An awe-inspiring sky of heavenly angels is floating in Hexham Abbey, a moving tribute to all those affected by the Covid pandemic.

‘On Angel Wings’ is an illuminated aerial installation of 4,500 origami angels suspended 45 feet above the abbey’s chancel, stretching from the high altar to the old choir stalls.

An army of volunteers, including school children, abbey staff and members of the public constructed each paper angel by hand.

Inspired by Ripon Cathedral’s 2020 ‘On a Wing and a Prayer’ installation, ‘On Angel Wings’ honours those who have served relentlessly throughout the pandemic, those who have lost their lives, and those whose lives have been disrupted by this challenging period.

Each angel represents an individual or group of people precious and cared about by someone else, with the names of those honoured written on the angels’ wings as a symbolic gesture.

The angels are high enough that dedications can’t be read from the ground, keeping those memories and thoughts private but still present — much like a prayer.

Cath Newson, Hexham Abbey’s fundraising manager, said: “We wanted to create a space that allowed members of the community to commemorate individuals affected by the pandemic, providing an opportunity to reflect on the recent past and celebrate the values that have sustained us during difficult times.

“I am so delighted that our ‘On Angel Wings’ installation has proved to be so helpful and inspiring to so many people who visit the abbey.

“So many of the angels hanging above the abbey’s chancel represent people’s sadness, thanksgiving and hope after such a traumatic 18 months and I hope that the installation is a reminder that God is with each of us as we emerge from these dark days.

“As part of the installation we are inviting people to give generously to the work of two wonderful local charities as a way of expressing our gratitude to everyone who has given so much to support others during this long pandemic.

“I am hugely grateful to Cath Newson, and her team at the abbey, for all the hard work they have done to enable this installation and to Ripon Cathedral who inspired us to do this.

‘On Angel Wings’ is on display until the end of the school summer holidays and is open Monday to Saturday, 10am-4pm and Sundays, 11am-3pm.

The installation has been funded by a government grant via its Cultural Recovery Fund.
Bishops’ Diaries  August/September
This is not a full list of the Bishops’ engagements, but includes the items we think might be of particular interest to you.

Bishop of Newcastle

August
1st  Sunday Eucharist, Allendale Benefice, St Mark’s Church, Ninebanks
15th  140th Anniversary Fishermen’s Mission, Christ Church North Shields
17th  Senior Leadership Safeguarding Training Course
22nd  Sunday Eucharist and Baptism, Holy Trinity, Widdrington
26th  Inclusive Economy Board, Agenda Planning

September
1st  Pre-Synod Planning Meeting
5th  Sunday Eucharist, Felton and Longframlington Licensing and Installation of Archdeacon of Northumberland, Installation of Director for Mission and Ministry, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne and Bishop of Berwick, Newcastle Cathedral
6th  Meeting of Bishops and Archdeacons
7th  Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee
8th  Bishop’s Staff Meeting
9th  Confirmation Service, Stamfordham
10th  North of Tyne Combined Authority, Inclusive Economy Board
13th  Quarterly Finance Meeting
14th  Curates and IME2 Meeting
15th  Meeting of Area Deans and Bishop’s Staff Team
16th  Church Commissioners Board of Governors
16th-19th  Diocesan Synod Forum
18th  Diocesan Synod Forum
22nd  Newbiggin, St Bartholomew - Confirmation
30th  Warkworth Licensing

Bishop of Berwick

August
8th  Confirmation Service, Stamfordham
9th  Visit to Alnwick St Michael’s to see the new bells before installation
17th  Senior Leadership Safeguarding Training Course
22nd  Eucharist Service, Preach and Preside at Chapel House Holy Nativity

September
1st  Meeting with Director of Initial Ministerial Education, Newcastle Diocese
4th  Preside at Induction Day Service, Lindisfarne College of Theology
5th  Confirmation Service at All Saint’s, Gosforth
7th  Cathedral Installation Service
9th  NECAT Trustees Meeting
10th  Preach and Preside at Eucharist Service, at St John the Devine, Acklington
12th  Preach and Preside at Thanksgiving Service, at St Nicholas, Cramlington
13th  Shortlisting for Priest in Charge post at Allendale and Whitfield School Visit (1ba) with Diocesan Director of Education
14th  Senior Leadership Safeguarding Training Course
15th  Meeting with Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry
16th  Meeting with CEO and Housing Manager, YMCA North Shields
18th  Diocesan Synod Forum
19th  Confirmation Service at St Mary, Stanington
20th-23rd Meeting of the College of Bishops, Oxford
26th  Patronal Service with Confirmations, St Gabriel Heath
29th  Confirmation Service, Cowgate St Peter
30th  Preach at St Michael’s Alnwick in a Blessing Service for the new bells

Comings & Goings

Appointments
Revd Gerard Rundell, currently Assistant Curate, Alnwick, is going to be Priest in Charge (Team Rector) in the Christ the King Team Ministry
Revd Rachel Scheffer, Priest in Charge of Matfen and Stamfordham, is also going to be Priest in Charge of Heddon on the Wall
Revd Thomas Birch, Priest in Charge of Ovingham and Wylam, is also going to be Associate Priest of Heddon on the Wall
Revd Jonathan Canessa, Lanterm Initiative Lead, Newcastle Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, is also going to be Hon Associate Priest, Newcastle Cathedral Church of St Nicholas

Retirements
Revd Joanna Dobson, Priest in Charge at Ulgham and Widdrington, will retire on 31 August
Revd Patricia Craighead, Vicar of Longbenton St Mary, will retire on 30 September
Revd Philip Hughes, Incumbent of the Parish of Seghill, will retire on 1 December
Revd Jonathan Canessa, Lanterm Initiative Lead, Newcastle Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, is also going to be Hon Associate Priest, Newcastle Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, has resigned with effect from 23 June

Please see page 12 for the August and September Gospel Readings

CONTACT US

The Link, Church House, St John’s Terrace, North Shields, NE29 6HS.
Tel: (0191) 270 4100. Email: communications@newcastle.anglican.org
Facebook: @ncldiocese Twitter: @ncldiocese Instagram: @nclDiocese

Link is produced ten times a year by the Diocese of Newcastle, with joint issues for August/September and December/January. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Diocese or the editor.

The editor is pleased to consider articles or letters of not more than 350 words for publication. Where possible, articles should be accompanied by a good-quality digital photograph of 250dpi or higher.

For advertising rates and deadlines see www.newcastle.anglican.org/link.
Copy date for Octobre 2021 issue: Monday 13 September.
Once in a lifetime chance to see rare peal of bells

A ring of ten bells will soon be chiming at St Michael’s Altrincham, making it only the second church in Northumberland to house such an impressive collection.

Six of the bells have been secured from the Keltek Trust after they were removed from St James’s Newton Hall, near Corbridge, and refurbished, and a further four bells have been specially commissioned.

Hexham Abbey is the only other church to boast a ring of ten bells in Northumberland, which has in the past been described as ‘bell barren’.

The bells will be unveiled on Monday 9 August and for one day only they will be on display in the 13th century church before they are lifted into the belfry and installed by Whites of Appleton bellhangers.

On this special day, the bells should be available for public viewing by midday and at 7pm they will be blessed by Bishop Mark at a short service attended by Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland, who is patron of the project.

This will be followed by light refreshments and a further opportunity to see the new bells.

Jean Darby, St Michael’s PCC project rep, said: “We are looking forward to welcoming all who want to take advantage of this opportunity to see this magnificent ring of ten bells.”

Up until recently the church tower was home to three unringable bells – two of which date back to the 16th century, and a third which was recast in 1764.

The two older bells will be cleaned and returned to the church where they will be put on display, and the third – a cracked tenor bell – will be scrapped to help finance one of the new bells.

Funding for the new bells has been achieved through sponsorship of each ring - thanks to a number of individuals and organisations.

This scheme is part of the church’s wider Tower Project which was launched three years ago and also includes plans for a new roof for the tower which was last replaced in 1746 and the preservation and display of interesting ‘graffiti’ – some of which is centuries old.

Stories of Generosity in our Diocese

IN just two months from now, we will be embarking on our first ever Newcastle Diocese Generosity Week!

The idea, which originated from extensive parish consultation in 2019 and 2020, is a period of time collectively focusing on nurturing and encouraging generosity: exploring how we can live more generously in our daily lives and celebrating how generous giving enables mission and ministry to flourish in our Diocese.

It is also a wonderful opportunity to live out our diocesan vision, values and priorities as part of our commitment to putting mission at the centre of all that we do.

By setting aside some dedicated space and time, we hope to grow our ability to be generous with God’s transforming gifts.

In preparation for Newcastle Diocese Generosity Week, the Generous Giving Team have been running virtual sessions for our clergy and churchwarden communities, to help guide them through what to expect.

One of the great joys we had doing this, was the opportunity it gave us to swap accounts of inspirational generosity from within our own parishes. The stories we heard, and continue to hear on a regular basis, cover many forms of generosity; the

By Joanne Christie, Generous Giving Adviser @JoanneCTweets

NEWCASTLE Diocese Generosity Week
26 SEP - 3 OCT 2021

By setting aside some dedicated space and time, we hope to grow our ability to be generous with God’s transforming gifts.

The two older bells will be cleaned and returned to the church where they will be put on display, and the third – a cracked tenor bell – will be scrapped to help finance one of the new bells.

Funding for the new bells has been achieved through sponsorship of each ring - thanks to a number of individuals and organisations.

Stories of Generosity in our Diocese

In just two months from now, we will be embarking on our first ever Newcastle Diocese Generosity Week!

The idea, which originated from extensive parish consultation in 2019 and 2020, is a period of time collectively focusing on nurturing and encouraging generosity: exploring how we can live more generously in our daily lives and celebrating how generous giving enables mission and ministry to flourish in our Diocese.

It is also a wonderful opportunity to live out our diocesan vision, values and priorities as part of our commitment to putting mission at the centre of all that we do.

By setting aside some dedicated space and time, we hope to grow our ability to be generous with God’s transforming gifts.

In preparation for Newcastle Diocese Generosity Week, the Generous Giving Team have been running virtual sessions for our clergy and churchwarden communities, to help guide them through what to expect.

One of the great joys we had doing this, was the opportunity it gave us to swap accounts of inspirational generosity from within our own parishes. The stories we heard, and continue to hear on a regular basis, cover many forms of generosity; the
Teacher’s creativity provides new lease of life for pupils

A PRIMARY teacher at a church school in Northumberland for children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) is helping pupils to take miraculous steps towards a better, more independent way of living by getting creative with items typically found around the house.

Gillian Robinson, a teacher at Castle School - part of the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust - has introduced the concept of ‘Active Learning’ into her classroom to help give a sense of freedom back to pupils who are typically dependent on those around them to support their needs.

Using everyday items such as buckets, A-frames, Tupperware boxes, blackout curtains and plumber’s piping, Gillian has created a sensory paradise for her learners to support their mobility and cognitive skill development, alongside their emotional and social wellbeing.

“Many children with profound and complex needs develop ‘learned helplessness’ – the idea that they have no control over their environment, so they learn to wait patiently and that eventually, someone will provide them with what they need. Over time, this kind of behaviour can lead to passiveness where children stop communicating altogether,” Gillian said.

“Active Learning is designed to encourage the children to do things for themselves, it teaches children how to interact with their environment and explore their immediate space with confidence and shows them how their actions can affect the things around them.”

Click here to read more about the success of the programme and how it is making a positive impact on Gillian’s pupils and the entire school.

Beach celebrations mark mixed ecology graduation

By Revd Beth Rookwood, Bishop’s Advisor for Pioneering Ministry

HAVE you ever asked an archdeacon to peel a grape? Or a director of mission and ministry to build a sandcastle? No??

Well these were among the invitations issued by the cohort of our Mixed Ecology Learning Pathway on a warm and sunny evening at Cresswell Parish Church and beach this week.

As part of the celebration of their completion of the course - which will see all members authorised as pioneers by the diocese - in a service in October - participants shared their ‘golden nugget’ of learning, led us through a creative activity, and spoke about three questions from their hearts to those listening.

The course has involved theological reflection and learning into ways of being church, into what it might mean to walk in step with the Spirit within a community who may never enter a traditional church setting, and what it might mean to develop a mixed ecology within a parish - that is, a way in which there can be many different ‘flavours’ of Christian community belonging within a church family.

Each of the contexts represented just happened to be from the Morpeth deanery. It was wonderful to see how ‘pioneer’ projects have begun, been developed and are becoming embedded in parishes - a tea-time church reaching over 30 families weekly, a community lockdown banner, prayer-flags bunting which will reach between Cresswell and Lynemouth, a debt-support project beginning in Widdrington Station.

Watch this space for what these pioneers do next as they listen and respond to God’s call to build Christian community in new ways and spaces!

Keep your eyes open for ways that you might be able to take your parish on the mixed ecology journey in the future!

As part of the celebration of their completion of the course - which will see all members authorised as pioneers by the diocese - in a service in October - participants shared their ‘golden nugget’ of learning, led us through a creative activity, and spoke about three questions from their hearts to those listening.

Beach celebrations mark mixed ecology graduation

By Revd Beth Rookwood, Bishop’s Advisor for Pioneering Ministry

HAVE you ever asked an archdeacon to peel a grape? Or a director of mission and ministry to build a sandcastle? No??

Well these were among the invitations issued by the cohort of our Mixed Ecology Learning Pathway on a warm and sunny evening at Cresswell Parish Church and beach this week.

As part of the celebration of their completion of the course - which will see all members authorised as pioneers by the diocese - in a service in October - participants shared their ‘golden nugget’ of learning, led us through a creative activity, and spoke about three questions from their hearts to those listening.

The course has involved theological reflection and learning into ways of being church, into what it might mean to walk in step with the Spirit within a community who may never enter a traditional church setting, and what it might mean to develop a mixed ecology within a parish - that is, a way in which there can be many different ‘flavours’ of Christian community belonging within a church family.

Each of the contexts represented just happened to be from the Morpeth deanery. It was wonderful to see how ‘pioneer’ projects have begun, been developed and are becoming embedded in parishes - a tea-time church reaching over 30 families weekly, a community lockdown banner, prayer-flags bunting which will reach between Cresswell and Lynemouth, a debt-support project beginning in Widdrington Station.

Watch this space for what these pioneers do next as they listen and respond to God’s call to build Christian community in new ways and spaces!

Keep your eyes open for ways that you might be able to take your parish on the mixed ecology journey in the future!

View from the Lantern

With Rev Canon Clare MacLaren, Newcastle Cathedral’s Canon for Music and Liturgy

NEW MUSICAL COMMISSION TO MARK OUR REOPENING

ABOUT 1,300 years ago, when the Kingdom of Northumbria stretched from the River Forth in present-day Scotland, as far south as the Humber and the Mersey, legend has it that an illiterate animal herd, by the name of Caedmon (kad-mon), worked at St Hilda’s great monastery at Whitby. Embarrassed by his lack of musical skill, he would always ‘pass’ when folk took it in turns to sing or play around the hearth – or leave the room to avoid his sense of shame. The story goes that one night, Caedmon had a dream in which a divine presence commanded that he sing ‘of the beginning of creation’. At first, in terror, he refused – but then, miraculously, he gave voice to a song in completeness – a hymn of praise to God, the Creator of the World.

The words of Caedmon’s Hymn – and his story – were recorded in Latin by the famous monk of Jarrow, the Venerable Bede, in his Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

In a number of surviving manuscripts, Bede’s contemporaries have pencilled notes into the margin, copying down the text, not in Latin but in either West Saxon or Old Northumbrian – the languages of the common people of the time. With the encouragement of St Hilda, Caedmon is said to have produced many other poems and songs. This hymn, however, is the only one to survive. It is the oldest produced many other poems and of the common people of the English People.

In a number of surviving manuscripts, Bede’s contemporaries have pencilled notes into the margin, copying down the text, not in Latin but in either West Saxon or Old Northumbrian – the languages of the common people of the time. With the encouragement of St Hilda, Caedmon is said to have produced many other poems and songs. This hymn, however, is the only one to survive. It is the oldest example of poetry in the Germanic alliterative style in which similar word sounds repeat and repeat, tumbling over one another to create a very distinctive rhythm and tone.

CAEDMON’S HYMN

No use scialan horga
hefuricae sueard
metudaes mecht
and his moggadanc,
USERG 121(1)
=sauhe vundra gihuaes,
eci drichtin,
east. The words of Caedmon’s Hymn – and his story – were recorded in Latin by the famous monk of Jarrow, the Venerable Bede, in his Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

In a number of surviving manuscripts, Bede’s contemporaries have pencilled notes into the margin, copying down the text, not in Latin but in either West Saxon or Old Northumbrian – the languages of the common people of the time. With the encouragement of St Hilda, Caedmon is said to have produced many other poems and songs. This hymn, however, is the only one to survive. It is the oldest example of poetry in the Germanic alliterative style in which similar word sounds repeat and repeat, tumbling over one another to create a very distinctive rhythm and tone.

CAEDMON’S HYMN

No use scialan horga
hefuricae sueard
metudaes mecht
and his moggadanc,
USERG 121(1)
=sauhe vundra gihuaes,
eci drichtin,
east. The words of Caedmon’s Hymn – and his story – were recorded in Latin by the famous monk of Jarrow, the Venerable Bede, in his Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

In a number of surviving manuscripts, Bede’s contemporaries have pencilled notes into the margin, copying down the text, not in Latin but in either West Saxon or Old Northumbrian – the languages of the common people of the time. With the encouragement of St Hilda, Caedmon is said to have produced many other poems and songs. This hymn, however, is the only one to survive. It is the oldest example of poetry in the Germanic alliterative style in which similar word sounds repeat and repeat, tumbling over one another to create a very distinctive rhythm and tone.

CAEDMON’S HYMN

No use scialan horga
hefuricae sueard
metudaes mecht
and his moggadanc,
USERG 121(1)
=sauhe vundra gihuaes,
eci drichtin,
east.
Incredible feat of cycling!
Completion of inaugural bike route linking all CofE cathedrals

The intrepid creator of the newly-launched Cathedrals Cycle Route (CCR) has made it back to base after an incredible 2,000-mile bike ride taking in 42 cathedrals in 42 days.

PhD student Shaun Cutler was flanked by Bishop Christine and a small group of riders for the last leg of the epic relay route which ended at Newcastle Cathedral on 10 July, exactly 42 days after it was launched from the same spot.

Shaun, Bishop Christine, Revd Canon Clare MacLaren, the cathedral’s Cycle Champion, and the other cyclists were greeted by a cheering crowd and celebratory bells ringing out from the cathedral – and they were treated to some Greggs pasties and Champagne!

A ceremonial baton - which had travelled the entire route, synbolically being passed Olympic-style between every cathedral along the way – was handed to the Very Revd Geoff Miller, Dean of Newcastle by Shaun to mark the inaugural completion of the CCR.

The route is a unique partnership between the Association of English Cathedrals, the British Pilgrimage Trust, Cycling UK and Sustrans that links all 42 Church of England Cathedrals in a new initiative to promote greener travel and mental and physical wellbeing.

It is one of the outcomes of Shaun’s PhD research programme involving Newcastle Cathedral, Northumbria University and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Shaun said: “It is great to have Newcastle Cathedral at the heart of the CCR which is a magnificent route with such diversity, and using our historic cathedrals as the start and end point provides a great feeling of purpose and achievement.”

The relay - the first of its kind in the country - left Newcastle Cathedral on May 30 and has seen over 250 cyclists riding different legs of the route between each cathedral and raised more than £5,000 for various charities, including Cycling UK’s Break the Cycle.

In the course of their travels, they have been joined by a cathedral cat, an elephant, three bishops, 20 cathedral canons, enter-tainer Timmy Mallet, and welcomed by a host of dedicated cathedral cycle champions. They suffered one wheel blow out and ten punctures.

Shaun said: “This relay has been an amazing collective achievement by so many people who have helped keep the baton moving over the last 42 days.”

“It has been an absolute privilege to have been involved in such a fabulous route. And as Covid restrictions in this country open up more and more, I urge everyone to get on their bikes, enjoy our amazing cathedrals and the spaces between them.”

It is hoped that the CCR relay ride will become an annual event and that the route, with its opportunities for short and longer rides, will encourage more and more people to get on their bikes this year and beyond.

Most cathedrals now have a dedicated cycle champion to improve the cycle-readiness of their buildings, ensure a warm welcome for visiting cyclists and increase the number that arrive on two wheels – currently around five per cent.

For more information on the route, click here.

Faith and violence against women explored in new video

AN insightful video reflecting on the relationships between religion and violence against women has been released by Voices of Faith.

The YouTube video, which includes an introduction from Bishop Christine, explores this subject from the point of view of three female speakers.

Brenda Dinsdale, a member of the Jewish community in Newcastle, Nabeela Ali, a member of the Muslim community in Newcastle and Revd Gemma Sampson, a Church of England priest based in Hartlepool, all give their own personal reflections in this 20-minute video.

In her introduction, Bishop Christine said: “It cannot be right for any woman to live in fear, to not be able to be the person God has created her to be - with great joy and a sense of safety and security and honour within the place of the family.

“When this doesn’t happen, God is greatly grieved. It is really a great opportunity to bring this into the light because so often domestic violence is hidden and the more powerless a woman feels, the less able she feels, the less able to talk about what is happening.”

Voices of Faith, based in Newcastle, is a multi-faith group representing a number of religions in our society including Christianity, Islam, and Judaism as well as many of the smaller faith groups like Bahai and Zoroastrian. The group works together to create a forum where people can get involved in deeper dialogue with those from different faiths and beliefs. Voices of Faith promote strong links between people of different faiths.

Will you stand for the Church of England General Synod Elections?

Standing for General Synod, the legislative body of the Church of England, is an opportunity to represent the concerns of your community and your diocese at a national level. As an elected member of Synod, you will have a say in national legislation that affects all parts of the Church of England. Together with Westminster Parliament, it is the only body in the land which is entitled to make national law for England. In addition to legislation, you can also raise issues and contribute to debates on a wide range of social and policy matters – of national and international significance.

The Church of England General Synod is made up of three Houses: Bishops, Clergy, and Laity. For more information about how you can stand for the Synod Elections, please visit: www.churchofengland.org/synodelections
CONGRATULATIONS to our 17 new deacons and priests who were ordained this summer!
The Peter tide Ordinations took place on the weekend of Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July at four separate services across the Diocese. Despite limited numbers due to Covid restrictions, the services brought much-needed hope and joy after a tumultuous year for us all. Please keep our new deacons and priests in your prayers as they begin their new ministries.

Continues on page 7
2021 Ordination celebrations

> Revd Oliver Dempsey, Revd Samuel Lochead, Revd Alan White, Revd Yvette Daniel and Rosemary Harrison with Bishop Christine and Bishop Mark ahead of the ordination retreat

> Bishop Christine, Revd Sion Hughes Carew, Bishop Glyn Webster and Revd Canon Ian Flintoft

> Bishop Christine with newly-ordained priests Revd Yvette Daniel, Revd Oliver Dempsey, Revd Samuel Lochead, Revd Rosemary Harrison, Revd Alan White and Revd Kim Wears

> Revd Adam Smith, Revd Henry Hope, Revd Sion Hughes Carew, Revd Miriam Jones, Revd Alison McCarthy and Revd Lynne Dean with Bishop Christine and Bishop Mark ahead of the ordination retreat

> Revd John Storey, Revd Thomas Sample, Revd Paul Rusby, Revd Phyllis Carruthers, Revd Samantha Quilty with Bishop Christine and Bishop Mark ahead of the ordination retreat

> Newly-ordained deacons Revd Adam Smith, Revd Alison McCarthy, Revd Miriam Jones, Revd Henry Hope and Revd Lynne Dean
`You never know what you’ve got till it’s gone`  

By Canon Alan Hughes, Sheriff of Berwick

The first Vicar of Berwick was John de Soules in 1291, a soldier, diplomat and Sheriff of Berwick and Berwickshire since 1288.

I had the privilege of being the 50th Vicar of Berwick and now to follow John as Sheriff of Berwick.

John’s church stood a few yards south of the present church, built by the forebears of my Regent the Coldspring Guards in 1630.

Berwickers have handed me a wealth of documents about our town’s complex history, some make terrifying reading.

Recent acquisitions include reports and sermons from the closing year of my immediate predecessor’s tenure, recording tensions over day to day finance, backlog of church repairs and an inability to engage with the young some 30 years ago. I wish I had had sight of them before I was appointed! It was like being sent into battle without any ‘intelligence’ of the mission challenge.

The Spectator magazine recently ran an article ‘The Church of England plans to create 10,000 new lay-led churches in the next ten years’.

The article stated: ‘Lay-led churches release the Church from key limiting factors’, said Canon John McGinley. ‘When you don’t need a building and a stipend and long, costly college-based training for every leader of church… then actually we can release new people to lead and new churches to form!’ Well, maybe. But once you’ve ditched the buildings, the clergy and theological education, you don’t have very much of a church left!’

What do you think?

Were our shared ministry legacy over almost 50 years to be considered a ‘key limiting factor’ my wife and I would be deeply saddened.

The early Church grew through folk being attracted to and by its members, as they moved around communities serving in prayer and deed in a highly visible way, not shut behind closed doors.

Just so today, there is no great mystery, church organisation began when groups of Christians called leaders from their number, supporting them financially, later leading to professional clergy.

Our local churches belong, in a broad sense, to the people surrounding and inhabiting them. We have a say, whether as churchgoers or simply someone who appreciates church architecture and its context in our history.

What can we do? We are makers of our own history. Regular worshippers give according to their means and also of their time to maintain a visible local servant ministry.

Whether worshippers or not, some give directly or leave bequests in wills to local church trusts such as Berwick Parish Church Trust, or beg grants from funding bodies for their trusts, as many have done down the years.

Such trust’s purposes are to ensure our historic building remains in good repair as they age and repair costs increase. Christian Churches of all denominations do not receive regular government support nor income from Council Tax as some still think.

I have witnessed a sad reduction in clergy numbers and the closure of local churches, recently Berwick Methodist Church and two United Reform churches.

I recently conducted a funeral in a village church attended by ten times its usual number of regular worshippers.

The mourners were grateful that the building was open and in good repair to welcome them at that important moment in their lives, to a service conducted by a priest who had supported the family over the intervening week. I reminded them of the lyrics to an old Joel Mitchell song ‘you never know what you’ve got till its gone’.

The Motto of Berwick is ‘FLOREAT BERWICK ISLAND’ - May Berwick-upon-Tweed flourish.

Local Christian congregations need to be generous, open and engaged in order that our local churches may flourish, as we choose to fund the provision of local clergy or take over their duties ourselves on a voluntary basis or not, the choice is ours and decision time is fast approaching.

Help is out there

At a time when the pandemic has caused rising levels of stress and anxiety, Sycamore Counselling Service is there to offer professional counselling for any adult who needs it.

Believing that excellent counselling should be available to all, a group of counsellors formed the charity, based in Hexham, covering the West Northumberland area.

For clients unable to get to appointments, telephone counselling is available.

A registered charity run and staffed by Christians, Sycamore offers help to those of all faiths and none.

All Sycamore’s counsellors are highly qualified, professional, experienced, and committed to promoting good mental health. There are no set fees – donations are welcome.

More information can be found here or on the charity’s Facebook page.

THE Religious Resources Centre has an exciting programme of events and talks planned over the next few months.

Newly-added listings are below, and remember to visit the RRC’s website for the full schedule of upcoming events.

Zoom event: ‘Zurbarán and The Boys’, A Conversation/theRRC with David Pott on the connections between Faith and Art Tuesday 14 September, 6-7pm

‘The Boys’ is an affectionate term sometimes used to describe the outstanding portraits of Jacob and his twelve sons by the Spanish artist Francisco de Zurbarán, housed at Auckland Castle in Bishop Auckland.

Join local author David Pott who will be discussing his book Listening to the Boys: Meditations on Francisco de Zurbarán’s Jacob and His Twelve Sons, and answering questions including:

- Why did he write this book?
- Is there anything about these works (or the artist) that he thinks anyone encountering these paintings should know or be aware of?
- Which of ‘the boys’ is he most fond of and why?
- Which of the paintings does he find the most perplexing?
- If art is an expression of faith what does he think these paintings are telling us about the faith of Zurbarán?

Zoom event: Be Inspired! Family Ministry, Growing faith Thursday 23 September 7-9.30pm

A free online session for Church leaders and Parents led by the Kitchen Table Project.

How can we develop family ministry? How might we support and accompany children as they grow in faith?

Inspire is a free, easy-to-run, small group, discussion resource from Kitchen Table Project at Care for the Family. It’s a fun, relaxed and interactive way for church leaders and parents to support children and build faith in the home.

This online session will enable participants to engage with the Inspire resource, build confidence, share ideas and experiences.

Join us and explore how we can equip and empower parents in your church to nurture the faith of their children.

- Book your place at enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk or 0191 375 0586.

The Religious Resources Centre is your religious learning resources centre. www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk
Eco Conference

The North East Churches Ecumenical Environment group is holding a free online conference looking at how we can work together to tackle the issues of climate change.

If you are interested in Care for Creation and the impacts of climate change, or your church is looking for environmental ideas and inspiration, this conference will help to explore these issues.

Taking place over Zoom on Saturday 4 September from 9.30am - 1.30pm, the sessions with guest speakers and group discussion will look at the biblical imperative for us to Care for Creation and the effects that climate change is having on us.

There will be opportunities to share stories and practical advice from others, including on how to become an Eco Church and joining the North East Climate Coalition.

Keynote Speakers include Sir Paul Ennals, founder of the North East of England Climate Coalition, Ben Niblett, from Tearfund, Rachie Ross from Operation Noah, and Pam Martin, on behalf of A Rocha.

If you would like to get involved, contact Hannah Malcolm, YCCN North East representative or sign up on the YCCN website.

The North East Churches Ecumenical Environment group is holding a free online conference looking at how we can work together to tackle the issues of climate change.

If you are interested in Care for Creation and the impacts of climate change, or your church is looking for environmental ideas and inspiration, this conference will help to explore these issues.

Taking place over Zoom on Saturday 4 September from 9.30am - 1.30pm, the sessions with guest speakers and group discussion will look at the biblical imperative for us to Care for Creation and the effects that climate change is having on us.

There will be opportunities to share stories and practical advice from others, including on how to become an Eco Church and joining the North East Climate Coalition.

Keynote Speakers include Sir Paul Ennals, founder of the North East of England Climate Coalition, Ben Niblett, from Tearfund, Rachie Ross from Operation Noah, and Pam Martin, on behalf of A Rocha.

If you would like to get involved, contact Hannah Malcolm, YCCN North East representative or sign up on the YCCN website.

The North East Churches Ecumenical Environment group is holding a free online conference looking at how we can work together to tackle the issues of climate change.

If you are interested in Care for Creation and the impacts of climate change, or your church is looking for environmental ideas and inspiration, this conference will help to explore these issues.

Taking place over Zoom on Saturday 4 September from 9.30am - 1.30pm, the sessions with guest speakers and group discussion will look at the biblical imperative for us to Care for Creation and the effects that climate change is having on us.

There will be opportunities to share stories and practical advice from others, including on how to become an Eco Church and joining the North East Climate Coalition.

Keynote Speakers include Sir Paul Ennals, founder of the North East of England Climate Coalition, Ben Niblett, from Tearfund, Rachie Ross from Operation Noah, and Pam Martin, on behalf of A Rocha.

If you would like to get involved, contact Hannah Malcolm, YCCN North East representative or sign up on the YCCN website.

The North East Churches Ecumenical Environment group is holding a free online conference looking at how we can work together to tackle the issues of climate change.

If you are interested in Care for Creation and the impacts of climate change, or your church is looking for environmental ideas and inspiration, this conference will help to explore these issues.

Taking place over Zoom on Saturday 4 September from 9.30am - 1.30pm, the sessions with guest speakers and group discussion will look at the biblical imperative for us to Care for Creation and the effects that climate change is having on us.

There will be opportunities to share stories and practical advice from others, including on how to become an Eco Church and joining the North East Climate Coalition.

Keynote Speakers include Sir Paul Ennals, founder of the North East of England Climate Coalition, Ben Niblett, from Tearfund, Rachie Ross from Operation Noah, and Pam Martin, on behalf of A Rocha.

If you would like to get involved, contact Hannah Malcolm, YCCN North East representative or sign up on the YCCN website.

The North East Churches Ecumenical Environment group is holding a free online conference looking at how we can work together to tackle the issues of climate change.

If you are interested in Care for Creation and the impacts of climate change, or your church is looking for environmental ideas and inspiration, this conference will help to explore these issues.

Taking place over Zoom on Saturday 4 September from 9.30am - 1.30pm, the sessions with guest speakers and group discussion will look at the biblical imperative for us to Care for Creation and the effects that climate change is having on us.

There will be opportunities to share stories and practical advice from others, including on how to become an Eco Church and joining the North East Climate Coalition.

Keynote Speakers include Sir Paul Ennals, founder of the North East of England Climate Coalition, Ben Niblett, from Tearfund, Rachie Ross from Operation Noah, and Pam Martin, on behalf of A Rocha.

If you would like to get involved, contact Hannah Malcolm, YCCN North East representative or sign up on the YCCN website.

The North East Churches Ecumenical Environment group is holding a free online conference looking at how we can work together to tackle the issues of climate change.

If you are interested in Care for Creation and the impacts of climate change, or your church is looking for environmental ideas and inspiration, this conference will help to explore these issues.

Taking place over Zoom on Saturday 4 September from 9.30am - 1.30pm, the sessions with guest speakers and group discussion will look at the biblical imperative for us to Care for Creation and the effects that climate change is having on us.

There will be opportunities to share stories and practical advice from others, including on how to become an Eco Church and joining the North East Climate Coalition.

Keynote Speakers include Sir Paul Ennals, founder of the North East of England Climate Coalition, Ben Niblett, from Tearfund, Rachie Ross from Operation Noah, and Pam Martin, on behalf of A Rocha.

If you would like to get involved, contact Hannah Malcolm, YCCN North East representative or sign up on the YCCN website.
HAVE YOUR SAY

Anything catch your eye in this month’s LINK? Something on your mind? Or in your prayers? Send an e-mail, message or letter to LINK and we’ll publish the best of them:

Have your say. LINK, Church House, St John’s Terrace, North Shields NE29 6HS. Email us: communications@newcastle.anglican.org

LIVING ‘AS IF’

IN lockdown many of us kept going on a mix of adrenaline and willpower. A heady mix! We have not been able to rely on the relationships and social bonds that were usually there to soothe and support us through difficult times.

Now that lockdown is going to ease, that mix is not just going to disappear. It will be with us for a while until we re-establish our natural balance and rhythm and we may notice that we are feeling more anxious than we expected.

Through all the stresses and strains of lockdown and the uncertainties of how we get back to normal (and what is normal anyway?) Now is the time to be kind to ourselves as well as to others.

How often do you take time to feel pleased and satisfied with a task you have taken time and effort to complete, whether you think you can or whether you think you can’t you are right? This comes back to haunt me every so often and I am pleased it does!

Just as an experiment, a bit of fun, try it out just for fun (sorry, no prize this month). Please DO NOT submit crosswords to Church House.

Wellbeing

by Patty Everitt, Counselling Advisor (Interim)

When we say thank you to someone else for their help, or to congratulate them on their success it feels good to us as well as to them.

We would not feel so good if our thanks or congratulations were met with indifference or pushed away with a ‘yes, but…’or ‘it was rubbish’. It is as if our gift is unworthy to be received. If it keeps happening, we stop bothering and that does not feel so good either, does it?

So how do we feel when we do that to ourselves: discount our own efforts, achievements or accomplishments as rubbish, unworthy of a thank you or even of being noticed at all?

If we feel that we can never do enough or do well enough that attitude is usually ingrained, so part of the way we think and act toward ourselves, that we believe it is true. Henry Ford (allegedly) said ‘whether you think you can or whether you think you can’t you are right’. This comes back to haunt me every so often and I am pleased it does!

My invitation to you is to live, for one day, as if you can. Live for one day as if your intentions, efforts, and accomplishments are worthy of recognition and praise.

At the end of the day, take stock of what you did during the day and the effort you put in and give yourself credit. If you keep a gratitude diary you can add it into your diary as another dimension of gratitude.

Notice how that simple thought affected your day, your spirits, your sense of self and may be even notice how holding that thought affected the way you treated others and were treated in return.

Too selfish? Too big headed? Simply as an experiment, a bit of fun, try it out just to see what happens.

I expect you will be pleasantly surprised.

ACROSS

1. Evensong
5. Scab
9. Ratio
10. Castles
11. Old Testament
13. Impair
15. Bottle
17. Clothes horse
20. Precede
21. Image
22. Eats
23. Stitches

DOWN
1. Earl
2. Extol
3. Short-sighted
4. Nicest
6. Collect
7. Besotted
8. Escapologist
12. Disciple
14. Protest
16. Assent
18. Stash
19. News

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 174

ACROSS: 1. Evensong
5. Scab
9. Ratio
10. Castles
11. Old Testament
13. Impair
15. Bottle
17. Clothes horse
20. Precede
21. Image
22. Eats
23. Stitches

DOWN: 1. Earl
2. Extol
3. Short-sighted
4. Nicest
6. Collect
7. Besotted
8. Escapologist
12. Disciple
14. Protest
16. Assent
18. Stash
19. News

This month we are including the crossword for anyone looking for something to keep them occupied during lockdown but just for fun (sorry, no prize this month). Please DO NOT submit crosswords to Church House.

ACROSS

7. Senior member of the clergy – one seen in British store (6)
8. The man spoiling choral composition (6)
9. Just light (4)
10. Directions followed when it’s involved (8)
11. Composer with new role for unmarried man (8)
12. Poem found in good editions (3)
13. Trees seen in Chelmsford (4)
14. Member of the clergy – one seen in large church in York? (8)
15. Stake found by a Greek character (4)
16. Royal always seen before finale with member of the clergy (8)
17. Church official from church – one seen in large church (8)
18. Rector I’d upset – one owed money (8)
19. One in race to find – one seen in large church (6)
20. Primate going round southern part of church (4)
21. Wrongdoer, small, inside (6)
22. Number using the Spanish flat (6)

DOWN
1. Residence of priest with six means of transport, mature (8)
2. Lay officers needing new churn drew cash (13)
3. Plead for a ring, say (6)
4. Minister, quiet, with a shortened tale (6)
5. Blackleg with clout taking holiday with hesitation (13)
6. Part of buffet earmarked for fair (4)
7. Senior member of the clergy – one seen in British store (6)
8. The man spoiling choral composition (6)
9. Just light (4)
10. Directions followed when it’s involved (8)
11. Composer with new role for unmarried man (8)
12. Poem found in good editions (3)
13. Trees seen in Chelmsford (4)
14. Member of the clergy – one seen in large church in York? (8)
15. Stake found by a Greek character (4)
16. Royal always seen before finale with member of the clergy (8)
17. Church official from church – one seen in large church (8)
18. Rector I’d upset – one owed money (8)
19. One in race to find – one seen in large church (6)
20. Primate going round southern part of church (4)
21. Wrongdoer, small, inside (6)
22. Number using the Spanish flat (6)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 174

ACROSS: 1. Evensong
5. Scab
9. Ratio
10. Castles
11. Old Testament
13. Impair
15. Bottle
17. Clothes horse
20. Precede
21. Image
22. Eats
23. Stitches

DOWN: 1. Earl
2. Extol
3. Short-sighted
4. Nicest
6. Collect
7. Besotted
8. Escapologist
12. Disciple
14. Protest
16. Assent
18. Stash
19. News
Firm Roots cancer support retreat day

A CHRISTIAN cancer support charity is hosting its first virtual retreat day at the end of July.

Firm Roots is organising the free remote event which takes place via Zoom on Saturday 31 July from 10am-4pm.

The theme of the day is ‘On the Road to Emmaus’ and will allow participants to think about how Jesus joins us on the journey of our lives.

The retreat will include four sessions spread out during the day, to allow for a walk or some quiet, personal space with God.

Each session will include a chance to listen to some reflections and music, to take part in an optional share and prayer session, an afternoon meditation and a final session and reflection.

Anyone whose lives have been affected by cancer is very welcome to join the online retreat day.

This is an ecumenical Christian retreat, open to people from different denominations and for those not part of a church, but wondering about faith.

To book a place at the retreat day, please complete this form or for more information, contact Helen Jones at Helen.Jones@firmroots.co.uk or 07936 186028.

Did you miss the Digital Labs Conference?

IS your church ready to bring more people to faith, grow their belief and share Good News by harnessing digital and social media?

The Digital Labs conference was organised by the Church of England’s Digital Team and took place in June.

However, people who missed the conference can access the recorded webinars at a cost of £6 here.

The recordings will enable you to:
- Be inspired by the opportunity that digital gives for rural and urban churches
- Learn how to keep both online and onsite services and events going
- Explore the resources, tools and software available for your church
- Hear from church leaders sharing first-hand experiences
- Discover how to support and engage online communities
- Access the recorded webinars at a cost of £6 here.

Hear from church leaders sharing first-hand experiences
- Hear from church leaders sharing first-hand experiences
- See what has worked for churches around the world
- Learn how to create an online community
- Explore the tools and software available for your church
- Access the recorded webinars at a cost of £6 here.

PRACTICE THE WAY WE WERE

I really should get around to updating my photo-ID badge for work.

It’s not simply that I’m older now than when I started or that it’s not a particularly flattering picture (it’s a thousand times better than the picture in my passport) - it’s more that I don’t recognise myself in the picture; the chubby-faced, extra-chinned, massive-necked person smiling slightly awkwardly at the iPad that was used to take the picture, doesn’t exist any more. Since it was taken, I have lost a healthy amount of weight, my face is leaner, the extra chin has receded and my neck is narrower than my head. I’ve also lived through the past 18 months of the pandemic and find myself mentally changed since that January day when I tried to smile naturally for the photograph.

Holding up this picture as a representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself is not only misleading to others, it reminds me of a time I didn’t like the physical representation of myself...
**Thank You for the Rain**

By Helen Cunningham, Church Engagement & Fundraising Officer (North East & Cumbria)

**Film showing:**
Monday 13 September, 7pm

THANK You for the Rain tells the story of Kisilu, a smallholder farmer in Kenya who has used his camera to capture the life of his family, and the human costs of climate change.

Campaigner, Jess said: “When I first watched this film, I couldn’t speak for a good 10 minutes afterwards. I felt rage and I felt sadness. But I also had a profound sense of hope. I wanted to stand in solidarity with Kisilu, I needed to act.”

The film is a rare and personal insight into the realities of the climate crisis and it is a call to action to all who care about God’s creation.

Helen Cunningham and Tim Burdon, Church Engagement and Fundraising Officers, invite you to join them for an online viewing of this beautiful film and intimate story on Monday 13 September 2021 at 7pm. There will be an opportunity for a short discussion afterwards.

Bring along a colleague or friend, or arrange to join us in your small group. Email hello@christian-aid.org or ring 0191 573 7666 to sign up and request the Zoom link.

Would you like to host your own community viewing or an online watch party in your own church? Let us know – we would be delighted to help you do that! Find out more here.

In 2021, the year when the UK hosted the G7 and will host the COP26, a year when every moment matters, and every action counts, we want to invite you to watch and share Kisilu’s story with your church, your friends and your family. By bearing witness to his life, his struggle and his hope we can stand with him in calling for climate justice.

During the pandemic we’ve found ourselves in and out of lockdown. The great thing about watching this film is that it’s an experience we can share together from home, or in person when we’re allowed to safely gather.

Many churches, home groups, friends and families have already watched Thank You for the Rain. Just like Jess they raged, reacted and were compelled to act. They wrote to their MPs, they signed petitions and they prayed. This film is a great way to share the bigger justice story of the climate crisis with your community.

**Thank You For the Rain**

-Kisilu Musya, farmer and activist, Kenya.

**Gospel Readings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 14.22-end or 15.1-2, 10-14</td>
<td>Luke 5.33-end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 16.13-23</td>
<td>Mark 7.24-end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 17.22-end</td>
<td>Luke 6.27-end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>11th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 18.15-20</td>
<td>Luke 6.43-end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 18.21-19</td>
<td>Mark 8.27-end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 19.3-12</td>
<td>Luke 7.1-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 19.13-15</td>
<td>John 3.13-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 20.1-16</td>
<td>Luke 8.4-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 22.1-14</td>
<td>Mark 9.30-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 22.14-40</td>
<td>Luke 8.16-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 21.1-12</td>
<td>Matthew 9.9-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>22nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>23rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>24th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 24.42-end</td>
<td>Mark 9.38-end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>26th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th</td>
<td>27th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th</td>
<td>28th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark 7.1-8, 14, 15, 21-23</td>
<td>John 1.47-end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th</td>
<td>29th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>30th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke 4.31-37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Safeguarding Sunday**

**This Safeguarding Sunday find out what we’re doing to make our church a safer place for everyone.**

**We’re marking Safeguarding Sunday on:**

**Safeguarding Sunday 2021 Ask us for more information**

**Gospel Readings**

**The Diocease of Newcastle is supporting this year’s Safeguarding Sunday on 10 October 2021.**

We are encouraging local churches to use their regular Sunday service to explore together what safer places look like, and to thank all those working behind the scenes to make our churches safer for all.

The ecumenical initiative from specialist safeguarding charity thirtynineeight provides bespoke resources including films and animations, prayers, preaching notes, children’s activity sheets, hymns and songs and a safeguarding pledge.

There are already more churches signed up at this stage than all participants last year and General Synod members have been encouraged at the July Synod meeting to promote the dedicated day in their dioceses.

“Safeguarding Sunday is all about creating an opportunity for churches to show their communities that they take this responsibility seriously.”

For more information and resources, click [here](#).