



On Sunday 30th August we said our Thank Yous and Goodbyes to Ewan, our Organist & Choirmaster for almost 3 years as he moves on to Music College.

The choir presented him with their own gift and the congregation also passed on a monetary gift, as that is more use to students.

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DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

- 3 **Thurs 7.30pm** Ayton Churches Together Meeting on Zoom
- 6 **Sun Trinity 13** 9.30am Sunday Morning Worship at Christ Church, Zoom and Facebook Live; **11am Sunday Worship at Saint Oswald's & Zoom**; **5pm Holy Communion (Stokesley)**
- 9 **Wed** 7.30pm Great Ayton PCC Meeting on Zoom
- 12 **Sat** Wedding at Christ Church
- 13 **Sun Trinity 14** 9.30am Sunday Morning Worship at Stokesley Parish Church, Zoom and Facebook Live; 5pm BCP Holy Communion (Ayton)
- 14 **Mon** 7.30pm Newton PCC on Zoom
- 20 **Sun Trinity 15** 9.30am Sunday Morning Worship at Christ Church, Zoom and Facebook Live; **11am Sunday Worship at Saint Oswald's & Zoom**; **5pm Holy Communion (Stokesley)**
- 26 **Sat** 10am Nick Land Licensed as a Reader in York Minster (Hopefully to be streamed live); **3pm Wedding at St Oswald's Newton**; **4pm Wedding at Stokesley Parish Church.**
- 27 **Sun Trinity 11** 9.30am Sunday Morning Worship at Stokesley Parish Church, Zoom and Facebook Live; 1.30pm Ordination of Rev Jane Robson in York Minster (Hopefully to be streamed live)
5pm Prayer Book Holy Communion (Ayton).

Black = Christ Church, Great Ayton
Purple = Saint Oswald's, Newton:
Blue = Ss Peter & Paul, Stokesley

A Legacy from John

Our thanks to the late John Finch who left Christ Church a gift of £1,000 in his Will for the upkeep of the Church. This is very much appreciated.

Taking Stock of Summer

From the beginning of September it will be 24 Sundays since the Lockdown started and the world changed. So how has it been for you?



The early days brought many good things back into life - an appreciation of the simple things, enjoying nature, appreciating a walk each day, seeing nature rally from the continual onslaught humanity puts it under, and discovering and supporting our neighbours to strengthen community have been amongst them.

We set up a help-line on the Church Hall numbers and it was interesting to see how that was called upon less and less as people supported one another. As a child I grew up with corner shops and errand boys on bikes delivering groceries, so to see a similar facility come back more has been interesting and extremely helpful, and many village businesses have moved in that direction to help out.

As restrictions have eased and life has begun to open up again with restrictions it is clear there is still a huge spectrum of experience with this. There are many folk who feel the issue has now passed and there are others who are as anxious today as they were when it all kicked off. You die once - usually - so some folk still don't want to take unnecessary risks. The restrictions and the masks may seem an inconvenience, but not as much as death is, so we try to do the best, being sensible and thinking of each other, and that is what life is about.

James Cook Hospital was not overwhelmed with Covid, but was very much challenged when it peaked and did a remarkable job. Well done NHS! Now they are moving to look to those they couldn't see during this period, or who were too afraid to go in. I had to attend recently with my son and couldn't believe how easy it was to get parked at 2pm and how quiet the hospital was. It was extremely efficient and felt a very safe place to be.

Some did succumb to the virus, but of the funerals I took whilst some died because of it, others died with it, and many folks pulled through, but some with longer journeys of recovery. We all respond differently.

There have been psychological effects of folk being isolated, and no matter how many phone calls or Zoom meetings, its not the same as a hug from someone you love. I have heard people say in no way will they not see their grandchildren for so long again.

For Churches and many social groups Zoom, Facebook and Online options have been a Godsend, and we are keeping these going for now. How would it have been if we hadn't had these? How would it be if the Internet were one day to collapse? It's good, but you still need the real thing, so keep Churches and groups alive and meet when you can because who knows what the future has in store. You can also know far more from seeing someone face to face - even with a mask. As numbers attending Sunday worship are still in the teens, we are keeping with the present pattern of alternating with Stokesley Parish. When numbers go up, we will review this. Each Sunday I try and get a balance of those involved who represent Stokesley and Great Ayton congregations, those on Zoom , young and old and new worshippers too. It's a challenge.

There have been negatives. Apart from death and illness, the obvious one is the economy and the struggle many will have in the months ahead. This is going to get harder before it gets better as many will lose jobs. This pain shouldn't just be felt by the poor, but should be spread around society. My fear is the poor will get poorer and the rich will get richer, and we need a society with a greater vision of justice and equality, and God gives us that. Let us be attentive to the needs around us and be generous if we know folk are struggling.

My mum died in August having achieved her 90th Birthday in May on the last Thursday we applauded the NHS. She always went to the door so she could see her neighbours and that Thursday they gathered around her gate, applauded her, sang Happy Birthday and then gave her flowers, chocolates and a large card. No gift or party that we could have done would have been more special to her than receiving such love from her neighbours. It was an incredible gift and part of what community is all about. I have experienced something of that too with the large number of cards, letters and good wishes that have come to the Vicarage. Thank you one and all.

The future will continue to challenge us, but together with each other and with God we can meet them.

Paul

Lockdown Largesse!

It hardly seems like 5 months since Boris placed the country in lockdown and changed, perhaps for ever, the way we live our lives...and not all for the worse. Our church has shared in the change- Paul has found innovative ways to hold services on Zoom, Facebook and even by telephone and has generated a whole new congregation, locally, nationally even internationally!! As treasurer, I was initially concerned that our weekly collections would be insufficient to enable us to pay the bills. But I needn't have worried...



- Bank standing orders continued to be honoured (usually monthly)
- Envelope givers have found lots of ways of ensuring that the green envelopes reach the “virtual” collection plate!
- As we have been discouraged from handling cash, many envelope givers have switched to standing orders which are easier to manage for all concerned
- Many of the new on-line congregation have made donations by way of the “Give a Little” app which appears on the weekly service sheet and is an easy way to add to the “virtual” collection plate!
- Many people have responded to appeals by making payments directly from their bank accounts to the church account
- And of course, you have kept John and Ynez busy by gift-aiding many of these additional donations!

All of which has ensured that we not only pay our bills regularly but ensure that our mission support continues and our freewill offering to the Diocese is paid in full!

So to everyone who has contributed to this terrific act of generosity ... a huge thank you to you all!

Ken

People News

John Ford The Deanery Leadership Team met socially distanced at the Lay Dean's home to present the leaving gift from Stokesley Deanery to John and Barbara Ford. All Parishes and a few individuals had contributed very generously totalling £1,400. Paul and John are at present our longest serving Incumbents and Paul referred to how well both John and Barbara had served our Deanery since 1994 in various Parishes and as Area Dean since 2003. John responded with grateful thanks to everyone in the Parishes having enjoyed his time and the good friends he has made across the Deanery.



Nick Land on Saturday 26th September Nick will be Licensed as a Reader by the new Archbishop of York. Nick arrived in Great Ayton in 1994 and he and Helen, together with their sons Jonathan, David and Edward have been very much part of Christ Church. Nick is also the Lay Chairman of the Diocesan Synod and also member of General Synod, so becoming a Reader is yet another step forward in active ministry. Our prayers are with him.

Jane Robson will finally become Rev'd Jane Robson when she is ordained Deacon by Archbishop Stephen in York Minster on Sunday 27th September at 1.30pm. This has been delayed due to Coronavirus, and as with Nick's licensing, there can only be 30 in the Minster for the service - and Jane is one of three candidates being ordained at that service. It is highly likely that the service will be streamed so folks can watch at home.



Rev'd Claire Todd, at present the Curate of Marton in Middlesbrough, has been appointed to the Benefice of Brookfield, Stainton and Hilton, and is likely to be Inducted or Licensed in October.

Revd Laura Wild, Curate at Saint Mary's Nunthorpe, will be ordained Priest in St Mary's on Sunday 18th October.

Our prayers and best wishes are with them all.

Thank You & Good Luck to Ewan



It was New Year's Eve 1917 when Ewan began as our organist & choirmaster taking over from Michael Aisbitt. A young man of 18 and still in Sixth Form, Ewan showed a maturity beyond his years, together with a warm and friendly personality that got on well with all ages - plus, he was a fine musician already.

He endeared himself straightaway to the choir and congregation with enthusiasm, commitment and cheerful smile. The choir sang anthems every week and on special occasions, started singing again at weddings, led some fantastic carol services at Christ Church and St Oswald's, and put on a Concert. He has played organ, piano, harmonium keyboard & banjo from Taize Services in All Saints to the Family Service.

When lockdown began we made the decision not to furlough him, but to use his skills and enthusiasm in our online service to lead the music. He rose to the challenge organising the choir to sing live from their homes, and together with Ines and his mum Geraldine, they formed *The Welbury Trio* adding some lovely songs to our worship. He also produced some choir recordings all recorded by them in their homes and merged together to make a wonderful offering.



On 30th August we had to finally say goodbye to this remarkable young man who will go far in the world of music. He is off to start at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to study the organ and has a good future ahead.



Our choir said their farewells at a gathering in Church. The Photo shows the ones left when I remembered the photo! We then said our farewells on the Sunday. Ewan, we are so grateful for having you here at Christ Church and send you away with our blessing.

Looking Smart



Following the 3 month period of Lockdown the borders in the car park and the rose bed outside the Coffee Lounge were looking untidy and overgrown.

Then stepped in Pauline Titchmarsh and Mary Rogers who fettled the weeds in the car park making it once again a welcoming entrance to Christ Church.

Robin Harmar did the same to the rose bed outside the coffee lounge.

Both these areas need constant attention as weeds spring up in the blink of an eye. If there is anyone else who fancies helping with a bit of gardening, especially helping Robin with the rose bed, then please see him or pass your contact details to the vicar who will forward. We had a lovely man called Ken Hulme who tended the rose beds for many years in memory of his late wife, and Ken never came to Church himself, but it was his contribution to keep all looking well.

LOCKDOWN.

We're living in the strangest times,
Our lives have been on hold.
And though restrictions have been eased,
Must STAY ALERT we're told.

We welcome this, but even so,
Our hygiene rules must stay.
This will prevent the spread of germs,
There is no other way.

With regular hand washing,
Our hands are getting sore.
We're sanitising everything,
Even handles on the door.

We're watching too much telly,
Interspersed with household chores.
We're missing social contact,
Since we spend more time indoors.

As we fight this deadly virus,
Social distancing's a must.
This is our governments advice,
And in them we must trust.

This pandemic is a journey,
We'll combat it come what may.
We're getting there, we're told,
Bit by bit, and day by day.

And when it is all over,
And it will be, we're assured,
Let's give thanks to all our NHS,
For all they have endured.

Our carers too are wonderful,
They've answered to the call.
So with gratitude we offer,
Our HEARTFELT THANKS to all.

Eileen Moores, Great Ayton

Our apologies to Eileen, whose name was accidentally obscured as the writer by the box below in the last issue, so we repeat with apologies.



0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

JOINING OUR SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

You can join any of our services either by watching on Facebook either at the time or catching up anytime during the day. Or you can join Zoom either with computer/iPad or telephone in using one of the numbers at the bottom and putting in the Meeting ID number. Phone callers are not visible on Facebook

Sunday Morning Worship Sundays at 9.30am

Live in Church, Facebook Live on the Christ Church Page or on Zoom

This Service is shared with Stokesley Parish who are in Vacancy

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89511024740> Meeting ID: 895 1102 4740

Password: 450872

Service for Saint Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry at 11am

Live in St. Oswald's Church and on Zoom (1st & 3rd Sundays)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89376005713> Meeting ID: 893 7600 5713

Password: 969354

Prayer for the Day Monday to Saturday at 8.45am

On Facebook Live on the Christ Church Page or on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84024175583> Meeting ID: 840 2417 5583

Password: 974982

To join by phone, dial by your location putting in the Meeting ID & Passcode

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Answers to Prayer

Twelve years ago the residents of one of the poorest parishes in the country – Bentley, near Doncaster - lost everything when their homes were completely submerged in flood water.

On Friday 8th November 2019, they began to relive that same “nightmare and devastation” when their homes were once again engulfed in the overflowing waters of the nearby River Don.

The River Don burst its banks last November!



Many woke up to water pouring through their front doors and had just minutes to save a few personal belongings and possessions. Others had been up all night moving furniture to upstairs rooms, anticipating the deluge that was about to strike. Residents used shopping trolleys and their bins to transport sandbags in a desperate bid to protect their homes.

The whole community worked together to help those who were suffering the most. St Peter’s Church led by vicar Rev’d Dave Berry set up a resource

centre & Flood Appeal to help the poorest victims who had been unable to get insurance on the homes following the 2007 floods.



On 20th November Christ Church PCC approved a donation of £1,000. This along with other donations enabled St Peter's to provide the necessary practical help quickly.

Area Director for Yorkshire at the Environment Agency Oliver Harmar 'I visited Bentley several times during and after last winters floods and the impacts were truly devastating. Many people were incredibly distressed, having lost their homes, precious belongings and their lives turned upside down in a matter of hours. I know your very kind support via St Peters Church will have been absolutely instrumental in helping people start to rebuild their lives'





Vicar of St Peter's,
Dave Berry,
thanked the
people of Christ
Church for helping
one of the poorest
parishes in England
through a very
difficult time. They
are still recovering
today.

This article is part of a series that show how our PCC Giving to Charities is spent. We see it as part of our Christian discipleship as a Church that we are generous with others as an appreciation for God's blessings upon us.

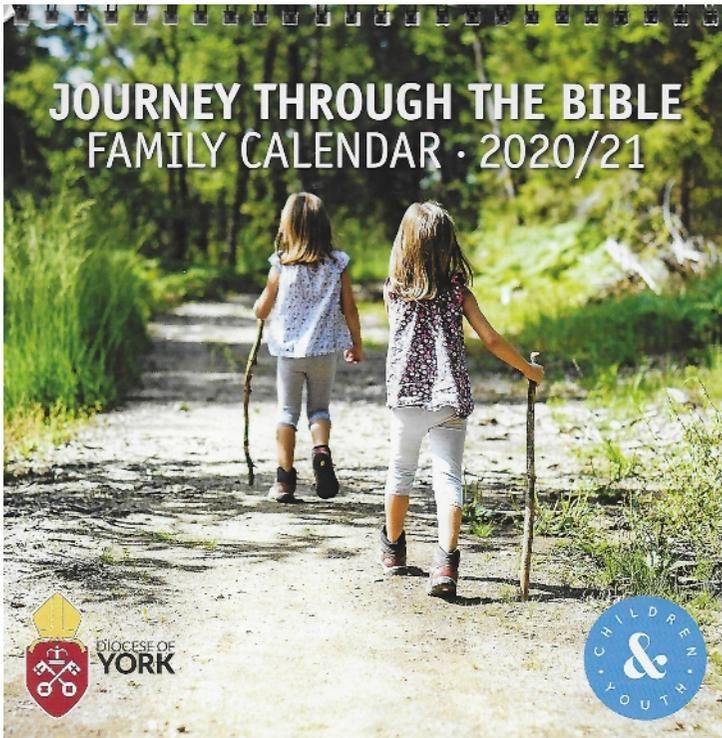
We do this by seeking to be generous with our Freewill Offer to the Diocese that helps to pay Clergy costs. We pay for more than the Vicar so we can support poorer parishes in having clergy that they can't afford themselves..

We also send £9,000 p.a. to causes nominated by the PCC asking their "Champions" to write about them, as Geoff has done above with Bentley.

Other giving also goes for special appeals, Harvest & Christmas as well as the collections from Baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6: 38.

Geoff



One of the best things I have seen produced by the Diocese over the years, the Journey Through the Bible Calendar is designed to take families on a trip through the Bible, calling in at various points of the church's year.

Designed to get people to think as well as learn, it also has fun items and suggestions along the way, with more linked resources for both homes and schools to be on the York Diocesan website.

Each week has a page with each day broken into three. You could use them for appointments morning, afternoon or evening, or you could write folks to pray for, good things to do, and things to be thankful for.

At the present time when we are not allowed to meet together in the same way, it is good to see that the Diocese have found an imaginative way to bring faith into homes, and I suspect many older folk entering into the spirit would also enjoy the journey. They are £2 each and we still have some left at Church.

Burial of Ashes



There were many funerals that took place in the Lockdown period when only a handful of mourners could gather.

It is possible to hold a Service of Thanksgiving with up to 30 present in Church and others on Zoom before the interment of Ashes at Great Ayton Cemetery, or as a stand alone Service.

Please contact the Vicar if interested.

Volunteers Needed

Middlesbrough Foodbank has been managing, all through this lockdown period, with volunteers who are furloughed from their normal jobs, and students. Come September our furloughed volunteers will be back at work and our students will be back at university/college and we are going to be very short staffed at the main depot on Skippers Lane. Most of our normal Foodbank volunteers are over 70 years old and so are not allowed to return to work yet, so I am trying to recruit some new volunteers.

If you or a family member/friend are under 70, fit and healthy and available to work a 4 hour shift at the depot on a Monday or Tuesday morning, then please get back to me. The work involves lifting quite heavy crates of food around, labelling stock and picking orders for our distribution centres. We are also looking for people who will go out in the van and help deliver and collect crates of food. We need help!

Thanks,

Sarah Stevens se.stevens@ntlworld.com

Charities we Support - The Church Army

Last November the PCC gave £1,000 to the Church Army as part of its Mission Giving, the timing was perfect as it transpired that a new centre was set up just down the road in Middlesbrough that very month. The following are extracts from their website.

We work in some of the most deprived communities in the UK and Ireland and work with children and teenagers, the elderly and everyone in between. We work with those who are homeless, lonely, those experiencing self-harm, who are at risk of gang or knife crime, the unemployed and those who are struggling to make ends meet.

“Church Army exists both to talk to people about Jesus and bring them to faith in Jesus but it also does this extraordinary work of serving the poor and the poorest parts of the country and that speaks to the value of human beings.” - Archbishop Justin Welby .

MIDDLESBROUGH CENTRE OF MISSION

Middlesbrough Centre of Mission is based on the Brambles Farm and Thorntree estates in Middlesbrough, which are in the top 1% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. St Thomas Church (Brambles Farm estate) no longer has a building or congregation and was the last Anglican worship on the estate. The last time the church met there was in October 2006 and their building was demolished in 2007. But the legacy lives on! God is already doing a lot on these estates and Lead Evangelist, Jane Emson, and Pioneer Evangelist, Charlie Scott-King, are joining in to help this grow, working alongside Father Terry Leathley and local laity. The centre of mission has started a New Worshipping Community (church plant) for 20s-40s on the Brambles Farm estate and Jane and Charlie have a coffee van which they take out on the Brambles Farm and Thorntree estates three mornings a week to give out free coffee and hot chocolate.

Jane also helps at Tommy's Youth Club for 11-14 year olds, runs school assemblies and is involved with Feast of Fun, which provides activities and healthy food for low-income families across Middlesbrough. They are beginning to set up a community forum on the Thorntree estate as well. The Middlesbrough Centre of Mission was launched in September 2019 as a strategic partnership between the Diocese of York and Church Army. **Robin Harmar**



Well Done Abi



Abi is the first Rainbow from 2nd Great Ayton Rainbows to achieve her Rainbow Gold Award.

She has completed all the theme Awards and badges - many of which have been done during lockdown. We have been getting lots of photos and videos of her carrying out the challenges at home.

We 'presented' her certificate over zoom on our last meeting of the term but Melissa had popped round to hand it to her in person whilst we were all watching.

During this difficult period when people couldn't meet together, the Uniformed Organisations have been meeting on Zoom to keep in touch with the children. Zoom meetings have their plusses, but have minus too, as they do limit what you can do, so full marks to all the Leaders who have shown commitments, dedication and imagination in being there for the children and giving them a little normality amongst all the strange times.



Schools Restart

This month our schools restart and we hope the teachers have managed a good break, for many worked through from Christmas onwards, still going in over Easter to care for Key Worker Children.

They also have shown great commitment and have planned the restarting of schools to be as safe for all as they possibly can be. We need to live safely in what can be a dangerous world - a good life lesson for the future.

Christine Kenyon

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

30 August

Ida-Mae Elora Marcey Kane

Holy Matrimony

25 July Henry Shelton & Lindy Stockdale



Christian Burial and Cremation

1 July

Tom Featherstone

17 July

Stuart Norton

28 July

Peter Watts

31 July

Amie Linton

7 August

Nonie Peverell

18 August

Sue Scheilling

Entries in Magenta took place at Saint Oswald's Church, Newton

Entries in Blue from Stokesley Parish taken by the Vicar

Parish website	www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk
Church Office e-mail	gapo1876@outlook.com
Diocese of York	www.dioceseofyork.org.uk
Stokesley Deanery	www.stokesleydeanery.org.uk
A Church Near You	www.acny.org.uk

Malcolm's Musings

An advertisement for the London Underground showed Henry VIII buying a ticket and saying "Tower Hill return." Someone added : "And a single for the wife."

A Canadian choir director was teaching the new anthem. "Don't forget." he said. "You wait till the tenors reach The Gates of Heaven,' then you all come in."

The Rev. Billy Graham arrived in a small town to preach. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy the way to the post office. Thanking the boy for his help, Dr Graham said: "If you come to church this evening, you will hear me tell everyone how they can get to heaven." "I don't think so," responded the boy ."You don't even know the way to the post office."

"Why didn't Noah kill those two mosquitoes when he had the chance ?"

A church poster in South East London read:"Where will you be on the Day of Judgement ?" To which some wag had added: "Still here waiting for the 95 bus."

A Norfolk vicar told an elderly parishioner that he would soon be retiring. "But," he reassured her, "You will probably get a better man." "Not necessarily," she replied. "That is what the last man said before he went."

"And now Ritchie has scored 11 goals, exactly double the number he scored last season" - *Sports commentator*

When the newly-married couple got their wedding photos back, they were dismayed to find those taken outside the church clearly showed them alongside the wayside pulpit, which bore the message: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

A set of traffic lights were stolen from a main road junction in Reading. A police spokesman commented: "Some folks will stop at nothing!"

"The status quo could well be as it was before". -*Murray Walker*

Malcolm Race



Editor of Spire

Paul Peverell revpev@btinternet.com

If you would like a paper copy of Spire delivering to your door, please contact Jean Goat on 01642 723274.

The Parishes of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry

Services

Christ Church, Great Ayton

Sunday 9.30am Morning Worship 1st & 3rd Sundays of month in Christ Church and Live on Zoom & Facebook Live:
2nd & 4th Sundays in Stokesley Parish Church and Live on Zoom & Facebook Live

11.00am Come & Praise (*2nd Sunday of month on Zoom*)

At St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11.00am Services on 1st, 3rd Sundays of the month only
Hopefully resuming in August. Check website or Facebook Page for confirmation

Contacts

Vicar	Rev'd Paul Peverell	The Vicarage	01642 722333
Curate	The Nearly Revd Jane Robson		revjanerob@gmail.com
	Rev'd Geoff Jaques		01642 722979
	Rev'd Jon Dean		01642 722649
Readers	Margaret Lewis		01642 722628
	Peter Titchmarsh		01642 724153
Organist			
Pastoral Ass't	Rosemary Wheway		01642 722451
Churchwardens	Helen Land		01642 778076
	Jonathan Winterschladen		01642 723576
PCC Treasurer	Ken Taylor		01642 722400
Safeguarding	David Fox		07595 898844
Gift Aid Sec.	Ynez Clarke		01642 723181

Church Hall Office

For **Church Hall bookings**, please contact the Church Office Tel 01642 722333
Email. gapo1876@outlook.com (For services or pastoral matters, please contact the vicar as this phone isn't manned every day)