

The Editor Writes



Ruth

Editor
Rev'd Ruth Thomas
Curate

Letter from The Vicar

So what do vicars do all day ??

I wonder if you wonder what vicars do all day ? Or do you know ? I ask that because sometimes the way folk behave forces me to the conclusion that they have some funny ideas about what vicars do all day...

So I thought I would tell you what vicars do all day...and then I realised I couldn't because there is no such thing as a typical day. Which is both the delight and the challenge of this job ! So let me imagine a day, with some typical ingredients.

The day begins with prayer. All Church of England clergy are supposed to say Morning (and Evening) Prayer every day, except when they are on leave, or ill, or too busy (except the Canons of the Church don't say that...) In our parishes we honour this church law by saying Morning Prayer together on the weekdays when we are on duty, either at St Giles' or at St Mary's.

On a Tuesday, we go straight into our Staff Meeting. Just like any organisation or team, we have to plan together. Who is doing what and when ? What events are coming up ? Any pastoral issues ? As the parishes become busier, so it becomes more important to ensure that the clergy team is working smoothly.

Then it is certain that we will

have a mixture of pastoral work, administration, meetings and visits to schools.

Most weeks we have a funeral to conduct, or a visit to a bereaved family before or after a funeral. These sad occasions bring us close to people but can also be emotionally demanding. Or we might be meeting a couple who are planning their marriage or have asked for a baptism for a child. These are the occasions which clergy often enjoy, as it is exciting to sense God's Spirit at work in people's lives; though it is also true that these occasions can be frustrating as so many folk don't really connect with God's love for them every day and not just on the special days. On top of this, all parish clergy live with a constant frustration and guilt that we should be visiting members of our churches more often, especially those who are sick or in any kind of need...

Inevitably there is administration. "Two people in a room is an institution". The Church is an institution and needs to be run well. This means meetings and rotas, lots of letters and e-mails, forms to complete and especially at the moment, much time looking after our buildings. Speaking for myself, I think clergy have to spend too much time on admin and it is not really at the heart of what we are called to do. I don't mind doing my fair share but I have said to our PCCs that we need to be working now so that in a few years

time, each of our churches will be able to look after itself administratively, legally, financially, with little clergy support.

And there are meetings – church life doesn't just happen ! We spend a lot of time talking and praying and planning together. In fact the more clergy work with lay people in running our churches and services, the more time we have to spend in meetings. Churches are teams not dictatorships and a key clergy role is to enable the whole Body of Christ to do its work.

Further, clergy have particular responsibility to connect our churches to the wider life of our neighbourhoods, and to the Deanery and Diocese. Both Eileen and I have been elected to the Diocesan Synod and I have been drawn into a new responsibility in the Diocese, helping to shape how we continue to train and resource clergy, once they get to be vicars !

Then there are the visits to schools, being a school governor, taking assemblies etc..

And all this before we start preparing services and sermons, helping with the exciting new mission developments in church life – like "Messy Church" – which should take priority for us.

Or simply reading and thinking and praying so that we don't go stale.

In addition, I came to these parishes with existing responsibilities as a Visiting Fellow of St John's College,

which includes some teaching and supervision of research students. And as our team grows here, as vicar, I have specific responsibility for supervising the training of our Curates, Readers and Pastoral Auxiliary. All this involves regular one to one sessions.

Whew – I am tired just reading this... And the tough reality is that most clergy work much too hard. We put in hours which would not be allowed by the European Union (if they knew about them !) A 12 hour day is a short day.

SO – I hope you have a clearer sense now of why the clergy often appear to be dashing around too much. Why we may occasionally get tired and even ratty (I of course speak for myself...) Why wasting clergy time is a real "no, no". As a little tease, I have written some tips for making your Vicar's life ineffective. Please take them in the spirit in which they were written – tongue firmly in cheek.

We are (mostly !) glad to do this work and as a team we do it in different ways and properly different intensities. We do ask you to pray for us in these responsibilities and to work with us for the growth of God's Kingdom.

Your friend and Vicar,

Alan

10 Tips for making your Vicar ineffective...

[With apologies to the Screwtape Letters (letters from a senior devil to a junior devil, written by C.S.Lewis) and Yes Minister (the old political sitcom).]

1. GRUMBLE. Great for undermining the clergy and depressing the Church.
2. NEVER volunteer. Nothing wears out the clergy faster than having constantly to find people to do things.
3. If you do volunteer, don't finish the job properly and then – and this is REALLY IMPORTANT – don't tell the clergy that you haven't done the job properly. Just wait till it goes wrong and then GRUMBLE.
4. Swamp your clergy with lots of minute questions. Filling someone's head with lots of small questions completely stops their ability to concentrate on the big stuff.
5. Use your clergy as postmen, telephone directories, calendars, the speaking clock...
6. Phone the clergy at meal times. They don't eat, don't suffer from indigestion, don't have families... And of course you know they are in at meal times so it is a good time to catch them.
7. Call at the clergy house unannounced. OK, this may waste your time because they don't often sit at their desks waiting for callers, but you might just catch them in the middle of doing something important and knock them off course.
8. Just before a big event, a service or something, ask them about some routine bit of administration. This will distract them and make it more likely they will make a mistake.
9. Try to catch them on their day off – this way they never rest properly, get over-tired, run down etc etc..
10. GRUMBLE – no Church cannot be damaged by more grumbling.
11. And above all, DON'T PRAY for them.

The Durham Mystery Plays

Did you get to see these or read the reports in the papers? Fascinating to see thousands of people turning out to see modern versions of the great story of salvation, even on a freezing cold summer night! And so many of the cast were “ordinary” folk – young and old – from across the North East. The performances were almost all powerful and beautiful, and often funny. We have lost the medieval version of the Durham Mystery Plays, but this new version was well worth the effort. I was both moved and challenged by what I saw and wanted to add some thoughts to the first-hand experiences of Matthew Annie and Kath.

As always, it is challenging to see the Christian story retold by those who may or may not be Christians themselves. I was struck by how harsh was the picture of God which was portrayed. Naively creating a world and then grumbling when it went wrong. Egotistical – demanding worship and sacrifice. Unforgiving. Is this how people see the God of the Bible? Not surprising if they don't want to believe in him? But is this a fair portrayal of the God of the Bible – I think not but we have to take this perspective seriously.

The one thing I thought lacking was – and this is going to sound really really old-fashioned – a sense of sin.

It seemed as if the whole mess was God's fault. The portrayal of Adam and Eve lacked an understanding that this was about bad choices springing from deceit and even arrogance, not just an unfair test set by an arbitrary God. And in the Noah story – where God was played by a classic County Durham grandmother from Esh Winning – God seemed impatient and hard, rather than horrified by the violence and corruption of human beings. Modern human beings are seriously struggling to look at themselves honestly. Given all our attention on self-analysis, this is a puzzle.

I was also moved to tears. As always the Crucifixion tears at our hearts. Here done as a modern piece of dance. The pompous power of Pilate and Herod contrasted sharply with the simple beauty of Christ. But the play that moved me the most was the story of the Resurrection of Lazarus.

A real ambulance backed into the audience and the paramedic and policeman got out and tried to comfort two distraught sisters. We thought it was real. It could have been the North Rd on a Saturday night. Then we realised that these were brilliant local actors, helping us to feel the death of a much-loved brother. The paramedic couldn't save Lazarus, despite all the hi-tech kit. But where was Jesus, his friend? The sisters are angry and tearful. And then the

policeman's radio crackles into life. Jesus is coming. The policeman is anxious about public order. Jesus is a trouble maker. He wants the dog section and the riot squad. Jesus gets there first and simply raises Lazarus – who stumbles out of the back of the ambulance. Scattered in the audience, actors leap into life. There is cheering and shouting. Tear-filled joy. They run off into the night. The

policeman waits for his colleagues to arrive. Jesus is causing trouble. They will get him... This play transmitted all the emotion and power of the Life of Christ into Durham in 2010. For those 20 minutes alone, I am deeply grateful. If they publish a dvd of the Durham Mysteries, get it. And they are being done again in 2013. Not to be missed.

Alan

Overall being in the mystery plays was a fun and challenging experience as it was a style of theatre that I had never really performed in before. The mysteries were made up of 8 different plays, each based on a different bible story. My stage school were given 'The Crucifixion' to perform with a brand new score and script.

Each play had a script that had a new take on the story it was about, and 'The Crucifixion' focused on a soldier who witnessed the death of Jesus and was greatly affected by it, although a large part of the play was dance, specially choreographed for the mysteries. I really enjoyed taking part and I think that anyone who went to see the the mysteries enjoyed themselves too,

Anna Bartlett



Tues 3 - Sat 7 Aug, 7.00pm (+ Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm).

Tickets available from the Gala Theatre 0191 332 4041.

Performed by the Gala Theatre Stage School, the company that brought you the highly successful productions of 'RENT' and 'We Will Rock You' comes one of the most popular Disney musicals of all time.

Durham Mystery Plays

I go to school at Belmont Community Arts College and because I perform in their summer and Christmas shows I was chosen to take part in the Durham Mystery Plays for 2010. The plays were broken up into ten smaller stories performed around Durham City, my play *The Fall Of Creation* about Lucifer's exile from the Garden of Eden was performed as an opera in Durham Cathedral.



I rehearsed at school every Tuesday lunch time for 6 weeks, Em, the musical director and choreographer from the mystery play production team came to help us. I was playing the drums and singing. I worked really hard to get ready for the shows.

The week of the mystery play I rehearsed at the Gala Theatre on Sunday, and Tuesday and Wednesday night in Durham Cathedral. This was the first time I got to meet the rest of the cast. I thought they were all really good opera singers.

Then came the performances in the Cathedral this was a fantastic experience singing and dancing in front of hundreds of people. The alter at the front of the Cathedral was lit with red and purple lights to give a dramatic effect, musicians were playing brass instruments, an electric organ and a bassoon, these were joined by an electric cello which made the music more powerful, it filled the Cathedral.

God dressed all in white and Lucifer dressed in red were played by nine foot tall puppets who started out as friends and ended up as enemies when Lucifer got exiled from the Garden of Eden.

Then trees and woodland creatures arrived dressed in green followed by the serpent a magnificent long shiny shimmering snake made up from a long line of primary school children, with a huge scary serpents head.

At the end myself and the other devils had to process up the central aisle of the Cathedral banging our drums (pots, pans and metal trays) then return to the stage to take a final bow. This was very different from any thing else I have ever done in the Cathedral before.

Performing in the mystery play was loads of fun, exciting to be in the Cathedral and I made some new friends. I can't wait to do it all again.

Matthew Flowers.

Durham Mysteries, the 'Harry Potter of their Day'

It was three evenings in May that I saw Durham host a contemporary spin on the medieval plays that were historically a regular part of city life.

I was both honoured and thrilled to have taken part in one of ten plays being staged at three different venues around Durham, namely the Gala theatre, the Cathedral and on The Sands by the river. The latter being where our play was staged. 'The Nativity' AKA 'Who's The Daddy?' written by Martin Wilson of TIN arts, Durham. Focusing on the night before the birth of Jesus, Joseph agonises over his role in the greatest story ever told. Set in contemporary times I played one of several revellers (no obvious type casting) who taunted and ridiculed Joseph at a night club/bar as he tries to come to terms with his decision to stay with Mary knowing that the child she is carrying is not his. Poignantly I am writing this piece on Fathers Day and is making me think about Joseph and his relationship with Mary and with Jesus. What mental trauma must he have gone through before Jesus was born? His faith must have been stretched to the limit.

Our piece involved a mix of contemporary dance, physical theatre and song and began as two of our cast leap frogged and back flipped across the huge stage. It also included a moving dance sequence by a couple from 'Flex' TIN arts group for people with learning disabilities. Three hundred local Durham residents took part and



I was really impressed by the whole organisation. Back stage we were made to feel safe and comfortable and could watch the performances on a screen in the tea tent! We were given clear instructions as to when and where to enter the stage ready for our appearances. I was also very struck by the professionalism of my fellow actors. Words and actions were constantly being changed and improved and everyone just got on with it without complaint. A true sense of team work with collective admiration and encouragement was present every single night.

I will have many long lasting memories of my experience namely, a community of all ages working together, dancing on a stage of such magnitude wearing a pink wig, sequined costume and a feather bower! Also in the knowledge that this was how our ancestors in Durham were entertained and educated in the matter of good and evil was cause for thought! Apparently the Mystery plays were so popular in medieval times that you might say they were the 'Harry Potter' of their day!

Kath Priest

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN PATRONAL FESTIVAL

For those who were unable to attend this event, they missed one of the most enjoyable services to be held this year. Not only did we have the presence of The Bishop of Jarrow, Rt. Rev. Mark Bryant, but also the company of the choir from St. Giles' to accompany the the Evensong service singing the psalm and an anthem, using the traditional Book of Common Prayer.

It was a double celebration to not only the Patronal Festival of St. Mary the Virgin, to whom the church in Sherburn Village is dedicated but also to have Bishop Mark with us to dedicate the memorial window in the south aisle to William 'Bill' Crawford, a life long servant of the church.

Bishop Mark's address was both thought provoking as to what Mary's attitude was to her famous/infamous son (depending upon which group you belonged to). He recalled the event in the synagogue of his own village, when he was asked to read from the scrolls, a proud moment no doubt for his mother. But he went on to interpret the text more fully, Mary would have wished that he had just sat down and said nothing more. Why did he have to "stir people up?" after all, "his father could have found him a job in his carpentry business."

Also Bishop Mark pointed out to us

today that the church is no longer able to go on in the same old way. We need to move forward to appeal to a wider congregation outside the church door. As Mary experienced in her life she saw the changes Jesus was making to spread the word to those beyond the Jews to include the Gentiles, who for the first time were accepted by Jesus as followers of his.

The service came to an end in the usual way with a delicious spread and 'Birthday' cake for St. Mary the Virgin's special day, all laid on by the indefatigable ladies who rise so well to these occasions. Also there was the opportunity for those present to photograph and view closely the 'New' window – a great asset to our church and 'Bill's memory.

Once again we must thank all of those who contributed in any way to to making the Evensong service an enjoyable event, but especially for Bishop Mark who was able to arrange his time to be with us on this very enjoyable occasion.

Michael Bicknell, Reader.



Sunday 6th June

08.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett
 10.00am All Age Non Eucharist

Visiting preacher: Kate Robinson (Durham Youth for Christ)

Gospel reading for the day. John 6: 51-58

6.30pm Eucharist Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett

Sunday 13th June

08.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett
 10.00am Festival Eucharist Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett

Visiting preacher: Rev'd Simon Airey (Chaplain Grey College)

Gospel reading for the day. John 2: 13-22

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 20th June

08.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Dorothy Wilson
 10.00am Sung Eucharist Rev'd Dorothy Wilson

Gospel reading for the day. Luke 8: 26-39

6pm Evensong **Note:** change of time . This is
 after Dorothy's Open Garden Day

Sunday 27th June

08.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Ruth Thomas
 10.00am Mattins Andrew Robinson

Gospel reading for the day. Luke 9: 51-62

5pm Sung Eucharist (note change of time)

Rev'd Ruth Thomas

The preacher will be Senior Chaplain Rev'd Canon Jon Bell

Regular weekday services

MONDAY	8.45am	Morning Prayer
TUESDAY	9.00am	Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Sherburn
WEDNESDAY	8.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
THURSDAY	8.45am	Morning Prayer

Enquiries regarding Baptisms, the Calling of Banns of Marriage,
or Weddings at St Giles
or for hire of the Hall or Parish centre
should be made either by contacting the Parish Administrator on
07904 510 997
enquiries@stgilesdurham.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



Diary of Services for



Rev'd Eileen Tarren
Tel: 0191 3722144 (home)
0191 3722797 (church)
email: eileentarren@tiscali.co.uk

Other officers:

St. Mary's:

Gift Aid: Mrs. A Holmes
Mothers Union: Mrs. B Temple Mrs. J Wilkinson
Flowers: Miss M Ross Tel: 0191 3720217

St. Cuthbert's:

Vergers: Mr. K Lowery
Flowers: Eva Ramsay, Tel: 0191 3720045

Regular Weekly Services

TUESDAY	9.00am	Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
WEDNESDAY	9.00am	Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Mary's
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at St. Cuthbert's
FRIDAY	9.00am	Morning Prayer at St. Mary's

ENQUIRIES regarding BAPTISMS,
CALLING OF BANNS, or WEDDINGS
for both ST. MARY'S and ST CUTHBERT'S
should be made by calling at St. Mary's Vestry,
on TUESDAY evenings between 6 to 7 pm.
or Tel: 0191 372 2797



Services for June 2010

Sunday 6th June

9am Sung Eucharist at St. Cuthbert's Rev'd Eileen Tarren
10.45 Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's Rev'd Eileen Tarren
Gospel reading for the day: Luke 7: 11-17

Sunday 13th June

9am Sung Eucharist at St. Cuthbert's Rev'd Canon Bill Hall
10.45 Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's Rev'd Canon Bill Hall
Gospel reading for the day: Luke 7: 36 -8: 3

Sunday 20th June

9am Sung Eucharist at St. Cuthbert's Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett
10.45 Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's Rev'd Dr. Alan Bartlett
Gospel reading for the day: Luke 8: 26-39

Sunday 27th June

No service at St. Cuthbert's
10.45 Service of The Word at St. Mary's
Gospel reading for the day: Luke 9: 51-62
5pm Sung Eucharist at St. Giles' Rev'd Ruth Thomas
The preacher will be Rev'd Canon Jon Bell

This is Ordination Weekend: see p11

St. Giles' Regular Opening Times

(excluding services)

Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am - 12noon

Friday 5.30pm - 6.45pm
(Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals can be booked at this time)

Seasonal Opening Times

Fridays (school holidays) 9.30am - 12noon

23rd & 30th July,
6th, 13th, 20th, 27th August
3rd September

Saturdays 10.00am - 12 noon
10th July, 7th August

The above Saturdays will include a half-hour organ recital from 12.30-1.00pm which is free of charge. During all of the above opening times, there will be staff on duty and refreshments are also served. The church has free car parking for visitors and also disabled access.

Clergy Days Off

Good practice is that clergy have some days off duty, when they can be sure that they will not be contacted. As part of our working disciplines, we are clarifying the times when we are off duty. Do please respect these, as they are crucial to our welfare and to sustaining good relationships with family and friends. Please also try to avoid phoning or calling at meal times. Thank you.

Alan

Please do not try to contact the clergy on their day off, except in cases of emergency.

Alan – Friday

Eileen – Monday and Thursday

Julia – Monday

Ruth – Monday and every afternoon

From the Parish Registers

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

18th April	Tamzin Karla Bowes	St. Mary's
9th May	Dione Ruby Garbutt	St. Giles'
9th May	Logan Kenneth Garbutt	St. Giles'
16th May	Tia Shirley Gibson	St. Giles'
16th May	Delilah Neasham	St. Cuthbert's

Marriages: 'God is love, and those who live in love, live in God' St John 1 John 4:16

24th April	Anthony John Laverick and Olivia Tate	St. Mary's
------------	---------------------------------------	------------

Funerals: 'In my Father's House are many rooms' Jesus, John 14:2

20th April	Barry Richardson 63	Durham Crematorium, St. Mary's Parish
4th May	Norma Fawcett 70	Durham Crematorium, St. Giles' Parish
10th May	Ernest William Knighton 81	St. Cuthbert's and Durham Crematorium
10th May	Betty Gelson 76	St. Giles' and Durham Crematorium
11th May	Robert Shearer Steel 73	Durham Crematorium St. Giles' Parish
14th May	George Gradon 81	St. Cuthbert's and Durham Crematorium
14th May	Beatrice Elizabeth Hinds 81	St. Mary's and Sherburn Cemetery
17th May	Catherine Bartley 84	St. Cuthbert's and Durham Crematorium
17th May	Kenneth Newby 81	Durham Crematorium St. Giles' Parish
19th May	Doreen Laverick 84	St. Mary's and Durham Crematorium

to contact
Julia ...



Revd Dr Julia Candy
St Nicholas' Vicarage, Kepier Villas, Durham,
DH1 1JP.
07891 312 192.
juliacandy@stgilesdurham.co.uk



Stained glass windows,
like beliefs,
allow us many different
ways
to see the one light.
Regardless the brightest
place
Is the other side of the
window.

Everyone is gifted,
It's just that some leave
the wrapping on longer
than others.

Brother Benedict updates his Facebook

If anyone would like to pay a visit to **St Cuthbert's Church Shadforth** to see inside this beautiful building then please phone **Betty Dodd** the Churchwarden and she will make you welcome by arranging an agreeable time for you.

Editor

Rev'd Ruth Thomas
Curate

Tel:
07855 236063

Email:
curate@stgilesdurham.co.uk

Design and Publishing

John Pounder

Tel:
0191 3832988

07729180072

Email:
johnpounder@stgilesdurham.co.uk

magazine@stgilesdurham.co.uk

Little lights Baby and Toddler Group - St. Giles' Church

While I was pregnant I had the idea of starting a baby and toddler group at St. Giles' Church. I had looked around and not found a lot of groups for babies in and around Durham City. I found that there were groups for the older children but not very many for the babies and younger children.

Claire Tomlinson

The idea grew from a small seed of thought to the thriving group we now have. This was due to the encouragement of the clergy and members of the congregation- for which grateful thanks is given!

It's great when you come into church and you can hear the laughter of the little ones, the chatter of the mums and grandmas (and sometimes dads too) and the old McDonald music blasting out of the loud speakers!!

We have a wide range of age and stage appropriate activities which include tummy time, stories, and arts and crafts, outside play, slides, role play, puzzles, singing and a spiritual slot on a Thursday with our Curate Ruth Thomas. And the children have a healthy snack half way through.

We provide a safe and welcoming environment where children can socialise and mums/carers can chill. There is also an opportunity to offer pastoral care and practical support.

We have our group on a Tuesday and Thursday morning, between 9:30am till 11:30am. You are very welcome to pop in for a cuppa and have a look at what we get up to.

St. Giles' Mothers Union

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 2.00p.m. either in the Parish Centre or the Church Hall.



All are welcome, especially when there is a speaker.



Dates for meetings are - TUESDAY 18th MAY - TUESDAY 15th JUNE.

Information will be given on the Pew Sheet.

Gardening God

The growing season is upon us, but how does your garden grow?

Plant three rows of peas

Peace of mind, peace of heart, peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash

Squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce

Lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind, lettuce be obedient, lettuce really love one another.

No garden without turnips

Turnip for meetings, turnip for service, turnip to help one another.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden we have thyme

Thyme for God, thyme for study, thyme for prayer.

Happy Gardening!

Anon.

St Cuthbert's Messy Church

Messy Church is held on the last Tuesday of each month. At the end of May we held our second session-attended by 36 children and a number of parents and carers. Biscuits and drinks while playing games led into a session on different names for God in a range of languages to tie into the theme of Pentecost. Activities and worship were around the theme. Thinking of wind kites, windmills and windsocks were made. To celebrate the birthday of the church there was a chance to decorate fairy cakes and a big birthday cake to share when we finally made it to tea time. A really good time was had by all and once again we are indebted to Sherburn Hill School for their hospitality. With so many children coming along it would be impossible to manage in church. Anyone who feels able to come along either as a helper or a family will be made very welcome. There is no session during the school holidays but during October half term there will be a two day play scheme in Shadforth Village Hall. Anyone wishing to know more about Messy Church do contact any of the team.

Jane Ackroyd

Joan Bell is the person to contact if you have any material from Shadforth or Ludworth for the Parish magazine. Joan also distributes it around the area including Ludworth.



**Magazine Contacts for
St. Cuthbert's**

Joan Bell
Tel: 01429 823400
wrbell61@btinternet.com

Rev'd Norman Shaw
0191 3722540
normandcon@aol.com

**Magazine Contact
for
St. Mary's**

Peter Chapman
19pete77@googlemail.com
Tel: 07714550433

Apologies to Betty Dodd for miss-spelling your name.
My fault.....Jonh !

Sponsored Steeplechase Saturday, September 11th 2010

Both St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's Churches will be open from 10a.m. till 4p.m. to welcome all visitors who are taking part. Volunteers will be needed to supervise. It is a chance to meet and chat to members from churches throughout the north-east as they travel around.

<http://www.northumbriaht.org.uk/steeplechase.html>

Concert by Hetton Lyons Male Voice Choir

This will be held in St. Cuthbert's Church on Friday, September 17th at 7p.m.
Put this date in your diary.

SPONSORED STEEPLECHASE

SATURDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2010 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Well we are coming up to that time of year again, the Sponsored Steeplechase is on the horizon! This year is the 30th Anniversary of the Steeplechase. If you are interested – and I hope you will be – either to take part, or to sponsor somebody who is, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

There will be sponsor forms and lists of the churches that are open at the back of church as soon as I receive them.

So come on enjoy a day out and make money for our churches at the same time.

Ann Chipchase

Parish Organiser Tel. 0191 386 7453



ST. CUTHBERT'S NOTICES

Summer Fair



A reminder that it will be opened by Rev. Ruth Thomas on Saturday, July 10th at 2p.m. It is to be held on the church drive or inside the church if the weather is unfavourable. There will be various stalls, face painting, children's activities and refreshments.

Sherburn Hill Environmental Action Group will hold an exhibition and have its new walks leaflet available.

Sherburn Hill School will display their work.

The Summer Draw will take place.
Tickets are available from church members.

Lady Altar candles

Thanks go to all those who very thoughtfully buy candles for the votary table at the Lady Altar.

Mini Minors at St. Mary's

Our popular mini-minors group was formed over twelve years ago and has gone from strength to strength. The group meets on Tuesdays during the school term from 10.00am – 11.30am. Members range from six to twelve and children from birth to three years are accommodated and entertained with a variety of toys, whilst Mums and Grans chat and compare notes over tea and biscuits.

If you would like to join please call at the Church on Tuesday at 10.00am (during school time) or contact Mrs. E. Scorer (Churchwarden) 0191 3722026.

St. Mary's Number Draw

APRIL 2010

MAY 2010

1st P CHAPMAN	1st J PRITCHARD
2nd D COULTHARD	2nd A FAWELL
3rd R HALL	3rd P RODDOM

If you would like to have an additional number or become a new member please contact the Churchwarden or any member of the PCC. Numbers are £1 per month, or you can pay yearly.

Shadforth's 150 Club

MAY DRAW

1st	30	Andi Downer
2nd	158	Jack Gibbon
3rd	10	Jean Cook

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

ST. MARY'S MOTHER'S UNION REPORT

Our meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2pm in the Church.



FRIENDSHIP EVENING – 19th JULY

Our friendship evening will be held at 7 pm on 19th July, when our guest speaker will be Rev. Canon John Scorer, former vicar here at St. Mary's. All are welcome.

ST MARY'S NOTICES



ITALIAN EVENING – THURSDAY 22ND JULY

Due to a very popular evening last year we are holding an

Italian Evening at 7pm on Thursday 22nd July.

Tickets are £ 5.00 and include a supper of delicious Italian food, wine and music.

Please note due to the popularity of this event it is strictly ticket only.

So to avoid disappointment purchase your ticket now!

ST. MARY'S COFFEE MORNING – 31st July



Our monthly coffee morning is on Saturday 31st July, from 9.30am – 11.30am in the Community Centre

Bacon Butties, Toasted Tea Cakes, Cake Stall and Raffle

Please come and support us



SUMMER PICNIC

We had an enjoyable Summer Picnic at St. Mary's on Friday 11th June. A flower arranging demonstration was followed by a quiz on flowers and after a sumptuous buffet accompanied by sparkling wine we auctioned a number of previously arranged floral displays.



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

We have received a letter of thanks for our collection of £87.08 in aid of the Crisis Appeal. Some members sent private donations.

An Evening with flowers

There will be a demonstration by Mrs. Kathleen Edmenson on Wednesday 14th July at 7pm in Newton Hall Community Centre. (next to Abbey Leisure Centre)

Tickets are £4.00 and include light refreshments.

For tickets ring Kathleen Gilson, 0191 3720246 or contact Doreen Sams or Jean Wilkinson

Don't miss a great evening in aid of such a good cause.

The Children's Society
Durham Support Group



The
Children's
Society

Letters page

NEW !!

Dear Reader,

From September I hope to be able to publish a few letters to the editor each month. A few people have asked how to write to the magazine and we think this would be a great opportunity to share thoughts, views and news across the parishes. So if you have something for us all to share which relates to the magazine, the parishes, articles, items of interest, tips and hints then please send them to me. You may do this in one of two ways – either a good old-fashioned letter in the post to me at home 68 Gilesgate DH1 1HY or via email to curate@stgilesdurham.co.uk . Your letter will be acknowledged and will be included in the material for publication at our monthly planning meeting.

It would be great to have some interactive involvement in this way. If you say your prayers before putting pen to paper the ideas will flow!

Look forward to hearing from any one of you.

With Love *Ruth*

It's that time of year when we are drawing classes and courses to a close and enjoy a refreshing break. If you would like to get involved in something new here are a couple of ideas for September – with plenty of time still to join in.

For those wanting to learn the next steps in company of people from other parishes.....The Lindisfarne Training Partnership offers the following courses... find them on ... www.lindisfarnertp.org/course-details.

Next Steps

Faith and Life Course
Ten months (September - June)
Type: Non-Accredited
Start Date: September 2010

The Faith and Life Course runs from September to June at a variety of venues across the two dioceses. During 2009-2010 there are 6 groups from Darlington to North Shields. Three times during the year members of the groups come together for an away day. Faith and Life aims to help people grow in faith and understanding, and to apply that faith in practical everyday ways. There is no written or assessed work attached to this course.

And if you want a course near home come and join

Living Theology Today
Ten months (September - June)
Type: Non-Accredited
Start Date: September 2010

Living Theology Today runs on one evening per week (currently Wednesdays in Durham) from September to June. There is also one residential weekend during the course of the year. It helps people to explore Christian theology in an all-round way, engaging both the heart and the head. People from all walks of life have experienced the difference that this course can make to personal faith, understanding the Bible, and what it means to be a Christian in the context of their everyday lives. There is a small amount of written work attached to this course.

This is a very accessible starter course in Theology- which many of us were encouraged to take at the beginning of our vocational exploration. It is well run with lots of variety and helped a lot of people to find where their gifts were best used in the church. And this one is held in St Giles' Parish Centre so we can all get to it!

Ruth

Some personal thoughts

Walking in to a church service for the first time on a Sunday morning on your own can be difficult for some, and I am no exception. As I walked through the doors of St Giles Church for the first time, 2 ½ years ago I was full of trepidation. Sitting on my own in a pew towards the back, I tried to follow a service that felt very different from the one at my last church. Afterwards I left quickly and spoke to no-one; I needed time to reflect on the step I'd made. As the next few weeks went by, members of the congregation welcomed me into the church and I began to feel comfortable and stayed behind for a cuppa afterwards and began to get to know people.



Then things began to change. I was asked if I could help with the tea and coffee rota. Once I'd agreed I soon discovered that I was now a member of the 'social committee' a friendly group who knew a lot about catering for church activities. Looking back, I now realise this was when I became a disciple at St Giles Church and my life has never been the same since. St Giles encourages everyone to do what they can. I think that many people do lots of important jobs in church, but over the past 2 years I

have felt that my relationship with God has grown stronger and deeper as a result of my activities and I am very grateful for that.

I hope that we are allowed to enjoy being 'disciples' because I have had really good experiences. Last spring over 30 of us gathered to deep clean the church from top to bottom, followed by a party in the Church Hall even though we were all covered in dust! I have also had the opportunity to read the lessons on Sunday mornings – the first time my knees shoot and I voice wobbled. This year I attended our Lent Group at the church and learnt more about the bible and my own faith. I have been able to attend the East Durham Churches Together meetings and met some more amazing people. Last year I helped with to coordinate our Christian Aid Week collection and this year I have had more responsibility but God found people to get involved to help me. I think that the more I get involved the stronger my faith grows.

I remember how uncertain and alone I felt when I first walked into St Giles Church. I now look forward to church and no longer sit in the pews at the back of the church. But if I see someone new who looks uncertain and sitting at the back I always say hello and hope that, with the other amazing people at our church, I can help them find their place in our special church too.

Chris Wood

On a recent holiday in Norfolk we, as usual, visited a few churches – among them, these three stood out:

Church of St. Julian, Norwich

In Norwich, ten minutes walk from the City Centre, in a quiet back lane, stands the Church of St. Julian, built with flint stones and brick. Julian became anchoress there in 1373, living in a cell adjoining the

A place of peace and tranquillity ... we sat for some time.

Sadly, the St Julian's Centre was closed,

Three Norfolk Gems
By Jean & Ken Wilkinson



as the Parish had gone to Walsingham for a retreat.

The Saxon Church of St Lawrence, South Cove

This isolated church in rural Norfolk has only 18 parishioners. The church warden, a farmer's wife living nearby, opens the church every morning at 9:00am and closes it at 5:00pm each day.

The vicar was very puzzled that on the third Thursday of each month,

church. She lived a solitary life, and her writings and prayers are much respected even today.

The door to this small church, maybe seating 50 people, stood open – to welcome us, a lighted candle burned on the altar. Around the walls were beautiful Stations of the Cross, using a devotion of the Divine Revelations of Love by Julian of Norwich.

It was very moving that the cell door stood open, so that we could go inside.

£30-£40 or more was found by the church warden in the wall safe for donations. One Thursday, he came and waited at the church. A coach arrived, and the driver (Andy) gave his talk to his passengers about finding this little gem of a church while on his travels, and of how much financial support was needed to keep it open. Andy invited his passengers to look around the church and the most unusual remembrance cross

The deadline for Crosstalk September issue is 15th August



visit the war memorial.

St Michael's Church, Cromer

The third church was so different from the previous two. St. Michael's, Cromer, is a large church with a coffee room under the tall tower, as well as being home to a book shop and a craft stall. Beautiful banners adorned the pillars and

in the church yard, and encouraged them to please give generously of any donations. The mystery for the vicar was solved.

The church has no electricity, or water, and has an old organ and those large hassocks to kneel on. Some walls had once been painted and oil lamps hung from wall brackets. We could have stayed longer, but time did not permit this. We were pleased that most people on the tour did go and have a look around the lovely church and

walls, and many musical events were advertised on the notice board, along with news of their link church in Uganda.

The most striking aspect, however, was the window depicting the Ascension, which drew our attention, as the sun shone through it. It seemed to dominate the whole church – most unusual.

So if you are in this area, these churches are well worth a visit.

Lead Theft

You will probably have heard that St Giles' suffered a very serious lead theft from the roof recently. This has already done considerable damage to the inside of the building and will probably cost the church well over £10,000. It has also generated a huge and completely wasted workload for the Vicar and Wardens. It will be several months before we can undertake the repairs. Thankfully a second attempt was foiled and new security arrangements are in place. The really sad thing is that circumstantial evidence suggests that it is people from our own community who are damaging St Giles'. How can people do this to a place that is so crucial to the spiritual well-being of our community and in such frequent use ? Obviously, if anyone knows anything they should contact either the Police or myself. **Alan**

**SALES
AND
SERVICE**

**WATSON
TOOL
HIRE**

**SPARES
AND
REPAIRS**

Power tool repairs

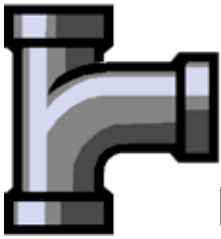
*Delivery and collection
service*

Watsons will give 10% of what you spend (before VAT) back to our churches. Please bring a copy of the parish magazine advert with you.

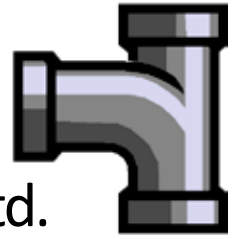
**Unit 1, Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate, Hetton-le-Hole,
Tyne and Wear DH5 0RH**

Tel: 0191 526 0818 • Fax 0191 517 0268

**Unit 8, Durham Business Centre, Littleburn Ind. Estate
Langley Moor, Durham DH7 8HG Tel: 0191 378 3719**



ASTRIA



Plumbing and Heating Ltd.

(Formerly Crystal Clear Plumbing)

Boilers Fires Cookers
Service Installation Repairs

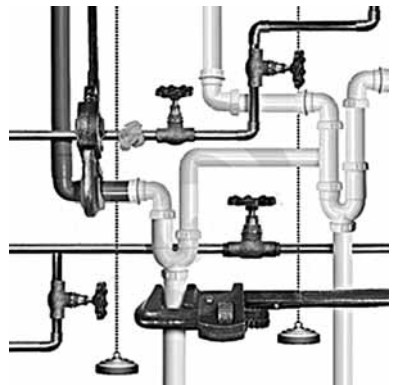
Condensing Boilers
Bathroom Installations

All aspects of Plumbing Work
No job too small

Full liability insurance
W.R.A.S. Approved
Gas Safe Registered
Landlord CP 12's

Telephones: 0191 3740600
 01429 883457

Mobiles: 07834722168
 07875009857



**mulberry
hairdressing**

**Front Street
Sherburn Hill**

Tel: 0191 3721912

Hairdressing Council

Approved Master Craftsman



From planting and protection
to pruning and felling

Tel: 0191 3842970

Mob: 07743497618

www.cnctreeservices.co.uk

email: cnctreeservices@gmail.com

Qualified and insured
contact for free quotations

FLORIBUNDA



FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

*Church, Weddings and Funerals
are our speciality*

*Personal attention for that special occasion.
Complete packages for Wedding party flowers
at both church and reception
For a consultation ring*

TRICIA

Tel: 01388 458308

Mob: 07932306869

Beverly Welsh

BSc (hons) MChs SRCh

**CHIROPODIST
and
PODIATRIST**

Telephone:

0191 3847392

STATE REGISTERED

Ultimate Wallpaper and Paints

Unit 47 Dragonville Industrial Park



Dragonville, Durham

DH1 2XU



Monday - Saturday 9.30 - 5 Sunday 11 - 4

Tel: / Fax: 0191 3741515

Garden Services

Patios • Paving
Fencing • Lawns
Hedge Trimming • Landscaping
Weeding • Tidy Ups
General Repairs
Fully Insured

No Job Too Small For Paul



0795 1816605

Tree Surgeon

**MARSHALL'S
GROCERS**

Sunderland Road
Gilesgate
Durham
DH1 2LG

8.30am - 6pm

**Monday to Saturday
Tel: 0191 3848257**

HEAVEN SCENT

- ~ Bowen Technique
- ~ Acupressure Massage
- ~ Clinical Aromatherapy
- ~ Reflexology
- ~ Hopi Ear Candles
- ~ Indian Head Massage
- ~ Beauty Treatments

Pamela Grossi - MIGHT MBTER

Tel: 0191 3723313

- ~ Home visits by appointment

Steven Convery is

S.C. RESKIMS

**PLASTERING
SERVICES**

20 Years Experience.
No job too small

Prompt response

Tel: 07726969866

or

0191 3720959

JOHN ERWIN PHOTOGRAPHY

professional landscape photography



www.johnerwin.co.uk

29 South Road
High Etherley
Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL14 0HZ
Phone: 01388 834341

Email: info@johnerwin.co.uk
Durham Market
every saturday

John Oxley

MARKET MUSIC



We buy and sell
guitars, amplifiers,
stringed musical instruments
and all types
of accessories.

**Unit 62
Indoor Market
Durham City
07971 212977**

sales@marketmusic-durham.co.uk
www.marketmusic-durham.co.uk