

Spire Newsletter



**NEWS FROM THE PARISHES OF
GREAT AYTON WITH EASBY &
NEWTON UNDER ROSEBERRY**

Issue no.2 : February 2025



WELCOME TO THE SECOND NEWSLETTER OF OUR CURRENT VACANCY whilst we await the appointment of our new Vicar. Our first newsletter seems to have been well-received with encouragement to continue; do let us know whether you like this new format - or not.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany have come and gone, and we have been delighted with the willingness of our church members and friends across our parishes to support and join in so many of our recent events. And a huge **THANK YOU** to those who led or guided our services and activities.

Thank you also to all those (70 of you) who completed the questionnaire asking for your thoughts regarding a new incumbent; these significantly informed the Church Councils' deliberations, and we have now submitted to the diocese a joint Profile of our parishes and made recommendations for the advertisement which is now public. You can access both of these on the Diocese of York website but meanwhile you may be interested in the extracts copied here. We are expecting that interviews for the post will be held early in March.

Do please continue your interest in what our church communities are doing within our villages and far beyond; you will be able to read about some of them here. You will be most welcome to join us at any of our services, meetings or social events.

With very best wishes from the Churchwardens:

Christine Stinson and Steve Fellowes (Newton); Helen Land and Rosemary Wheway (Gt Ayton)

From the Parish Profile:

"We are churches with solid foundations who want to grow both spiritually and numerically. We recognise we are an ageing congregation, whose children have mostly grown and moved away, and we would love to see more new families and young people joining us, so we started Cafe Church, Little Fishes and the All-Age Service to address this. We would like your help and enthusiasm to develop this further. You need to be able to relate to, support and teach the existing congregations who have been faithful worshippers. We would like to become a body of believers who are excited about Jesus, and what the Holy Spirit is doing in individual lives, the church and the wider community. We would like to grow in our faith through teaching from God's Word, which equips us to reach out and serve."

From the advertisement for our new Vicar:

We are looking for someone who:

- Will prayerfully lead communities in worship, reliant on the Spirit of God
- Inspires children, young people and families to deepen their faith in Jesus
- Is a collaborative team player who can lead and develop mission and ministry so all can live Christ's story
- Is a teacher and preacher of God's word who encourages the development of people's gifts and service.

Pathways:

[Church Of England Vacancies - Vicar of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry](#)

Diocesan Website:

[Vicar for the Parishes of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton Under Roseberry - Diocese of York](#)

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OUR CHURCHES SUPPORT OTHERS

As is customary, both parishes held Christmas appeals this year. Thank you to all of you who generously found the time, energy and money to think of others.

The recipient of this year's Christmas Appeal at **Christ Church** was "Embrace the Middle East", a Christian Charity which is working to provide relief to the many suffering from the conflicts in the Gaza and Lebanon. We raised a total of **£1631.89** from Carol Services at Christ Church and All Saints and the ever-popular Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Although much smaller than in recent years our donation to "Embrace the Middle East" has been very well received.

Also, at Christmas we accept donations from those who support the **Memory Tree**. This year a total of **£123.83** was raised for Heriot Hospice Homecare.

This year **St. Oswald's** PCC decided that the Christmas Appeal should be for a local children's charity, Zoe's Place. At the Carol Service a representative from Zoe's Place spoke briefly about the work of Zoe's Place and their ongoing need for funding. We were very pleased that **£713.20** was raised for the charity during the Carol and Christmas Eve services. Zoe's Place was very grateful for the donation.

Jean Cumbor from Great Ayton made **£1000** from selling her local photo calendars. It went to the Genesis Project in Grove Hill. She wishes to give her thanks to all who bought them.



"I made you wonderful"

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer service has been composed by the women of the Cook Islands, the theme being "I made you wonderful".

In Great Ayton the service will be held on **Friday 7th March at 10.30am** in Christ Church.

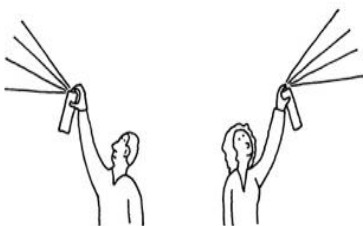
All are welcome to join in with people all around the world on this day for a lively celebration with songs, stories, music and prayers followed by refreshments. *Please bring your friends.*



Our new vicarage: 118 Guisborough Road

CHURCH CLEANING

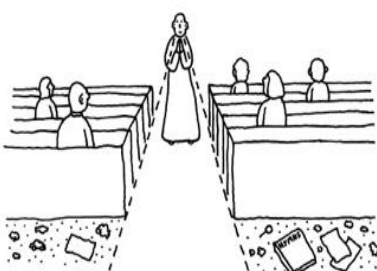
HOW TO MAKE IT SEEM AS IF YOU HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB



SPRAY SOME POLISH IN THE AIR TO GIVE THE REQUIRED AROMA



MAKE FULL USE OF LOOSE CARPETS



DO THE BITS THE VICAR CAN SEE



IF IN DOUBT: PUT IT IN THE VESTRY

HAVE SIX YEARS GONE BY SO SOON?

OUR ELECTORAL ROLL....

Every C of E parish has to compile a new electoral roll every 6 years. 2025 is the year when we at Christ Church have to go through this process. This is being done between **January 19th and February 28th**. If you are on the present roll you will receive a form in person or by post. Otherwise, if you wish to join the electoral roll for the first time there will be forms available at the back of church for you to pick up and complete."

CHRIST CHURCH SPRING CLEAN WEEKEND

**Friday March 21st from 5 pm and
Saturday 22nd from 9 am.**

*Dusting, cleaning, hoovering and
polishing. Please come along and help.*

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THE GIFT OF CHRIST

God has given us Christ, the greatest gift of all time. Through the Bible, we discover that he also gives each of us a special gift. Our growing relationship with God involves finding out what our gift is and using it in every circumstance God places us in. For through our special gifts, God blesses others - both inside and outside the Church.

This year's Ecumenical Lent Course is called "The Gift of Christ". The course will run over the first five Mondays in Lent starting on 10th March, all at 1:30pm except for the final session on 7th April. Do join us:

Mon 10th March - Friends Meeting House

Mon 17th March - St. Margaret Clitherow

Mon 24th March - Great Ayton Methodist Church

Mon 31st March - Christ Church

Mon 7th April - at the Royal Oak, *meeting for a meal first at 6pm.*

This warm-hearted course draws on the skills the course presenter, Olivia Amartey, learnt as a senior leader in the NHS. This was God's training ground for her. Despite facing numerous crises, Olivia found herself developing flexibility, wisdom and the grace to maintain a sense of fun amid the topsy-turviness of life. Now she invites us to embrace the adventure we are all on with Christ, as we look, in turn, at:

The generosity of God

Discovering our gift and responding

Being with Jesus and becoming fruitful

When things go wrong, and ways of staying on track

It's all good - how God changes everything.

Any requests for further information may be directed to the general office 01642 722665 or gapo1876@outlook.com

OUR REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church, Great Ayton

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)
9:15am Parish Communion with choir (every Sunday)
4:30pm Café Church (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Monday 2.00pm Coffee Lounge Communion (1st Monday)

Tuesday 9.45am Little Fishes (not half-term Feb 18th, 25th)

Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion (BCP) or Morning Prayer

St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion with hymns (1st & 5th Sundays)
All Age Service (3rd Sunday each month)

SPECIAL SERVICES IN MARCH

In addition to the regular services there will also be these SPECIAL SERVICES at Christ Church.

Wednesday March 5th 10.00am
ASH WEDNESDAY

Friday March 7th 10.30am
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Sunday March 9th 9.15am
PARADE SERVICE

Sunday March 30th 9.15am
MOTHERING SUNDAY

L E N T *"Forty days and forty nights, You were fasting in the wild..."* As the hymn reminds us, Jesus spent time preparing for his final journey – his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his painful death, then his glorious resurrection – and, in so doing, echoed both Moses and Elijah who, the Bible tells us, fasted in the mountains, the one before receiving the Ten Commandments, the other the Word of God.

Our period of Lent invites us too to prepare for Easter for 40 days (46 actually, but Sundays aren't included) - maybe by reflection or by abstinence; sometimes people give up something (chocolate? alcohol?) or decide to take on something new to benefit others. And this is a very good time to reflect on our relationship with God.

The word **Lent** isn't itself religious; in Old English it signified 'spring season' as the days were lengthening, but fasting before Easter became a custom very early in the Christian Church. It starts on **Ash Wednesday**; the ashes, traditionally prepared by the burning of the palm leaves from the previous year, are a sign of repentance after the 'shriving' on **Shrove Tuesday**. In the medieval world fasting often meant giving up dairy produce (which we still observe on the day we make our pancakes) and meat; in some – especially Catholic - countries, they still say farewell (*vaie*) to their stores of flesh (*carne*) with exuberant *carnivals*. For us the music in our main church services tends to be more restrained during Lent - our hymns more contemplative, organ voluntaries more subdued, the 'Gloria' replaced by penitence, no Alleluias sung; but, in forty days' time, how much more meaningful will be our "**HE IS RISEN; ALLELUIA**".

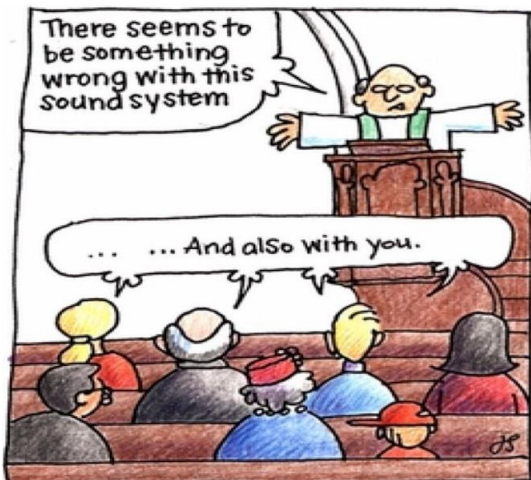
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CHRIST CHURCH

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Will take place on **Wed. 19th March** at **7.30 pm** in order to:

- Appoint our churchwardens
- Elect representatives to the PCC
- Receive the annual reports; these will be available on the church website.



CHURCHWARDEN NEEDED

Dr Helen Land (left) has decided not to stand again at the next Annual Church Meeting after seven splendid years as one of the two churchwardens at Christ Church; this year, of course, has been a most important one for us all and her continuity and contributions have been highly valued. Happily for us, Helen does intend to continue serving on the PCC and as a member of its Fabric Committee.

So....is it time for **you** to offer your services? (Or could you suggest it to someone appropriate?) Do please give it some serious thought and have a chat with a warden about it.

CONTACT DETAILS: During the vacancy, please contact

For Funerals and Weddings:

Rev'd Jon Dean 07388010574

jon@christchurchgreatayton.onmicrosoft.com

For Baptisms:

Rev'd Geoff Jaques 01642 722979

For Safeguarding issues:

Mary Mason 01642 724316

For all other matters, to the Churchwardens:

Dr Helen Land 07818 431696

Rosemary Wheway 07979 312152

Christine Stinson 07768 535606

Steve Fellowes 07888 762324

Church Office: 01642 722665

gapo1876@outlook.com

Sincere thanks are due to all the contributors of the above articles, and to Rev'd Geoff Jaques, who has been chairing and encouraging a small working group on communications within our parishes.

A further issue of this *Spire Newsletter* is planned towards the end of March in order to anticipate Easter. If you would like to submit an article, news or details of events likely to interest our readers or merely offer suggestions for future possible issues, you are welcome to send them to the interim editor, Stephen Whitehead, at: stephen.whitehead1948@gmail.com.

Our website address:

<https://www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk>

Our Facebook pages:

[Christ Church, Great Ayton;](#)
[St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry;](#)
[All Saints Church, Great Ayton;](#)
[Christ Church Choir, Great Ayton](#)

[Little Fishes](#) also have a Private Group on Facebook for parents and carers of pre-school children; you can request to join it.