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*Her Late  
Majesty  
Queen  
Elizabeth II*

*Pages 2&3*

# Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

## Statement from Bishop Mark

"Words cannot express the impact that Her Majesty's death has had on our nation. Queen Elizabeth II served our nation with love and absolute dedication throughout her reign, and provided wisdom and stability at times of great change and challenge. Her leadership was greatly admired at home and across the world, and her faith was an inspiration to the Church and beyond. It is with deepest gratitude that I give thanks for her majesty's life and for her service to her people, and I pray for her family and for our nation at this time of deep sadness and grief."

Watch Bishop mark's tribute on [YouTube](#).



> Bishop Mark with faith leaders at the finish line of this year's Great North Run

## Bishop Mark joined other faith leaders to lead tributes to the Queen at the Great North Run

Although other events across the country were cancelled following the death of Her Majesty the Queen, the GNR went ahead in tribute to Her Majesty's life and service. A few minutes before the start of the main race, Bishop Mark delivered a poignant message on behalf of local faith leaders, a tribute to The Late Queen Elizabeth II from the starting line. After a prayer, a one minute's silence was kept before the crowds sang an emotional chorus of the national anthem, God Save The King.

### Bishop Mark's Great North Run message and prayers

"This morning, we meet together in a world that has changed profoundly in a matter of days. Rarely has one life touched so many of us and so deeply: defining who we are, inspiring who we might be and uniting us as a nation and a people. We stand together here today in testimony of that unity and our common purpose for the common good of all."

"Most of us have never known our nation, our world, or even our own lives without

the constant, consistent and gracious presence of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In so many ways, her life and faith fulfil the words of Scripture: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

"Today, we run this race as a tribute to Her Majesty's life and service, in that same spirit of love and dedication to those in need which has marked her long reign. Whoever you are, whatever your faith or background, let's run the race and keep the faith."



## Visits to the Diocese



> Queen and Prince Philip, Holy Island, 1958

One of her early visits to Northumberland was to Holy Island in June 1958. It must have been quite an occasion for Islanders to see the Royal Yacht Britannia anchored off shore and the young Queen and Prince Phillip coming ashore on the Royal Barge. It was Sunday, so the Royal couple attended St Mary's Church for morning prayers before a tour of the Castle and Priory.



Over her long reign, Queen Elizabeth visited many parts of Newcastle Diocese including Newcastle Cathedral in 1990, when she visited the City with The Duke of Edinburgh to distribute the Royal Maundy money. A commemorative stone was laid to mark the occasion.

In 1977, Queen Elizabeth arrived in Newcastle on The Royal Yacht Britannia for her Silver Jubilee Tour. She met children at Cramlington High School and officially opened Eldon Square.

Other visits to the Diocese included the official opening of the Tyne Tunnel in 1967, the opening of the new Metro line to Gateshead in 1981, the opening of Kielder Water in 1982, The Tall Ship's Race in 1986, and a visit to Alcan, Lynemouth and Newcastle Racecourse in 1993. In 2002, as part of the Golden Jubilee Tour, she rode the Tyne and Wear Metro and opened the Millennium Bridge. She returned to Newcastle in 2009, when she met people on a walkabout on Northumberland Street.



> The Queen and Prince Philip leaves the Royal Yacht Britannia at Newcastle Quay



In June 2011, The Queen visited Alnwick in what was a special and memorable day for the children of St Michael's Church of England Primary School. The children lined the walkway through The Alnwick Garden as the Queen and Prince Philip walked through. The Royal couple met and spoke to lots of people, while the children waved flags and took photos. The Queen then walked through the town and received flowers from children.

## A letter from Balmoral



BALMORAL CASTLE

To: The Pupils at Bishop's Primary School

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the splendid letters which you sent to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen was glad to hear from you and, although unable to reply to you personally, Her Majesty greatly appreciated the nice things you said.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in response but, as I am sure you will understand, The Queen has received a large volume of post in recent months and, as a result, it has not been possible to reply to you until now.

I am to thank you again for your messages of good wishes to Her Majesty in this, her Platinum Jubilee year.

*Annabel Whitewell*

Lady-in-Waiting

The children from Bishop's Church of England Primary School, Ashington wrote to the Queen to congratulate her on her Platinum Jubilee. Poignantly, they recently received a reply from the Queen's Lady in Waiting on Balmoral Castle letterhead dated 10 August, thanking them for their messages of good wishes. It's a letter they will keep and treasure!

## Prayer for the Queen

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Church of England

**Bishop's Diary****October**

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**

- 1st - 5th Visit to Botswana for 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Celebrations (Link Diocese)
- 6th Newcastle Legal Service at Newcastle Cathedral**
- 9th Sunday vacancy cover at St Mary the Virgin, Longframlington Relaunch Service at St Thomas', Newcastle
- 10th Visit to St Michael's CofE Primary School, Alnwick Guest Speaker at Norham Group Mothers Union meeting**
- 11th Official opening of Henderson Court, Berwick-upon-Tweed, a collaboration between YMCA North Tyneside, Northumberland Council and Safe as Houses
- 12th Meeting of the Bishop's Senior Staff Team**
- 13th Official opening of Vincent Edwards CofE Primary School, Embleton Licensing Service for the new Vicar of Gosforth, St Nicholas
- 15th Deanery Planning Launch at St Aiden's Church**
- 17th Meeting with Diocesan Secretary Commission Service at St John, Shotley
- 19th Meeting of the College of Canons at Newcastle Cathedral Quarterly Meeting of Trustees of Transforming Communities Together: Tyne to Tweed**
- 20th Meeting of Area Deans and Bishop's Senior Staff Meeting of Yorkshire and North East Bishops
- 31st Meeting of College of Bishops**

# Save the date!

## Rural Churches for Everyone Conference



Inspired North East

**Rural Churches for Everyone**

Since the beginning of the year Rural Churches for Everyone has been working closely with clergy, PCCs and volunteers across 35 churches in Northumberland. Over 60 people have contributed to the development of Sustainability Plans which will guide the four clusters of churches over the next five years. We have gathered a huge amount of evidence and experience, which will be valuable to other churches across the rural diocese and beyond.



Join us on 9 November to hear more about how the process developed by RCFE can be used to help your church building become more sustainable and put into practice the learning and experience gained from the project. More details will be announced soon, join the mailing list [here](#) to receive up to date information or email [p.carter@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:p.carter@newcastle.anglican.org) to register your interest in attending.

More information will be on our website: [www.newcastle.anglican.org/ruralchurchesforeveryone](http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/ruralchurchesforeveryone)

## Comings & Goings

**Appointments**

The Revd Canon Janet Parker is going to be part-time Priest in Charge of the parishes of Kirkwhelpington, Kirkharle, Kirkheaton and Cambo with effect from 15 August 2022.

The Revd John Swinhoe, currently Associate Priest in Seaton Hirst (Benefice), is going to be Pioneer Minister under the Bishop's Mission Order with effect from 15 September 2022.

The Revd Dr Miriam Jones, currently Assistant Curate in Newburn (Benefice), is going to be Assistant Curate to All Saints, Gosforth and St Hugh, Gosforth with effect from 18 September 2022.

The Revd Malcolm Railton, currently Assistant Curate

(HFD) at Tynemouth Priory, is going to be Seconded as Interim Minister to Shotley Benefice, with effect from 19 September 2022.

The Revd Paul Baker, currently Vicar of St Mark's with St Paul's Darlington, is going to be Vicar of St Nicholas, Gosforth with effect from 13 October 2022.

The Revd Nigel Taylor, currently Team Rector in the Parish of Kidderminster Ismere, Diocese of Worcester, is going to be Vicar of St Mary, Monkseaton with effect from 16 November 2022.

**Resignations**

The Revd Beverley Davies has resigned as Assistant Curate at All Saints, Gosforth with effect from 31 August 2022.

## Gospel Readings

**October**

<b>1st</b>	<b>Matthew 21.23-32</b>	<b>12th</b>	Luke 11.5-13	<b>23rd</b>	<b>Luke 12.13-21</b>
2nd	Luke 9.46-50	<b>13th</b>	<b>Luke 11.15-26</b>	24th	Luke 12.35-38
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Luke 9.51-56</b>	14th	Luke 11.27-28	<b>25th</b>	<b>Luke 12.39-48</b>
4th	Luke 9.57-end	<b>15th</b>	<b>Matthew 22.1-14</b>	26th	Luke 12.49-53
<b>5th</b>	<b>Luke 10.1-12</b>	16th	Luke 11.29-32	<b>27th</b>	<b>Luke 12.54-end</b>
6th	Luke 10.13-16	<b>17th</b>	<b>Luke 11.37-41</b>	28th	John 15.17-end
<b>7th</b>	<b>Luke 10.17-24</b>	18th	Luke 10.1-9	<b>29th</b>	<b>Matthew 22.34-end</b>
8th	Matthew 21.33-end	<b>19th</b>	<b>Luke 11.47-end</b>	30th	Luke 13.10-17
<b>9th</b>	<b>Luke 10.25-37</b>	20th	Luke 12.1-7	<b>31st</b>	<b>Luke 13.18-21</b>
10th	Luke 10.38-end	<b>21st</b>	<b>Luke 12.8-13</b>		
<b>11th</b>	<b>Luke 11.1-4</b>	22nd	Matthew 22.15-22		

## Vacancy for a Director of Music

Applications are invited for the post of Director of Music at the Church of Holy Trinity and St Mary, Berwick upon Tweed.

We are seeking a suitably experienced and qualified person as organist and choir master at Berwick Parish Church. Holy Trinity is the civic Church for the town and is committed to maintaining and developing excellence in the Anglican liturgical and musical tradition.

There is an active choir and the pipe organ was originally built by Hammond and Hammond in 1855

and underwent a major restoration in 2012. The Church is now privileged to possess one of the most up to date organs in the North East with a very fine tone and song.

Remuneration will be negotiable based on RSCM rates plus fees. Further details from:

**Revd Dennis Handley**  
**The Vicarage, The Parade,**  
**Berwick upon Tweed TD15 1DF**  
**Tel: 01289 306136**  
**Email: [revhandley@gmail.com](mailto:revhandley@gmail.com)**

## CONTACT US



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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. Please contact the editor before submitting obituaries.

For advertising rates and deadlines see [www.newcastle.anglican.org/link](http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/link)  
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# King Charles III

PHOTO: YUI MOK/PRESS ASSOCIATION



&gt; Bishop Mark Civic Centre

PHOTO: NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

On Saturday 10 September, King Charles III was proclaimed King and a number of local proclamation ceremonies followed around the North East. Bishop Mark attended the ceremony at Newcastle Civic Centre, which was led by Lord Mayor of Newcastle Cllr Karen Robinson.

## Prayer for the King

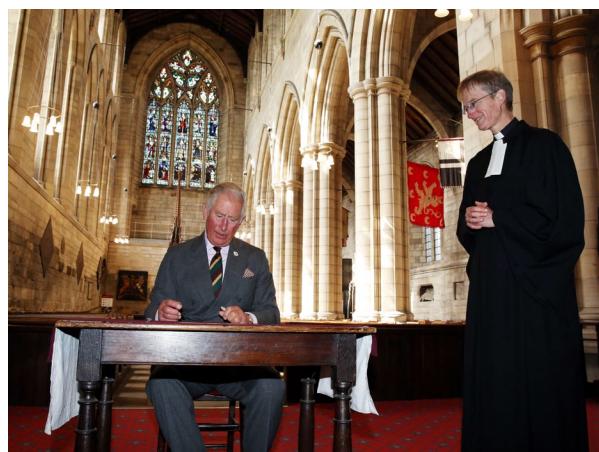
**Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.  
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.  
Help us to work together  
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness  
flourish among us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

## The King's visit to Hexham Abbey

The then Prince Charles visited Hexham Abbey in 2018 and was reportedly so impressed that he extended his itinerary to allow an additional half hour in Hexham, and enjoyed an impromptu visit to the Abbey's seventh century crypt. Former Rector of Hexham, Dagmar Winter, said at the time: "It was a very successful visit and he was really interested in the Abbey. The whole abbey clearly left a big impression on him, and he asked us to look after it!"

Abbey volunteer Margaret Wylie had a memorable day meeting the Prince and said: "I will never forget that day and the following visit to the garden party at Alnwick Garden."

The 2018 visit took the Prince to Kielder, Alnwick, Bamburgh, Holy Island and Lindisfarne Priory.



# The Dean of Newcastle announces his retirement



**T**HE Very Revd Geoff Miller, Dean of Newcastle, has announced that he will retire in November. The Dean recently oversaw a major refurbishment of the cathedral, still formally known as the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, which serves as the mother church of the Diocese of Newcastle. The redevelopment involved a programme of capital works beginning in February 2020, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Cathedral reopened in summer 2021 with a new interpretation scheme, improved disabled access, and a landscaped outdoor terrace. Since reopening, the building has hosted a wide range of Diocesan and civic events, with several significant services for the period of National Mourning.

Reflecting on his time, Geoff said: "It has been a joy to play a part in the continuing story of the Cathedral, helping to make this sacred place common ground."

"The vision we have created together has driven us to offer a radical welcome, inspiring worship and encounters that empower worth in each other. Even more important than the fabric of the building are the people; that is the incredible staff and volunteers, my talented clergy colleagues, and a vibrant congregation.

"We have benefited from a strong team, committed to a common vision."

The Acting Bishop of Newcastle and Bishop of Berwick, the Right Reverend Mark Wroe, paid tribute to Geoff: "Over the last four years, Geoff has served both Newcastle Cathedral and the people of the city and diocese with

passion and commitment as Dean of Newcastle, and before that the wider Diocese since 1999, including his role as Archdeacon of Northumberland from 2005.

"Through the 'Common Ground in Sacred Space' project, which secured multi-million-pound Heritage Lottery funding, Geoff has overseen the incredible transformation of our Cathedral into an inspirational place to visit and worship in the heart of Newcastle and a building that is fit for future generations. His consistent compassion for the most vulnerable in our society and his desire to work closely with other churches and faiths, and city institutions and businesses, has ensured the Cathedral plays a key role in city life."

"Geoff leaves a legacy that is inspiring. He retires with our deep gratitude for his friendship, wisdom and for all that he has given this Diocese. We keep him and his wife Elaine in our prayers and love as they prepare to enter this new stage of life."

The Dean's time has encompassed the Covid 19 lockdowns, during which the Cathedral was an early adopter of live-streamed services, reaching new and existing members of the congregation while the building remained closed to worship.

Born and bred in the council estate of Wythenshawe in Manchester, Geoff had a short career in teaching at secondary level in Leeds before he began training for ministry at Nottingham. He was ordained in 1983 and served his title in the Parish of Jarrow.

There followed parish responsibilities in Billingham, South Shields, Stockton-on-Tees

and Darlington before moving to Newcastle Cathedral as a Residentiary Canon and Diocesan Urban Officer in 1999.

In 2005 Geoff became Archdeacon of Northumberland, remaining attached to the Cathedral until becoming Acting Dean in 2018. He was installed as the Dean of Newcastle in the following year and in this capacity, has served the community in a wide variety of civic roles.

Geoff said: "Throughout the years, I have received so much undeserved support and genuine affection and hopefully played a small part in the extension of the Kingdom of God."

"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."

The Dean's last formal service at Newcastle Cathedral will be the 4pm Choral Evensong on Sunday 20 November with a farewell reception afterwards. The process of appointing a new Dean of Newcastle will likely begin in the New Year, with an Acting Dean to be appointed in the interim.

The Dean will host 'The Dean's Farewell Tours' on select dates in October and November. At these events, the Dean will accompany visitors around Newcastle Cathedral, pointing out some of his favourite features in a building he has come to know so well. Spaces are limited and tickets can be pre-booked via the Cathedral website: [www.newcastlecathedral.org.uk/tours-talks-and-exhibitions](http://www.newcastlecathedral.org.uk/tours-talks-and-exhibitions)



## Bishop's Letter

With Bishop Mark Wroe

In the last few weeks we have seen extraordinary and touching scenes as our nation, and the world, begins to come to terms with the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. For many of us it has been one more seismic change in a world that shows no sign of letting us get used to anything we might call 'back to normal'!

In what has turned out to be the longest period of service, through decades of extraordinary change and turbulence in society and the world, Elizabeth our Queen strengthened, inspired and united us by her love for her people and by her faith and trust in God.

I believe that 'God save the Queen' has been a prayer that God has faithfully answered graciously, nobly, victoriously, happily and gloriously for 70 years. When I spoke at the Cathedral's Commemoration Service for Her Late Majesty, I quoted one commentator who noted: 'there can be few greater indications of God's mercy and grace to our nation... than to have given us a Queen who loved us so faithfully and pointed us to him so clearly.'

A new Prime Minister and a new Monarch in the space of two days is a rate of change that risks taking our breath away. And we know that with all the economic and environmental challenges we face, change and turmoil will only continue. While it feels like one absolute constant has been stripped away from us, our Queen's vocation was to point us, again and again, to what endures, and moreover, to who endures: her King and Lord, Jesus Christ.

As we pray for our new King and for our nation, and as we brace for more change and challenge, let's remember our true constant, our rock, our firm foundation: Jesus Christ our Cornerstone.

+ Mark



> King Charles III and members of the royal family follow behind the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II

# A visit from Botswana



> Bishop Metlha's visit to Holy Trinity Jesmond

**B**ISHOP Metlha, from our Link diocese of Botswana visited the UK for the Lambeth Conference and spent a few days in Newcastle Diocese with Bishop Mark and Father Allan Marks, Chair of the Botswana Link Task Group.

He visited Holy Trinity Jesmond's Centenary Exhibition and experienced their summer holiday events taking place including a sports day and a pop-up café. He also visited a variety of different churches including St James, Benwell, meeting Fr Chris Minchin, who will be travelling to Botswana with Bishop Mark and Fr Allan later in September for the Diocese of Botswana's 50th anniversary. The following day Bishop Metlha and his wife Thapelo went rural, spending some time with Revd Sarah Lunn, visiting three of her many churches, Saint Giles, Chollerton, Saint Christopher, Gunnerton, and Saint Oswald, Heavenfield.

Bishop Mark hosted a dinner for Bishop Metlha and Thapelo, with members of the Botswana Task Group, the Dean and The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne. Earlier that day, Thapelo enjoyed an essential visit to Newcastle to do some shopping, before preparing for their long journey home to Botswana.

## Adopt North East

**"As Christian adopters, we wanted to provide unconditional parental love"**

Adopt North East is a Regional Adoption Agency, responsible for family-finding for children in this area who cannot be raised in their first family.

Children are waiting today for a loving, forever family. Children of all ages, needs and backgrounds, and brothers and sisters who want to live together.

Adopt North East was formed in 2018 to provide adoption services on behalf of Newcastle, South Tyneside, Northumberland, North Tyneside and Gateshead Councils. Since then, it has found hundreds of forever families for children and supported over a thousand adoptive families.

A couple who adopted recently have shared their thoughts on how their Christian faith has supported and guided them on their adoption journey: "We found the Adopt North East process from introduction meetings through to matching panel considered and positive to our faith. We confidently made our trust in Jesus known at our first meeting with Adopt North East and this was welcomed and not made an obstacle.

"During the assessment process we discussed our faith at length with our allocated social worker and although we were challenged by some questions, on reflection we found this really helpful and

these discussions gave us clarity and focus on what we as Christian adopters wanted to provide – unconditional parental love, no matter what, as our adoptive Father provides us.

"We had a positive experience with Adopt North East through training, assessment and matching and would recommend to other Christians considering the adoption process."

Regardless of whether you live in the North East or not, whether you are working or not, own or rent your home, are single, married or in a partnership, Adopt North East would love to hear from you. All applications are welcome, regardless of gender identity, sex,

disability, race, religion or sexual orientation.

There is a wealth of information on the Adopt North East website and also regular online, informal, open evenings. These are warm, honest presentations about adoption where you can meet some of the friendly team and hear direct from adopters about their experience. You can also be put in touch with someone who has been through the process to speak to, if you would find that helpful.

Please reserve your place via the online booking form on the Adopt North East website, or call or email for more details at any time.



# St Mary's Bee and Bug Hotel, Longframlington



> St Mary's Bee and Bug Hotel, Longframlington

**By Teresa Scott, Longframlington Baby and Toddler Group**

**O**n 31 August, Longframlington Baby and Toddler Group carried out a bug hotel build within the church grounds, providing a fantastic sensory experience and opportunity to learn about nature.

My partner and I worked together to design and construct the frame, made from off-cuts of good quality wood, which were destined for the skip. The bee section needed to be between 1.5 and 2m from the ground, in a sheltered, sunny spot with a south or south-west facing. The position of the hotel would be visible from both sides, providing greater access for the bugs but also a larger viewing area. It needed to be fairly quick and easy to fill, to help retain the attention of young children.

The hotel is split into seven sections and painted with the colours of the rainbow. The colours help attract and direct children's attention but also help show what bugs might be found where.

The central green box was inspired by a rogue caterpillar who got into my home and changed into a chrysalis in one of the ridges of my down-stairs toilet door. The wood fixed into this section has ridges cut into it so hopefully caterpillars will find it a safe place to become chrysalis. It may also appeal to lacewings.

The yellow box is designed to attract the attention of the docile, solitary masonry bee, while the dead leaves and twigs of the red box should attract beetles and spiders. The dead heads of the sunflowers, which the toddler group planted at Easter contributed to the filling of the pink box and earwigs were spotted while filling this section. The lower

blue and orange boxes contain the heavier rocks and rotting logs respectively, primarily for weight distribution and stability. However, being lower in the hotel will help contribute to the cooler, damper micro-habitats these materials will create.

On the official day of the build, local children and adults worked together to fill the frame and community members joined us to chat about what we were doing, and it was all very well received.

It was a delight to hear such enthusiastic little voices and observe their reactions, especially when we had bugs trying to move in before we'd even finished.

The name and age of each child who took part was written into the frame in permanent marker, a fitting reminder of their contribution to this church led community conservation project.

## Holiday fun at Holy Saviour Sugley

Holiday clubs took place in churches across our Diocese this summer, helping parents give their children a happy and healthy summer holiday.

Jacqueline Atkinson, Children and Families Missioner at Holy Saviour Sugley, Lemington partnered with Children North East as part of their Holiday Activity Fund Project. She said "We had an amazing time, being creative, being chefs, being mindful... being blessed!"



## Making Memories



**By John Stephenson, Youth Work Advisor, The United Reformed Church**

**In all work with children, young people and families, relationships are the heartbeat of effective discipleship. Together we seek to experience the reality of God in ways that help us all to make memories that strengthen our faith and trust in Him.**

reNEW NE ([www.renewne.org.uk](http://www.renewne.org.uk)) is a small charity focused on supporting mission with children, young people and families in the North East. It works closely with youth and children's workers and churches to support their regular work. This summer reNEW were able again to organise residential holidays, often referred to as camps!

Three events took place at a venue between North Berwick and Dunbar for 8-12 years, 12-18 years, and a new family camp over Bank Holiday weekend. In total we

had over 100 participants run by 30 volunteers. The sandy beach is 50 metres away and there is an onsite aerial runway and assault course. The programme included creative Bible teaching, small groups, big games, archery and climbing. Each camp had a day out – East Links Family Park (8-12s), a treasure hunt around Edinburgh (12-18s) and a day at Edinburgh Zoo for families.

In the temporary Christian community all experience the reality of God's love, not just in the formal teaching but through everyday life – the meals we eat, the conversations we have, the way we relate to one another - all show God's care for everyone.

The next opportunity for Year 9 and above is Breakthrough, taking place over New Year at Wydale Hall near Scarborough.

For more details contact John and Lena Stephenson on 07462658857.



# Wonderful things come from prayer and partnership



> Revd Mooney, centre back, and Bike4Health

**By Revd Julie Mooney, Vicar and Minister of Church of the Good Shepherd, LEP, Battle Hill**

OVER the last year or so I've had the privilege of working with North Tyneside Council in respect of their Bereavement and Loss Support Programme. As a result, we ran two Death Cafés from our church building and those who attended found them extremely helpful and a positive way to talk about both life and death. A number of prayer requests came from these events. I'd be happy to talk to anyone who would like to organise their own Death Café.

A further tranche of the programme was the planning and development of the Reflection and Contemplation Areas along the North Tyneside Wagonway. I was invited to attend the opening of the Central Compass at Silverlink Biodiversity Park on 23 March, which commemorated the second anniversary of the Covid lockdown.

I was thrilled when my suggestion of including a Prayer Box was accepted and the first Prayer Box has been installed at Wallsend. What an honour it was to say a prayer and officially launch this Prayer Box at Wallsend Memorial Hall grounds on 11 July. The opening events had

a tremendous feeling of partnership and community, all held by prayer. They involved local school children, residents and organisations and it's great that, locally, the wider Church is involved too, with input from Fr John Vilaseca (St Paul's, Whitley Bay) and Revd Sarah Moon (St John's, Killingworth).

There are five areas of reflection and contemplation in North Tyneside designed as places where people can visit to remember loved ones they tragically lost during the pandemic, as well as offering a space to reflect on the impact that the pandemic has had on us all. These commu-

nity spaces also help us to remember the ways in which people and our communities came together to support one another. The five compasses are connected by the wagonways, helping to encourage healthy walks in North Tyneside as we reflect and pray.

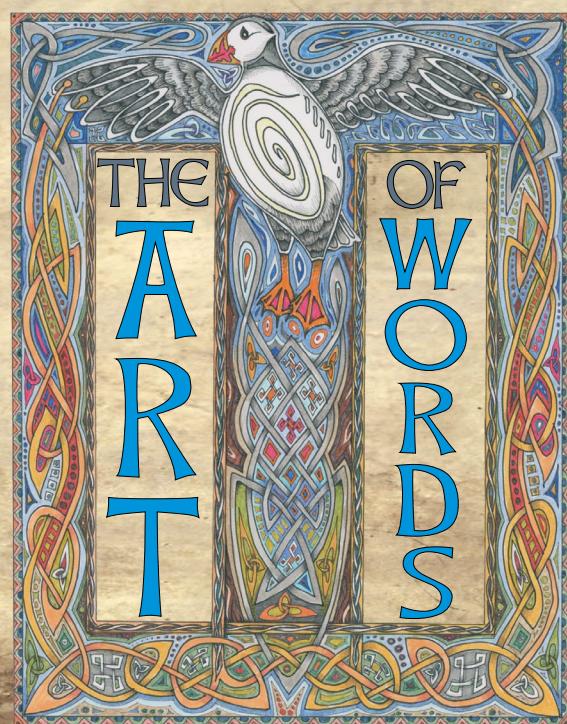
You can see the highlights from 11th July online here: [Areas of Reflection - YouTube](#)

■ More information is available on North Tyneside Council's website: [Areas of reflection and contemplation | North Tyneside Council](#)



> The thought, memory and prayer box

WITH THANKS TO NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL FOR THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS



AN EXCITING PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR AUTUMN 2022 CELEBRATING THE CREATION OF THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS

PRESENTED BY The Parish Church of St MARY THE VIRGIN Holy Island

WWW.STMARYSHOLYISLAND.ORG

AUGUST
Sunday 28th 2pm Choral concert by Weighton Waytes Choir .
SEPTEMBER
Friday 9th 7.30pm Path to Heaven - A choral concert celebrating the saints, including John Tavener's Ikon Of St. Cuthbert Of Lindisfarne with St Martin's Voices and HeartEdge Manchester Choral Scholars. Conducted by Andrew Earis.
Sunday 11th 10.45am Festival Opening Sung Eucharist with St Martin's Voices.
Monday 19th (throughout the day) Illumination - Sound and Light by The Projection Studio.
Saturday 24th 7.30pm Concert by Folk Songwriter Alana Levandoski with guest poet, theologian & songwriter Malcolm Guite.
Friday 30th 7.30pm Concert by Paul Edis and the Ushaw Ensemble. (Church closed during the day for Schools Workshop)
OCTOBER
Thursday 6th 7.30pm Talk by Professor Michelle Brown, a leading expert on the Lindisfarne Gospels.
Saturday 15th 11.30am and 2pm Concerts by Sing United Choir.
Saturday 22nd 7.30pm 'Music through the Ages' - Organ Recital by Nigel Lockwood.
NOVEMBER
Saturday 12th 11.30am Talk by Ian Kerr - 'Birds of the Lindisfarne Gospels'.
Sunday 27th November 10.45am Deanery Festival Eucharist with the Bishop of Berwick and procession to Lindisfarne Priory.

## Rest and reflection at Falstone Border Shepherd's Show



> Retired Rector Revd Dr Susan Ramsaran, new Rector Revd Dr Claire Maxim and Rural Dean Revd Canon Sarah Lunn

**By Mrs Jill Swaine, Church Warden and PCC Secretary, St Peter's Falstone.**

St Peter's Church, Falstone had a Rest and Reflection Space at the Falstone Border Shepherd's Show on 20 August. Our tent offered folk a place to rest, reflect and have a cool drink, sitting in the shade out of the hot sun we have been experiencing lately.

However, the folk came to the space to rest, reflect and shelter from the torrential rain that occurred that day! I think the rain was probably similar to the rain Noah experienced when he built his ark!

Despite the inclement weather, everyone enjoyed the day sitting on the bales of hay, making God's Eyes out of sticks and yarn, and chatting to locals and tourists who stopped by.

**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)**

**Noticeboard**

**Saturday 8 October, 10am – 4pm and Sunday 9 October, 12pm – 4pm. St Gabriel's, Heaton (NE6 5QN). Arts & Crafts Fair.**  
Local artists, demonstrations, refreshments, stalls, music and more! Free entry. For more information contact the Parish office at [stgabriel.heaton@gmail.com](mailto:stgabriel.heaton@gmail.com)



**Saturday 8 October, 7.30pm, St Mary the Virgin, Ovingham, NE42 6BW.**  
Beautiful and relaxing music from local musician Nathanael Lewis (and possibly surprise guests) to raise funds for victims of Pakistan's floods, especially Christians who are often discriminated against in aid. Cost £5 for children 12 and over, younger children free. Tickets at the door, first come, first served. Further opportunities to know more and get involved in supporting the work. Donations

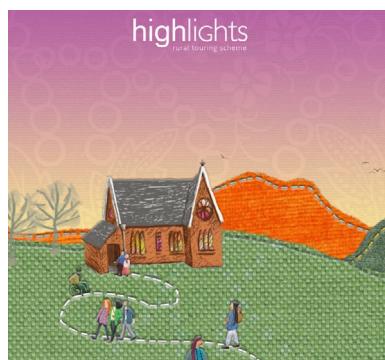
can be made at [https://www.  
help4chhip.com/](https://www.help4chhip.com/)

**Sunday, 9 October, 4pm, St Thomas' Newcastle Relaunch Service.**

St Thomas' invite everyone to their relaunch service to commemorate the mark of their extensive building works. The service will be a celebration of all God has done at St Thomas' in the past and an exciting look ahead to what we're praying He may do in the future. Everyone is welcome and there will be food and refreshments outside the church before the service begins. If you can't make it, the service will be livestreamed on Facebook <http://facebook.com/stthomasncl> and YouTube <http://youtube.com/stthomasnewcastle>

**16 October, 7pm, St Cuthbert's Norham, The Rheingans Sisters.** Previous winners of the BBC Radio 2 Folk Award, these sisters visit Norham for the first time! NOMINEES: 2019 BBC RADIO 2 FOLK AWARD 'BEST BAND/DUO'; Winners: 2016 BBC Radio 2 Folk Award 'Best Original Track'; Nominees: 2016 BBC Radio 2 Folk Award 'Horizon' (Best New Act).

More information at <https://highlightsnorth.co.uk/>



**20 October, 5.30pm, Church Action on Poverty AGM, Gateshead. Cost of Living crisis – is compassion enough?**

Join them at their AGM in search of answers. Voices of Experience from Gateshead Poverty Truth Commission and North of Tyne Poverty Truth Commission. Keynote Speaker Anna Rowlands, Author of Towards a Politics of Communion and Catholic Social Teaching in Dark Times. At St Joseph's Centre, High West St, Gateshead NE8 1LX, opposite Gateshead Metro Interchange. Book by emailing [capnortheast@gmail.com](mailto:capnortheast@gmail.com).

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

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

**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](mailto: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.

**ACROSS**

7. Wrongdoer identifying small pub with hesitation (6)
8. Anticipate Conservative interrupting former partner with domestic animal (6)
9. Ringing instrument beautiful woman heard (4)
10. Journalists initially unhappy about force (8)
11. Follower of idle PC is confused (8)
13. Some topical entertainment for the time before Easter (4)
15. Religious group in South East court (4)
16. Man with hesitation accepting first official list (8)
18. Driver disturbing trio most (8)
20. Part for actor, say, with bun (4)
21. Saint seen before journey taking long step (6)
22. Disinclined to use a poem (6)

**DOWN**

1. Enjoy getting sage in the same way (8)
2. High Church member in coach got all flustered (5-8)
3. Support from professional with young dog (4,2)
4. Member of the clergy, Eastern, on about worship (6)
5. Scot leads peer astray with this statement of beliefs (8,5)
6. Mark's second vehicle (4)
12. One taken in by the French falsehood (3)
14. Sewing instruments small and unnecessary (8)
16. Novel is read when brought up (6)
17. Some pig ate Austrian cake (6)
19. Promise to provide cereal, hot (4)

**ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 185****ACROSS:**

1. Churchwarden 8. Sudan
9. Pumpkin 10. Ear
11. Retention 13. Creed
14. Agent 16. Gatecrash
17. Tip 19. Elation
21. Licit 22. Economically

**DOWN:**

1. Caste 2. Underwent
3. Contradiction 4. Wapiti
5. Roman Catholic
6. Elk 7. Unknot
12. Identical 13. Cygnet
15. Magnum 18. Petty
20. Arc

# A visit from Møre

By Grethe Lystad Johnsen,  
Cathrine Grutle, Sigurd Andreas  
Widvey Haugen and Bjørg Marie  
Myhre

**O**N Thursday 14th July, four travellers from Norway were picked up at Edinburgh airport. Not regular tourists, but vicars from Møre diocese, Newcastle's friendship diocese in Norway. Since the year 2000 our two dioceses have visited each other many times, to learn from each other, to support one another, and to help each other to see that we are parts of something larger than our selves.

While writing this article, the news about the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II reached us, and we want to share our compassion in your grief over your Queen.

Building friendship between people is always an important part of these visits and we were deeply moved by how we were welcomed. Shared meals, prayers and important discussions makes our relationship stronger.

One of our highlights was a meeting about pilgrimage. In Norway, the pilgrim routes are getting more focus and have been upgraded in recent years. A few years ago, the coast pilgrim route through our diocese was opened. Still, we struggle with the connection between an ecclesiastical pilgrimage walk and a more secular walk, so to hear from the group working with St Cuthbert's Way was inspiring.

Our visit included a trip to Holy Island. To walk on this island was a special experience. Its history is remarkable and it was interesting



> The group at Newcastle Cathedral and Holy Island

to see how the church lives alongside tourism, challenging people who walk through its doors to reflect.

We visited Newcastle Cathedral to talk about and see the extensive volunteer work, for a Tower tour, and for a Sunday service. This year, volunteer work has been given extra focus in Norway and ways of recruiting, managing and inspiring our volunteers are important topics.

We would like to thank you for your hospitality, and we look forward to seeing you again.



## Norwegian Inspiration



> Selje

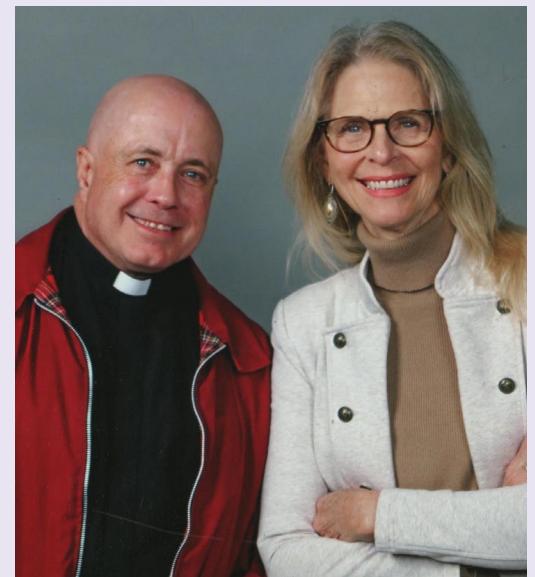
By Revd Ray Simpson, Founding Guardian, The International Community of Aidan and Hilda

A speaking tour of Norway in July included giving two talks at churches on the pilgrim route from Oslo to Trondheim in our link diocese of Møre and at Alesund.

I discussed the evolving nature of retreats with friends at Lia Guard and Sandon retreat houses and spoke at a series of pilgrim events celebrating the arrival of Irish Princess Saint Sunniva, who sailed (perhaps from Shetland) to Norway's Selja Island in the 10th century, and died with her sisters entombed in rocks rather than allow themselves to be raped by Vikings. Centuries before the top-down conversion to state Christianity under King Olaf, the sweet scent from the bones of these Celtic martyrs attracted many to the way of Jesus.

The Commune Selje organised a two-day pilgrim conference where I spoke about Celtic Christianity and re-weaving the

## Mark Edwards meets the Bionic Woman!



> Mark Edwards and Lindsay Wagner

This summer, Vicar Mark Edwards finally got to meet his teen crush, actress Lindsay Wagner at Comic Fest, Manchester. Mark's wife Lesley surprised him with the meet and greet, knowing how much the iconic Bionic Woman had meant to her husband while he was growing up in care. Mark talks about the positive influence the character had on him throughout his teen years in his autobiography 'Life After Care'. He was compelled to share his emotional story with the actress and at the end of their meeting blessed his teen idol.

Mark had dreamed of meeting Wagner and said "Now that dream, thanks to my wonderful understanding wife Lesley, has come true. It has been on my vision board bucket list for as long as I can remember."

separated God-given strands of Christianity, and gave a homily on Christ's gentle mother's milk associated with Aidan of Lindisfarne and Sunniva, and the role of holy islands in the future of Christianity. In the afternoon five people in CAH vows (those who take vows to follow the new monastic Way of Life of The Community of Aidan and Hilda) joined a boatload on the island, and a video was made of me praying aloud in the candlelit cave, which people call the womb of Norway's church.

I was the guest speaker at a prayer and prophecy conference organised by Youth With A Mission and prayer networks on Celtic Christianity – the way forward for today's Norway. They asked me to speak about Celtic Ways of Praying. The USA prophetic film maker Carl Wesley Anderson of Born to Blaze Ministries, who was filming with Brother Cassian on Holy Island the following week, was there and asked me to join in a day's filming on Celtic angel experiences.

## FOR THE LOVE OF COLOUR

I was sitting in the coffee bar in a motorway service station overlooking the motorway just idly watching the traffic stream past. Suddenly, there was a splash of bright green. It reminded me of catching a glimpse of a kingfisher – a real treat. The streaming traffic continued – greys, silvers, blues, dull greens and reds. Then came another blast of bright green. I started looking out for bright greens, searching for the next dash of colour in an otherwise dull drive-past.

Isn't it wonderful how a colour can shift and lift our mood? Conversely, have you noticed that we can shift and lift our mood by choosing to wear a colour that we love?

I often notice the colours people wear and how the colours they choose change as their mood changes. I have seen people dressed exclusively in greys and blacks, deep blues and greens slowly, over time, start to include small splashes of colour. At the same time their facial expressions change from still to mobile and they smile more readily. Their posture unfreezes and they start to move with ease. Their voice changes from slow and monotone to buoyant and rhythmic.

I look out for the introduction of colour in what they choose to wear; to me it represents a Spring-like change in their sense of self. And that colour, like the bright green cars in an otherwise dull palette, gives me hope on their behalf; hope that change is happening.

## Wellbeing

by **Patty Everitt**,  
Counselling Lead  
for the Newcastle  
Diocese Clergy  
Counselling  
Service



As I watched the procession through London of the coffin of our late Queen, I felt lifted by the rich and vibrant colours: the red and blue and gold of the Royal Standard, the reds and blues of military uniforms and the vestments of the clergy. I felt gratitude and hope contrasting with the black of grief and mourning.

And now we slide from summer into the season of "mellow fruitfulness". The bright colours of summer flowers merge into the palette of autumn fruits. The reds of rosehips and hawthorn berries, the deep and succulent purples of blackberries and elderberries, the fuzzy pinks of late raspberries, the pale, brittle yellow of grasses and their delicate seed heads. The trees display their glorious reds, delicious burnt-butter yellows and shining golds, their burnt-orange and caramel browns as they shed their solar panel leaves, switch out their light and prepare to sleep, renew and refresh.

If you were to add a splash of colour into your ensemble tomorrow, what would it be and what would you hope that said about your mood?

# Can your church offer its community a warm space this winter?



A Warm Welcome Space is working to support organisations to open their doors and provide a warm welcome to those struggling to heat their homes this winter.

The Warm Welcome Campaign is a community response to the crisis to equip and support free, warm, and welcoming spaces and is working with churches and other faith groups, civil society

organisations, businesses and local authorities.

You can pledge your support on A Warm Welcome's website [Warm Welcome Campaign - the community response to the cost of living crisis](#) and they will get in touch to support you in helping your community. Over 1,000 churches have already registered their interest.

## Latest Zoom events with the RRC



**RaiseUPfaith Resources** – Tuesday 18 October, 4:45pm-6pm

All the children and youth ministry content you'll ever need is here! Come and see it in action!

RaiseUPfaith.com is a brand-new digital platform bursting with hundreds of broadcast-quality media-enabled lessons, all designed to help all those working in children and youth ministry to disciple faith in the children and young people around them.

**This one-hour demo will involve:**

- A brief introduction from the RaiseUPfaith.com team who will

explain the journey that took them from creating award-winning Children's TV shows for the BBC to creating a pioneering new digital platform for churches.

■ RaiseUPfaith.com will explain their solutions to solving some key challenges that face children's and youth ministry leaders throughout the world:

- How to Re-build Volunteer Teams
- How the church can become part of the 'digital diet' of the next generation
- How to reduce preparation time for leaders to give more time to build relationships with young people.
- A walkthrough of RaiseUPfaith.com
- Get to know the 13 different curriculums on the platform
- Learn how the resources can be used both on and offline
- Learn how to build your own content
- Explore how to use RaiseUPfaith.com to create a 12-36-month plan for every ministry moment!



**Religious Resources** north east  
your religious learning resources centre

this huge task?

- What were your three greatest challenges when translating the texts?
- What would you want people to bear in mind when they read (any) translation of scripture?
- Did you learn anything surprising about yourself or the Bible when you had completed the project?

Sarah Ruden is a leading translator of the ancient literature of the West. In a career spanning both essential Greek and Roman Classics and sacred literature, she has set new standards for accuracy, stylistic integrity and accessibility. Her work, including cultural and human rights journalism, is deeply concerned with questions of power and truth, in accordance with her Quaker faith. She has won Guggenheim, Whiting and Silvers grants, and numerous other awards. You can find out more about her books at: [www.sarahruden.com/](http://www.sarahruden.com/)

To book, visit: [www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/events-and-training/](http://resourcescentreonline.co.uk/events-and-training/)

This session will be very useful for youth and children's workers/leaders/volunteers, Sunday School leaders and anyone working to introduce, explore and build faith for this generation.

**The Art of Biblical Translation. A Conversation@theRRC with Sarah Ruden, Wednesday 19**

October, 6pm-7.30pm.

Join Sarah Ruden who will be discussing her new book *The Gospels: a new translation with Karenza Passmore* and answering questions including:

- There are so many translations of the Bible, what led you to take on

# Will Aid 2022

Will Aid month 2022 is coming!  
Book your Will Aid appointment  
now and find a participating  
solicitor near you...



**Kathy Childress,  
Legacy Training Specialist**

WILL Aid is a special partnership between the legal profession and nine of the UK's best-loved charities, including Christian Aid. Every November, participating solicitors volunteer their time and waive their fee for writing a basic Will. Waiving their standard fee, they invite clients to make a voluntary donation to Will Aid – we suggest £100 for a single basic Will and £180 for a pair of basic 'mirror' Wills. Donations raised during Will Aid support the vital work of Christian Aid and the Will Aid charities. Over £655,000 was raised in the 2020 campaign, and this year Will Aid is aiming to raise even more!



Having an up to date and professionally written Will is often a great weight off people's minds. If, like so many people, you know you need to write or revise your will but have been putting it off, Will Aid 2022 is the perfect opportunity to put that right.

Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer (North East & Cumbria), Helen Cunningham, said, "The support of the Will Aid solicitors in the North East is greatly appreciated by Christian Aid. Will Aid is very important to Christian Aid as, not only do we receive a significant amount in donations, but the campaign also provides an opportunity for people to leave a charitable legacy."

When writing a Will, through Will Aid, many of our supporters make the special decision to leave a gift in their Will to their Church, Christian Aid, or another charity. After taking care of your fami-

ly and friends, you could let your love live on through a gift in your Will to Christian Aid and help create a fairer world for generations to come.



For more information about Will Aid 2022, and to find out which solicitors near you are participating, please go to [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk). Once you have chosen your solicitor, simply call or email them directly to make an appointment. The Will Aid appointments usually take place in November, but it's a good idea to book your will writing appointment well in advance as demand is very high.

