

LINK

The newspaper for the Diocese of Newcastle



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Returning to her roots: Bishop Helen-Ann to be the thirteenth Bishop of Newcastle

Downing Street has announced the appointment of the **Right Reverend Dr Helen-Ann Hartley**, currently Bishop of Ripon, as the next Bishop of Newcastle. The appointment was approved by Her Late Majesty The Queen.

Full story: [Page 3](#)

Bishop's Diary

November

This is not a full list of the Bishop's engagements, but includes the items we think might be of particular interest to you.

Bishop of Berwick and Acting Bishop of Newcastle



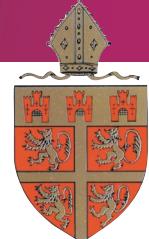
- 1-2nd Meeting of the College of Bishops (Residential)**
- 3rd Meeting with Diocesan Secretary
- Meeting with Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Assistant Director of Ordinands
- Meeting with Director of IME2
- 5th Attendance at a Candidates in Discernment Event**
- 6th Lay Ministry Service, Hexham Abbey
- 7th Meeting with the Mission and Ministry Team**
- Meeting of Northern Church Leaders (Ecumenical)**
- 10th Meeting of Bishops, Bishopthorpe Palace, York
- 13th The Lord Mayor's Remembrance Sunday Tribute, Newcastle Confirmations Service, Newcastle St Thomas (Newcastle Central Deanery)**
- 14th Meeting with Diocesan Secretary
- Meeting with Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor
- 16th Interviews for Vicar of Alnwick**
- 18-19th Meeting of the Bishop's Council (Residential)
- 19th Patronal Festival Service at Christ Church (Newcastle Central Deanery)**
- 20th Service of Farewell for the Dean of the Cathedral, Newcastle Cathedral
- 21-23rd Meeting of the Bishop's Staff Team (Residential)**
- 24 th Meeting of Area Deans and Bishop's Staff
- Official Reopening of Vincent Edwards CofE Primary School, Embleton
- 26th Meeting of the Diocesan Synod**
- 27th Festival Eucharist to Celebrate the Lindisfarne Gospels, Holy Island
- 28th Meeting with the Diocesan Secretary**
- Meeting of the Sons of the Clergy**
- 29th Meeting of the House of Bishops
- 30th Consecration of the Bishop of Beverley, York Minster**

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Rose Hips and Hope



ISN'T it funny that when you really notice something, suddenly you start to notice that same thing again and again?

This year I have noticed chandeliers of hips of dogroses dripping from the hawthorn hedges near my house. I realised that over the past few years I had been aware but hadn't really noticed them.

What's more, as I got my eye in, so to speak, I am noticing the red rugby-ball shaped hips in the hedges lining the lanes along which I often walk.

The autumn hedges are simply packed with hips and haws. Funny how I had not noticed the dogroses in the months when they were in flower. They must have been there, decorating the hawthorn, and I must have walked past them without paying attention to the delicate sprays.

I think this is an example of what one of my tutors would have described as "Unconscious Teleology": setting the unconscious mind to look for something specific – in this case rose hips – and then sitting back and becoming aware of a world full of rose hips. Delightful!

Our minds work in the same way every day. We look for evidence that supports our view of the world and other people.

Wellbeing

by **Patty Everitt**,
Lead for the
Counselling
Service



If we believe the world and other people are basically decent, honest and kind then this is what we see: people holding open a door or smiling at a passing stranger or saying, "thank you", or perhaps overhearing a disagreement but noticing the respectful way each responds to the other.

If we believe the world and other people are not safe, are out-to-get me and thoughtless then this is what we notice: people pushing in a queue or letting a door swing closed in front of the next person.

If we deliberately set ourselves the challenge of looking out for something, then our unconscious mind will start to notice it.

Did you ever play that game of spotting red cars or letter boxes? Once you set your mind to notice a particular thing, then that's what you see. The effects can last for a while – even after the game has ended. We continue to see oodles

of red cars and letter boxes.

Similarly, if we set ourselves the challenge of looking for evidence that the world and other people are often kind and respectful, then we are likely to see acts of kindness and respect being perpetrated around us! This is something you can try at home, readers.

Why would we want to do this – to set ourselves the simple challenge of looking out for acts of kindness?

I don't think that I am alone in feeling that there are now so many things happening in the world and at home that I cannot control and yet distress me and disturb my sense of well-being. Human beings are relational animals, we need others to survive and to thrive. When I look out for and notice acts of kindness, seeing others actively nurturing others – friends, family and strangers – then my world becomes a safer, gentler place and I feel more hopeful.

I have a friend who reminds me to "foster hope".

I am grateful to those I see who "do justly, love mercy and walk humbly" because they "foster hope" for me.

Set your mind to notice kindness and see what happens!

Comings & Goings

Appointments

The Revd Elaine Jones, currently Assistant Curate in the Parish of Sawley, Diocese of Derby is going to be Priest in Charge of Mitford and Hebron; Bolam with Whalton and Hartburn with Meldon; and Netherwitton with effect from 28 November 2022.

The Revd Craig Bentley, formerly Curate at the Helm Group, Kendal is going to be Hospital Chaplain at Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Hospital Trust with effect from 19 October 2022.

Retirements

The Very Revd Geoffrey Miller, currently Dean of Newcastle Cathedral Church of St Nicholas is retiring with effect from 30 November 2022.

Resignations

The Revd Ruth Hewett, currently Associate Priest (HFD) of Christ the King is resigning with effect from 18 October 2022.

The Revd Kenneth Crawford, currently Priest in Charge of Newcastle St John is resigning with effect from 30th October 2022.

Gospel Readings

1st	Matthew 5:1-12	11th	Luke 17:26 – end	21st	Luke 21:1-4
2nd	Luke 14:25-33	12th	Luke 18:1-8	22nd	Luke 21:5-11
3rd	Luke 15:1-10	13th	Luke 21:5-19	23rd	Luke 21:12-19
4th	Luke 16:1-8	14th	Luke 18:35 – end	24th	Luke 21:20-28
5th	Luke 16:9-15	15th	Luke 19:1-10	25th	Luke 21:29-33
6th	Luke 20:27-38	16th	Luke 19:11-28	26th	Luke 21:34-36
7th	Luke 17:1-6	17th	Luke 19:41-44	27th	Matthew 24:36-44
8th	Luke 17:7-10	18th	Luke 19:45 – end	28th	Matthew 8:5-11
9th	Luke 17: 11-19	19th	Luke 20:27-40	29th	Luke 10:21-24
10th	Luke 17:20-25	20th	Luke 23:33-43	30th	Matthew 4:18-22

November



> Bishop Mark Wroe with the new Bishop of Newcastle Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley at Newcastle Cathedral

Continued from page 1

BIshop Helen-Ann, who was brought up in the North East, will succeed the Right Reverend Christine Hardman who retired as Bishop of Newcastle in November last year.

Bishop Helen-Ann said: "I am absolutely delighted and excited to be the next Bishop of Newcastle. With life-long connections to the whole region covered by the Diocese, I am inspired by the example of the Northern Saints, whose engagement in God's mission lies deep in the fabric and contours of the land. I am, and will continue to be in this new role, a passionate advocate for the region. I look forward immensely to supporting and encouraging the vital work of the

Diocese at every level: parishes and benefices, schools, chaplaincies, clergy and lay together as we continue to engage in God's mission in the season that lies ahead."

The Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell said: "I am delighted that Helen-Ann has agreed to become the next Bishop of Newcastle. Helen-Ann brings rich experience and a tremendous passion for communicating the gospel, as well as a deep commitment to championing those often under-represented in our society. Newcastle Diocese is truly blessed to have Helen-Ann as its new Bishop."

The Bishop of Berwick, the Right Reverend Mark Wroe said: "Having worked with Helen-Ann, I am absolutely thrilled that she is to be the

next Bishop of Newcastle, returning to her roots here in the North East. Her enthusiasm and energy, her knowledge of our region and its culture, and above all her love of God and of his people will ensure she is an enormous blessing to our parishes and our Diocese."

Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth, Chair of Newcastle Diocese's House of Laity, said: "I am extremely excited to be welcoming Helen-Ann to our Diocese. Her understanding of what makes this region special and her natural ability to connect with people will make her an excellent Bishop. Our Northern Saints, a key part of our rich heritage, have played an important part in her faith journey and one of her passions is telling their story in a contemporary and engaging way."

Commenting on Bishop Helen-Ann's move from Ripon, the Bishop of Leeds, the Right Reverend Nick Baines said: "It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve with Bishop Helen-Ann for the last four years. Our loss is Newcastle's gain, where she will bring many gifts and broad experience to her new responsibilities. She will move on with my gratitude, prayers and blessing."

Helen-Ann was born in Edinburgh and spent her early years living in the Scottish Borders, where her father was a Church of Scotland minister. At a very young age, she moved with her family to Sunderland where she attended primary and secondary school, and her father became a priest in the Church of England. She was

ordained into the Church of England in 2005 as deacon in the Diocese of Oxford and became a priest a year later. In 2010, Helen-Ann relocated to New Zealand where, in 2013, she was elected to become the Bishop of Waikato on the country's North Island. In 2017, it was announced that she was to become the Bishop of Ripon.

Helen-Ann is active in the world of media and is a keen runner, regularly taking part in Parkrun. She is married to Myles, who is a musician and from Cumbria. Her parents, both of whom are retired, live in Durham.

■ **The installation of Bishop Helen-Ann as Bishop of Newcastle will take place at Newcastle Cathedral, likely in early 2023.**



> Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley with children from Embleton Vincent Edwards CofE First School, at a food bank and at St James' Benwell

Farewell from the Dean of Newcastle



> The Very Revd Geoff Miller

As many of you will know, I have announced that I will retire this month as Dean of Newcastle. It has been a real joy to play a part in the continuing story of the Diocese and more latterly the Cathedral, especially through its lottery-funded refurbishments.

With the passing of the Petertide ordinations this year, I began my 40th year in ordained ministry. For me, it has been a wonderful 40 years. Beginning in Jarrow in 1981, I have had the privilege to serve in the church across the North East of England: Billingham, South Shields, Stockton, Darlington followed and then Newcastle since 1999. And I have missed out a glorious year in France with the Mission Populaire d'Evangelique courtesy of the Leslie Hunter Trust. Throughout that time, I have met so many people in so many rich and varied

contexts.

I have especially enjoyed my time in Newcastle Diocese, not least as Archdeacon of Northumberland and more recently sharing in the challenges and the development of the Cathedral. This has become my home and its people my joy to serve in the name of Christ who calls us all his friends.

Our dream for the Cathedral has been for it to take up its ancient role at the heart of the city – making sacred space common ground today! Since reopening in July 2021, the building has hosted a huge range of Diocesan and civic events, concerts – even comedy nights, and, recently, a major service commemorating and giving thanks for the life of Her Late Majesty The Queen. Every day there are also the visitors (over 100,000 since reo-

pening last summer) wandering around, escaping the rain, seeking solace and a coffee or a warm place to sleep.

Geoff would be thrilled if you could join him for A Service of Leave-Taking and Farewell for the Dean of Newcastle on Sunday 20 November, at 4pm. There is no need to RSVP; however, we recommend arriving in good time to find a seat. For those unable to attend, the service will also be livestreamed via Newcastle Cathedral's YouTube channel!

pening last summer) wandering around, escaping the rain, seeking solace and a coffee or a warm place to sleep.

Our passion is to offer radical welcome, inspiring worship and encounters that empower worth in each other. Even more important than the fabric of the building are the people who have found a home here; that is the incredible staff and volunteers, my talented clergy colleagues, and a vibrant, diverse congregation.

These are exciting and challenging times in the Church, and my prayers and good wishes will be with the Diocese as it prepares to welcome a new Bishop and, of course, with the Cathedral as it continues to enhance and enjoy its ministry in the region.

Soon, I will have a new way of being to explore, with new possibilities of service and delight. I am trying to see it all as a new adventure. Some of you will know that my health has not been so good during the last year, though thankfully, it is now much better –

stents are remarkable things! I am a reluctant pensioner, though for my wife's sake, hopefully not a grumpy one!

I will miss so much this wonderful Diocese with wonderful people at its heart. I will take much away with me to treasure, but perhaps there will be new configurations, new learning, and new development for me too.

I hope you will have a little smile when you remember the old Archdeacon and sometime Dean. I know that there will be plenty of smiles among my memories of the last years. But now I head into my next (hopefully calmer) adventure, G&T in hand.

God has been good to me, and I pray that you, my friends and colleagues, will continue to be blessed by his wide and bountiful grace.



> The Very Revd Geoff Miller with a site manager at Newcastle Cathedral; introducing contactless giving, and presenting prizes to year 7 students

The festivals of All Souls and All Saints on the 31st October and 1st November celebrate the spiritual union of all of God's people, on earth, and in heaven. The current visit of the Lindisfarne Gospels to Newcastle, and the celebration of their manufacture by St Mary's Church on Holy Island, bring us close to the Northumbrian Saints who read them, and remind us of the spiritual inheritance and connection that we share with them.

As we remember, and are inspired by, the Northumbrian Saints - men and women celebrated as holy for their lifestyles, and for their mission and ministry to the people of the North East and further afield, it is important that we understand ourselves as a holy part of this story too. In the Bible, the Apostle Paul refers to the recipients of his letters as people who have been sanctified by God (Saints), even those in the Church in Corinth where there

Bishop's Letter

With Bishop Mark Wroe

were significant moral and theological problems, and the writer of the First Letter of Peter refers to the followers of Christ a 'holy nation'. The point is that it is a relationship with Jesus Christ that makes someone holy, and this makes all Christians holy, sanctified, saintly, before God – because of what Jesus has done for us, not what we have done for ourselves.

This can be an interesting and challenging thing for us to ponder. Most people would think that Saints are supposed to be almost untouchable in their holiness, somehow set apart in the Church.

Many Christians would struggle to think of themselves as Saints, or perhaps to see the person in the pew at the back of church in this way, and yet this is how God sees the people of God's Church. Through this lens, our perception of the people of the Church changes, it challenges us about the ways in which we communicate with each other, and about the ways in which we see each other as part of the same Body of Christ, Lay and Ordained.

I give thanks for all of the Saints of our Diocese, for those of old - Aidan, Cuthbert, Oswald, Hild, Ebba, and others, and those of today who have said yes to Christ, at whatever stage in their discipleship and service they are. 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God' (Ephesians 2: 8-9)

+ Mark

Newcastle Diocese is pleased to announce a number of new candidates taking part in our internship schemes



> The seven candidates gathered at St Thomas' Church, Newcastle

Seven individuals will be welcomed into the region as they partake in the 'New Wine Discipleship Year', with two also partaking in the 'Ministry Experience Scheme'.

The New Wine Discipleship Year will see participants exercise and nurture their spiritual gifts and passions, learning at St Thomas' and interning at another local church.

Those taking part in the New Wine

Discipleship Year are; Jess Woollett, Brandon Tomson, Rachel Turner, Ruth Feathers, Olivia Howell, Jess Snowdon and Michael Greene.

The Ministry Experience Scheme allows candidates to undertake a placement in a city parish, developing leadership skills whilst gaining experience of Christian ministry.

Those taking part in the Ministry Experience Scheme are Jess Woollett and Brandon

Tomson.

They will all be based at St Thomas', located in Newcastle City Centre, due to its resource ministry links across the City.

If you have any questions about internships within the Diocese of Newcastle, please get in touch with Revd Jo Trickey at j.trickey@newcastle.anglican.org or find out more [here](#).



NEWCASTLE
CATHEDRAL

*View from
the Lantern
(or, roughly
halfway up)*

By Ian Roberts, Director of Music

For any of us that spend time in the Cathedral, there is a clear rhythm to each day. With an ever-greater number of services and events, Newcastle Cathedral does bustle and busyness well. But as each day draws to a close, the building quietens for what has often been described as one of the glories of England's religious and cultural tradition – the beautiful daily service of sung prayers known as Choral Evensong. Notable features of this service are The Psalms – ancient hymns and prayers expressing our every human emotion sung in a monthly cycle, and the extraordinary Songs of Mary and Simeon (sung on each occasion to a different musical setting).



> Ian Roberts

Newcastle Cathedral is not alone in offering this daily sung act of worship. All of our 41 fellow cathedrals do similar to a greater or lesser extent. But at Newcastle Cathedral, we do not have one dedicated choir school. Instead, our boy and girl choristers are recruited from a large number of local schools across the city and region, and rehearsal time is very limited. Furthermore, beyond the desire to continue the long tradition, we are committed to building our worshipping community by providing an ever-greater number of musical opportunities to a larger and more diverse number of people. Therefore, depending on the day of the week, a different choir (or section of a choir) sings at Evensong. If you have the opportunity to attend Evensong (in person or via YouTube), this is what to expect:

Monday at 5.30pm – Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Schola Cantorum

This voluntary group of adult sopranos and altos, a mixture of locals and students, sings music for upper voices to a very high standard. This is a very special opportunity for stillness and serenity at the start of the week.

Tuesdays at 5.30pm – Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Consort

An important part of our strategic partnership with Northumbria University and continuing our longstanding links with Newcastle University, this group, comprising entirely of students, is perhaps the closest thing to a university chapel choir.

Wednesdays at 5.30pm – Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Cambiata Voices

In a ground-breaking initiative, voice change for boys no longer means that their cathedral singing stops. Instead, we now encourage a seamless transition into the Cambiata Voices, a group where repertoire is particularly chosen so as not to be too vocally taxing.

Thursdays at 5.30pm – Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choristers

Our Boy Choristers, Junior Girls, and some of our Senior Girls unite to sing. The service, sung exclusively by children and young people, is often a highlight of the week.

Saturdays at 4.00pm – Choral Evensong sung by our Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars

A service for those who can't attend 5.30pm weekdays. It is usually sung by our highly talented professional Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars but is occasionally sung by a visiting choir.

Sundays at 4.00pm – Choral Evensong sung by Newcastle Cathedral Choir

The climax of the week, Sunday Evensong is a chance to hear our boys and/or girls with Lay Clerks/Choral Scholars singing slightly more extensive settings or music of a more celebratory nature.

If you know of a child that could benefit from becoming a Newcastle Cathedral Chorister and would like to organise an informal audition, do get in touch: music@newcastlecathedral.org.uk

You can hear members of the Choir perform at two festive concerts: the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday 17 December at 7.30pm, and Candlelit Carols on Wednesday 21 December at 7pm. For booking information, please visit Newcastle Cathedral's website.

A Generosity Week thank you!



> "A joy and an honour to have Dennis Fancett speak about giving from a place of gratitude and happiness! A real encouragement to us all." Revd Daniel McCarthy, Holy Cross Fenham.



> A Generosity Week Conversation between Robin Brims and Revd Rachel Scheffer



It was another action packed Generosity Week last month for the second year in a row! The Generous Giving Team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who got involved, and give a special mention to all those who helped make our short films of generosity in action. We heard about a transforming legacy at **Tweedmouth Parish**, the story of a foster family in the parish of **Belford**, who have loved and cared for a dozen children in the last seven years, the inspirational work of the Os-win Project at **Newcastle Cathedral**, and children at **NCEAT** who sacrifice their time and share their talents with other children in need of a helping hand. Not forgetting the Baby Bank volunteers at **St John's, Percy Main**, the welcome team at **St James' Benwell** and the volunteers at **St Cuthbert's, Blyth** for all the work they do to support local Asylum Seekers.

By Joanne Christie,
Generous Giving Team Leader
[@JoanneCTweets](https://twitter.com/JoanneCTweets)



other churches getting involved in their own way during Generosity Week. **Holy Cross, Fenham** and **Morpeth Parish** hosted Giving Ministry Adviser Dennis Fancett, who delivered reflections on generosity to members of their congregations, along with a message of generosity as a response to God's generosity to us. Dennis also made a virtual appearance at **St Mary Magdalene, Prudhoe**, who considered the theme of giving to support a vision.

Revd Rachel Scheffer from **Heddon and Upper Pont Churches**, marked Generosity Week by recording a fascinating

Q&A session with Corbridge Deanery Finance Officer Lieutenant General Robin Brims. The conversation, about the new vision statement for St Andrew's Church, shows how mission is underpinned by means, which in turn leads to a wider conversation about how our churches are funded through the Parish Share system, founded on generosity and mutual support. You can click [here](https://youtu.be/Tqcse1PQwCo) to watch their full conversation:

<https://youtu.be/Tqcse1PQwCo>

Sixteen enthusiastic parishes from across the Diocese attended one of our pre-Generosity Week **Cornerstone Workshops**, for which we give thanks to **St Mary's, Monkseaton** and **Holy Nativity, Chapel House** for hosting. These sessions focussed on some of the practical giving mechanisms that enable people to give generously. Since Cornerstone, lots of new QR codes have been created allowing people to give online via their mobile phones, contactless giving equipment has been ordered and

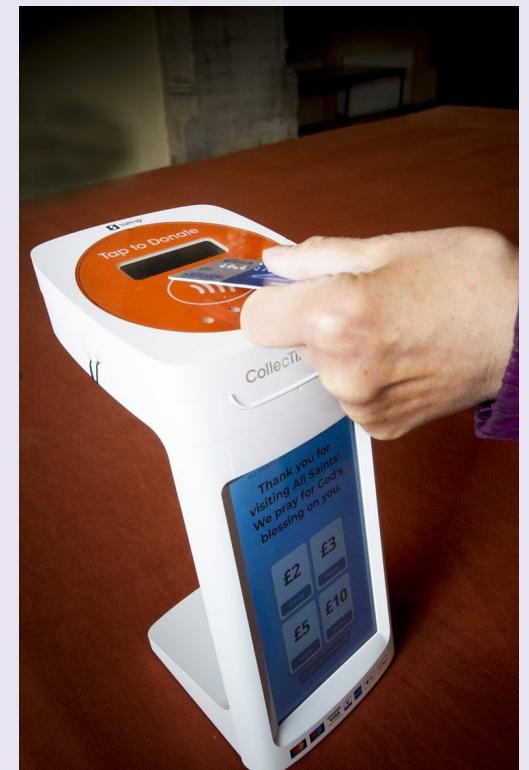
in the case of **St Aidan's Church** in the parish of **Christ the King**, a Generosity Week "Stewardship Sunday" service was held during which members of the congregation were invited to join the growing number of people utilising the Parish Giving Scheme for regular giving. Thanks was also given in the service for all the gifts freely given to us by God and for the generosity of church members and the wider community.

Once again, we're keen to build on this year's Generosity Week for next year, so would very much welcome any feedback or comments which can help our planning process. If you have a spare few minutes, we'd be very grateful if you could click [here](#) to access our short feedback form. Thank you!

If you missed any of the Generosity Week films and reflections, you can find them all in one place by visiting [Celebrating Generosity Across Our Diocese](#).

Digital Giving Rollout for Newcastle Diocese

Digital Giving
SUPPORTING PARISH MINISTRY



The Generous Giving Team are excited to announce details of a new digital giving project launching on **1 November**. Thanks to funding from the National Church, **30 of our parishes** will receive **free equipment** to allow them to receive contactless donations.

Working alongside the National Giving Team, we will deliver hands on training, support and advice to ensure all devices have maximum impact in the chosen locations. As part of the project we will also make online giving available in each parish so that they have full digital giving capability.

Whilst a growing number of churches are already enabled in these ways, we recognise that for many others, a lack of funding or expertise can be a major barrier to getting started. We believe that digital giving should be available in all parishes where it can have an impact, and through this project we hope to help make this happen.

Please visit the [Newcastle Digital Giving Rollout](#) web page for further details of how to apply and to view the selection criteria and full timetable. Please note, the application window will run from **1 November – 7 December**.

We're really looking forward to working with everyone to help fund the work of God's Kingdom in our diocese.

From Lament to Action Day – 29 November, Newcastle Cathedral

In April 2021, The Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce published a report From Lament to Action, proposing a suite of changes to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of the Church of England.

The Taskforce worked through 25 previous reports relating to racial justice, all of which has been

presented to General Synod. From Lament to Action highlights a sense of urgency and determination as it sets out five recommended priority areas: participation, governance, training, education and young people. Without these changes the Church risks denying and disregarding the gifts of a significant part of the nation, the Taskforce

makes clear.

On 29 November, Newcastle and Durham Dioceses will host a day at Newcastle Cathedral to reflect on the issues and begin looking at proposed changes to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of our Church.

Our guest speaker is Revd Azariah France-Williams, Church of England priest and author of *Ghost Ship*, which tells of his experiences of racial injustice within the Church of England, and the day will include stories from other people who have experienced racism.

Representatives from Durham

Diocese who have been acting on the report for a while, will share their knowledge so we can draw on their experience to move forward.

The day will begin at 10am and finish at around 4pm. Please book your place before 5 November by emailing info@newcastle.anglican.org.

RCfE conference

The Bishop of Huntingdon returns to Newcastle Diocese to speak at the RCfE Sustainable Futures for Deep Rural Churches Conference, 9 November. By Philippa Carter, RCfE Project Manager

We are delighted that the Right Revd Dagmar Winter, Bishop of Huntingdon has agreed to speak at the Rural Churches for Everyone (RCfE) conference on 9 November. It is wonderful to welcome Bishop Dagmar back to Northumberland and hear her thoughts on rural ministry and mission at the conference which marks the end of the RCfE project.

RCfE began in 2019, but because of Covid, it is only the last 12 months that we have been able to work closely with our churches and their communities. We have been working with 35 churches across deep rural Northumberland, encouraging a collaborative, cluster-based approach to planning sustainable futures for our church buildings. The key output of the National Lottery Heritage Funded project is the creation of a Sustainability Plan document for each of the four clusters.

The enthusiasm and dedication of volunteers and clergy has been impressive, and the Sustainability Plans are almost complete. RCfE Rural Development Specialist, Yvonne Conchie has developed a range of resources and support for rural churches and all of this material will be available on the Diocese website. At the conference, Yvonne will explain the tools developed as part of RCfE, demonstrating how they can be useful to you and your churches.

Project Sponsor The Venerable Dr Catherine Sourbut Groves, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne will welcome attendees and explain how the learning from the project will be built upon in the coming months. "Two thirds of the parishes in the diocese self-identify as rural," Archdeacon Catherine explains, "so thinking about how we can really help rural

churches to flourish is absolutely essential for our diocese. The Rural Strategy Group is committed to making sure that we really maximise on the learning that we get from the project".

Whilst the process has been challenging and a lot of hard work, feedback has been positive and there is renewed energy amongst the churches and clusters to put the Sustainability Plans into action. One participant commented, "the whole process so far has been very exciting and encouraging, it has given me lots of ideas, lots of sources for help and support."

Revd Alison Hardy, lead clergy for the Coastlands Cluster, reflected on the project: "It has opened up the possibilities of working together and recognising shared concerns, experience and resources, it's helped people to see that whilst our places may be different we have shared challenges and opportunities."

Other conference speakers include Revd Dr Claire Maxim, Priest in Charge of North Tyne and Redesdale, who will reflect on her experience of the project having come to her current role part way through RCfE from the Arthur Rank Centre, where she was CEO. Dr David Petts, Archaeologist at Durham University will speak about how to better understand the history and heritage of your church, and Paul Cowie, consultant and former Research Fellow at the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise will chair a panel discussion on developing partnership working with rural churches.

I encourage you to come along to the conference on 9 November at St. Bartholomew's, Kirkwhelpington. Tickets to the conference are free, but booking is essential as space is limited. [Book tickets here.](#)



➤ Wildlife training



➤ St Aidan's Thorneyburn



➤ The Right Revd Dagmar Winter, Bishop of Huntingdon

Pilgrims successfully complete Lindisfarne Gospels Pilgrimage



➤ The coffin stayed overnight in the crypt at Newcastle Cathedral

The iconic Lindisfarne Gospels underwent a 130-mile journey this September, travelling from Gainford in County Durham to Lindisfarne, Holy Island.

The pilgrims transported a replica of St Cuthbert's coffin, which visited a total of 26 schools throughout the 13-day trek and engaged with around 3,000 children.

The coffin travelled securely in a support vehicle, accompanied by the Lindisfarne Gospels.

David Pott, Pilgrimage Consultant for the Diocese of Durham, said: "Most of the schools also had 12 pupils join us for short stretches of the pilgrimage. The 200 or so who did so were often very moved to be able to carry St Cuthbert's Gospel in a leather pouch or our Co Durham flag with St Cuthbert's Cross, both of which came with us every step of the journey."

The Gospels were loaned by the Religious Resources Centre.

David continued: "This pilgrimage took place at an extraordinary time, following so

soon after the death of the Queen. On many occasions we reflected on the similarity of St Cuthbert as a person associated so strongly with the gospels and the Queen herself whose life of service was also influenced so deeply by the gospels."

The coffin rested overnight by St Cuthbert's tomb at Durham Cathedral. It also stayed overnight in the crypt at Newcastle Cathedral.

"We were blessed with fine weather and only one day with rain which in no way dampened our spirits! The final day was sunny and cool and featured the famous walk across to Holy Island in bare feet, following the pilgrim posts."

"The pilgrimage concluded in St Mary's Church with a memorable concert by the Canadian singer Alana Levandoski and the well-known poet Malcolm Guite who read his poems about St Cuthbert and St Cuthbert's Gospel, holding the facsimile in his hand."

You can learn more about the Lindisfarne Gospels [here!](#)

Newcastle Hospital's Head of Chaplaincy Katie Watson is given Chairman's Award

CONGRATULATIONS to The Revd Captain Katie Watson for being bestowed The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's Chairman's Award, for her exceptional contribution to the Trust and for demonstrating Newcastle Hospitals' values of integrity, respect, teamwork and excellence.

The Trust wrote this tribute to Katie in their awards brochure:

"Undoubtedly one of the more familiar faces around Newcastle Hospitals, Katie our head of chaplaincy, is an inspirational leader and friend (to many) who cares for patients, families and staff with utmost respect and dignity."

"Her compassion and humility make a difference to someone every day - often during very tragic and traumatic circumstances - yet she takes the weight of all that responsibility on her shoulders and greets the next person who needs her with a smile and kind word."

"A fierce advocate for our staff she works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure support is available for anyone who needs it and often uses the guise of having a 'fondness of cake' as an opportunity to check in on colleagues - day and night - just to see if they are OK."

One of her colleagues, whose wedding vows she renewed, said: "Her support during my illness was overwhelming and she was a star on the day she renewed our vows. Katie gives 200% of herself to this role and still finds time for her family and to raise lots of money for charity by running ultra-marathons. She's on in a million and the Trust is so very lucky to have her."



> The Revd Captain Katie Watson

St Thomas' Newcastle Relaunch



The relaunch of St Thomas Newcastle was a joyful event celebrating the reopening of the building and giving thanks for its transformation. Church Leader Ben Doolan said "It isn't just about the building, it's about us as God's people, and so we are giving thanks

for the building but we are also going to be looking forward together at all that God is going to do in us and through us, and the call that he has placed on the life of this church".

Bishop Mark welcomed everyone

saying: "It's a real joy to welcome all of you who have found a home here, who have found a welcome here, and we pray and long to see more and more people come and find a welcome in the Lord Jesus Christ, through this place and through the people here."

Accessing Aidan Project scoops prestigious Bowland Award



> Reverend Louise Taylor-Kenyon of St Aidan's Parish Church, Bamburgh and Patrick Norris, Chair of the Northumberland Coast AONB with the Bowland Award outside St Aidan's

PICTURE: RACHEL NORRIS

The Accessing Aidan Project won the coveted Bowland Award at the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty annual conference in Lancaster in September. The project created a modern-day ossuary in the crypt of St Aidan's Church in Bamburgh.

Accessing Aidan beat off strong competition from fellow finalists, the Kent Downs and the Forest of Bowland Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to win The Bowland Award, a hen harrier sculpture in bronze, which is awarded annually for the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Accessing Aidan has involved Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership, Bamburgh Heritage Trust, St Aidan's Parochial Church Council and Durham University working together to

reopen the beautiful 12th century crypt at St Aidan's to the public once again and create a digital ossuary telling the stories of 120 skeletons from the Bowl Hole cemetery in Bamburgh.

The project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund with support from Northumberland County Council.

Presenting the award, Phillip Hygate, Chair of the National Association for AONB said "Many congratulations to the Accessing Aidan team on their Bowland Award win. The project is an exemplar of community engagement, with local people coming together to shape and deliver the project."

To find out more about the Accessing Aidan Project visit <https://bamburghbones.org/>

St Bartholomew's Church Newbiggin Flower Festival



> 'The Queen's handbag' at St Bartholomew's Flower Festival

PICTURES: HAZEL KENNEDY

By Brian Bennett

The theme for this year's flower festival at St Bartholomew's Church, Newbiggin was The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Revd Anthony O'Grady, vicar of St Bartholomew's said: "It was for us, looking back, a huge honour to pay

tribute to 70 years of the faithful service of Queen Elizabeth II at this year's flower festival. It was a joy to see so many people from near and far come through the doors of the church and to enjoy the many displays that had been so carefully prepared by our wonderful arrangers."

Getting older children involved in church at Christmas



SCAN ME



By Susan White, Youth Adviser

We can often think of lots of ways to reach families with younger children over Christmas, with Messy Christmas events, Christmas trails and crib services. There's so much to choose from! But engaging with older children can take a bit more thought.

Here are some ideas you might like to try at your church to get older children involved.

Light parties are popular around Halloween, but why not have a Christmas 'light' party, with glow sticks, glow in the dark stars, disco lights (ask your families if they have anything they can donate). Hotdogs and pizzas go down well if you can serve them from your church or hall.

Create a sense of welcome and invitation for everyone. If you already have a youth group, share invites to the group. Get creative by attaching invites to glow sticks.

From your children, youth and families team



Some parishes have less opportunity to connect with young people, especially if there isn't a secondary school locally. This is where you can use visual invitations, advent windows or create a Mexican Christmas posada and share on social media. There are lots more ideas for virtual youth engagement at

Youthscape Luton.

If you are techie, you can use QR codes to link directly to apps and websites, videos, social media, pictures and even music. Create playlists or invitation videos to tell young people the message of Christmas. **A Church Near You** has lots of free resources for social media and promoting events.

If you are struggling for time to create your own content please feel free to display a poster with our QR code on, which will take children to a Christmas playlist on Spotify.

If you are making pathways to engage with your youth community, God will be working through you. Open up conversations and connections and sow seeds. It could start a new journey for your parish.

If you have a question or would like support, please get in touch with one of the team:
Tara: t.russell@newcastle.anglican.org
Rachel: r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org
Sue: s.white@newcastle.anglican.org

Meet Susan White, our new Youth Adviser



Hello! I'm Susan White, new to the children and youth team as Youth Adviser. It's wonderful to have joined the youth and children's team here in Newcastle Diocese.

I have worked for churches in various roles relating to young people, community work, voluntary and paid employment for around 20 years. Prior to this role, I was the youth and children's coordinator for Chester-le-Street Parish.

I made the move from my parish because I have a real sense of God's calling for me to this role. I hope over the coming months and years I can strengthen and support youth work across our diocese, working alongside parishes, people and communities in sharing the Gospel with young people. I want to champion you and what you are doing, as well as getting creative together

to see if there's more as a community of Christ that we can do together.

A bit about me! I have a son who is nearly 21 and is currently at university in Nottingham. My husband and I live in a little village with our springer spaniel and a couple of cats. We enjoy adventure days, getting out and about in the country or coast and more recently venturing out cold-water swimming or paddle-boarding. One of my absolute favourite places to visit is Cresswell on the Northumberland Coast.

If you want to get in touch to arrange for me to visit, you can email or call, I'd love to support you if you've got stacks of young people or none. I'm here to help.

Contact Susan on s.white@newcastle.anglican.org or telephone 0191 270 4112 or 07467563320.

St Hilda's Day



> St Hilda

On the 19th November the Church of England celebrates St Hilda's day.

According to Bede, Hilda was born in 614 into the Deiran royal household in Northern England. She was the second daughter of Hereric, nephew of Edwin, King of Deira, and his wife Breguswith. When Hilda was still an infant, her father was poisoned and Hilda was raised by King Edwin's court in Northumbria. In 627 King Edwin was baptised on Easter Day, 12 April, along with his entire court, which included the 13-year-old Hilda.

Bede resumes Hilda's story at the age of 33, when Hilda answered the call of Bishop Aidan of Lindisfarne and returned to Northumbria to live as a nun. She later became the abbess of Hartlepool and founded the monastery in Whitby in 657.

MONTHLY E-BULLETIN...

HAVE you signed up to our monthly Diocesan e-Bulletin? Delivered straight to your inbox on the last Friday of each month, the e-Bulletin features the latest news, information, upcoming events and resources for the Diocese as well as our monthly Prayer Diary.



You can sign-up at www.bit.ly/ebulletin-resub or via our Facebook page @ncldiocese

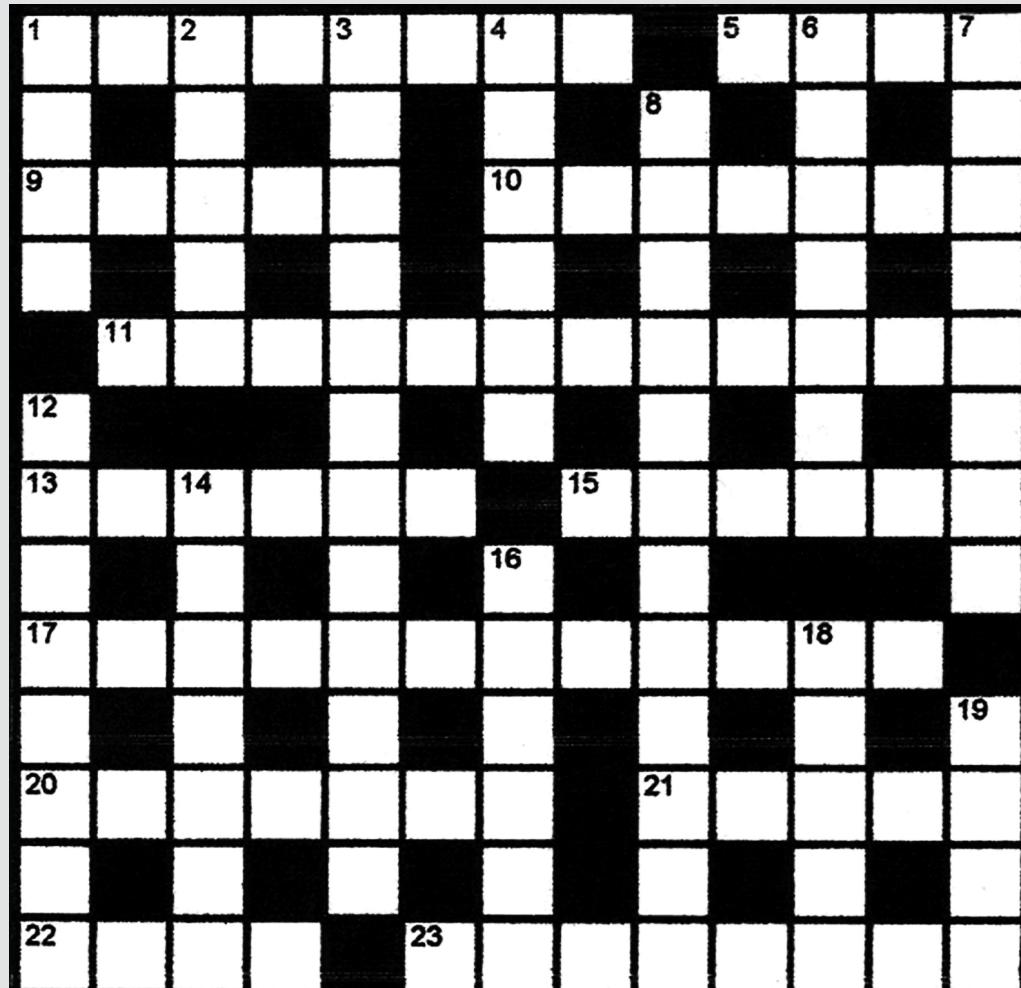
HAVE YOUR SAY

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](mailto:communications@newcastle.anglican.org)**

**Link CROSSWORD 187** Compiled by Mary Sutton

This month we are including the crossword for fun (sorry, no prize this month). Please do not submit crosswords to Church House.

**High Sheriffs visit Berwick-upon-Tweed**

> Sheriff weekend

There are fifteen Town Shrievalties throughout England and Wales, Berwick upon Tweed Sheriff being second in seniority only to York. It falls to Berwick to host the annual gathering of Sheriffs every fifteen years.

Canon Alan Hughes, former Sheriff of Berwick, helped organise the 2022 event. Bishop Mark presided and preached at the service in Berwick Parish Church concluding a successful weekend. The 130 delegates enjoyed boat trips on the Tweed, tours of the town walls and

Guildhall including the old cells, visits to Robson's honey farm in a red Routemaster double decker bus, before returning to their home towns singing the praises of Northumberland and England's most northerly town.

Northumberland's High Sheriff, Colonel James Royds also attended the annual swearing-in-ceremonies of High Court Judges in the name of King Charles. He attended ceremonies at Durham and Newcastle Cathedral and at York Minster.

ACROSS

1. A male, one with rope, being friendly (8)
5. Some finished item to prepare for publication (4)
9. Southern shopping precinct, not big (5)
10. Trespassing in small pub in Gateshead (7)
11. Argument involving tradesmen, eg, I replaced (12)
13. Trendy nurse, mean (6)
15. Broad road – a meeting place (6)
17. Art in his city possibly involves religion (12)
20. With chips, an unusual vegetable (7)
21. One male taking time to produce likeness (5)
22. North East man's requirement (4)
23. European pairs Dan confused (8)

DOWN

1. Some chap seeing part of church (4)
2. Middle Easterner – I question one about gunners (5)
3. Any stall said to be moved for November 1 (3,6,3)
4. Desire engineers showing brilliance (6)
6. Ambition – home cinema? (5-2)
7. Drunk got there at the same time (8)
8. Eccentric, never in it, not needing mediation (12)
12. Concerning a bishop's district once said to be reformed (8)
14. Word – it's associated with Eastern insect (7)
16. Senior member of the clergy – one seen in British store (6)
18. From Tahiti, a rare jewelled headdress (5)
19. Leader appearing in the advert (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 186**ACROSS:**

7. Sinner 8. Expect
9. Bell 10. Pressure
11. Disciple 13. Lent
15. Sect 16. Register
18. Motorist 20. Roll
21. Stride 22. Averse

DOWN:

21. Likewise 2. Anglo-Catholic 3. Prop up
4. Revere 5. Apostles' Creed 6. Scar 12. Lie
14. Needless 16. Raised
17. Gateau 19. Oath

Moving chaplaincy to the centre of Northumbria University



> Praying in Spiritual Commons

As the new academic year began, so did a new phase of chaplaincy at Northumbria University. The space in the University used by chaplains, faith groups, meditators and seekers moved from a rather out-of-the-way location to a much more central space close to the entrance of the library and looking out towards the Civic Centre.

This move will help chaplaincy to become much more visible in the University and help chaplains to 'bump into' more students and staff on an everyday basis - an essential part in forming and building relationships where spiritual growth

and development, as well as pastoral care are to become possible.

One of the first regular events in the new *Spiritual Commons* (a name that reflects how other spaces in the University are named) is a collaboration between Andii and the student ministry Agape International, where a daily midday prayer based on a Celtic inspiration has been established.

It is hoped the move will integrate chaplains more fully in terms of shared working space with staff in other areas of student support and to present chaplaincy as more a

regular part of caring for wellbeing.

Anglican Chaplain, Andii Bowsher, reflected; "This is the result of work over seven years to encourage the University to enable the kinds of pastoral and spiritual support that it desires.

"We expect that other faith groups will also use the Spiritual Commons rooms. It is very likely that Muslims will want to take a break for salah prayer without going far from their study space in the library, for example."

Noticeboard

30 October, 3pm, St Cuthbert's Norham, Andante Chamber Choir.

Sounds Joyful! A concert by local musicians - the a-cappella choir Andante, and the wind ensemble Northumberland and Borders Woodwinds. An eclectic mix of music for all tastes! Refreshments available! Entry by donation.

Sunday 6 November, 2pm, Hexham Abbey, Diocesan Lay Ministry Celebration Service

The Children and Youth team invite all Lay people to a special celebration service of thanksgiving. Lay ministry includes a wide variety of roles in our churches and communities and this year we will be reflecting on the youth and children's work across the diocese. Come along if you are involved in youth or children's teams, Sunday schools, outreach, open the book, schools work. Whatever your expression of Jesus is in your community we want to celebrate it and give thanks. All welcome. Refreshments will be available after the service. For more information contact s.white@newcastle.anglican.org.

Children and Youth Team Tour

7th November, 6-9pm Holy Nativity Church, Chapel House; Hillhead Parkway, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 1DR; 8th November, 6-9pm, Parish Hall St John Lee Acomb, Hexham, NE46 4PE; 9th November, 6-9pm, URC Church Alnwick, Pottergate, NE66 1JW.

The Children and Youth Team will be joined by Lucy Moore, Head of The Growing Faith Foundation, which seeks to promote a partnership between church, home and school to enable discovery, exploration and growth of faith for

all. Our aim is that you will leave the Regional Roadshow inspired, encouraged and hope-filled. There will be time for us to listen, to ask questions, to find out about new resources and to hear stories of work that is already happening around our diocese. Find out more by contacting s.white@newcastle.anglican.org

12 November, 5.30pm, Faith Under Fire - Talk and Q&A over cheese and wine, St Andrew's Church, Heddon-on-the-Wall.

We are delighted that Lt Gen Robin Brims, who will be known to many in the Diocese of Newcastle, will give a personal reflection of faith in modern warfare. This is a talk he gave in the summer at Durham University as this year's Vann Fellowship Lecture. Please confirm you place for catering by email r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org. No charge but donations welcome at the event.

20 November, 4.30pm, Hexham Abbey, White Ribbon Sunday.

Service to remember the victims of domestic abuse. Service at 4.30pm, reflective candlelit evensong at 6.30pm.

26 November, 7.30pm, Bach Choir, Newcastle Cathedral.

The Newcastle upon Tyne Bach Choir is proud to present its autumn concert, which will feature Tippett's A Child of Our Time and Beethoven's Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II. The choir will be joined by the Newcastle University Symphony Orchestra and by an impressive quartet of soloists, two of whom have local connections. Tickets are £5 - £25. [Book tickets here!](#)

LIKE A METAPHOR

Tim Hardy, formerly of the Religious Resources Centre, works from the home he shares with Ros, Anwen and Twinkle.



THE SONGS THAT WE LOVE SO DEAR

I like to work to the sound of music, and, as I type, I'm listening to Pink Floyd's 1975 album, "Wish You Were Here". It's two years older than I am, and to my ears, is still a fantastic album worth listening to, although if it were made today, it's likely it would sound very different.

Other music I have been listening to over the last couple of weeks include the new albums by Skid Row and Machine Head - bands I used to listen to a lot when I was less than half the age I am now. Both had faded from my awareness either after breaking up, or releasing one bad album - at a time when I couldn't afford to risk the price of a CD on something I'd maybe listen to once. Both albums had been recommended by people I follow on social media - surprising me with the knowledge that the bands were still/together (allowing for line-up changes). They reminded me of why I liked the bands in the first place, whilst also being different enough to the older material to have been worth buying instead of just digging out the old discs. Among other subjects, the songs talk about love, loss and trauma, and how life can be best lived.

Twenty two years isn't really enough time for most lyrical subjects to become outdated. We still hear songs about girls, boys, partying, the trials of growing up, politics, and responses to the state of the world - and looking at the lyrics, they might have been written at any point in the last couple of decades, even

if some of the details and imagery may have changed, and there's still likely to be something to relate to in most of them.

A gap of two or three thousand years is going to create a much more jarring gap, isn't it?

Except...

The Psalms and the Song of Solomon, talk about things we all experience. I don't mean being led by actual shepherds, good or otherwise, but we will all (hopefully) have experienced being loved, nurtured and guided by somebody with our best interests at heart. We probably haven't been caught up in deadly battles for control of a kingdom we were promised in our youth but we've all had conflict and hardship in our lives. Most of us have been in love. We might not be able to identify with the imagery - nobody these days has hair like a flock of goats (do they?) but the experiences alluded to are more or less universal.

Walter Brueggemann says (and I paraphrase) that there are psalms of when things are going well, of when things have gone horribly wrong, and of the process of getting sorted out, and the last will always involve choosing to worship God and usually returning to living Godly lives after previously having stopped doing so.

There's no denying that, like the exiles in Babylon, we live in a strange land. How can we best sing the Lord's song, and what kind of song should we be singing?

north east
Religious Resources
your religious learning resources centre

www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk

From the Codex Sinaiticus to the Lindisfarne Gospels: An exploration with the Revd Dr David Bryan

Tuesday 15 November. 6pm-7.15pm, Church House, Percy Main, NE29 6HS

The North East Regional Resources Centre has copies of two of the most treasured Bibles — Codex Sinaiticus from the 4th Century and The Lindisfarne Gospels from the 8th Century.

David Bryan, the Principal of Lindisfarne College of Theology, will share something of the back stories of these precious gems from our Christian Heritage. He will reflect on the journey of God's word from Sinai to Holy Island. He will also look more closely at some passages from St Mark to illustrate how the study of ancient manuscripts and Bibles can enrich our reading of the scriptures.

To book, please fill out [this form](#)

author of *Gypsies and Jesus: A Traveller Theology*, and the Durham Diocesan GTR Chaplain Revd Nicky Chater for an in-person event.

Inclusive church and celebrating diversity can mean many things to many people. What might it mean for those in Christian contexts who wish to support, welcome and minister with people from Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities? Welcoming and safe workshops will explore:

- The specific needs of participants in relation to their questions and queries about the historical, theological and ecclesial background to GTR communities
- The Theology of GTR communities and church engagement
- Traveller Friendly Churches
- Sanctuary Stopping Places
- What might the practical outcomes and actions be in the NE churches if they really do open up Gods house?

A simple soup and bread lunch will be provided.

To book, fill out [this form](#). Please note bookings close at 12pm the day before the event.

Copies of Steven's book are in the RRC or you can purchase it from all reputable retailers.

GYPSIES AND JESUS
A TRAVELLER THEOLOGY
STEVEN HORNE

Opening up God's House: Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Communities and the Church
Saturday 18th March 2023 9am-2.30pm, Cuthbert House, Durham, DH1 3RY

Join Dr Steven Horne,

Christmas: your gift could help a family thrive

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



CHRISTMAS is coming – and with it, all the festive traditions we cherish. Getting the tree up and filling it with twinkling lights. Wrapping up warm and going carolling. Chatting around the fire with friends.

And one of the most-loved is when we all sit down for that special, once-a-year meal. That's a tradition we share with families around the world. As one mum in Malawi, Fyness, says, 'We cook chicken and rice. After eating I feel very happy and satisfied. I wish I could be eating rice every day.'

But sadly, in Malawi, the climate crisis has left food crops shrivelled by drought and drowned by floods. Right now, many families are struggling even to have their staple food of maize porridge to eat.

By Christmas, many families will have little or no food left at all.

So please, this Christmas, could you help mums like Fyness to lift their families out of hunger?

Your Christmas gift could provide someone like Fyness with training that enables them to grow food for their families, in ways that are more resilient to the climate crisis.

Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer, Helen Cunningham, said "Advent is a time of hope as we prepare for Christmas. We know that churches get very busy with special concerts and services. This year, instead of doing something extra, could your congregation dedicate to Christian Aid the offering from just one of your usual Sunday services during Advent?"

It could help start more village savings and loan groups that support people to get through tough times, and find ways to earn a living that will help them stand stronger



► Tembo with village savings and loans group

against continued climate shocks in the future.

It could provide more sustainable technologies, like solar powered water pumps and fuel-efficient cookstoves, that are vital to making the future better and brighter.

Through your prayers, you can also send love and hope to the children around the world who will face a hungry Christmas, without enough food and energy to enjoy the fun.

And through your actions, you can choose a Charity Gift for some-

one you love and help families put hunger behind them.

So whatever Christmas traditions you cherish and look forward to, please reach out and share the greatest tradition of all – love. Without gifts of love, it wouldn't be Christmas.

■ If you would like to find out more or hold a collection or event in your church for Christian Aid this Advent and Christmas, visit caid.org.uk/christmas, email hello@christian-aid.org or telephone 01925 573769 for more details.

Berwick's Mini Police promise to serve their community



The new cohort of Berwick Mini Police pupils from Holy Trinity CoFE First School were installed in their 'Promise to Serve' Ceremony at Berwick Guildhall by The High Sheriff of Northumberland Colonel James Royds and The Mayor of Berwick, accompanied by his Civic Party, with prayers offered by Canon Alan Hughes Chaplain to The High Sheriff.

The Mini Police were established as a means of engaging with communities, especially in hard-to-reach areas to address policing priorities, increasing confidence and to reduce perceived barriers.

Going for Green

By Mark Nash-Williams, Bishops' Adviser for the Environment



ENERGY CRISIS

As the energy crisis deepens and prices rise, many of us are looking for ways in which our churches can help the most vulnerable in our communities to keep warm this winter. Caring for our communities, and helping them to become more resilient, is an important part of our mission, and will become ever more vital as the climate and environment emergency becomes more acute.

But rising energy bills are a challenge to our churches as well, so the Church of England Environment Programme has produced a very helpful checklist of quick and easy ways to save money and energy: you can [download it here](#) – do share it widely.

COP 27 – MAKE COP COUNT – RING OUT FOR CLIMATE

The next UN Climate Change Conference, COP27, is nearly upon us: from 6th – 18th November the world's leaders will gather in Egypt. COP27 will review progress on mitigation: avoiding and reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases. It will assess how far we have got on adaptation: changing behaviour, systems, and ways of life to protect communities, economies, and the environment from the effects of climate change. It will review how we are doing on the 2016 Paris Agreement to limit global heating to well below 2°C and ideally 1.5°C. The conference considers loss and damage, when effects of climate change go beyond what people can adapt to.

Communities living with the impacts of climate breakdown are calling for an international loss and damage fund for when extreme weather is expected and to deal with long-term impacts. By paying into such a fund, countries and polluters who have done the most to cause the crisis could help people recover and rebuild when disasters strike, and compensate them for what is permanently lost. Small island nations have called for this since 1991 and many more people and countries are raising their voices.

This is a fundamental part of climate justice, but the burden should not fall on the many in the UK and elsewhere who are struggling. Sources for a loss and damage fund could include, for

example, fossil fuel companies' profits (2021 profits of 25 of the biggest oil and gas companies were \$205 billion) and scrapping fossil fuel subsidies.

What can we do to help?

■ UK faith groups are calling for a climate-related loss and damage fund; and an end to all use of public money to subsidise fossil fuels. We can add our support to these calls at <https://makecopcount.org>.

■ Many churches across the country will be ringing their bells on Saturday 5th November at 5pm for 15-30 minutes, to warn of the Climate Crisis – and telling their local press, politicians and social media why they are doing it: could your church join in? Bishop Graham Usher says "I endorse a second nationwide 'Ring out for Climate!' on the eve of the COP27. The impact of climate change is being daily experienced, especially in the world's economically poorest and most vulnerable countries who are not the nations that have caused this emergency. We must work together to safeguard our wonderful single island planet home and care for all God's creation."

■ One of the most important things we can do, as ever, is pray. Our friends in Leeds Diocese are producing daily prayer points for COP27: sign up to receive them here <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/GuYQLOh/COP27>.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our diocese is making great strides in moving towards Carbon Net Zero by 2030. We'll be celebrating what has happened so far, updating our environment policy and looking forward to future developments, at Diocesan Synod on 26th November: don't miss it!

AND FINALLY, FOR ADVENT...

If you're looking for some inspirational reading for Advent, Sleepers Wake by Nicholas Holtam explores the reality of climate change and how Advent is an opportunity for us to wake up, sense the urgency and begin to make radical change. Described by the Archbishop of York as 'shot through with hope', he has chosen it as his Advent Book 2022. <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/sleepers-wake>