

**Vicar of St. Giles' and Priest in charge of St. Mary's Sherburn and St. Cuthbert's Shadforth**  
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### St. Giles' Officers

Churchwardens: **Pat Morgan**, 'Woodlands', Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 1JA Tel: 0191 3864701  
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PCC Secretary: **Gordon Batho** Tel: 0191 3868908

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### St. Cuthbert, Shadforth, Officers

Reader: **Michael Bicknell**, 19 Brackendale Road, Belmont Durham . Tel: 0191 3844170

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### St. Mary the Virgin, Sherburn Village, Officers

Churchwarden: **Ethel Scorer** 22 Hall Gardens, Sherburn Village, Durham DH6 1EB Tel: 01913722026

Churchwarden: *Vacant*

Treasurer: **Ken Wilkinson** 8 Park Road, Sherburn Village DH6 Tel:0191 3720952

Secretary: **Jean Wilkinson** 8 Park Road, Sherburn Village DH6 Tel:0191 3720952

Electoral Roll: **Roly Barnes-Hall** 14 Hall Gardens, Sherburn Village Tel: 0191 3723471

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# Letter from The Vicar

**Nostalgia ain't all it's cracked up to be.....**

**I**t's great meeting people from other countries. They often help us to see ourselves as we really are !

A few years ago, I had a delightful young colleague who was German. He was fiercely honest about the horrors of the Nazi era but he was also very funny about us (the English !) He asked me one January, after spending a lot of time (just like us) watching tv over Christmas, why we still showed so many films about "the War" ? Now I love these old war movies, especially the ones in grainy black and white, but my friend was worried that we were stuck in a way of seeing ourselves, our history, which was constantly reinforced as we told ourselves these stories over and over again.

As I said, I love these old films, both the excitement and also the values that they portray – stiff upper lip, courage under fire, black humour. I am ALWAYS impressed and moved by the courage of those who lived through these events for real and wonder at where they found the resources to cope. And for all the problems that there were during war-time, there was also a sense of camaraderie which was true and good. So we are right to



look back with respect and affection.

But those events happened over 60 years ago. The world is a very different place now. Britain has to, has to, navigate a world where we could not, even if we still wanted to, send in the Royal Navy ! And whilst much has been lost in these last 60 years, (social stability for example), we can't go back and recreate the world of the 1940s. It has gone. We can learn from that world but we have to live NOW, in 2010 not 1940. In that sense, nostalgia can be dangerous. It can make us melancholy, sap our will and creativity, leaving us grumpy and unimaginative about change, blind to the good things coming now.

Sometimes I think the Church of England has a bad case

of unhealthy nostalgia. "I can remember when... the church was full, each church had its own vicar, there were robed choirs everywhere and huge Sunday schools." Not all of this nostalgia is even factually correct, but when I hear these phrases I am more worried about the faith of the person saying them than about their accuracy. Because they so often communicate a sense of despair, or that someone else is to blame, or at worst, a silly unreality about what the Church needs to do now to renew itself. Children don't now need the Church to provide an annual charabanc outing to the coast ! But that does not mean they don't need the Church now...

Nostalgia can be the emotion of defeat. "Life was good once, but it is not now and never will be again..." Is nostalgia the opposite of faith ? Faith trusts in a God who is 'the same yesterday, today and for ever' [Hebrews 13:8]. So often we read this verse looking back over our shoulders. That's ok in one sense, because as Christians we remind ourselves every week of the great things God has done in the past and that gives us courage and confidence. But this saying from the Bible also points us to the God who is active now and will be in the future. The future is God's.

So, when we think about the Church, are we stuck in black and white, lamenting the good old days (which were of course new

in their day – but that's a topic for another time !) or can we trust God and look up and see the new things coming, in colour ?? This magazine, the parish web site, the new people involved in ministry, all these and many other things are signs of the new Church coming. But if we are looking in the wrong direction we may not see it. We may get in the way. And that may make us part of the problem not the solution.

Nostalgia or faith ? The choice we each make matters. In this new year, in this renewed magazine, can I encourage you to put your active faith in the God of the future.

**Your friend and vicar,  
Alan**

ps. a huge thanks to Ruth and John for taking the lead in renewing this magazine and an equally warm thank you to those on whose shoulders they stand. But this magazine, if it is to benefit all our churches, needs representatives from all our churches to make it work. Nostalgia or faith – our values shape even little decisions !

Rev. Dr. Alan Bartlett

Vicar of St. Giles' and  
Priest in Charge of St. Mary's and  
St. Cuthbert's

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# The Editor Writes



**W**elcome to the new and latest version of Crosstalk Magazine. For those of you at St Mary's and St Cuthbert's we have tried to get an issue out for February so that you have continuity. For the people of St Giles' this is a new venture as the last magazine in this parish was a few years ago now and for the single parish.

But times change - as our Rev'd Dr Alan has told us - and we must move on with them. So in the middle of lots of bits of paper and being new to the editing business I was heartened to read these words in Psalm 145 at Monday morning prayer recently which said:

**Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;  
his greatness is beyond all searching out.  
One generation shall praise your works to another  
and declare your mighty acts.**

And so this is what we must do and I fully believe that, together, we can make this a highly worthwhile, enjoyable and enriching venture. Rev'd Norman came to see me to

hand over some of his beautifully kept records and said the following; *'It has been a privilege and joy to do the magazine for so many years, but this opportunity has come and I am delighted and pleased with the new venture'*. He would like to thank everyone who has contributed and helped him over the years and hopes that this new magazine continues to spread the Gospel of Jesus across our parishes. Rev'd Norman asks God to bless all that has been and all that is to come- for us all.

And so we begin. John Pounder - who is our publishing editor (as well as a great deal else including some fabulous photography) and I are working hard to fulfill our aim which is for you all to have a comprehensive list of people, services and events month by month and to share in each other's news. For those who are unable to attend church I have included the Gospel for the Sunday so that you can join with us in reading it. So we pray, with God's blessing and the goodwill we share, that this will help us to grow in community together and within the world in which we live.

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**Rev'd Ruth**

**Tel: 07855 236063**  
**curate@stgilesdurham.co.uk**

## Guest Spot

**From Jan Pounder**

**Training to be a reader  
(or how to have a nervous  
breakdown without really  
trying!).**

Someone once said to me that God is a God of surprises! I can certainly testify to that! If you had told me a few years ago that I was soon to be training as a member of the lay ministry in the Anglican Church I would have laughed out loud. It was the farthest thing from my mind.

Perhaps I had better go back to the beginning. In 1999 my mother died and this was a turning point for me which saw me return to education. A committed Christian for many years, I had a feeling (buried down deep and ignored as much as possible!) that God had plans for me to serve Him in some way. I was very interested in counselling and eventually decided to study psychology and counselling with the intention of becoming a counselling psychologist, presuming that this was probably what He had in mind. I was surprised to discover it was not what He had in mind! Instead, at the end of my studies, I had the distinct impression that He wanted me to spend a



year out to hear from Him. As I am not well-known for being patient, towards the end of twelve months I was developing grey hairs and panic was beginning to set in. One day, when I was least expecting it, I heard God speaking. He simply told me to go to my local Anglican church.

I began to attend my parish church. Born and brought up in the Anglican Communion, I had worshipped at a variety of other denominations depending on where I had lived. Returning to the church of my youth was a wonderful experience. As I settled quite happily into the routine of Anglican church life I began to wonder what God wanted me to do there. The parish mag gave three options for those wishing to help out. I could help with

flower arranging (not possible because I have allergies), make the teas and coffees (which I did for a while), or become a Reader.

I was completely ignorant of the role of the Reader (did they just read the Bible?), but felt a strange pull to find out more. In my year of waiting I had started to recognise the heartfelt burden I had for God's people who were experiencing problems or sickness, and were mentally and emotionally hurting or unable to cope with life. I also realised that I had a real desire to preach and teach God's Word. Imagine my surprise and delight when I discovered that these were the responsibilities of a Reader. God had gone before me. Without my realising it He had equipped me educationally to fulfil the pastoral part of my role as a Reader in my studies to be a counselling psychologist. What I lacked was the theological training. So began my three year Reader's training course!

At the time of writing this account I am almost half way through

my theological training. It has been a time of many challenges, hence the humorous mention of a nervous breakdown in my title. Some of these challenges have been spiritual as I have grappled with new concepts and challenges to my faith. Others have been in the acquisition of new practical skills as I get to grips with my role as preacher and liturgical deacon. Also the academic side of things is very demanding. However, I would not have missed it, and although I have been stretched by the past months I feel very privileged to be able to train in this way. The joy and fulfilment I feel in my role as trainee Reader bear witness to the fact that I am where God wants me to be. With God's help I look forward to the time when I am licensed.

I hope my account is an encouragement to others who, like me, have a hunch (perhaps well suppressed) that God may have "something" for them to do for Him. Take some time to pray and ask Him to reveal it to you. He may surprise you too!

*Father, I abandon myself into your hands;  
do with me what you will,  
Whatever you do I thank you.  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only your will be done in me,  
as in all your creatures,  
I ask no more than this, my Lord.*

*Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916)*

Confirmation: from Anthony Dove

*I decided that I would like to get confirmed last year. There were many reasons for my decision but the most prominent reason was that for the first time in my life I felt myself ready to progress in my faith. I spoke to our Vicar, Rev. Alan Bartlett, about this and a month later I was invited to share a course for confirmation candidates. The course was about ten weeks long at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Belmont. I attended this course every Sunday afternoon supported by my mother. During the course myself and five other candidates studied different aspects of Christian life. These included subjects such*

*as the Holy Trinity, the Bible, and the importance of the Church today. This course then assured that I was ready for the next step on my Christian journey. On November 19th, 2009, I was confirmed into the Christian Church by Bishop Mark of Jarrow, in Durham Cathedral.*

*This ceremony included being blessed and anointed with oil, and I was presented with a small wooden cross. My parents, siblings and other relatives, as well as Rev. Eileen and Rev.*

*Di were all there to support me. I was given a lovely present of a modern day Bible from the Church. This was the most spiritual moment of my life, and I felt closer to God than I have ever felt.*  
Anthony Dove



# teachings

## The "Big Read"



So what is the "Big Read" ? Why are we all talking about it ?

This year, in almost all of the churches, we are reading Luke's Gospel together. This is the Gospel that shows Jesus at his most humane and gentle. It is very good to read !

The regional church leaders have got together and suggested that all our churches spend time this year reading Luke and sharing it with other people. So in our parishes we will be:

**1)** Going to some of the special talks which Bishop Tom is giving. The next one we are going to is on February 25th in Chester le Street, about how Luke tells the story of Jesus' Passion. We are so fortunate to have one of the great Bible scholars in our region. Not to be missed !

**2)** Reading Luke together. We will be running (at least) two Lent reading groups: one on a Tuesday afternoon at St Mary's and one on a Thursday evening at St Giles. We will read a bit of Luke together with our fellow local Christians, and talk about how it connects with our lives. Our Lent groups are always good. Watch out for the sign-up lists.

**3)** Reading Luke on our own. We are going to be selling, at a huge discount, Bishop Tom's new little book, Luke for Lent. Only £3.50 per copy. This will help us to read Luke in our own time over the year.

**4)** Reading Luke with others. After Easter, we hope to run an open reading group for ANYONE who wants to open a copy of Luke and say what they make of it...watch this space.

There is a lot more information on the diocesan web-site.

***[www.thebigread.homecall.co.uk/](http://www.thebigread.homecall.co.uk/)***

Bishop Tom has kindly agreed that his 3 Big Read talks may be recorded. These will be made available on The Big Read website as podcasts, and can be downloaded for people to listen to online, or burned onto CDs for people to listen to in their homes. We expect that the talk and Introduction to Luke will be on the website by about 12th February. The story of The Passion in Luke by about March 19th, and the final talk Easter and Beyond by May 21st.

# St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's



Rev'd Eileen Tarren  
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Other officers:

St. Mary's:

Gift Aid: Mrs. A Holmes

Mothers Union: Mrs. B Temple

Flowers: Miss M Ross

St. Cuthbert's:

Verger: Mr. K Lowery



## Crosstalk newsflash

This is the first production of 'Crosstalk' that Rev'd Norman Shaw has not been the producer/editor/contributor and indeed printer.

We are immensely grateful for all he has contributed to the production of our parish magazine, especially his thought provoking articles and his sound wisdom but I'm sure that he will continue to do so as long as he is able.

It has been no easy task cajoling articles out of our congregations and coming up with new ideas, however he managed to achieve it year in and year out.

The overwhelming drive for keeping the magazine going was his certainty that it was, and still is, a most valuable tool for ministry and evangelism within our parishes. With his encouragement and example I'm sure his work will be a great inspiration to our new team, it just remains for me to say a very BIG THANK YOU to Rev'd Norman on behalf of us all.

**Eileen**

### An Acrosticon

From the Rev'd Dorothy Wilson

#### A New Year's Gift to Our Captain

**W**-hen Phoebus did this morning first appear  
**I**-nriching with his beams our hemisphere,  
**L**-eaving the darksome night behind him, and  
**L**-onging to be at his meridian;  
**I**-magine then the old year's out of date,  
**A**-new one unto Jove let's dedicate -  
**M**-an should not be like an old almanack.  
**H**-eavens guide you, Sir, that Paul's words may be  
**O**-ld things are done away, all things are new; [true]  
**U**-nto the rich endowments of your mind  
**L**-ift up your noble courage: Fortune's kind  
**D**-irections bid you forwards; your *Assistance*  
**I**-s begged by Mars for th' *Trypolines'* resistance.  
**N**-er man more fit bold acts to undertake,  
**G**-od with his blessings make you fortunate.

*Rev Henry Teonge ( Chaplain on HMS Assistance )  
( 1621-1690 )*

## Number Draw

We start another year with our number draw. Our thanks go to Roly for arranging this. Please could we have your contribution by the third Sunday of each month, as this helps the smooth running of the draw which takes place on the last Sunday of the month. For those who pay yearly please let us have your contributions by the third Sunday of January. New contributors are always welcome.

Please contact R Hall.

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School produced a wonderful banner depicting the Nativity; well done. Please come and look - it's in the Narthex. We thank those who teach and encourage the children. We now have an oak light weight cross which will be used at services.

## Parish website

[www.stgilesdurham.co.uk](http://www.stgilesdurham.co.uk)  
[www.stmarysherburn.co.uk](http://www.stmarysherburn.co.uk)

[www.stcuthbertshadforth.co.uk](http://www.stcuthbertshadforth.co.uk)

In December I began building a combined website for St. Giles', St. Mary's and St. Cuthberts. It is now beginning to take shape but at the moment has noticeably more content material for St. Giles' than the others. If anyone from St. Mary's and St. Cutbert's would like to give me suggestions, material or photographs that are specific to their churches I would be pleased to add it.

It would be useful for me to have a contact at each church who would accept material and pass it on to me in the same way we are hoping to do with the magazine.

Any offers?

[johnpounder@stgilesdurham.co.uk](mailto:johnpounder@stgilesdurham.co.uk)

Tel: 0191 3832988

## St. Mary's Mother's Union

The Mother's Union meet on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Narthex. The speaker will be Claire Wakefield and everyone is welcome.



## The Monthly Coffee Morning

At Sherburn Community Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 10-11am Come and enjoy a bacon bun or a toasted teacake; the cake stall and raffle and the friendly chat.

## Sunday School

Both St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's have Sunday School in the church during the Sunday Morning Service.

Visitors are always welcome.

### Teachers:

#### St. Cuthbert's :

Ms. Wendy Martin

#### St. Mary's :

Mrs. Natalie Chapman

Mrs. Alison Fawell



## February 2010

### Sun 7<sup>th</sup>      **Second Sunday Before Lent**

9.00 am      Sung Eucharist at St Cuthbert's

*Priest* Rev'd Dr Alan Bartlett

10.45 am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

*Priest* Rev'd Dr Alan Bartlett

Gospel Reading for the day: Luke 8: 22-25

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

9.30 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

6.30 pm Holy Communion at St Cuthbert's

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

### Sun 14<sup>th</sup>      **Sunday Next before Lent**

9.00 am Sung Eucharist at St Cuthbert's

*Priest* Rev'd Eileen Tarren

10.45 am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

*Priest* Rev'd Eileen Tarren

Gospel Reading for the day: Luke 9: 28-36

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Wed 17<sup>th</sup>      Ash Wednesday

9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

9.30 am at St Mary's: Rev'd Eileen Tarren

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

6.30 pm at St Cuthbert's: Rev'd Eileen Tarren

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's



Sun 21<sup>st</sup> First Sunday of Lent

9.00 am Sung Eucharist at St Cuthbert's

*Priest* Rev'd Eileen Tarren

10.45 am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

*Priest* Rev'd Eileen Tarren

Gospel Reading for the day: Luke 4: 1-13

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

9.30 am at St Mary's

6.30 pm at St Cuthberts

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 9am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Lent

9.00 am Sung Eucharist at St Cuthbert's

*Priest* Rev'd Eileen Tarren

10.45 am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

*Priest* Rev'd Eileen Tarren

Gospel Reading for the day: Luke 13: 31-end

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Morning Prayer is also said at St Giles' on Mondays and Thursdays at 8.45am. Please see St Giles' Services page for other service times.

# Calendar of Services St. Giles

February 2010

## Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Candlemas Second Sunday Before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP  
*Priest* Rev'd Dorothy Wilson  
10.00 am All Age Service (non-eucharist)  
*Service leader* Rev'd Ruth Thomas  
Gospel reading for the day: Luke 8: 22-25  
6.30pm Sung Eucharist  
*Priest* Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 8.45 am Morning Prayer  
(Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Sherburn)  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
8.45 am Morning Prayer  
10 am Holy Communion *St. Scholastica*  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 8.45 am Morning Prayer

## Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday Next before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP  
*Priest* Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett  
10.00 am Sung Eucharist  
Gospel Reading for the day: Luke 9: 28-36  
*Priest* Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 8.45 am Morning Prayer  
(Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Sherburn)  
Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday  
8.45am Morning Prayer  
10 am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes  
7pm Eucharist  
*Priest* Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 8.45 am Morning Prayer

## Sun 21<sup>st</sup> First Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP

*Priest* Rev'd Dorothy Wilson

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

*Priest* Rev'd Dorothy Wilson

Gospel Reading for the day: Luke 4: 1-13

6.30 pm Said Evening Prayer

Monday 22<sup>th</sup> 8.45 am Morning Prayer

(Tuesday 23<sup>th</sup> am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Sherburn)

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

8.45 am Morning Prayer

10 am Holy Communion

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 8.45 am Morning Prayer

## Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP

*Priest* Rev'd Dr Alan Bartlett

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

*Priest* Rev'd Dr Alan Bartlett

Gospel Reading for the day: Luke 13: 31-end

6.30 pm Evensong

( any changes to service details will be posted on the website)

### Note from the PCC Treasurer

#### **To use Bank Standing Orders instead of weekly envelopes.**

Ask your bank to set up a Standing Order for which you will need the details of the account which will receive the payment.

These details can be obtained from the Treasurer of St. Giles', **John Eden**, Tel: 0191 3840029 or contact him in church at the Sunday 10am or 6.30pm service.

Some banks will set up a weekly order but monthly is usual. For a monthly order an adjustment will need to be made to the amount to cover the difference between what is given in a four-week period and what the amount should be in a calendar month. Multiply the weekly amount by 52 and divide the answer by 12. In most cases an odd figure is produced so please round it **up** rather than down!

# Of other interest

## Exploring Prayer at St. Giles', St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's

For many of us, as we get older, we face new issues. How we are in ourselves and with God changes ? But this is not something we often talk about together. ....**So**.....

On **Tuesday February 9th 12 Noon in the Parish Centre at St Giles.** Graham Keyes, who is a retired priest from Newcastle and author of a recent Grove Book on '**Spirituality and Ageing**', will lead a workshop for us one how our spiritual lives change as we age. What are the special challenges and burdens and privileges of older age ? Graham led the *Simeon and Anna Project* in the North East for many years, which helped many older people think and pray about their spiritual lives. There is no-one better to come and spend some time with us. A light lunch with refreshments will be provided.



Please phone or e-mail the St Giles' Parish Administrator, Mrs, Davina Tomlinson to book a place by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 07904 510 997

[stgileschurchdurham@live.co.uk](mailto:stgileschurchdurham@live.co.uk)

**nb. this is a change of date from that on the posters. Alan**

### Parish Administrator

Hidden away in a cubbyhole at St. Giles' is our new Parish Administrator, Davina Tomlinson. If you need any information or want to add a notice to the Sunday 'pew sheet', contact Davina .

Tel: 07904 510997  
[stgilesdurham@live.co.uk](mailto:stgilesdurham@live.co.uk)



## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

from St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's  
to gather material for the magazine and  
email it to the editor.

We are all being encouraged  
to read and learn **Luke's gospel**  
more fully this year and you will be  
able to join in with events as well  
as re-read some of our sermons on  
the website. Ruth's first sermon on  
Luke on Advent Three is on [www.stgilesdurham.co.uk/fromthepulpit](http://www.stgilesdurham.co.uk/fromthepulpit)

**To Commemorate the anniversary,  
special Silver Spring Pens, inscribed**

....

***St. Cuthbert's Church,  
Shadforth,  
170th Anniversary 1839 - 2009***

**are on sale at 60p each,  
in blue or black ink.  
Also good quality combs in an  
inscribed case at 80p each.**

## A Profile of Luke

**Also known as:** The 'beloved physician' (Col. 4:14)

**Home:** Antioch of Syria; later Philippi and other cities where Christian communities were started.

**Background:** Born into a cultured, educated Gentile family.

**Profession:** Primarily a physician, though he became a historian and author, and even did some evangelism.

**Best known for:** Writing about one-fourth of the New Testament (Luke and Acts). His works emphasise the impact of the gospel on people considered 'second-class' in Jewish culture at the time - Gentiles, women, the poor - as well as the topics of prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit.



The deadline for Crosstalk March issue is 15<sup>th</sup> February

# St. Giles' Charitable Giving - Lent Boxes

At its last meeting, the PCC decided to focus our parish giving on 6 major charities in 2010. This will enable us to give more but also to develop a relationship with the 6 charities so that we learn more of their work. This will in turn help our giving to feel less like giving to a faceless charity and more like sharing our riches with real other people - and receiving in turn from them. We are supporting a mixture of church and secular charities, local and overseas.

This year we will be supporting:

**Durham Women's Refuge**

**NEPACS** (the charity that helps prisoners' families)

**Moving on** (a local charity that helps homeless young people)

**The Church Mission Society** (one of the great Anglican overseas mission societies)

**The Leprosy Mission**

more information next month

**WaterAid**

**The Edith Jackson Trust** (a charity building a school in a former war zone in Southern Sudan) <http://www.edithjacksontrust.org.uk>

However, we can also continue to support other charities in different ways. So in Advent we have boxes for the Children's Society and have special collections. At Christmas we give our collections to Shelter. The coffee mornings and drop-ins support St Cuthbert's Hospice. We raise money for Christian Aid through our street collecting and also through our collective Christmas Card (see elsewhere in the magazine for more details on what we did with this money this year).

And we can support USPG (the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) through filling our Lent Boxes. USPG is the other great Anglican mission society. It supports people working in the developing world in health, education and training, as well as growing the Church. If I can speak personally, I know that USPG supports a young Englishman who is now working as a personal assistant to the Archbishop of Sudan, travelling widely in a dangerous country and helping especially with the building of new schools. He is a remarkable young man and worth every penny. So do please give generously !!

But this is also a good time to stop and say "Well done !" As Vicar, part of my job is to nag about our level of giving to support God's work - and I will soon be doing more of that !!! But I also want to celebrate and congratulate this church on your generosity, one of our key values. If what we do with our money is one of the key tests of the reality of our faith, then please hear Christ's words: "Well done, good and faithful servant".

**Alan**

# History Page

## The case of The Alfred Unsworth Bookstand



A mystery is unfolding in St. Giles' Church. When the two old oil tanks were removed from the basement of the church recently, a book stand was discovered behind one of them. The inscription reads: "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Alfred Unsworth Died. May 1st 1944, given by his wife".

After some investigation it was found that there was an Alfred Unsworth born in 1882 to Ashton and Jane Unsworth who, according to the 1881 Census, lived at 4, McNays Building, with one son and daughter.

According to the 1891 Census the same family now lived at 16 Pit Row, Sherburn, Durham, but the father, Ashton, was by then a wid-

ower. Alfred had two brothers living with him in this year. Following on from this, and according to the 1901 Census, Alfred lived at 9, McKay's Buildings, St Marks, Sunderland, and he was a Rivet Heater in the shipyard. It appears that he still lived with his father, who had remarried, and his stepmother was named Mary, and in this year he had one brother and three sisters living at home.

Alfred died aged 62 in 1944 in Durham City.

The mystery is this; is the above-mentioned Alfred Unsworth one and the same person as mentioned on the book stand, or is it a different Alfred Unsworth altogether? Perhaps someone in the congregation



knows the Unsworth family in question, or even remembers Alfred or his wife; if so, would you please contact me.

Carol Bleasdale

[carol.bleasdale@sky.com](mailto:carol.bleasdale@sky.com)

# From the Parish Registers

**Baptisms:** 'Whoever is in Christ, is a new creation.' St Paul, 2 Corinthians 5:17

|                           |              |           |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> December  | Kimiya Kiana | St.Giles' |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> December | Liam Hall    | St.Giles' |
|                           | Sophie Hall  | St.Giles' |
|                           | Alfie Guy    | St.Giles' |

**Marriages:** 'God is love, and those who live in love, live in God' St John | John 4:16

12<sup>th</sup> December Sam Herbert & Jen Davis St. Giles'

**Funerals:** 'In my father's House are many rooms' Jesus John 14:2

|                         |                                  |  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> . Dec.  | Thomas "Tom" Henry James aged 95 | service at St. Giles' and Durham Crematorium.    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> . Dec.  | James Green, (Jim), aged 84      | Durham Crematorium                               |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> . Dec.  | Douglas Patterson,(Doug) aged 79 | service at St. Mary's and Durham Crematorium     |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> . Dec. | Derek Seymour aged 65            | service at St. Giles' and Durham Crematorium.    |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec.   | Phoebe Colledge, aged 83         | service at Durham Crematorium                    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> . Jan.  | Anne Elizabeth Schofield aged 76 | service at Durham Crematorium.                   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> . Jan.  | John Luke aged 84                | service at St. Giles' and Durham Crematorium.    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> . Jan.  | Mary Jane Wild aged 92           | service at St. Mary's and Sherburn Cemetery      |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> . Jan. | Enid Hunter aged 88              | service at St. Cuthbert's and Durham Crematorium |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> . Jan. | John Dresser aged 80             | service at St Giles' and Durham Crematorium      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> . Jan. | Samuel Davies aged 69            | service at St. Cuthbert's and Shadforth Cemetery |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> . Jan. | Betty Brass aged 82              | Durham Crematorium                               |

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## A tribute to Enid Hunter

We give thanks for the life of Enid, for all she did, the examples of love expressed in her daily life. Enid was Sacristan for many years at St. Cuthbert's and her highlights of love were shown especially for children,

seen at the Christmas Fayre when she made crackers, wrapped beautiful parcels for 'Santa' and also 'Bran Tub' prizes. She was always present at the events held at Church i.e. Coffee Mornings, Concerts. Enid supported John during the many years he was treasurer of St. Cuthberts. Unfortunately she has not been well for the last few years and we have missed both Enid and John's presence immensely. Enid met John during the Second World War whilst she was in the Land

Army and he in the Royal Engineers and have spent



63 years of happy marriage. They have three children Beth (Angela) Elaine and Gillian, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren, of whom she was always delighted in learning of their progress. The countryside was Enid's joy and holidays, especially in England where she was able to take her beloved dogs along with her, was foremost. At Enid's funeral conducted by The Revd. Dorothy Wilson, assisted by The Revd. Eileen Tarren and The Revd.

Margaret Lee, her granddaughter Sashika read from 1 Corinthians 13 :1-13 a reading very fitting to Enid's life. In accordance with Enid's wishes, donations were made to The Children's Society. Our thoughts and prayers are John and his family at this time.

#### A Big 'Thank You'

A Big 'Thank You' to Bob Bell and Kenneth Lowery for the excellent job of keeping the Church pathway clear so many times during the atrocious weather.

*Kathleen Gilson*

### Cuthbert Barnfather

With sadness we heard of Cuthbert's death on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Cuthbert died, as he lived, quietly and without fuss. Cuthbert worshiped at St. Mary's for a number of years, enjoying his visits and he particularly looked forward to our parish holidays. He enjoyed outings, even after his illness last year and it was just before Christmas that he visited the Sage and enjoyed a meal out. We give thanks for his many acts of kindness and faithful love of The Lord and his friendship among us.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Moira and Donald Tate

celebrated 60 years of marriage on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

## Administrative Information

Fees for services in our churches are mostly set by the Church of England. The PCC have some limited discretion about local fees. For 2010 the PCCs have agreed that in future the churches should charge the same fees (fairer and does not cause confusion). This means that in 2010 we have had to increase fees a little more than we had hoped, in order to bring the churches into line with each other. The increase next year will be much lower (we hope !)

We should add that the fees really only barely cover the costs and that given that all three of our churches are experiencing some financial difficulties, we cannot expect regular attenders to subsidise the church for those who use it only occasionally.

We also decided last year that, except in the case of children or severe financial difficulty, we would not waive the fees. This means that no-one, (including the Vicar !), is exempt from the fees for a wedding or a funeral etc..

### PCC Information

Recent meetings of both PCCs resolved to publish both agendas for their meetings and also minutes of their meetings on notice-boards in the churches. Do please read and pray and share your views. The PCCs are trusted to make important decisions for our churches but benefit from hearing what everyone thinks. Thank you.



## Jen Kell Comments.....

Have you enjoyed the wonderful music , singing and organ playing this year in St. Giles Church?  
I hope the answer is yes!

We in the choir have so enjoyed singing some amazing stuff, and having other choirs join us has been a pleasure.

Here are some inspiring words from the great Martin Luther.



*'Next to theology I give to music the highest place and honour. Music is the art of the people and the prophets, the only sound that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents that God has given us.'*

Praise God for the talents of the composers, musicians and singers.



## Christmas cards turned into presents

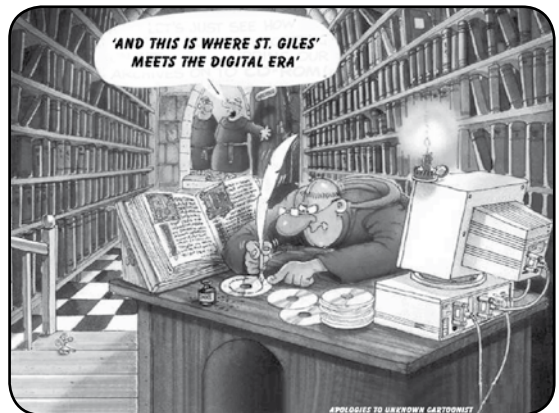
Instead of giving individual Christmas cards to each other, the congregation of St Giles' Church wished each other Merry Christmas through a communal Christmas card. The card was displayed in church over the festive season for everyone to see and enjoy. People were able to donate the money they may have spent on cards to buy gifts for others through Christian Aid's 'Present Aid'. The communal Christmas card raised an amazing £61 and through 'Present Aid'. With the money we have been able to equip a school classroom in rural Bangladesh with desks, benches and a teacher's chair – a real boost to the children's education. There was a little money left so we were also able to buy 100 fruit trees to help Ethiopia's three year project to plant 45,000 fruit trees that will help to provide food and safeguard the future of agricultural land.

Chris Wood

Enquiries regarding Baptisms, the Calling of Banns of Marriage, or Weddings at St. Giles' should be made either by contacting the Parish Administrator on  
07904 510 997

*stgilesdurham@live.co.uk*

Calling in at the Consultation Hour in church on Friday evening 5.30 - 6.30  
or  
contacting the Vicar on 0191 384 2452



Rev Ruth Thomas recommends this link for those of you interested in environmental and climate issues in the Durham Region  
[www.climatedurham.org](http://www.climatedurham.org)



# The Methodist Communion Table

## Prayers over Methodist Communion Table

Dear Lord,  
we thank you for what this Holy Table represents:  
years of your loving faithfulness, giving yourself to Communion with us;  
years of loving faithfulness, as people made this beautiful Table and prepared it week by week to meet with you;  
years of loving faithfulness as the people called Methodists and the people called Anglicans covenanted and walked together.

May this Holy Table be a permanent reminder of this loving faithfulness.  
Use it to teach your people of our unity in you.  
And as people enter this church, use this Table to speak to them of your love.

We ask all this in Jesus' Name.  
Amen.

Friends from the Methodist congregation that used to worship at St Giles were invited to attend a service to dedicate and give thanks for the Gilesgate Methodist Communion Table which they kindly donated to us, and which is a sign of the friendship and shared mission of our churches. It was a wonderfully moving service, also attended by the Revd Alison Wilkinson, the Minister of Carrville Methodist Church, and our past vicar, Revd Tom Thubron. This was a celebration of links over many years, and especially the Covenant which our churches signed. The service was followed by a Faith Brunch which was well attended and gave everyone the chance to catch up with old friends.





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