



INSIDE YOUR JUNE 2021 LINK:

- Page 2 Living in Love and Faith
- Page 4 Bishops' pilgrimage
- Page 5 Meet our ordinands!
- Page 6 Lighthouse Project
- Page 7 Stolen Crucifix returned to church
- Page 9 Newcastle Generosity Week

Bishop Andrew Alexander Kenny Graham, RIP 1929-2021

THE Diocese was very sad to hear of the death of Bishop Alec Graham, who served as the Bishop of Newcastle for 16 years.

Bishop Alec died at his home in Butterwick, supported by the excellent care of those who have provided him with 24-hour nursing care over the last few years, on Sunday 9 May 2021.

Having previously been Suffragan Bishop of Bedford, Bishop Alec was appointed Diocesan Bishop in 1981 and served the Diocese until his retirement in 1997. He was passionate about the education of young people and also served as Chair of the Doctrine Commission.

He was much loved by many throughout his time in Newcastle. He had a deep love of the Northumberland countryside and was often seen hill walking in the Cheviots accompanied by Zillah, his golden Labrador.

In the next edition of Link, Bishop

op Alec's full obituary will be published, however in the meantime, we are happy to share some tributes and fond recollections from some of those who knew Bishop Alec during his time in our Diocese.

The Very Revd Michael Sadgrove:

In 1982, the Diocese of Newcastle celebrated its centenary. Alec Graham was its newly arrived bishop. That same year I arrived from the south as vicar of Alnwick. If anyone taught me to love the North East, it was he.

He cherished the landscapes of England's far north. Sometimes he would phone with a summons to walk the fells with him (next day!), so you knew you were up for some bracing theological conversation. Once, on the way up Skiddaw with his beloved Leah, we got talking about whether we would see our pets again in heaven. The discussion reached a tight corner. Suddenly he stopped, bent down to address the dog and inquired: "Well now, Leah, what do we make of what Mr Sad-

grove has just been saying? I'm not at all sure about it. Are you?"

Idiosyncratic, characterful, intelligent, funny and kind - this was the Alec Graham so many of us admired and loved.

Canon Alan Hughes:

Alec Graham's dog Zillah interviewed me for the post at Berwick, she seated on Alec's chair, me on a sofa, Alec on the floor, a scenario established during his Oxford and Lincoln days. Alec eventually pronounced: "Zillah likes you, you can't be all bad."

Once in post Alec would visit often, sometimes unannounced. Canon Alastair Elcoat would telephone: "Get your cassock on, Alec is walking the Cheviots coming to town."

His visits were not to interfere but affirm and support. Alec knew his serving and retired clergy, their wider family members and circumstances well, a wind beneath our wings.

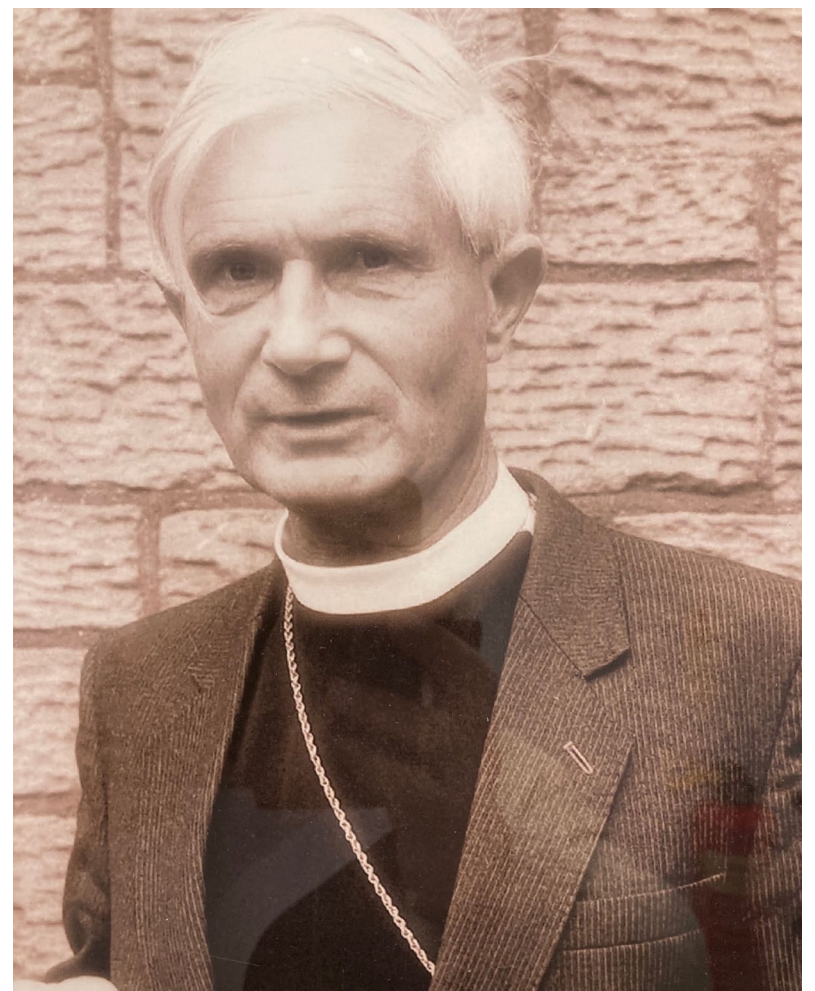
The Venerable Peter Elliott:

Bishop Alec in 100 words?

Scene: Bishop Alec's Drawing Room, the regular Senior Staff Meeting. (I had the dubious honour of occupying Zillah's dog-hair laden chair.)

No previously circulated agenda - just the pile of papers beside Alec's chair - so discussion inevitably spontaneous and far-ranging: people, parishes, policy. A suggestion is voiced, an idea, perhaps on impulse, a brief silence follows. Then, from Bishop Alec, the devastating, searching '.....And?.....'

But also the not infrequent late-evening telephone conversations about pastoral concerns, instructive sermons dis-



> Bishop Alec was Bishop of Newcastle from 1981-1997



> Bishop Alec at his enthronement as Bishop of Newcastle in 1981

carded on the pulpit floor, shared journeys to meetings, and always - interest, loyalty, support and challenge.

Andy Lie, Reader, St Andrew's, Newcastle upon Tyne:

It was a pleasant surprise when I received a warm engaging letter from Bishop Alec appreciating my essay on inter-faith dialogue for his retirement Festschrift in 1997. His was of a bygone non-digital era where you could expect courteous replies to each missive that

one dares to send!

Bishop Alec had much supported my ministry and young family in the UPA parish of Elswick in the west end of Newcastle, following my admission and licensing as Diocesan Reader in 1994. His thoughtful sermons, Synod presidential addresses, chapter talks and until recently, critical book reviews in the Church Times, were worthwhile occasions and welcome reads.



> Andy Lie took this photo of Bishop Alec in 2014, shortly after his 85th birthday

Bishops' Diaries

June

This is not a full list of the bishops' engagements but includes the items we think might be of particular interest to you. Under the present circumstances some appointments have had to be cancelled, and there is a possibility of further cancellations. Many appointments have been changed to virtual meetings.

Bishop of Newcastle

6th	Fenham St James and St Basil 90th Anniversary
7th	Interviews – St John Wallsend
9th	House of Bishops Standing Committee
10th	Bishop's Senior Staff Meeting Diocesan Open Synod
14th	Bishops and Archdeacons Meeting Holy Island
15th	Meeting with Retired Clergy Licensing, Shiremoor
16th	Meeting of Bishops Staff and Area Deans ELS Northern Province Lecture
21st	Interviews – St Peter, Monkseaton
22nd	Cathedral Team Gathering
23rd	Consecration
26th	Installation – Chester Cathedral
27th	Bywell - Confirmation
28th	2022 Curacy Placements Day
29th	St Hilda's Trust AGM Safeguarding Senior Leadership Pathway
30th	Spiritual Direction Cathedral Council Ordination Supper and Swearing of Oaths

Bishop of Berwick

7th	Transformation Team Meeting
8th	Transformation Team Meeting Study Day: Christian/Jewish relations
9th	NECAT Trustees Meeting
10th	Bishop's Senior Staff Meeting Diocesan Open Synod
13th	Confirmations Service at Holy Saviour's, Tynemouth
14th	Newcastle West Deanery Development Group Meeting
15th	Priest Interviews before ordination
16th	Meeting of Bishop's Staff and Area Deans
17th	Transformation Team Meeting
20th	Vacancy cover, Holy Trinity, Whitfield (Hexham Deanery)
21st	Priest interviews before ordination
23rd	Transformation Team Meeting
27th	Confirmations Service at Newbiggin Hall, joint service with Cowgate, Newcastle West Deanery
28th	2022 Curacy Placements Day
29th	Transformation Team Meeting Safeguarding Senior Leadership Pathway

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For advertising rates and deadlines see www.newcastle.anglican.org/link.
Copy date for July 2021 issue: Monday 14 June.

Newcastle Diocesan Synod: 8 May

A meeting of the Diocesan Synod was hosted on Zoom on 8 May with 64 members present, four officers and 12 guests.

Papers supporting the business completed at the meeting are available from:
www.newcastle.anglican.org/synod

A summary of the business completed is as follows:

■ Bishop Christine obtained approval to grant an Instrument of Delegation to the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Tucker Mugabi Sentamu. On behalf of the Synod, Bishop Christine congratulated Dr Sentamu on having been conferred the dignity of a Barony of the United Kingdom for life with the name, style and title of Baron Sentamu of Lindisfarne in the County of Northumberland and of Masooli in the Republic of Uganda.

■ Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth, Chair of the House of Laity, introduced **Living in Love and Faith (LLF)**, Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The Revd Dr Eeva John, the Church of England's Enabling Officer for LLF will lead an Open Synod Forum to be held on Thursday 10 June to help us explore this further. (more details below)

Bishop Mark updated the Synod on the progress with **Growing Church Bringing Hope: NEXT STEPS**. This included reporting back following engagement with deaneries, a proposed self-evaluation questionnaire and an update on the timescale for the first stages of this work.

■ A new Diocesan Scheme for the Inspection of Churches was presented by the Chair of the DAC. The Synod approved the scheme.

■ The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Board of Finance for the year ending 31 December 2020 were received.

■ The Synod noted the provisional timetable for elections to the General Synod. The present General Synod was expected to be dissolved on 13 July and the election process would begin in late July.

■ The Synod noted the timetable for elections to the Diocesan Synod. The timetable would commence with the opening of the nomination period on 1 June.

■ Amending Canon 40 (which makes provision relating to religious communities) and Amending Canon 41 (which makes miscellaneous amendments to the Canons) were promulgated.

OPEN SYNOD FORUM – LLF

AN Open Synod Forum which will begin to look at Living in Love and Faith (LLF) takes place in June.

The forum, which is open to all, will be hosted via Zoom on Thursday 10 June from 6.30-8.30pm.

The aims of the synod are to:

- Learn about the purpose of LLF
- Learn about what resources are available
- Experience sample elements of the LLF course
- Begin to think about how we can all engage with LLF in our different contexts

Revd Dr Eeva John, the Church of England's Enabling

Officer for LLF, will be attending this Open Synod Forum.

Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth, Diocesan Advocate for LLF, said: "I would love you to join us in this Open Synod and do please invite others! We hope to give you a taste of what LLF is all about and hopefully encourage you to engage with it at parish or deanery level. We are lucky to have Eeva John with us, who will also be able to share best practice and some of the principles behind this huge project for the Church of England."

Click [here](#) to register to attend the LLF Open Synod Forum.

Gospel Readings

1st	Mark 12.13-17	16th	Matthew 6.1-6, 16-18
2nd	Mark 12.18-27	17th	Matthew 6.7-15
3rd	Mark 12.28-34	18th	Matthew 6.19-23
4th	Mark 12.35-37	19th	Matthew 6.24-end
5th	Mark 12.38-end	20th	Mark 4.35-41
6th	Mark 3.20-end	21st	Matthew 7.1-5
7th	Matthew 5.1-12	22nd	Matthew 7.6, 12-14
8th	Matthew 5.13-16	23rd	Matthew 7.15-20
9th	Matthew 5.17-19	24th	Luke 1.57-66, 80
10th	Matthew 5.20-26	25th	Matthew 8.1-4
11th	John 15.12-17	26th	Matthew 8.5-17
12th	Matthew 5.33-37	27th	Mark 5.21-end
13th	Mark 4.26-34	28th	Matthew 8.18-22
14th	Matthew 5.38-42	29th	Matthew 16.13-19
15th	Matthew 5.43-end	30th	Matthew 8.28-end

Comings & Goings

Appointments

Revd Andrew Patterson, Incumbent of Whitley Chapel is also going to be Acting Area Dean of Hexham Deanery.

Revd Diana Johnson, Assistant Priest, St Mary and St Michael's Parish Church, Trumpington in the Diocese of Ely has been appointed Priest in Church of St James, Riding Mill.

Revd Dr Gillian Alexander, Assistant Curate at Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw has been appointed

Hon Associate Priest of Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw.

Retirements

Revd Dr Ann Peters-Wotherspoon, Assistant Curate (HFD) Upper Coquetdale retired on 5 April 2021.

Revd Canon Christine Bull, Associate Priest of St Oswald in Lee with Bingfield and Chollerton with Birtley and Throckington will retire on 20 September 2021.

Rachel Wood – our new Archdeacon of Northumberland

BISHOP Christine is pleased to announce that Revd Canon Rachel Wood is to be the new Archdeacon of Northumberland.

Rachel has been Acting Archdeacon since November 2020 when Mark Wroe moved to become our Bishop of Berwick. Rachel is currently vicar at St Mary Monkseaton in Whitley Bay.

Her appointment comes at an exciting time in Newcastle Diocese as it moves forward with 'Growing Church Bringing Hope: NEXT STEPS' – a programme of transformation and change to help all parishes reimagine how we think about, organise and resource mission and ministry.

Bishop Christine said: "Rachel has been a much loved and respected Vicar at St Mary Monkseaton and while they will be sad to see her move on, it means the wider Church can benefit from the wisdom and leadership she has demonstrated since becoming Acting Archdeacon last year. Over the last few months, she has helped lead us through what has been an extremely challenging time with the coronavirus pandemic, and one from which we are hopefully about to emerge.

"Rachel will be key in helping us work through our ongoing programme of change, called 'Growing Church Bringing Hope: NEXT



➤ **Revd Canon Rachel Wood will be installed as Archdeacon of Northumberland later this year**

STEPS' as we reimagine what mission and ministry will look like in this Diocese to create the space for the transformation that God brings."

Bishop Mark said: "Rachel will be much missed at St Mary Monkseaton, but in her time

as Acting Archdeacon she has brought a great mix of wisdom and compassion which now more of us in the Diocese can benefit from. There is a lovely phrase in the Book of Esther which for me sums up Rachel's appointment: 'for such a time as this'. We are all very much looking forward to working with her."

Commenting on her appointment, Rachel said: "I feel privileged to be asked to serve the Diocese in this new way as Archdeacon of Northumberland at this exciting time of opportunity and change with 'growing church bringing hope: next steps'. I am looking forward to working with the brilliant congregations and communities across the city, North Tyneside and Northumberland as together as a Diocese we recognise, celebrate and share Christ's presence in this wonderful place."

The Dean of Newcastle, the Very Revd Geoff Miller added: "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Rachel who will be installed here at the Cathedral as Archdeacon of Northumberland later this year. She joins us in what is an exciting year for our building as we reopen to the public after our multi-million-pound Common Ground in Sacred Space Project. Rachel will be a wonderful addition to our team."

Once Rachel is officially installed later this year as Archdeacon, she will become known as the Venerable Rachel Wood.



Bishop's Letter

With Bishop Mark Wroe

AS I write, we are approaching Pentecost, that great feast where we celebrate the birth(day?! of the Church. At Pentecost, Peter preaches for the first time, and he quotes the Prophet Joel who announced that God's gift of the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all people. The Spirit is a gift for everyone, whether young or old, men or women, slave or free, regardless of language or nation. It is one of those moments in Scripture where God's abundant, overflowing generosity is most clearly seen.

We often limit the meaning of generosity to money. But money is only a part of what it means to be generous. God's generosity speaks of extraordinary self-giving both in Christ and in the Spirit. Of course, there is always a challenge to us about how we respond to that generosity and give of our own selves for the sake of our shared calling and mission. But I also want to encourage us to pause and recognise and celebrate what others are giving to us. Many people have given so much of themselves over the last 18 months - there have been countless 'extra miles' travelled and acts of kindness offered.

Our world often seems so divided as we pray again for the peace of Jerusalem, and as we are almost daily reminded of the many divisions we still need to overcome. I am convinced that we need an ever more generous understanding of each other: a greater generosity of spirit. And so, we continue to pray for all places of division and misunderstanding. But I know that I also need to be open to where the Spirit of God may be prompting me to be more generous in my understanding of others – perhaps you are the same?

Journeying onwards from Pentecost is the perfect time to pray for a spirit of generosity which overflows from the gift of the Holy Spirit who pours God's love into our hearts. It is a reminder for us to keep being open to God's transforming love, generous with God's transforming gifts as we all engage in God's transforming work in the world.

Our Generous Giving Team do an amazing job at reminding us of God's generosity towards us and how we might share in and share out that generosity. Please do respond positively to their invitation to sessions on generous giving which is always about more than just money. You may also like to consider making the month of June a 'Generous June' ([resources available here](#)) or think about how you will join in our Newcastle Generosity Week from 26 September to 3 October (see page nine for more details).

I hope you might share with me in celebrating God's Pentecost generosity to us, in recognising with deep gratitude the generosity we have experienced from others, and in praying for inspiration that we grow in our spirit of generosity.

Two key appointments for the Diocese

THE Diocese is delighted to announce two new appointments: Ce Pacitti has been appointed as Continuing Ministerial Formation Officer and Nicola Denyer as Lay Ministry Development Officer.

As Continuing Ministerial Formation Officer, Ce will have responsibility for ensuring that there is a rich pattern of further training and ongoing ministerial formation for all licensed ministers (Clergy and Readers).

Ce is known to many through her Reader ministry at St Nicholas in Gosforth and in the wider Diocese, and brings a wealth of experience in theology, adult education and as a Chaplain to Lindisfarne College of Theology. She will begin this new ministry in mid-July.

As Lay Ministry Development Officer, Nicola Denyer will take a lead in encouraging, enabling and supporting lay ministry across the Diocese.



➤ **Ce Pacitti**

She will be developing a new team of Vocations Advisers, our Authorised Lay Ministry programme, and helping us to support and encourage people in their ministry in their everyday lives.

Nicola is a Reader at St Mary's, Monkseaton, with a background



➤ **Nicola Denyer**

in nursing and training, and brings a deep understanding of how we can encourage and develop people in their vocation and ministry. She starts her new ministry in mid-May.

Rob Saner-Haigh, Director of Mission and Ministry, said: "We are so excited to have Nic and Ce join us. They both have a

great heart for encouraging and nurturing people from all backgrounds in faith and ministry, and they have the skills and experience to do it. This work is central to what we believe God is calling us to as we seek to help each person discover their gifts and vocation, and to work together to bring good news, grow in Christ and live faith fully."

Nicola and Ce said: "We are both very excited to be involved in the Diocesan transformation journey and can't wait to meet as many people as possible and hear what you all have to say. Working in partnership, we will be listening to the needs of our local settings and developing collaborative opportunities to work as the Spirit leads to enable all of us to live life in abundance (John 10:10). We are full of joy to be called to expand on our existing ministry in the building up of all God's people across the diocese and look forward to working together in this mission."



**NEWCASTLE
CATHEDRAL**

View from the Lantern

With **Shaun Cutler**, PhD Student at Newcastle Cathedral and Northumbria University

WHICHEVER English cathedral you visit this year, you will be able to arrive by bike thanks to a unique project, led by Newcastle Cathedral. In fact Newcastle Cathedral, is at the very heart of a new partnership between Sustrans, Cycling UK and the Association of English Cathedrals, linking all 42 Church of England cathedrals via a new national cycle route. The project is one of the outcomes of a PhD research programme involving Newcastle Cathedral, Northumbria University and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Long-distance cycle routes in the UK have become hugely popular in recent years and it doesn't come much longer than this one: the Cathedrals Cycle Route (CCR), stretches nearly 2,000 miles across England's landscape, starting and ending at Newcastle Cathedral. However, the CCR is more than a challenging long-distance cycle route, it is about connecting our historic cathedrals and enjoying the spaces between them. It is about 'Cycling with Purpose' whatever your purpose... that purpose can be very different for different people. It could be for fitness, for mental health, for connectivity or for spiritual purposes. For the cathedrals, this is a way to support people's mental and physical health and promote the mission of England's cathedrals through pilgrimage, wellbeing and heritage.

We have all had an extremely difficult year and anything that provides the opportunity to build up our physical and mental health is welcomed. Apart from the obvious health benefits of getting active and reducing our reliance on polluting vehicles, cycling gives us time to think, to reconnect with the outside world, and to meet other people. Connecting the cathedrals in this way provides the cyclist with the opportunity to reflect and reconnect with an added dimension of depth, both spiritually and historically.

Cyclists from all 42 cathedrals will be taking part in a nationwide relay ride to launch the new route. The route is launching on 30 May to coincide with the start of Bike Week, the annual celebration of cycling delivered by Cycling UK

The first group of cyclists will set out from Newcastle Cathedral, on Sunday 30 May and a group is expected to return to Newcastle 42 days later (weather permitting) having cycled to every Church of England cathedral. The teams will carry a bronze baton with two sculpted hands reaching towards each other. The ceremonial baton comes with a message 'some days you need a hand, other days you are called to lend a hand' The message captures the spirit of the CCR, a spirit of togetherness in difficult times.

Cycling with Purpose

The relay event is encouraging people to cycle from cathedral to cathedral for their chosen charity or asking them to support Cycling UK's Break the Cycle appeal, which aims to help improve people's wellbeing through the charity's community cycling clubs, activities and projects nationwide.

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



➤ **Shaun Cutler (right) with other keen cyclists**



➤ **Canon Jim Robertson**



➤ **Catherine Garner**

Jim's year

By Revd Canon Jim Robertson

I BEGIN with belated thanks for the support, love, and prayers we received in January 2020 when our son died.

The delay in sharing these comments is that cancer entered my life shortly afterwards. There was little warning for this other than a lot of inexplicable pain in my back.

This led to a visit to Cramlington Emergency Hospital where the duty consultant and his assistant spent most of an afternoon identifying a growth in my back and I was admitted to one of the wards.

Subsequently, I met a wonderful consultant at North Tyneside Hospital, and all the staff on the Oncology Ward who supported me through chemotherapy.

After my first treatment there was a short delay as I caught and then recovered from Covid-19.

Later in the year I had a course of radiotherapy at the Freeman Hospital. These treatments worked and I am currently being seen regularly by my oncologist.

During my illness I have relied on a group of people who have driven me to a multitude of appointments at local hospitals from early morning onwards.

I have had the support of a wonderful wife Margaret, our family and many friends and colleagues in the Diocese.

My daughter, Catherine attends a church in Stockport and they have for a number of years supported Cancer Research. This has involved a sponsored 24-hour event, that has not been possible for the last two years during lockdowns.

Jim's daughter, Catherine Garner, shares the story of her fundraising journey for Cancer Research UK following her dad's diagnosis

2020 was obviously a hard year for everyone – we are no exception, but we are also not on our own – I think that is one of the things that I held onto in one of the worst years of my life. We had just had Ken's funeral, under very traumatic circumstances, when Dad was diagnosed with cancer. At that point I must admit that I thought I was going to lose both my brother and my father in the same year. Having the pandemic then hit, meaning that I was trying to provide what support I could without being able to visit, felt almost impossible at times and, I think, incredibly lonely for probably all of us in different ways, but we have spoken every day and I tried to do what I could from afar.

Myself, my husband, Richard and my children, James and Ellie together with our wider Church family have been supporting Cancer Research Relay for Life for many years. This is an annual 24-hour event, where teams walk for 24 hours around a track and raise funds for Cancer Research UK. Covid restrictions obviously meant that this couldn't take place in 2020 or in 2021. One of the things I took up to aid my overall wellbeing during lockdown was running – I started on the Couch to 5K running programme in May 2020. In February 2021, as Dad neared the end of his treatment, I began thinking about the lack of fundraising we had been able to do for our usual relay and the fact that cancer had definitely come closer to home for us over the last year. In 'normal' times I would have definitely been travelling to see my parents, so I decided to virtually travel to them as a fundraiser for relay – I would, over the course of a few months, run the distance between my front door and their front door (a distance of approx. 160 miles). I'm currently at 90.3 miles done, so over halfway there. The challenge means even more to me now, as two more family members have been diagnosed with cancer since the start of 2021.

You can donate to Catherine's Cancer Research Relay [here](#).

Four bishops on the Way of Light



FOUR bishops with friends began the 'Way of Light' from Heavenfield near Hexham, eventually leading to the heart of Durham City over four days.

Bishop Christine, Bishop Mark, Bishop Paul (Durham), Bishop Sarah (Jarrow) set off from St Oswald's Church

on one of a number of new Northern Saints pilgrimage trails created across Newcastle and Durham Dioceses.

During the first day, the bishops stopped at Hexham Abbey, as well as St Helen's Church in Whitley Chapel where the wonderful new gates were blessed

by Bishop Christine with the children of Whitley Chapel Church of England First School watching on. The gates, made of oak, were created by local bench joiner Will Chalmers.

You can see more photos and some video by clicking [here](#).

Petertide Ordinations

SEVENTEEN people will be ordained as priests and deacons during our annual Petertide Ordinations in July.

The 11 new priests and six new deacons will be ordained in three separate celebratory services this summer.

Bishop Christine will ordain Henry Hope, Lynne Dean, Miriam Jones, Alison McCarthy and Adam Smith as deacons at St George's, Jesmond on Saturday 3 July.

And Sion Hughes Carew will be ordained into the diaconate by Bishop Glynn Webster on Sunday 4 July at St Bede's, Newsham.

Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Revd Claire Robson, said: "Henry, Lynne, Sion, Miriam, Adam and Ali will be ordained at Petertide to serve as deacons in churches across our Diocese. Do look out for them and pray for all those being ordained this year.

"God calls women and men from all sorts of backgrounds and situations to serve him as deacons and priests in his church – perhaps you have heard him calling you to new ways of serving in ministry?"

Dr Henry Hope

To serve Hexham

Moving to Hexham offers not only a wonderful opportunity to be nourished at one of the well-springs of Northern Christianity, but will allow me to take a step into my own past: having grown up in Germany, I have many fond childhood memories of joy-filled summer holidays with my relatives in Northumberland—from roaming up and down the Roman Wall, ice creams and kite flying on various beaches, to a daytrip to Shepherds Dene with the local Mother's Union.

The North East has also been crucial in my coming-to-faith, with retreats at the Friary at Alnmouth constituting crucial turning-points in the discernment towards baptism, and now towards ordination.

I'm much looking forward to many more adventures across Northumberland—with many new fellow adventurers—and as a one-time music historian, I'm especially excited about the prospect of delving into the wide range of diverse cultural offerings in the North-East.

Not least, I'm eagerly anticipating the opportunity to re-activate my culinary skills, following on from three years of shared kitchens and full-board at the College of the Resurrection (Mirfield) and Ripon College Cuddesdon: fearless guinea pigs are always welcome to taste the fruits of these efforts!

Lynne Dean

To serve Ovingham and Wylam

Lynne and her husband John have lived in the North East for over 30 years. They have two adult children and a border terrier, Harris.

Known as the 'library lady' for 20-plus years, Lynne still helps out



> Dr Henry Hope



> Lynne Dean



> Dr Miriam Jones



> Alison McCarthy



> Adam Smith



> Sion Hughes Carew

with an occasional shift or two when needed.

As a mature student Lynne gained a BA in Design Craft and she works one day a week as a ceramic technician at Whickham School: "Everyone at school is eager to see what I'll look like with a clergy collar beneath my apron."

"St Mary Magdalene Parish church in Prudhoe has been our family's spiritual home but now God is calling me on to new pastures across the Tyne in Ovingham and Wylam.

"I am looking forward to serving my curacy with Revd Tom Birch as my Training Incumbent, especially getting to know the people in the parishes and the schools. Exciting times are ahead as a new church office is being built onto the church hall in Wylam and I look forward to being involved in lots of events and serving the communities, as we all walk alongside one another on our journey of faith for the next few years."

Dr Miriam Jones

To serve Newsham

Miriam spent the last two years training for ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham. Before that, she lived in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where she grew up in an international family with roots in America and Canada.

She studied theology in Leuven (Belgium) and Amsterdam, and completed a PhD on the early medieval English church in 2020 – a subject that continues to fascinate her. Miriam is married to Thomas and

has three daughters, Emily (nine), Julia (six) and Zoë (four), and a son, Adam (born in February).

In her free time, she enjoys reading, board games, long walks and long conversations. Miriam and the rest of the family are excited to join the community in Newburn parish and see what God will do there over the coming years!

As she begins her ordained ministry, Miriam is particularly looking forward to learning ways of helping people grow in prayer, discipleship, and mission.

Alison McCarthy

To serve Holy Trinity Jesmond

Hi, my name is Ali McCarthy and I'm excited to be joining the team at Holy Trinity Jesmond.

Although I have lived in Newcastle before and love the place, for the past eight years I have been living in Shenley, near St Albans, in Hertfordshire.

I have spent the last three years training at St. Mellitus College, London, and I'm pleased to be continuing my training in God's own country!

I am married to Dan and we have three fantastic children. Ben, our eldest, is thirteen, Caed, our second son, is ten and Calla, our daughter, is seven. They were all born in Newcastle and so they are looking forward to being back too – especially to be close to the beach again.

I have a heart for those on the fringe and for discipleship, both of which are at the heart of a deacon's

role, and so I'm full of anticipation for what that will mean in this new context and stage of life.

My favourite things to do are country walks and visiting coffee shops with friends and family. It will be great to get to know you better when we've moved!

Adam Smith

To serve St Thomas' Newcastle and the Resource Church

I grew up in Newcastle, met my wife here as a teenager and both our families still live here, but we've been away now for over a decade. We've spent most of the last 10 years down south and for the last few years I've been working for our church and then combining that with training for ordination at St Mellitus College.

We weren't really planning a return to Newcastle, but when we discovered we would need to find a curacy, God spoke clearly to us saying, "Come home!" So home we came.

I love Newcastle and I know Jesus loves Newcastle too, I'm excited to be joining the team at St Thomas' and being part of the work there to share that love with Newcastle and the whole of the North East.

My previous career was in the world of adventurous activities, up mountains, along rivers, and down caves, so in some ways church-based ministry is a bit of a gear change, but there's a lot more cross-over than you might think!

We're excited for the adventure

ahead and to join in with what God is already doing to bring his love to Newcastle and the North East.

Sion Hughes Carew

To serve Newsham and Horton

I'm delighted to have been called to the parishes of Newsham and Horton, and Cowpen, to serve as assistant curate.

I'm really looking forward to meeting the wonderful people of these parishes, ministering alongside Fr Ian Flintoft, and getting to know this amazing part of the world.

I went to university in Edinburgh, and my Mum is from East Yorkshire, so despite having lived most of my life in the south (I was brought up in the depths of rural Wiltshire, and lived and worked for ten years in London after finishing university), I like to think that I'm not entirely southern.

My name is Welsh (as is my Dad), and this causes a fair bit of confusion – my Mum used to tell my teachers at school "It's Sion as in the sun shone", which led to me being called 'Sunshine' fairly often. There are far worse nicknames!

I'm a big fan of cycling, running, cooking (and eating), and can't wait to get back into golf, which I first started playing with my grandmother when I was tiny. She's still playing every week at over 80, so I have no excuse, especially with an 18-hole course in the parish!

Priesthood ordinations

Bishop Christine will ordain 11 men and women to the priesthood at a service on Saturday 3 July at St George's Jesmond.

Revd Phyllis Alison Carruthers

Bamburgh, Belford and Lucker

Revd Yvette Charmain Daniel
Newcastle, St Francis

Revd Oliver Dempsey

Cowgate

Revd Rosemary Elizabeth Harrison
Ponteland

Revd Samuel George Lohead

Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall

Revd Samantha Jane Quilty
Holy Island

Revd Thomas Sample

Berwick, Holy Trinity & St Mary

Revd John Richard Storey
Upper Coquetdale

Revd Paul William Rusby

Morpeth

Revd Kim Wears
Willington

Revd Alan Robert White

Newcastle, St Gabriel

The Lighthouse Project



➤ St Michael's Church overlooks Newcastle's Quayside



➤ Before Covid hit, church services were held inside the marquee



➤ Revd Phil Medley set up the Lighthouse Project in 2016

Shining a light on St Michael's Byker

AN iconic church in Newcastle's East End which had fallen into a state of disrepair will soon be back in the spotlight thanks to an ambitious project.

Grand plans are in the making to transform St Michael's Church, based in the heart of Byker, into a sustainable youth and community hub.

Built in 1862, St Michael's has exquisite views looking down over the Tyne, onto the Quayside, and was fabled as the light at the top of the hill when sailors would return home to Newcastle.

Named after its historical link to the city's sailors, Revd Phil Medley established the Lighthouse Project in 2016.

This initiative was set up to protect the church from further decay and to explore how the building could be better used in the future – while ensuring it remains a treasured landmark of Newcastle.

In development with Mission Initiative Newcastle East (MINE), the Lighthouse Project aims to provide a sustainable youth and community hub as well as a flexible worship space and private hire offer.

Phil said: "The Lighthouse Project is about our commitment to be an active Christian presence in the Byker community. We have an opportunity to develop this wonderful building into an exciting and aspirational hub for young people. There is still a long way to go but we've been delighted by the support we have already received."

Having received funding in order to reinvigorate the grounds and undergo

roof repairs in 2018, the church still needs vital works in order for it to be used effectively by the community.

A marquee was erected inside the nave in 2017 in order to hold services in the church within a safe space that was easily heated, although worship services were suspended during the Covid pandemic and have moved online.

The church is currently used by Byker Scouts, Streetwise and MINE Youth, which have all worked hard to ensure their vital work with children and young people continues over lockdown.

Thanks to funding from Mercer's, MINE were able to hire a Project Coordinator – Lauren Sanderson – in September 2020, which began a process of community consultation. Speaking to members of Byker community, charities and stakeholders to find out what they wanted to see in the redevelopment.

This has resulted in the establishment of strong partnerships across the third sector which will boost the resources provided within St Michael's in the future.

Still in the early stages of development, the Lighthouse steering group is currently looking to appoint an architect to see it through the design and building stages.

Lauren added: "This is an exciting time for us as it enables us to cater to the community's needs as well as specific partners requirements within the building."

Follow the progress online [here](https://thelighthouseprojectbyker.org) or get in touch via thelighthouseprojectbyker@gmail.com

Community spirit revives church bells

Standing dormant for several years, the church bells of St John's Percy Main are now once again joyfully ringing thanks to a community campaign to repair them. Revd Lee Cleminson, Priest in Charge of Balkwell, St Peter & Percy, St John shares the story.

SOME years ago the church bells of St John's Percy Main had sadly stopped ringing and stood still (approximately six to eight years ago) and were in desperate need of repair with no funds to fix them.

VE Day was approaching, and the community of Percy Main voiced their sadness that the church was unable to ring out its bells to celebrate the 75th anniversary.

This enticed the community, gave a common focus and they quickly sprang into action! Jams and marmalades were made, pies were baked, local people from the allotment began to bring their home-grown soft fruits to the vicarage door to be turned into jam and a fundraising page was set up. Within three weeks, the community had done it, had raised every penny needed to get the bells repaired. Then, the winter had set in, the bells had to wait for finer weather, as long ladders were needed to reach the

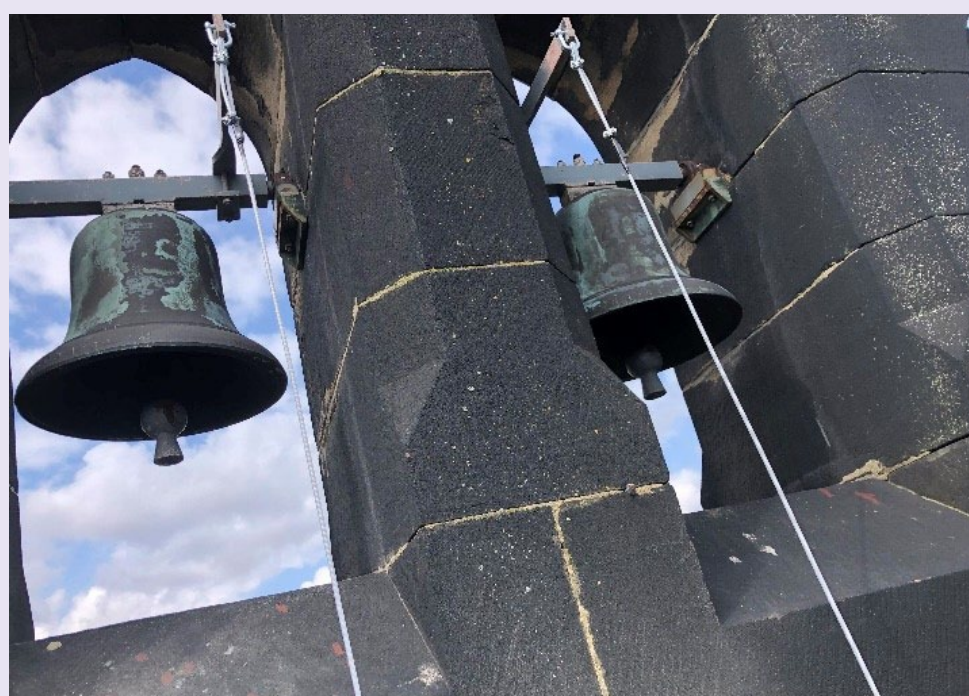
bell tower-almost a year had passed, with neighbours enthusiastically asking whilst I walked my dog "When will we hear the bells ringing?"

On Wednesday 28 April, (with thanks to Andreas of O & P Bell Maintenance) that long wait ended - the bells began to ring, all in the village and beyond could hear, some coming to their doors, some stopping in the street and others coming to listen, looking up with pride, joyfully watching the bells swinging back and forth, making such a cheerful noise.

Although the bells had sadly stood still for many years, God's timing was perfect. The focus of the bells have given a common focus to the whole village, bringing hope during such a difficult and lonely year for many.

Jen Dowsett, a resident of Percy Main (and number one jam seller), said: "It's wonderful to hear the bells ring out again after such a long time. The whole village is buzzing and as a community, our hard work and donations have paid for them to be fixed. It's been a privilege to be part of this huge community effort, the community spirit is back and long may it last!"

Keith Bell wrote on Facebook: "Church bells



➤ The repaired bells of St John's Percy Main

a-ringing, Armatures still going (local football club, until recently had been facing closure), Cricketers winning!! What a month April has been in Percy Main!"

I've been priest in charge of this parish for nearly two years and it was such a joy to pull those ropes and hear those beautiful bells ring

once again.

Those bells will now be rung on many happy and sad occasions, but most of all, they will be a constant reminder, to a community, that their community spirit is far from dead, it's very much alive and flourishing.

Shock and sadness, followed by great joy as stolen crucifix returned



➤ The crucifix in place before it was stolen



➤ Inspector Harninder Bola of Northumbria Police and Revd Canon Andrew Shipton

A cherished crucifix stolen from the remembrance garden of a Newcastle church has been returned to the parish after it was tracked down by police.

On 13 May, the parish of All Saints Church in Gosforth were left horrified to find that the cross – that includes a bronzed sculpture of Jesus Christ – had been taken overnight by thieves.

The highly sentimental bronze crucifix was erected in the church's garden of remembrance in 1965 where the ashes of many loved ones have been scattered.

Police immediately launched an investigation to try and identify those responsible for the theft of the cross, believed to be worth more than £20,000.

And following a public appeal for information, officers received a call reporting that the cross was being held at a scrap yard in the city after being handed in by the thieves.

Officers raided the yard and quickly located the crucifix before arresting a 55-year-old man on suspicion of handling stolen goods. The statue was then returned to All Saints Church.

Revd Canon Andrew Shipton, of All Saints Church, had previously told how the crucifix was sculpted by the internationally acclaimed Frank Roper.

He added: "There was great sadness and shock when the crucifix was taken. For more than half a century it has stood in a consecrated area next to our church where many ashes are buried, giving comfort as the lives of loved ones are remembered.

"Many of us feared we would never see the bronze statue again and we are so relieved and thrilled that it has been found. There is some damage to it but we think it can be repaired. It is wonderful to have the statue back."

Inspector Harninder Bola of Northumbria

Police said: "We are delighted that we have been able to locate the crucifix and a big reason for that is the incredible amount of support from our community.

"Our appeal was shared widely and that has led to a call from a member of the public that has proved crucial to tracking down its whereabouts.

"Unfortunately the crucifix has been damaged and the church and its congregation will now have to look into whether it can be repaired before it is once again erected in their remembrance garden.

"Our investigation to identify those responsible will continue but we have already made an arrest and will continue to work hard to identify any other suspects.

"We hope that our determination to find this crucifix, and return it to All Saints, reassures the community that we will not let such heartless crimes go undetected."

Give your Parish Dashboard the green light!

By Canon Alan Hughes

FOR those who are car drivers or non-driving family passengers, do you remember your first car dashboard? Mine was very simple and sat squarely behind the steering wheel of an ancient gold VW Beetle.

The Diocese and its Safeguarding Team have teamed up with aptly named firm 'Clearly Simpler' to equip all parishes with a different kind of dashboard, joining over 2,000 parishes throughout the land seeking to ensure that the correct safeguarding protocols are in place at local parish level.

Even early car dashboards and controls could confuse. One childhood friend was enjoying a family Sunday drive when their car engine cut out and they ground to a halt. No amount of investigation could solve the problem so the AA patrolman was called. Arriving on motorbike and side car he removed his leather helmet and asked for the car ignition key. It was handed to him not by the driver but his passenger, who had removed it from its vital place in the ignition whilst said driver was watching the road ahead. The key selected to cut round sellotape holding down the lid on a box of biscuits as the driver vainly pressed the ignition button, never dreaming that the key was missing.

The moral here is for us all to understand and faithfully use the controls of any instrument or system. Just as modern car dashboards can be daunting at first sight this new safeguarding aid may make some apprehensive. Donna Brown is on hand to help parishes if they have any questions setting up or updating their Parish Dashboards.

One of my car dashboards had a system of three tiny lights to inform me on economical driving, green, amber and red. The Parish Dashboard employs a similar system. Once set up and the parish safeguarding officer has logged on, a green light appears. This tells officer and Diocese that the system is up and running, as we military folk say 'we have comms'.

The red light shows when there are urgent actions, such as a policy is out of date or missing. The amber is displayed when the parish has begun work on a section, but more work is yet planned.

Once all three show the system is up and running, Parish and Diocese in communication. Each page of the process explaining in plain English what resources there are to support local safeguarding teams.

For those wondering who wrote the 'Prays, Signs and Leaves' article for the April Link, 'twas I. We thought anonymity might ensure it was read...

For help or advice with the Parish Dashboard, contact Donna Brown at d.brown@newcastle.anglican.org or 07436220861.



➤ The Parish Dashboard may seem daunting at first – like a car dashboard – but help is at hand

Reverend Frank Walton 1939-2021



➤ Revd Frank Walton 1939-2021

By Revd Anthony O'Grady, Vicar of Woodhorn with Newbiggin

It is with sadness I share the news that Revd Frank Walton died at home on Good Friday evening.

Frank served the Parish of Woodhorn with Newbiggin for many years as an Ordained Local Minister, and will be fondly remembered by many as a dear friend and neighbour.

Frank was very much at the heart of the community and will be sorely missed. Please pray for Margaret, Robert, Sarah and all of Frank's family and friends.

They continue to be heartened by the tributes and support they are receiving from so many people.

We now trust that he finds peace with God through Jesus Christ whose own defeat over death we celebrate at this time.

As we remember Frank, I leave us with a saying he would often share with me in our conversations: "There is so much good in the world".

For us, Frank has been part of that good and we give thanks for his life and for all he continues to mean to us.

Places of Wellbeing



► Judith Sadler's new role is to identify and encourage Places of Wellbeing

Judith Sadler writes about her new post as Development Worker with Together Newcastle

AFTER retiring from my role as Team Leader for Children's and Youth Work for the Diocese of Newcastle in the autumn of 2019, I went off to a Scottish island for the winter to 'discern' how I might best use my retirement.

Soon after I returned, along came 'Lockdown' and any plans for retirement activity had to go on hold.

The months passed until February 2021 when I surprised myself by applying for a job that I hadn't been seeking, but somehow felt could put to good use some of my experience and contacts.

It's a very timely role, as we anticipate what we hope will be a more open and relaxed society in the months to come, but a society bearing significant wounds following more than a year of Covid.

For many, those wounds are immediate and visible: poverty, unemployment, hunger, grief, ill-health; for others, they may be less obvious but still deeply painful: anxiety, loss of confidence, isolation, depression.

The Together Newcastle post focuses upon identifying and encouraging Places of Wellbeing. It is a new project, funded by Allchurches Trust, 'designed to tackle loneliness, isolation and mental health through the creation of physical or virtual spaces where everyone can feel welcomed, valued, and heard and have opportunities to make a positive contribution. These might include community gardens, physical or online friendship groups or one to one befriending services.'

Many churches are already places of wellbeing, and in those communities there is a wealth of experience of addressing issues of loneliness and mental ill health.

This project wants to learn from what is already going on and to encourage the creation of more and more places where the intention is to invite, welcome, listen to and value all who are at the threshold.

This isn't the first response to the impact of Covid by the national Together network. During the last year, work has been going on with the Just Finance Foundation to help people affected by the financial chaos of the Coronavirus. The COVID Cash Recovery Course <https://together-newcastle.org/whats-new/covid-cash-course> provides free online training about general entitlements, universal credit, budgeting, government and charitable grants, money strategies for making it through these next few months, help with bills and debt.

If you are interested in either of these initiatives, or the other areas of work carried out by Together Newcastle, please visit the [website](#) or do get in [touch](#).

MORE than 4,000 Church of England parishes are estimated to have stepped up their support to local communities in the face of rising levels of poverty, loneliness and isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new research.

Church volunteers have carried out a range of tasks from food deliveries to shopping, dog walking and collection of prescriptions since the first lockdown, according to a report by the Church of England and Church Urban Fund.

Gardening projects, 'phone buddies', job-hunting support, and helping people to get online were among a series of innovative services provided by churches for people suffering from the social and economic effects of the pandemic.

Bishop Christine, writing in a foreword to the report, said: "The past year will stand out in our memory as one of radical change and of needing to learn to live in a new landscape. The Covid-19 pandemic drastically transformed our daily life, and our understanding of what it means to be Church. Stay-at-home orders and travel restrictions meant that Jesus' call to 'love your neighbour' has become grounded in the hyper-local. No longer able to meet in person, churches across England found ways to continue to worship and serve their community together, whilst remaining apart.

"The unequal impact of the pandemic has made us more acutely aware of poverty in our midst, even in wealthier parts of the country. Tackling poverty is a fundamental part of the Church's mission. Despite the enormous challenges, many churches are living out their Christian faith by doing more to support their local community, offering help, advice and care for the most vulnerable.

"I hope and pray that we will be able to meet together again soon, but that we retain

Bishop Christine praises churches for community support

some of what we have learnt during this past year: the importance of community, showing our love for God through loving our neighbours in very practical ways."

Despite restrictions affecting many projects such as lunch clubs and parent toddler groups during the past year, nearly a quarter of churches started a completely new activity during the pandemic, and more than half adapted two or more of their existing community activities in order to continue meeting the needs of their local community.

Food provision and pastoral support were the biggest area of support provided by churches, with nearly 80 per cent of churches involved in running or supporting a food bank or other similar services such as food clubs and hot meals.

Church leaders told the survey that social problems such as isolation, loneliness and mental health difficulties, food poverty, unemployment and debt have become much more widespread in their communities as a result of the pandemic, particularly in the most deprived areas.

CHURCH URBAN FUND
CHANGING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CHURCH IN ACTION 2020/21:
A SURVEY OF CHURCHES' COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO THE PANDEMIC



The full report can be viewed [here](#).

Search for musician

By Ben Jarvis, Assistant Curate, St Mary Monkseaton



► St Mary's Monkseaton is recruiting a keyboard musician

ST Mary's is a lively church in Whitley Bay. Music is central to our worship: we like to sing, we like to play, and we are looking for someone to guide us forward, expand our repertoire, and encourage the gifts of all people.

We are looking for a proficient keyboard musician with a passion for music who is able to encourage others, enabling our whole church community to use their voices and talents to the best of their abilities.

The right candidate will be someone who can embrace a broad range of musical styles, and can encourage and develop people of all ages. They will help to grow the musical life of our church, and be excited by the opportunities that this post brings.

The right person would be able to work with our clergy and worship coordinator to expand our repertoire and enrich our worship.

The closing date for applications is Monday 14 June. For more details, click [here](#).

Director of Music sought

AN exciting opportunity for an experienced candidate to lead, develop and enrich the musical heritage of St George's, and provide vision and direction in creating a musical strategy for the future, both within the church, and in its outreach to the community.

We are seeking a candidate who:

- Is an accomplished organist and skilled choir director
- Will maintain and nurture the choral-led worship, playing an integral part in

enriching the life of the church

- Be visionary in energising our Anglican choral tradition by developing and expanding our music for new and creative liturgies
- Will be an engaging and dynamic leader of the choir encouraging all abilities and ages
- St George's, located in the heart of the city, is a friendly, diverse, and welcoming church, with inclusive worship in the catholic tradition.

We have a strong choral tradition,

with an SATB robed choir, including junior choristers. We are blessed with an impressive four-manual Lewis organ, enriching the music at the heart of our main worship.

The closing date for applications is Monday 28 June, with interviews and auditions scheduled for Saturday 17 July.

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

One door closes and another opens

By Brian Allen, former Chair of St Michael's Healing Home Trust and retired Chaplaincy Team Leader of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

This is the story of two North Eastern ventures in the history of the church's healing ministry and of how the closure of one has contributed to the continuing life of the other.



➤ Undercliff was the base for St Michael's Healing Home Trust from 1968-77



➤ Holy Rood House in Thirsk

IN March 1968 the St Michael's Healing Home Trust started as a charity with an initial endowment of just £50.

The vision of the vicar of Birtley then, William Portsmouth, was of at least one residential setting for the Church's healing ministry and the provision of teaching and training in that ministry.

The collaboration of clergy and 'medical practitioners of a Christian persuasion' was an important part of the vision.

One year later Undercliff in Cleadon was generously given to the charity by the Chapman family and so a healing home was established.

After running for several years, the

project ran into some practical difficulties and in 1977 the Charity Commission granted permission for the sale of Undercliff.

The proceeds from the sale were invested and, for more than 40 years, the trustees disbursed small grants to individuals and organisations consistent with the original aims of the trust.

There are individuals and organisations to have benefitted from these grants and are still very much actively involved in ministry in Newcastle Diocese.

Amongst the beneficiaries was the Centre for Health and Pastoral Care (CHPC) at Thirsk, known to many as Holy Rood House, a former home of a religious nursing order.

In 1993 Elizabeth and Stanley Baxter moved in to create a base for a healing and educational ministry. The house and gardens were rented but as the work grew funds were raised to purchase the house next door, Thorpe House, in 1996. The Centre for Theology and Health has been based there since 2001.

More recently the landlords of Holy Rood House decided to sell the house and grounds and gave CHPC the option to purchase should they be able to raise the £1 million valuation.

An appeal was set up and St Michael's Healing Home's trustees considered how best to respond, mindful of the costs of maintaining their trust and the impact the small dis-

bursements made to applicants in the past.

They recognised how CHPC was carrying out very effectively the mission St Michael's was intended to fulfil. Eventually the trustees were granted permission by the Charity Commission to transfer their assets to the CHPC as a contribution to their appeal. Once accomplished St Michael's Healing Home Trust was to wind up.

This has now happened and the purchase of Holy Rood House and its grounds is taking place, thereby securing the future of this very valuable resource. The trustees of the St Michael's Healing Home Trust warmly commend the Centre for Health and Pastoral Care to individuals and groups, as a place to turn to both for

therapeutic care and retreat as well as the exploration of theology and health in a gentle, supportive Christian environment.

In the past, individuals and groups from this Diocese have either stayed here or attended day events at Holy Rood House. The centre makes a point of being open to anyone who might benefit from going there and is happy to make arrangements to meet visitors off the train at Northallerton, as well as discussing how best to meet any special needs someone might have.

The North East of England is most fortunate to have such a special place offering care and learning.

Click [here](#) to visit Holy Rood House's website.

MU Diocesan Festival

By Sheila Walker, Vice President of Newcastle Diocese Mothers' Union

LAST year the Lindisfarne Archdeaconry Festival had to be cancelled because of Covid restrictions, although we did have a wonderful Service of Celebration broadcast on YouTube which many of our members enjoyed.

We have been living under restrictions since the beginning of this year, but we are very hopeful that we will be able to hold a festival in St James Church, Morpeth on Saturday 10 July.

We have decided to make it a Diocesan Festival, with members from all the Diocese taking part.

Our speaker at the morning session will be Cath Hilton, Zonal MU President for York Province. Cath has responsibilities in many areas of the Mothers' Union including development, safeguarding, remuneration, fundraising and communication. Her talk will be titled 'The Bigger Picture of MU'.

After Midday Prayers there will be a break for lunch and we will meet again at 2pm for a service in the church, led by the Rector, Revd Simon White. The Address will be given by our Diocesan Chaplain, Revd Dr Sarah Moon.

Plans may have to change, and we may offer some of the proceedings on Zoom if necessary, but final details will be sent to the Branch Leaders later in June.

Please put this date in your diary and pray that we will be able to get together for a festival and celebration of all that is good in the Mothers' Union in Newcastle Diocese.

Generous living

WE are often told that part of our calling as Christians is to help others and to be generous, but what should it look like and how should we make it happen?

In turning to the Bible there are many examples of how we should model ourselves. If we think of the lessons learned from the Good Samaritan and the Widow's Mite we see two contrasting teachings, but both give us a sense of how our kindness should know no bounds and how it can take different forms.

Indeed, if we take the time to unravel these two familiar passages we see that we have different expressions of generosity. In the former we see someone directly helping a person in need, and in the latter we see someone whose sacrificial financial giving shows a deep commitment to their faith.

What lessons can we learn from these stories and the many other examples of generosity we find in the Gospels?

What I take from this is that we are compelled as Christians to give and be generous in many different ways; through our words, deeds, and wallets and purses! Generosity is in all of these things and perhaps our challenge with generosity is to ensure that we do not just see it as one thing or the other, it is everything. It is spiritual, sacrificial and practical, and can be part of our lives in an abundance of ways.

But how do we ensure that our generosity does not stagnate, and that it is vibrant and can find new expressions? In essence we may need to reflect on our personal generosity and to challenge ourselves to find new opportunities at both a church and

By Andrew Tinkler, Generous Giving Adviser



community-based level.

From a church perspective our Diocese is spearheading a new campaign, to help focus and galvanise our giving, called Generosity Week, which will happen at the end of September.

Generosity Week gives us a new opportunity as members of churches within the Diocese to focus, deepen, and celebrate our generosity.

There are many ways for you and your church to participate, but by working together we can really look to capitalise on the generosity that is already forthcoming and inspire and nurture further generous acts across the whole Diocese too.

Whilst acknowledging that a significant part of our giving supports our churches and resources mission and ministry, our personal generosity can also be directed to serve other areas of life where God is working in us and through us.

Our generosity should be alive to the needs around us in our communities so that we can enrich the lives of others, but aside from our church-based work how do we understand and respond to local needs in different ways? We may know of local charities doing great work, and support

them accordingly, but we may also be able to directly support an individual in need too....

Acts 435 is a project which seeks to do just that. By partnering with local churches and charities, Acts 435 facilitates this direct connection of people in need with people who want to help. Church and charity advocates post the requests, knowing the genuine needs in their community, and donors can give to these requests by online giving.

Revd Margaret Sentamu, until recently Chair of Acts 435 Board of Trustees, said: "Since its inception ten years ago, we at Acts 435 have been amazed, time and time again, at how people respond to need and how individuals and families' lives have been deeply touched and transformed by the relatively small amounts that can help to avert a crisis.

"And because we encourage feedback from the recipients to donors (anonymised of course), people are blown away that total strangers would care enough to come to their aid. The donors are equally blessed and inspired to continue giving. Everyone is blessed, isn't that wonderful!"

This last year has seen an outpouring of generosity, but perhaps more tellingly it has also seen a growth in the different expressions of generosity. Perhaps the challenge for us is to take on a broader whole-life approach to generosity and to embrace 'Generous Living' as a lifestyle as opposed to limiting ourselves to one way of giving. So, if we think about Generous Living encompassing both individual acts of kindness and more structured ways of giving then perhaps we can really start to live out our faith as generous disciples and see God's transformative power at work in our churches and communities; really living out our vision of Growing Church Bringing Hope.

Environment training webinars

TRAINING webinars are being run by the Church of England National Environment Programme on topics such as churchyard management, working towards an Eco Church award and reducing your church's carbon footprint.

These are free to attend, but require booking online.

Land and Nature webinars

5-13 June

During Churches Count on Nature week, a special series of 12 webinars are being run on many different aspects of nature, ecology, churchyard management, and outdoor worship for a church audience.

The opening session is from the Director of Science at Natural England, about the twin crises facing nature and climate, and the closing session is from the Director of conservation charity Caring for God's Acre, on how to record the precious species in your churchyard. [Book here.](#)



GOING
FOR
GREEN

Eco Church training

Various dates in June, July and October, for more details scroll down on [this webpage to book online.](#)

There are four Eco Church webinars:

- An introduction and overview of Eco Church - getting started
- Working towards an award and gaining momentum
- Working towards net zero carbon with Eco Church
- Land and Eco Church

Low Carbon Church webinars - Heat pumps

Tuesday 13 July | noon-1pm

Decarbonising heat is key to achieving net zero carbon. One way to achieve this is to install a heat pump, but this is only suitable for churches in certain circumstances. This workshop will look at the basics of heat pumps (mainly air source and ground source heat pumps). [Book here.](#)

Energy Footprint Tool



THE Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool has opened on Parish Returns Online for churches to enter their 2020 utility bills data.

This easy-to-use tool calculates your church's carbon footprint from the energy used for heating and lighting.

To effectively reduce your church's carbon emissions and energy usage, an important first step is to know how large your current carbon footprint is.

The EFT for 2020 will take into account periods of lockdown and lower utility bills due to Covid restrictions. Find out more [here.](#)

The deadline for submissions is 31 August 2021.



► Eric Sanderson explores the role of a churchwarden over 1600 years

Churchwarden – friend or foe?

A CHURCHWARDEN? Me a churchwarden? – Aw go on! And so it was, at the third time of asking, that I accepted the role.

Despite being an active member of St Peter's Monkseaton, from 1969 to 1999, serving on the PCC, the facilities committee and also being a member of Deanery and Diocesan Synods, I knew little in respect of the origin or history of the churchwarden role.

When part of a project led by Geoff Miller, then Archdeacon, looking at digitising the Terrier and Inventory, I casually mentioned that I was writing a pamphlet about the churchwarden. Geoff enthusiastically supported the venture and suggested that we might issue it to churchwardens at training days. The book was catchily entitled 'The Churchwarden – Friend or Foe? Enigma or Anathema?... Or VIP. Well ...all academical works have long titles so why should mine be any different?

In 1999 my wife and I moved to Poynton, in Cheshire to be closer to family and later, whilst sorting out my 'writings' file, I came across the pamphlet. Re-reading it, I thought it had possibilities for something more detailed and so I set about my research. I am forensically curious by nature, so

Eric Sanderson was born in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1946 and educated at Atkinson Road Technical School and John Marlay Secondary Technical School gaining him an apprenticeship with GPO Telephones. After many years as a telephone engineer, he became a Business Systems Quality and Compliance Auditor with British Telecom. He retired in 1999, allowing him more time for his pastimes of walking, writing general interest articles for his church magazine, family history and building sets for his local theatre.

it took little effort for me to spend many hours in my study, teasing out interesting and curious facts to include in what now would be a proper book.

Over centuries, churchwardens have acquired many 'hats', requiring a broad range of skills both practical and pastoral. There have been many books written to assist them discharge their duties, some making the role appear quite a challenge. Churchwardens have played a pivotal role in parish life and this, sometimes whimsical book explores the dilemmas they have experienced dealing with church and state politics and social problems. The aim of the book is to reassure current churchwardens that they are indeed better off than their predecessors.

The problem with 'academic'

books, is that great care needs to be taken to avoid upsetting anyone. Virtually everything, except the author's own personal experience and words, has to be supported by citation and copyright agreement. A vast amount of time therefore is spent compiling the bibliography.

I chose to self-publish through a print-on-demand service who formatted the final proof, assigned an ISBN number and arranged the legal distribution of library copies, which includes the British Library.

■ For more information about Eric and his book 'Churchwardens – Reflections on 1600 years of Management Ministry and Maintenance', click [here](#). Copies of the book are priced at £9.95 and available to [buy here](#).

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:

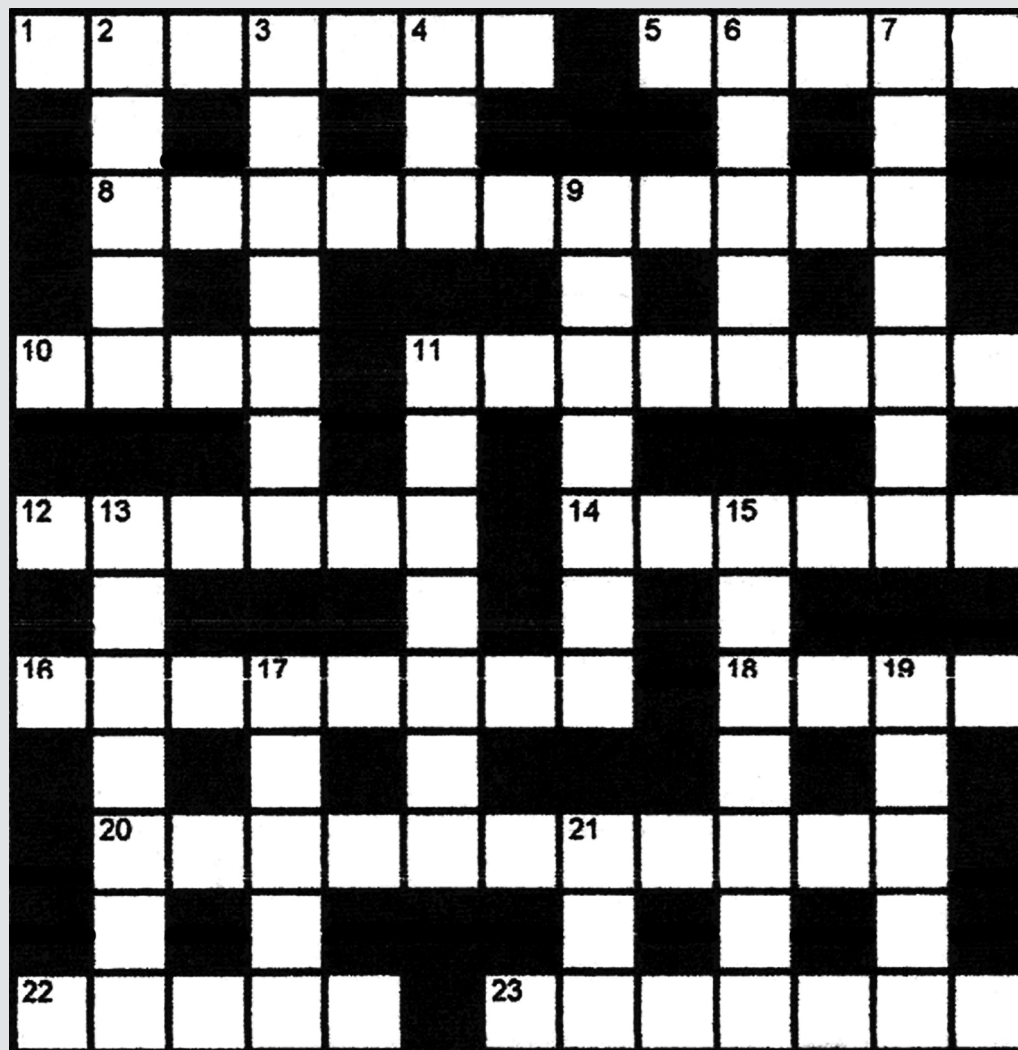
Have your say. LINK, Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields NE29 6HS. Email us: communications@newcastle.anglican.org



Link Crossword 173

Compiled by Mary Sutton

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



ACROSS

1. Person who saves Sam – he is troubled (7)
5. Lamp, not heavy (5)
8. Local inhabitant from French city greeting one royal (11)
10. Sad Tory (4)
11. Precise account by assistant priest (8)
12. Father's mostly conservative minister (6)
14. Probationary nun distressed in cove (6)
16. Prime minister initially enjoying first performance (8)
18. In horror, I terminate ceremony (4)
20. Boy, 10, in the capital of Germany for baptism (11)
22. Long scarf being nicked (5)
23. Attempt to go round in it with group of three (7)

DOWN

2. Exclude former partner parking with the Spanish (5)
3. Snake disturbing ten reps (7)
4. Fool with a ship (3)
6. Interior of pub shown with hesitation (5)
7. Eric, the spoilt nonconformist (7)
9. Fragrant smoke used for popular new scene (7)
11. Stuffy and without a successor, say (7)
13. Fruit peculiar to Capri (7)
15. I've Ron's altered translation (7)
17. Righteous male seen before spoken exam (5)
19. Stingy drunk (5)
21. Make a mistake in another reading (3)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 172

ACROSS: 8. Hosanna
9. Prior 10. Felon
11. Vespers 12. Distant
14. Layer 15. Covet
17. Obscure 19. Ricotta
20. Malta 22. Noted
23. Miracle

DOWN: 1. Chef 2. Psalms 3. Anon 4. Salvation Army 5. Epistles
6. Misery
7. Preserve 12. Doctrine
13. Attitude 16. Vacate
18. Unlock 20. Mark
21. Amen

BOUNDARIES

Sheep may safely graze (... but why in my back garden?)

WE live surrounded by fields of sheep. Two or three years ago around this time of year as the lambs grew and put on a bit of muscle, we found a couple of ewes and teenage lambs munching their way across the lawn and treating our vegetables as an all-you-can-eat buffet.

The ewes had bullied their way under, over and through the hurdles of farm fencing and then through our own effort at containment and protection.

As we attempted to encourage the invaders to exit the area it struck me that our boundaries had not only been breached but trampled under hoof.

Clearly, we were going to have to mend fences and make sure they were fit for purpose given our surroundings. We needed fencing that even a determined ewe would not bully her way through.

Putting up fences that protect us does not mean we have to create a fortress; we can have gates. It just means that we don't have to suffer the consequences of unwelcome visitors, and polite visitors use the gate.

Creating and maintaining our personal boundaries doesn't mean we have to cut ourselves off from the world and hide behind impenetrable fortifications. It does mean that we can be selective about who and what we

Wellbeing

by **Patty Everitt,**
Counselling
Advisor
(Interim)



allow into our personal space. Our boundaries need to be fit-for-purpose in our life.

If we don't have boundaries that are up to the job then we can feel trampled, taken advantage of, invaded. We feel vulnerable.

Funnily enough, recently we have received another lesson in fit for purpose boundaries. The other day we noticed the garden had been re-invaded after a couple of ewe-free years. We tracked the breach to a gap in the fence where the ewe had worked first her muzzle then her head and finally her shoulders into the gap, finally breaking through the fence. We know this because we watched her find her way out after she realised she had been spotted.

This was a clear reminder to me that boundaries need to be repaired regularly – literally and metaphorically.

As time goes by, things come from left field (literally in my case) and if we are feeling fragile or overwhelmed at the time then things can break through our boundaries that otherwise we would have caught and dealt with.

It happens. It doesn't mean we have failed and are back at square one. Not at all. It means that we have some repairs to make, and this almost always means paying attention to ourselves and what we need and then taking some time for self-care so that we have the energy to make those repairs.

One of the ways I realise my boundaries have been breached is when I start to feel angry or frightened. It feels familiar. That's when I know I have to do something, something to restore and re-instate them. As I mentioned, repairing boundaries usually means paying attention to what is happening in my life and noticing what it is that I need to do, or to stop doing or maybe to do a different way. Whichever it is, it means paying attention to myself and my needs. It is not a selfish act. I have only one asset to give in the world and that is myself. I must take care of that asset.

So now we have a repair to make, and in this case, it means putting up a new and robust fence to replace the old broken one. I'd say that is work for a sunny day but there doesn't look to be one on the horizon so we'll wrap-up warm and get started.

■ For more information about the Diocese's counselling provision, click [here](#).

Church Army launches Faith Pictures

CHURCH ARMY
.ORG

FAITH Pictures

A resource for
small groups

WE are pleased to share the launch of Faith Pictures, the free resource from Church Army to help Christians of all traditions talk about their own story of faith with confidence, ready to run online or in person.

Faith Pictures is six sessions long, each one building

on the last to help Christians to see where God has been present in their lives, how they can talk about that confidently, and how God is active in the world around us and wants us to join in with Him.

Download Faith Pictures for free [here](#).



A spectacular Christmas treat by Springs Dance Company

Journey of the Magi

FOLLOWING a sell-out year in 2019, 'Journey of the Magi' is back for churches and schools to host during Advent 2021.

The Springs Dance Company show offers a bridge between contemporary life and Jesus's birth, comparing our own personal journey to Christmas day with the journey that the wise men took.

Journey of the Magi is aimed at audiences of all ages and offers a chance to reflect and focus.

Springs is inviting churches to host a performance of 'Journey of the Magi', which is planning to tour nationally in December 2021.

If the tour cannot go ahead due to Covid-19, bookings will be postponed until Advent 2022 or will be fully refunded.

For more information about Journey of the Magi, click [here](#).

Noticeboard

Saturday 5 June, 7pm. Fifi La Mer presents 'A Journey into French music from Offenbach to Gainsbourg'. St Cuthbert's Church, Norham.

Fifi La Mer take you on a toe-tapping tribute to French music. Along the way, Fifi La Mer tell the story of the humble beginnings of the 'Musette' (Parisian folk) in poorer Parisian areas, the Italians moving to Paris with their accordions, Offenbach music being played in more lavish venues, the chanson realist in Montmartre, songs from the first world war, the crazy 20s, Edith Piaf's classic French 'chanson', and finally 60s/70s French pop.

And (but this is not compulsory!) come dressed as something French - there might be a prize!



> Esther Zarifi

Adults £9, Adults two for one (16-35) £9, Children £4, Family ticket £18. Tickets available [here](#) or from Norham Village Shop.

Thursday 1 July, 6-7.30pm. Zoom Event: 'Woman symbol and women agents: Proverbs

31 and biblical womanhood' - A Conversation@theRRC with Esther Zarifi.

Today there is a rise in both Christian feminism and conservatism, with each appealing to scripture for support and inspiration. In this Conversation@theRRC Esther Zarifi, (winner of the Leonard Hassé Memorial Prize for her MA Dissertation on Proverbs 31) will be discussing how we might read and interpret Proverbs 31 in the light of these contemporary tensions. Is Psalm 31 allegory, metaphor or modelling? How might we understand woman as symbol and/or agent? And why does this matter for women (and men) today? Bookings: [enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk](#) or 0191 375 0586.

LIKE A METAPHOR

Tim Hardy (formerly of the Religious Resources Centre) writes at [www.timbo-baggins.co.uk](#) and is looking forward to his current house move being a thing of the past.



THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

RECENTLY, I've found myself getting mixed up and typing work passwords into my personal lap top. It doesn't get me far and a second attempt is always enough to get me logged on. Whilst some may see this as a sign of my rapidly-increasing age, it's more to do with how much is going on all at once at the moment; lots of things have been happening all-at-once-but-very-slowly for a long time and they're now, seemingly, coming to their conclusions. Which is a good thing. But the rush towards a completion date for the new house, the end of the contract on the dreadful flat, work at the library opening up more and more towards how it briefly was when I started, and the gradual easing of the country's lockdown restrictions are good things but have suddenly started to take a lot of mental energy they hadn't previously, and small things, like which password goes in which box, tend to get forgotten in the maelstrom.

I imagine it feels this way for a lot of us. The long, drawn out year and a bit has taken a toll on us all and the flickering light of the vaccine roll-out, along with a move away from restrictions, can leave us not knowing how to move forward - unsure if we're quite ready to take off our masks and flood back to the way things were

- and wondering if any of society's coping mechanisms might actually be healthy ongoing adjustments to the way things were.

I'm not suggesting we want to remain in the tunnel but that some of the things we've learned on our way through might be worth holding onto: video calls aren't a patch on spending time with friends and family but they're a great way to keep in touch and I love the way they've spilled over from business into the wider world; working from home has been a godsend for many; I value the courtesy of wearing a mask when we might have something airborne that we don't want to pass on; church services have become accessible in new and different ways, prompting a lot of thinking and discussion. To take nothing with us on our way out would be wasteful in the extreme.

Whether we're rushing forward, desperate to bathe in the glow of the long-unseen light, or taking tentative steps, worried about leaving the comfort we may have achieved in the darkness, it's a good time to think about where we're going and why. As my sister-in-law said, in a recent reflection for her church: "He isn't the light at the end of the tunnel, Jesus is the light in the tunnel, with us." In it with us. Bringing comfort in dark times, yes, but also gently calling us to follow and bring our own light with his.

FIFI LA MER Presents...



An exciting insight into 100 years of French music

SAT 5TH JUNE 7PM: ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, NORHAM

Adults £9; Children £4; Family Ticket £18

Tickets LIMITED and ONLY AVAILABLE

online at <https://highlightsnorth.co.uk/event/oh-la-la-fifi-la-mer/> or from Norham Village Shop.

[www.ohlalalamic.co.uk](#)

Visit www.newcastle.anglican.org/events for events taking place across the Diocese

Thank you for Giving Thanks!



> Mrs Hasinur collecting a dry-food ration at a local aid distribution in Delhi. Picture: Christian Aid

WE have good news to share with you...the Giving Thanks for our Vaccines Appeal has raised over £200,000 since it launched in February.

It is now enabling us to expand our work in India and respond to the immediate crisis.

It's with your help that we can respond to the great need in India, and we give thanks to every person who has donated to our appeal.

Since the start of the pandemic, Christian Aid has been working through local partners in India and has already supported around 130,000 of the most vulnerable people in society.

We have been providing life-saving information on how to prevent catching or spreading coronavirus and helping people to access

vital welfare and healthcare.

We have also handed out food to families struggling to feed their families and distributed masks to help keep them safe.

Thanks to your support our local partners in India we will be responding to the crisis by:

- **Creating awareness around vaccination, Covid safety protocols and healthy behaviours**
- **Providing transportation for infected people in rural areas to access hospitals**
- **Providing food rations and in some cases cooked food if the whole family is affected**
- **Setting up quarantine centres with basic facilities**

■ Providing PPE, hygiene kits and medical supplies

Right now, in India a second wave of Covid is having a devastating impact. Cases are rising at an alarming rate. Hospitals are overrun and oxygen supplies are falling short of demand. The need is great, and the more we raise, with gifts in thanks for our own vaccines, the more we can do to keep the world's most vulnerable people safe from coronavirus.

■ If you would like to give thanks for your vaccination by donating to the Diocese's joint appeal with Christian Aid, please click [here](#)!

Christian Aid Week

THANK you for all your wonderful efforts for Christian Aid Week 2021.

You have collected little red envelopes; you've shared e-envelopes and set-up online fundraising pages; you have run, walked, hopped, skipped and jumped your way towards 300,000 steps in May; and you have quizzed your little grey cells!

Every envelope. Every gift. Every prayer. Every challenge saves lives. Thank you!

Come and join our online celebration of Christian Aid Week on Monday 7 June at 7pm. Email hello@christian-aid.org or call 01925 573769 for more details.

Digital Labs conference



A CONFERENCE for churches who want to use digital communications creatively and sustainably for onsite and online communities will be held in June.

The online Digital Labs conference has been organised by the Church of England's digital team and will bring together Church of England experts and church leaders to help equip churches to create a sustainable digital strategy for 2021.

In the last year, churches have radically adopted new digital skills. As restrictions lift, we have an opportunity to reflect on what we've learnt and the role digital will play in the years ahead.

The conference will give people the opportunity to learn sustainable strategies for online and onsite services and events, explore the resources, tools and software available for churches, discover how to support and engage online communities, hear the benefits of using digital in both urban and rural churches, and hear from church leaders who will share first-hand experiences.

A mixture of live keynote sessions and practical workshops, attendees will be able to network with others and ask questions directly to the speakers. Recordings of sessions will also be made available.

The conference takes place on Friday 11 June (evening) and Saturday 12 June (daytime). Tickets £10 are available [here](#).

Sight Loss Friendly Church



From TORCH TRUST

TORCH Trust is holding taster sessions about its new initiative to help churches become more accessible for people with sight loss.

The free 30 minute sessions, organised by the Christian sight loss charity, will explain more about its exciting initiative Sight Loss Friendly Church (SLFC).

Via Zoom, churches will be able to find out more about SLFC including all the benefits of this free resource, meet the SLFC team and ask questions.

Sessions take place on 10, 29 and 30 June, and 13, 14 and 15 July.

To book a place and to find out more click [here](#).

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 [@nddiocese](#)