 and 1988 to the effect that national churches were allowed to make up their own minds about the ordination of women. The sight of several hundred bishops solemnly voting to relinquish an authority that no-one but them had ever thought they had ever possessed was a rich moment for connoisseurs of humbug.

And if Justin Welby had indeed been chary of presiding over a probably difficult and possibly fractious conference, then he would have found himself in good company. Archbishop Charles Longley, the reluctant convenor of the very first Lambeth meeting in 1867, was persuaded to do so mainly by Canadian and American churches who were feeling isolated from their British mother church [*plus ça change*, you may feel]. Several British bishops [including, remarkably, William Maclagan, the Archbishop of York at the time] felt they had better things to do, and the Dean of Westminster even refused permission for the conference to use Westminster Abbey for its service of dedication. Nor was the occasion without its tensions. The Archbishop of South Africa sought Lambeth's permission to unfrock the Bishop of Natal, John Williams Colemso, for his un-canonical views on polygamy among Zulus, the historicity of the Old Testament and the existence of hell. In the event, the conference promptly formed a sub-committee to look into the matter [*plus ça change encore*, you may feel] and then adjourned three days later, before it had time to report back. Sleight of hand of that quality, even at this distance of time, compels admiration for such an adroitly passed buck.

All that said, whatever Justin Welby's feelings in the matter, I can't help hoping that the postponed 2020 conference will be, in the event, cancelled altogether. This is for the simple reason, like the William Maclagan and his fellow absentees in 1867, that we have better – and far more urgent – things to do than organise international talking-shops that will draw far more attention to what divides the church than to what unites it. At the same time it will waste a great deal of money which would be better spent in the attendees' home churches [a ticket to the conference costs £4,500]. Covid-19 has damaged our national church, possibly in ways which cannot be undone, and in seeking to rebuild it we should not lose the opportunity to embrace as fully as possible the changes that have been forced upon it. The time to look outwards towards international Christendom will be when we have, once again, and no doubt after much reappraisal and hard work, made our own national base far more secure. And that means, for the time being, that it is essential for us to preach our gospel by what we do, not by what we say. And in that task we may need to lead our bishops from behind. It is a sad fact that bishops as often as not take action too little and too late. The less opportunity they have to talk, rather than do, the better; at least from where I am sitting.

Notes and News

EASTER 2021 AT HOLY SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, TYNEMOUTH

Can you help us celebrate Easter this year?

There are lots of ways to join in.....

CAN YOU DECORATE AN EASTER BONNET?

Send us a photograph of your finished bonnet and we can make a virtual display. Give your name [and age if you are under 12]; there will be prizes for the three most interesting hats.



DECORATE A PASTE EGG?

Send us a photograph of your decorated egg with your name [and age if you are under 12]. Prizes for the three most interesting eggs. And don't forget that you can have a jarping contest with your entries and then eat them afterwards [see below].

CREATE AN EASTER TREE?

And one for the gardeners. If you have an Easter tree ready to decorate, then send us a photograph of it which we can use in our display.



Send photographs to Holysavioursfestival@gmail.com by **Monday 29th March**. All entries will be included in the church's virtual Easter Festival. By submitting a photograph, you are giving permission for it to be used on the church's website - www.holysaviours.org.uk and our social media pages.

Editor's note: Hats off to Linda and Chris Benneworth for devising this entertaining competition – exactly what we need to cheer ourselves up, and in a format that leaves no-one out. I will certainly have a try at the paste egg competition, having first hard-boiled my egg with some onion-skins, turning them a deep golden yellow which sets off anything you paint on them. And it's years since I heard the expression "paste egg", one that my grandma used, and which seems to be a dialect word peculiar to Durham and Yorkshire. Linda pointed me at Google, from which I learned that it originates from the French *pasques* [Easter] which in turn derives from the Latin *pascha*, meaning the same. It also relates back to the Aramaic *pesach*, Passover, another spring festival which is also like Easter a moveable feast. All of which illustrates, if nothing else, the dangers of googling something when you are supposed to be working. Before I logged out however I was also reminded of other paste egg techniques, like winding string round the egg and tinting the water with cochineal [this produces intriguing spiral patterns], wrapping fern leaves round them whilst boiling, and using red cabbage or cocoa as colouring agents. [And if you don't know what jarping is, then look it up on Google, but only if you have half an hour to spare]. In the meantime, let everyone let their imaginations run riot and give this festive competition the support it deserves.

This month's cover: During the current lockdown Christopher and his mum have tried to begin each day with a walk, so that at least they are not pestered later on by Fitbits nattering at them about an inadequate step count. Helen took this picture at sunrise on Whitley Bay beach on Thursday February 11th, when the aftermath of storm Darcy brought us some wonderful days of still winter weather, with enormous blue skies seemingly brightened by the snow beneath them. I love living by the sea partly because it never looks the same two days running, and partly because its never-resting energy is a ready image of a dynamic eternity. I think this picture captures that sense of a vast expanse, with Christopher, the tiny human figure at the tide-line, dwarfed by the sky and the sea, and given scale only by the Brierdene Burn running seawards across its foreground.

A picture, runs the cliché, is worth a thousand words, and imaginative readers can make their own commentary on this one. For myself, It reminds me [of all things] of a moment in the painfully funny American situation comedy *The Big Bang Theory*. Astrophysicist Rajesh Koothrappali explains why, as a rationalist, his Hindu beliefs remain a part of who he is and what he means:

Whenever I walk into that temple, I realize that whatever happens, it's okay. We're all part of an immense pattern, and though we can't understand it, we can be happy to know that it's working its will through us.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY MARCH 5th

Steve Dixon writes: It is customary for the Women's World Day of Prayer to be held on the first Friday in March each year. Sadly, due to restrictions imposed by the pandemic, it has been decided to cancel our local service in North Shields this year.

The World Day of Prayer services will continue throughout the world, and many services will be accessible on the internet via Zoom, Youtube and Facebook. Details can be found on the website at www.wwdp.org.uk and there will also be a link to an international service arranged by the WWDP International Committee and the Christian women of Vanuatu. The needs and concerns of the people of Vanuatu are the especial focus of this year's prayers.

I hope you will be able to participate at 2.00 pm this Friday, March 5th, by following the service on line. Printed copies of the service will also be available at the back of the church when it is open for private prayer. Please remember that the World Day of Prayer is a charity and, like all charities in these difficult times, is in especial need of support. Donations may be made online via the Women's World Day of Prayer website.

Editor's note: I didn't know where Vanuatu is either. It is a chain of islands in the South Pacific some 1200 miles east of Australia, with a total population of 220,000 people. To the tourist it offers the usual Melanesian amenities – heat, exotic cuisine, a fascinating and intricate cultural history, scuba diving and hotels of international standard. The Asian Development Bank's report tells a different story. Nearly half the population is poor, with about a quarter of them living below the official poverty line of \$1 a day. The *per capita* Gross Domestic Product is \$1403, which sounds quite affluent until you compare it with the United States, where GDP *per capita* is \$28,000. According to the *Encyclopaedia of the Nations*, *There is evidence that there are varying levels of well-being within the country. An indicator developed by United Nations Development Programme is the Human Poverty Index (HPI). It measures conditions for those worst off in a country, such as their health status, education level, access to health services, access to safe water, and malnutrition in children. While to a traveller in Vanuatu there appears to be a kind of "subsistence affluence" in most areas, the HPI suggests that Vanuatu is still a poor country, with the third lowest HPI in the Pacific, at a level similar to that of many of the poorest African countries. For example, illiteracy is estimated at 66 percent, about 23 percent of children under 5 are underweight, and about 20 percent of the population does not have access to adequate health services, according to the UNDP.* However poor the average Vanuatuan may be, there is no doubt about the problems faced by the island chain, which are chiefly a function

of climate change and environmental depletion. Another report, from 2007, by the Asian Development Bank makes this clear. Climate change is causing sea-level rise, soil erosion, land degradation and coastal erosion. Tourism and urbanisation are causing loss of forests, biological diversity and water pollution. This latter is worsened by poor waste disposal and recycling facilities. Reef destruction and over-exploitation of marine resources, as well as vulnerability to natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis, complete a discouraging picture. And we think that we have problems.....

MONEY MATTERS [i]: Planned Giving 2021 - 2022

Karen Bilton writes: The Planned Giving Envelopes, for those of you who give weekly and periodically through the year, will be available at the end of March, to commence Sunday 11th April 2021. You will note when you receive them that the numbering system has changed. This is because the number of boxes needed now has reduced. With the restriction of church services since last March many of you changed to giving by Bankers standing order, which has been greatly appreciated, especially in the current and continuing uncertainties of church attendance. Rather than asking you to pick up your envelopes from church, I will deliver them over the next few weeks. Please ring me on 258 0270 if you:

- have any queries or problems concerning the envelopes
- would like to change your method of giving from the envelope scheme to a Banker's Standing Order
- would like to join the Planned Giving Scheme.
- if you give regularly in any way perhaps you would consider completing a Promise and, if you are a taxpayer, a Gift Aid declaration form. This would enable Holy Saviour's Church to reclaim the tax element of your gift back from the Inland Revenue (this is 25p for every £1 given), therefore maximising your contribution to the Church at no extra cost to yourself. The Promise & Gift Aid declaration form is a simple document, and it allows us to increase our income each year by a significant amount with the help of the Inland Revenue, as well as giving us a regular and known source of income
- Would like to increase your annual planned giving amount

As soon as I have the necessary information after 5th April 2021, I will be writing to everyone who contributes by the planned giving scheme with an end of year summary. If you have any queries arising from this please do not hesitate to give me a ring. I would like to thank everyone who gives to Holy Saviour's Church; your contribution is greatly appreciated and needed.

MONEY MATTERS [ii]: PARISH SHARE



Parish Share 2020

THANK YOU

Tynemouth Priory

A warm thank you for your generosity and for your contribution of **£65,000** towards the vision we all share of growing church bringing hope to every part of the Diocese of Newcastle in these difficult and challenging times.

In 2020 the cost of the church's mission and ministry across the diocese was **£7.29million**. We recognise that this is increasingly challenging and we value enormously the part each and every parish has played in contributing a total of **£4.04million** towards this work. The remainder was met from the national church, grants, gifts and diocesan reserves.

Thank you again for your continuing commitment, the financial challenges we face are not yet behind us. We look forward to working with you to help strengthen and develop God's work in every community throughout the diocese and to growing church bringing hope together.

May God bless you all

The Rt Rev'd Christine Hardman
Bishop of Newcastle

Canon Simon Harper
Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance

MONEY MATTERS [iii]: CORRESPONDENCE

Editor's note: With the Certificate of thanks for paying our Parish Share from Christine Hardman and Simon Harper came the letter below from Diocesan Secretary Shane Waddle, addressed to me in my capacity as PCC Secretary. In the light of several recent – and on the whole disobligng – newspaper articles on the subject of church finances nationally, I thought it worth reproducing in full.

Dear John,

Parish of Tynemouth Priory, Parish Share 2020

I am pleased to enclose a certificate from Bishop Christine and Canon Simon Harper, the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, recording their thanks on behalf of the Diocesan Board of Finance and Diocesan Synod for the very generous contribution made by your parish in 2020.

As you will be aware, the financial situation for the Diocese of Newcastle is challenging, and the impact of the Coronavirus on our finances has been significant. The contribution from your parish towards the parish share requested for 2020 is appreciated. Please do display the certificate so that people can see how valued their contributions are towards all the work across the whole area of the Diocese of Newcastle.

In 2020 Parish Share contributions totalled £4.04 million. This funded 55% of the £7.29 million costs of mission and ministry across the Diocese of Newcastle.

The Board of Finance recognises the financial pressures parishes have experienced and the Board is grateful for the positive way in which your parish has responded at such a challenging time.

The attached note provides an overview of how the budget will resource activities in 2021. We hope you will find this summary helpful in encouraging both your PCC and your congregation in their continuing generosity and commitment as together we seek to serve the many local communities across this wonderful Diocese of Newcastle.

With all good wishes

Shane Waddle

Canon Shane Waddle
Diocesan Secretary

MONEY MATTERS [iv]: WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Editor's note: The note referenced by Shane Waddle in the last paragraph of his letter was a very helpful bubble diagram of the proposed Diocesan Budget for 2021 which was enclosed with his letter. Unfortunately, when I scanned and reduced it to A5 size to fit it into the *News*, it was far too small to read. Instead I have summarised the information in the form of a table below, and added the explanatory notes which accompanied the diagram. Canon Waddle's introductory note reads in part as follows [I have omitted only his references to the formatting of the diagram]:

Diocese of Newcastle 2021 Budget Overview

This is an extract from the Parish Share Review Group's Report. It sets out the cost of supporting ministry and mission in the Diocese...In this example the overall budget is £7, 131, 667 with a Parish Share of £4, 496, 184.

Area	Allocation £	%	This allocation finances:
1	3, 327, 823	46.6	Clergy stipends and pension contributions
2	1, 009, 517	14.2	Clergy housing maintenance, repairs
3	1, 108, 481	15.5	Training and future ministry
4	212, 467	3.0	Ministry development
5	457, 447	6.4	Resourcing of various social ministries
6	1,015, 932	14.3	Administrative and Legal Support

Additional notes to the above table:

- Area 1 For those in paid ministry, we need to pay a stipend and pension contribution.
- Area 2 For those provided with housing we undertake maintenance, repairs and refurbishments and staff our housing team.
- Area 3 Training and future ministry – staff to support vocation, discernment and post ordination training and our contribution to national training costs.
- Area 4 Development such as ministry development and staff to support ministry development
- Area 5 Resourcing ministries such as Children and Youth, Lay Development, Generous Giving, Social Justice, Task Groups
- Area 6 Administration and Legal Support: Church House, Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, finance, communications, safeguarding, buildings support.

BIBLICAL WORDS [X]:

From everlasting to everlasting you are God

Clive Harper writes: These words are found at the beginning of Psalm 90 which also tells us how long we have to live on this earth, viz: three score years and ten, or four score if we be strong. Clearly many people are 'strong' in our present generation in the Psalmist's sense, although the empirical evidence is that we are not that strong, even when we are not fighting off Covid.

But the reason I am writing this is that, a few weeks ago, I was watching a television programme on Channel Five about the Natural History Museum; the learned professor was showing the viewers a piece of a meteorite; known as the 'Imilac' meteorite it was thought to have arrived on earth in the 14th Century and was found in the Atacama Desert in Northern Chile. It is thought to be 4.5 billion years old; that is, scientists tell us, as old as our Solar system.

So, the God we worship, if we allow ourselves to consider such matters, is older than 4.5 billion years. Indeed, it is difficult for the human mind to dwell on such vast periods of time; but the Bible teaches us that the God we worship is everlasting or, perhaps better, eternal. God has always been; there was never a time when He was not; God just is. Indeed, we can speculate that God is outside of time itself. Thus, the Psalmist suggests, as does St Peter, and the hymn writer muses: *a thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

As I write this, I wonder how these things can be, and I realise I am echoing the words of Nicodemus all those years ago as he came to Jesus by night; *how can these things be?*, are they not, simply, incredible?

So how do we know? We cannot; and yet by faith, by experience, and through the witness of those who, for a few brief years, met with Jesus we can. For, St John was to say about Him: *No one has ever seen God; Jesus, the one and only, He has made Him known.*

So, if we want to find God, to know Him, we need to find Jesus: for He is the One who makes God known to us.

Are there other ways of finding God? I cannot say. The Christian answer is that the pathway to God lies through Jesus, and it is Him that we proclaim. And when we have found Him; or better, when he has found us, our task is to do what the Westminster Confession teaches us is our duty:

The chief end of man is to Glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

Amen to that!

An Engineer's View. Some second thoughts

Ian Buxton writes: My daughter gave me Simon Sebag Montefiore's *Jerusalem – The Biography* for Christmas. It traces over millennia the rise and fall of this city, its many different inhabitants and its various destructions and rebuildings. It chronicles in astonishing detail how the Jews, the Muslims and the Christians sought to dominate this ancient city. Each anticipated a Second Coming or an Apocalypse at which time they wanted to be top dog in the city. So here is this engineer's take on the book.

The author, whose Jewish forebears helped rebuild Jerusalem, is even handed in his extensively researched story. His scholarship, erudition and depth of research are outstanding. The book is not an easy read, the narrative of some 630 pages is distinctly un-flowing, and its many *dramatis personae* are difficult to keep track of. But if you persevere (I could only manage a couple of chapters at a time) you will be enlightened and immensely better informed about the place and the people, from David, Alexander the Great, the Maccabees, Cleopatra, the Herods (yes, there were several), the Prophet Muhammad, Saladin, the Crusaders, Napoleon - right up to recent Arab and Israeli politicians.

What struck me most forcibly was how barbarous were the many tribes who at various times sought to control Jerusalem. They were continually at war with each other over centuries, usually in the most bloodthirsty way. The winner usually laid waste to conquered cities, slaughtering most of the men of fighting age and taking the women for themselves. It seemed that every tribe or army was led by a megalomaniac, who sought not to build a prosperous kingdom or to improve the lot of its people, but simply to take from all those weaker than themselves.

For centuries the driving forces were power, treasure and sex. To what end? To enslave and tax the unfortunate inhabitants so that the ruling class lived in luxury, building the most magnificent palaces and occasionally temples, and maintaining huge harems to satisfy their lusts. They enjoyed multiple wives and five hundred or more concubines, organised by eunuchs – *Sire, may I suggest number 173 for your next feast day?* [By the way, what does it do for the gene pool if most children are interrelated? Maybe that is why this inefficient system lasted so long, each ruler more unhinged than the previous one]. And what of the prospects of the men of the lower orders, deprived of a wife and children? The answer: prostitution was always a major industry in these societies - hardly a recipe for social stability. Indeed destroying the other tribe(s) is a zero sum game – I win, you lose. The idea of letting each tribe flourish, developing its own resources, agricultural and infrastructural, and trading peacefully with its neighbours seemed an alien concept.

The book is full of details, such as the ingenious ways of torturing or killing – not just simple stabbing or hanging, but impaling, disembowelling, dismembering (leaving just a head and torso) and multiple forms of crucifixion. Incidentally all those images of Jesus carrying a complete cross to crucifixion are wrong; the condemned only had to carry the crossbar. Perhaps fittingly, very few of these rulers died in their beds. If they were not killed on the battlefield, they were often assassinated by members of their family or entourage seeking the succession.

Well this is a rather long winded way of getting to my point. In my *Engineer's View* in the April 2019 *Parish News*, I offered some thoughts on the Creation and Jesus coming to be among us. In the timing of the latter, I suggested that communications were better then, so that the Word could be more easily spread – the Roman Empire and all that. But now I offer an alternative explanation for (a) timing and (b) location. God probably looked at all the mindless slaughtering and plundering and destruction in the Near East and thought I must show them a better way. So I will send them my Son. Love thy God (i.e. look beyond your earthly desires) and love thy neighbour, or at least respect him.

Although the slaughtering did not stop in the two succeeding millennia, my impression is that they were less frequent and less destructive. Perhaps the 'winner' was in control for longer periods of time, so there was less need to exterminate as in the centuries BC. So: progress of a sort? Two steps forward but only one back?

Montefiore ends the book by offering in his Epilogue a solution to the ever present tensions around Jerusalem, but I leave you to find that out by reading the book yourself.

Editor's note: In the course of checking a point with Ian on the telephone, I said to him that a good review was one which left you either wanting to read a book or determined not to. On that score, Ian's review has put *Jerusalem – The Biography* on firmly on to my reading list. It is published in by Orion Books, and is available in paperback for £14.99. At 734 pages this is a hefty book, so the Kindle version at £6.99 or the audiobook for £18.00 might be easier on the wrists.

AND FINALLY.....

John Pearce writes: Recent national press articles have made much of the news that in the Chelmsford [whence Stephen Cottrell was recently translated to the Archdiocese of York] sixty-one clergymen were made redundant last November, at the same time as the Diocese advertised the post of Chief Executive Officer at a salary of £85,000. Given that £85,000 would pay for three priests at £27,000 each and leave enough over to pay their petrol expenses I am left hoping

that there is more to this story than meets the eye. But given that in Southwark, thirty priests were made redundant what time the budget was found for a *Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation* I am still wondering. Hard cases such as these are apt to over-simplify complex issues, but even so, it would be interesting to hear the rationales behind these developments, if indeed there are some.

Similarly, as we start to consider where our churches, nationally and locally, have to start with rebuilding ourselves after a bruising year, there are many who think we should start by examining whether a diocesan system last overhauled in 1927 can serve the needs of our church nearly a hundred years on. Certainly, if the correspondence columns of *The Spectator* are anything to go by, such an examination is long overdue. I leave you with two particularly pungent reflections.

Neil McKittrick of Cambridge is in no doubt: *Halve the number of bishops, and axe some of the non-jobs with fancy names which seem to proliferate in and around the centre...It is parish priests and not bishops who prepare people for marriage and minister to the dying. The best remain pillars of their communities...There will be endless discussions in this or that synod; still more focus groups; and there will no doubt have to be time for 'prayerful reflection' during retreats or sabbaticals. But action is required now. Just get on with it.*

The last word should go to Revd. Martin Down: *I have been ordained in the Church of England for 55 years and retired for the last fifteen....I have experienced and watched the creeping managerialism now rampant in the church. My advice to...parishes [is] this: stop paying the parish share; ignore everything that comes from diocesan office; employ local tradesmen to do the repairs on the church and the parsonage house; and get on with the job that God has called you to do in the parish. Then see what happens! God is faithful and will provide for all your needs.*

We have been compelled to revert to online publication only for a second month, but all being well I hope that the April edition will be published in print and online. Given the possibility that Government decisions about easing lockdown may be revised if a third wave of Covid-19 begins, print publication for the moment remains an intention only. That said, the following dates will apply whether or not April's publication is in print or not.

ALL COPY TO THE EDITOR BY 1900 THURSDAY MARCH 25th

Copy to me by post, email or the Parish News Mailbox in the Parish Centre. Artwork will be sent to Rob Gibbons at YPD overnight on Sunday, March 28th. If publication in print goes ahead, the magazines will be collected on Wednesday afternoon, March 31st. THE PARISH NEWS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 4th at www.holysaviours.org.uk If in print, it will be available for collection and distribution from church on the same date.

The co-operative funeralcare

Our caring staff are here to listen and advise you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Full range of monumental masonry

Forest Hall Station Road
0191 259 9964

North Shields Billy Mill Avenue
0191 258 0025

Whitley Bay Algernon Place
0191 252 5151

Wallsend 105-109 High Street West
0191 262 5100

www.co-operativefuneralcare.co.uk



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



R. JOHNSON
FUNERAL DIRECTOR
[formerly of Cleveland Road]
PRIVATE CHAPELS OF REST
24hr SERVICE
64 HOWARD STREET,
NORTH SHIELDS
SIMPLE CREMATIONS
FROM £2768.50
Info.@rjohnsonfunerals.co.uk
0191-2574627

Anderson & Garland

'Local Sale.....
London Prices'



Our Specialist knew that this Imperial Chinese Water Pot was special, we sold it for a record £270,000, after worldwide interest

If you are thinking of selling any Fine Art or Antiques contact the professionals to see what we can do for you.

You might get a pleasant surprise too!

'For expertise on your doorstep choose Anderson & Garland.

Anderson House, Crispin Court
Newbiggin Lane, Westerhope
Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1BF

Tel - 0191 4303000

Email – info@andersonandgarland.com

Stagg & Son - General Builders North Shields

Over 35 years experience in the building trade

- ▶ Reliable Service
- ▶ Quality Assured
- ▶ Free Estimates



A huge range of services at competitive prices. These include brickwork, fencing, decking, garden walls, flooring, paving, lock fitting, plastering, kitchen fitting, pointing, drainage and hanging doors.

Tel 0800 644 2012 or 077944 02367

or via email:

staggandson@yahoo.com

HOME SERVICES NE LTD

High Quality Domestic and
Home Support Service.

Janet Lee,
Managing Director
Gillian Gracen,
Office Manager
0191 296 8638
07890690202

Home ServicesNELTD.com

E TURNBULL & SON LTD FUNERAL DIRECTORS EST 1832

Independent Family Funeral Directors
Serving the community for over 200
years

A complete Funeral Service
Offering Personal and
Professional Guidance throughout

**PRIVATE CHAPELS OF REST,
PRE PAID FUNERAL PLANS
24 HOUR SERVICE
LUXURY LIMOUSINES
SIMPLE FUNERAL SERVICE AND
CREMATION FROM £2968.50**

North Shields: Albion Road
0191 2571201

www.eturnbull.co.uk
e-mail: info@eturnbull.co.uk

R. J. RYLAND FUNERAL SERVICES

1 Farrington Road, Cullercoats
Tel: 252 6500 or 257 0222

Serving North Tyneside
and Newcastle Area

- † *Personal 24-hour Service*
- † *Private Rest Facilities*
- † *Pre-arrangement Plans for
Peace of Mind*

R.J. Ryland
MBIE, DIP.FD, MBIFD

*Caring for your loved
ones with dignity and
understanding*

www.rylandfuneral.co.uk



**WANT TO FEEL GOOD ?
WE MAKE YOU FEEL GREAT !**
Book your Appointment Today

swissphysio

Tynemouth Metro Station, NE30 4RE
Tel **0191 296 0567**

info@Swissphysio.co.uk www.swissphysio.co.uk

HOME MAINTENANCE



Electrician
General Plumbing
Garden Work
Flat-pack furniture
Fencing
Painting



**ANYTHING YOU NEED
NO JOB TOO SMALL**

**Reliable & honest
References available**

Tel' Paul Preston on 2570574

Or 077482 35 867

NORTHEAST BOILER CARE

Gas safety, servicing and installation specialist!

Services we offer:

- Boiler Service/Installation/Repair
- Warm Air Service/Installation/Repair
- Gas Fire Service/Installation/Repair
 - Cooker Service/ Installation
 - Landlord CP12 Certificates
 - Power Flushing

JONATHAN BENNETT – Gas Engineer



Tel: 0191 2846133
Mobile: 07713 242 814

Email: neboilercare@btinternet.com
Website: www.neboilercare.co.uk

WHEN IT HAS TO BE, IT HAS TO BE THE GRAND HOTEL

— — — — —
Grand Hotel
T Y N E M O U T H
— — — — —

GRAND PARADE, TYNEMOUTH, NE30 4ER

0191 293 6666 | WWW.GRANDHOTELTYNEMOUTH.CO.UK

EVENTS@GRANDHOTELTYNEMOUTH.CO.UK

Our local landmark to complement your church wedding. Once you've seen what we can offer, you'll not want to spend your special day anywhere else...

Located 0.4 miles away



As this edition of the Parish News is published, our church services for the time being are being live-streamed on Youtube and via the church website. Each Sunday at 1000 there will be a Service of the Word at 1000, which will be followed by a Service of Holy Communion for those who wish to stay on and take part online. Evening Prayer is also said at 1800 on Zoom – see inside front cover for details. Morning Prayer is said each Wednesday morning on Zoom at 1030. The recordings of services will continue to be available on YouTube using the links given on the inside front cover

Vicar **Revd. Steve Dixon**
Email **vicar@holysaviours.org.uk**
Telephone **07729 393 580**
 0191 697 4562

Curate **Revd. Malcolm Railton**
Email **curate@holysaviours.org.uk**
Telephone **0191 262 3028**

Parish Administrator **Stuart Crozier**
Church Office **Tel. 0191 257 6250**
Email **office@holysaviours.org.uk**
Church website: **www.holysaviours.org.uk**

Churchwardens:

Janice Torpy
 Tel: 07920 049 341

David Bilton,
 19 Ashleigh Grove
 Tel. 2580270

PCC Vice Chairman:
 Chris Benneworth

PCC Treasurer:
 Karen Bilton, 19 Ashleigh Grove
 Tel. 2580270

Church Flowers:

Sheila Park, 15 Ashleigh Grove,
 Tel. 257 5481
 Barbara Walker, 2 Monkstone Crescent,
 Tel. 257 4159

ACTIVITIES

Mothers' Union

1st Monday 2.00pm Parish Centre
 3rd Thursday 2.00pm Parish Centre
 Cathy Duff Tel 0191 257 4811

W3 – Women's Group

1st Wednesday 7.30pm Parish Centre
 Debbie Baird Tel. 296 1663

Rainbows

Lucy Skillen Tel. 07891101262

Brownies

Pat Corbett Tel. 0191 2800510

Guides

Grace Paul Tel. 07803371929

Rangers

Grace Paul Tel. 07803 371929

Beavers

Gillian Smith Tel. 296 1426
tynemouthbeavers@gmail.com

Cub Scouts

Fiona Lydall Tel 257 3047

Scouts

David Littlefield Tel. 257 8740

Explorer Scouts

Lucy Mace Tel. 258 5948

Group Scout Leader

Michael Dyer Tel. 2596236

Asst. Group Leader

David Littlefield Tel. 257 8740

Scout Hut bookings:

Helen Preston Tel: 257 0574

Tynemouth Village Day Centre – Parish Hall

Tel. 259 5569

Mother & Toddler Group – Parish Hall

Friday 9.30am

ARTICLES FOR THE PARISH NEWS

These should be submitted to the editor, **John Pearce**, at JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk – the deadline will be published each month. Post written contributions in the Parish News Mailbox outside the Parish Office or to 9 Selwyn Avenue, Monkseaton, NE25 9DH.

All queries to

0191 291 2742 or 07903 227 192.