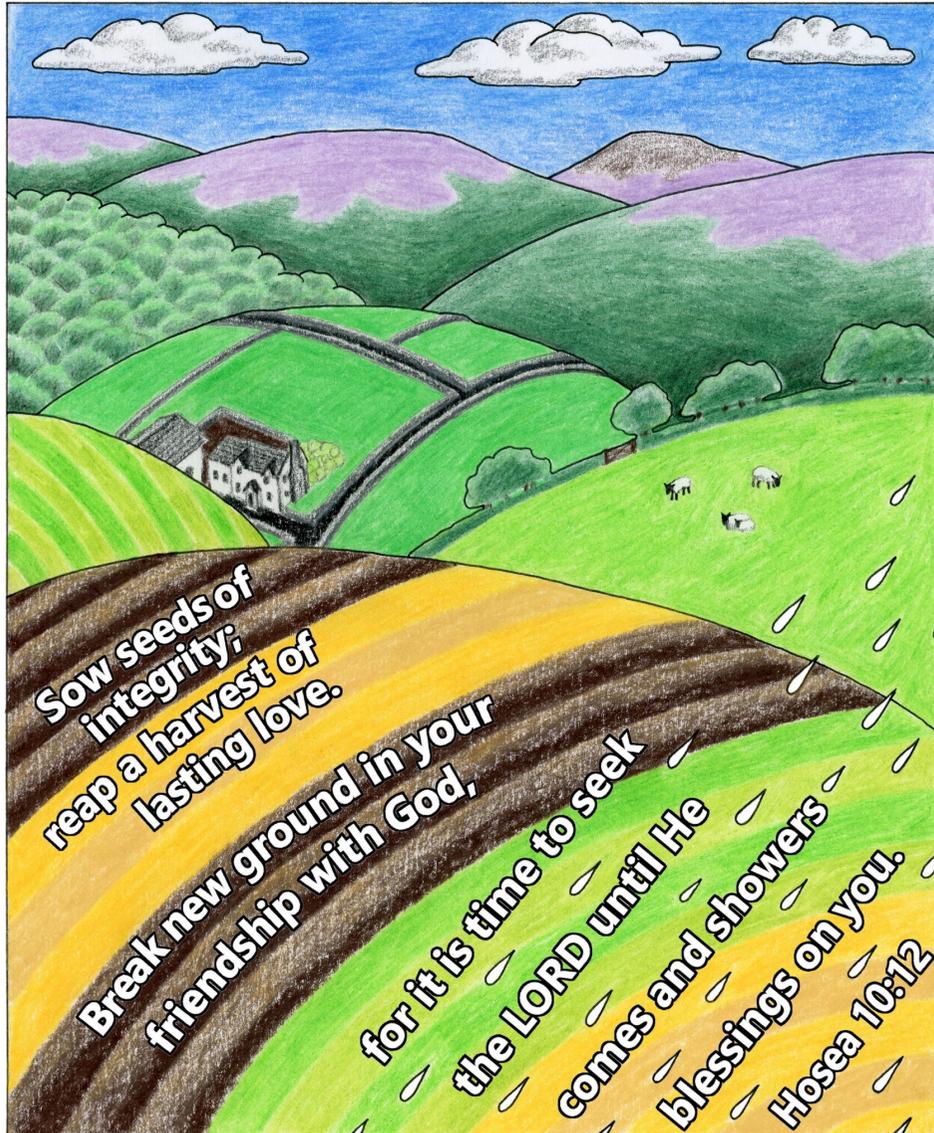


October 2021

Bywell, St Peter

Mickley, St George



We're back!

Sunday 5th September turned out to be a rather sunny and bright day – a day many of us will remember for a long time as we resumed regular Sunday worship in our parish churches of St Peter and St George.

There was a real sense of excitement and expectation as we gathered, a sense of joy and relief, and above all a sense of 'coming home', and perhaps of 'getting back to normal'.

During the first lockdown of 2020, we were not even able to enter the church building, and apart from the occasional attempt at Sunday worship in the interim, which proved very difficult given the 2 metre social distancing regulations, it had been 539 days since we had gathered to share Communion at either St Peter's or St George's, so Sunday 5th September certainly felt rather special.

Both church buildings were sparkling and looked beautiful thanks to the efforts of people in both parishes who rallied around to help get the churches ready and to have a general sort out. And it was lovely to be able to sing, albeit with masks on and to just be together.

But, and it is a big but, wonderful as it is to be back in church, we cannot just ignore the 539 days that have passed since 23rd March 2020, or the fact that so many people have lost their lives, that so many have been ill, that all of us in smaller or greater measure have had our lives turned upside down and have been changed in ways we perhaps are not even aware of yet. We perhaps need to recognise that even as we 'return to normal', the normal we return to will be different from the one we left behind in 2020. And funnily enough, our parish churches which have stood silent and locked up for much of the last 18 months might have something to teach us in all this.

Our church buildings have lived through all sorts of different types of normal – from the 'normal' of medieval wall paintings and the Latin Mass in the case of St Peter's, which pre-dates the Reformation, to the carnage of the First World War which is permanently remembered in the war memorial at St George's. Our buildings hold the memories of those who have gone before us, their lives and their struggles and of our local communities.

Cont...

CHURCH SERVICES, CHURCH OPENING & SAFETY MEASURES

SUNDAY SERVICES

<u>Church</u>	<i>St Peter's</i>	<i>St Peter's</i>	<i>St George's</i>	<i>St John's</i>
<i>Week 1</i>		<i>9.30: Holy Communion</i>	<i>11.15: Holy Communion</i>	<i>16.00: 1st @ Four</i>
<i>Week 2</i>	<i>8.00: Holy Communion</i>	<i>9.30: Holy Communion</i>	<i>11.15: Service of the Word</i>	
<i>Week 3</i>		<i>9.30: Holy Communion</i>	<i>11.15: Holy Communion</i>	
<i>Week 4</i>	<i>8.00: Holy Communion</i>	<i>9.30: Holy Communion</i>	<i>16.00: Evensong</i>	
<i>Week 5</i>				<i>10.00: Benefice Holy Communion</i>

WEEKDAYS

Monday	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Tuesday	21.30	Night Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday	15.00	Holy Communion	St John's
Thursday	09.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom

If you would like to take part in a Zoom service, please email: stocksfieldchurchofengland@gmail.com for the link

CHURCH OPENING

St Peters will be open Sunday to Wednesday 10.00 – 15.00

St John's will be open Thursday to Sunday all day.

SAFETY MEASURES

To make being in church as safe as possible, people attending church are being asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

ONLY sit in the pews NOT marked with a cross. Currently only alternate pews are being used.

Use the hand gel provided

Wear a face covering while in church to protect others and especially those who are most vulnerable.

Keep a respectful distance from those they do not live with or are not in a bubble with.

Ask people before approaching them if they are comfortable with that degree of proximity.

Be mindful when leaving and entering the church about observing some social distancing.

Singing is allowed with masks on

Communion will be distributed to people in their seats.

No collection will be taken – instead the collection plate will be placed on a table as people come in.

Hymn books and service booklets will be in the pews when people arrive, and people are asked to leave them there at the end of the service.

At the moment there are no refreshments being served after services.

Our parish churches over the centuries have been filled with people dealing with all sorts of challenges and disasters, all sorts of varieties of 'normal', just as we have all coped with the 'normal' imposed on us by Covid-19, just as we have all learned to do church in new ways which came to feel 'normal' too. We are really just the last in a long line of people who have had to learn to adapt to changing circumstances.

But I think our churches do more for us than simply hold our memories, important as that is. Their quiet, ongoing presence invites us, I think, to stop for a moment, to look beyond our immediate concerns to the deeper questions that face each generation, each one of us - questions about meaning and life itself, questions about how we should live, about what is really important – questions which the pandemic has thrown into sharp relief for many people. And as we look around our world with all its challenges and problems, facing those deeper questions is key.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to do a placement with a hospital chaplaincy team. The hospital had a rather nice chapel near the entrance which was mostly empty apart from a few services. During the placement, I had the opportunity to talk with some of the hospital staff and find out a little bit about how they understood the purpose of the chapel. It was an interesting experience: there were not many 'religious' answers; not many staff, apart from a few nurses from the Philippines who visited the chapel, but everyone I spoke to knew there was a chapel, and moreover thought that it was important that it was there and that the hospital would be a lot poorer without it. A quiet and consecrated space in the middle of a busy, hectic, and sometimes frightening environment, a space that for some would be seen as a space that could be put to more efficient and better use, but a space that by its mere presence asks those questions – what is life about? What are we to do?

From hospital chapel to great cathedral to rural church, these spaces that are so often quiet and silent, stand not only as historical monuments but almost as question marks that invite deeper pondering, prayer and contemplation. So perhaps before we rush to 'return to normal', we should also heed their silent invitation, not only for ourselves but for the good of us all.

Pat Moran

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd October	18th Sunday after Trinity/Harvest 09.30 Holy Communion St Peter's 11.15 Harvest Service St George's 16.00 First @ Four Family service at St John's
Wednesday 6th October	15.00 Holy Communion service at St John's
Sunday 10th October	19th Sunday after Trinity 08.00 Holy Communion St Peter's 09.30 Holy Communion St Peter's 11.15 Service of the Word St George's 19.00 Bywell PCC in Zoom
Monday 11th October	15.00 Holy Communion service at St John's
Wednesday 13th October	
Sunday 17th October	20th Sunday after Trinity 09.30 Holy Communion St Peter's 11.15 Holy Communion St George's 15.00 Holy Communion service at St John's
Wednesday 20th October	
Sunday 24th October	Last Sunday after Trinity/Bible Sunday 08.00 Holy Communion St Peter's 09.30 Holy Communion St Peter's 16.00 Evensong St George's 15.00 Holy Communion service at St John's
Wednesday 27th October	
Sunday 31st October	All Saints/All Souls 10.00 Holy Communion for Benefice St John's 17.00 Service of Thanksgiving for All Souls St Peter's 19.00 Candlelit Vigil St John's 2020 Garden 15.00 Holy Communion service at St John's
Monday 1st November	
Wednesday 3rd November	
Sunday 7th November	3rd Sunday before Advent 09.30 Holy Communion St Peter's 11.15 Holy Communion St George's 16.00 First @ Four Family service at St John's 19.00 Bywell PCC in Zoom
Monday 8th November	15.00 Holy Communion service at St John's
Wednesday 10th November	
Sunday 14th November	Remembrance Sunday 08.00 Holy Communion St Peter's 09.30 Holy Communion St Peter's 11.15 Service of the Word St George's for Remembrance Sunday 19.00 Mickley PCC in Zoom
Monday 15th November	15.00 Holy Communion service at St John's
Wednesday 17th November	
Sunday 21st November	Christ the King 9.30 Holy Communion St Peter's 11.15 Holy Communion St George's 15.00 Holy Communion service at St John's
Wednesday 24th November	
Sunday 28th November	1st Sunday of Advent 08.00 Holy Communion St Peter's 09.30 Holy Communion St Peter's 16.00 Evensong St George's

BISHOP CHRISTINE

(article taken from Diocese of Newcastle website)



The Right Reverend Christine Hardman, after six years as Bishop of Newcastle, has announced that she is to retire from her role at the end of November.

Bishop Christine, the 12th Bishop of Newcastle, said: "I am reaching my 70th birthday at the end of August and my time as Bishop of Newcastle is drawing to a close. Her Majesty the Queen has graciously accepted my resignation, and with the Archbishop of York's permission I will be stepping down as Bishop of Newcastle on 30th November, 2021".

"I am profoundly grateful for the six years I have served this Diocese, the depth of welcome and relationships in this region has been inspirational and encouraging. We have all been called to minister together, lay and ordained, at a time of extraordinary challenge, and I am very proud of the way in which our clergy and laity have responded to this. I give thanks for all of you. It has been a privilege to be your Bishop".

"My husband Roger and I have been incredibly blessed by the generosity and support that has been shown to both of us in our time in Newcastle Diocese.

Cont...

Its people, history, and landscape have an enduring place in our hearts, and we will always treasure the years we have spent here.”

Bishop Christine became a Deaconess in 1984 and was ordained Deacon in 1987, serving in the Diocese of St Albans. From 1987 to 1996 she was a Tutor, and then Course Director for the St Alban’s and Oxford Ministry Course. In 1996, she was appointed Vicar of Holy Trinity and Christ the King, Stevenage, also Rural Dean of Stevenage in 1999, and in 2001 served as Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich in the Diocese of Southwark. In 2012, she retired only to return to active full-time ministry when she was consecrated Bishop of Newcastle.

As Bishop of Newcastle, Christine is a Member of the House of Bishops in the Church of England’s General Synod. Her major area of work on General Synod was the legislation to allow women to be bishops. She is also a Church Commissioner, Chair of the Archbishops’ Pastoral Advisory Group, sits in the House of Lords and chair of the North of Tyne Combined Authority Inclusive Economy Board.

Suffragan Bishop of Berwick, the Right Reverend Mark Wroe will lead the Diocese of Newcastle as the process begins to appoint the next Bishop of Newcastle.

Bishop Mark said: “Bishop Christine has been a profound voice of hope and faith for the Church and the North East, locally and nationally, as a passionate advocate of our region. It’s been a privilege to serve in the team she has developed, in the midst of so many changes and challenges, to help us be a growing church bringing hope for our Diocese. We have appreciated her compassionate, straight-talking, faith-filled and collaborative leadership which never shies away from the issues at hand. “Although we will miss Bishop Christine deeply in the diocese, we will be bolstered by the hope and faith in Jesus Christ which she constantly holds before us. Our prayers and love will go with her and Roger.”

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York said: “Christine Hardman has been an outstanding Bishop of Newcastle, bringing hope and purpose to the parishes and communities she serves and becoming a trusted and respected voice for the Christian faith in the North East, but also in our national life through her work and witness in the House of Lords. As she approaches retirement I wish her and Roger every blessing. We thank God for her tenacious faithfulness.”

October - Holy Days

10th October: Thomas Traherne - lover of nature

Thomas Traherne (1636 – 1674) is a good saint for anyone who loves our planet, and who wants to preserve Creation. This 17th century poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God.

Traherne was not of a literary family, for his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. But Traherne did well at the Hereford Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College Oxford. From there he became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed to be the private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgement, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then Teddington, Traherne led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness drew people to him. He was described as “one of the most pious ingenious men that ever I was acquainted with”, and being of “cheerful and sprightly Temper”, ready to do “all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability”. Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

Instead, he poured his energy into his writings, which had an intense, mystical, metaphysical spirituality. His poems and prose frequently mention the glory of Creation, and his intimate relationship with God, for whom he had an ardent, childlike love. Traherne has been compared to later poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and his love for nature has been seen as very similar to the Romantic movement, though he lived two centuries earlier.

He is best known for his *Centuries of Meditations*, which has been described as “one of the finest prose-poems in our language.” Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered *Centuries of Meditations* “almost the most beautiful book in English.”

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary’s Teddington, under the church’s reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th century devotional poets.

22nd October: Donatus - and the danger of exploring an unfamiliar church

When you are out and about on the road far from home, ever feel tempted to pop in and explore an unfamiliar church? If so, think of Donatus as your patron saint – and beware. You don’t know what you may be letting yourself in for....

In 829 Donatus, an Irish monk, had completed a prayerful pilgrimage to Rome, and thought his adventures were over. Now there only remained the long road home to Ireland. He had got as far as the beautiful little town of Fiesole, which sits high above Florence in Tuscany, when he saw a lot of people milling about the cathedral. Curious, he decided to look in.... as he entered the cathedral, the bells rang, the lamps were lit and wham! Without any diocesan paperwork at all, he was acclaimed to be the new bishop the people had been praying for.

Cont...

Donatus was very surprised, but accepted that this turn of events must be God's will for his life. So he became bishop, in a time when bishops did even more dangerous things than they do nowadays. Instead of verbal forays into the national press, Donatus was given the job of leading Pope Louis the Pious' troops against the Saracens. Safely back in Fiesole, Donatus settled down as a scholar and teacher of his new flock. But he never forgot his native Ireland, and so did the 9th century equivalent of 'twinning' his diocese, for he opened a little hospice where any Irish pilgrims passing through Tuscany could stay in safety. He died in 876, and 12 centuries later, his relics lie in the present cathedral of Fiesole.

31st October: All Hallows Eve - or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches rode about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



This is the link to "The LINK"
The monthly diocesan newspaper that contains news & human interest stories from the Diocese, as well as regular feature articles from our bishops and cathedral.
<https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/news/link/>

'Wake up world!' – Bishop calls for action after climate report

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, has called for immediate action on climate change, following the publication of the major UN scientific report. He said: "The message of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report is loud and clear:

'Wake up world!'

"It is time to stop playing political games and take action now. We are already seeing the effects of the climate emergency around the world – and it is the world's economically poorest people who are already suffering the most. So it is our moral duty, and a Christian calling to do all we can to try to turn the tide.

At COP26 there will be an opportunity to act, our leaders must seize this moment and deliver real and impactful change for the future of God's creation.

"We don't have a spare Earth."

Monday 1st November, is the first day of Cop26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference). This is an international meeting to discuss global action on climate change. This is generally believed to be the last chance to agree action to avert catastrophic effects of global warming. We would like to invite our local community to take part in a candlelit vigil on Monday evening 1st November, 7pm in St John's 2020 Garden.

To view climate change projects within the county, see NCC Climate Change newsletter - climate@northumberland.gov.uk

Looking back to King Henry VIII

Defender of the Faith

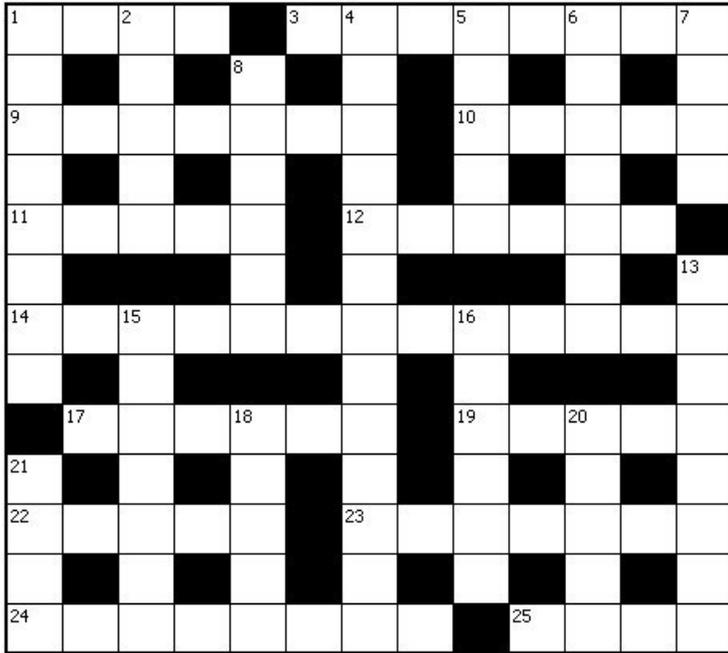
It was 500 years ago, on 11th October 1521, that Pope Leo X granted the title 'Defender of the Faith' to King Henry VIII of England and Ireland. It recognised the King's defence of the sacrament of marriage, the supremacy of the Pope, and his opposition to the Protestant Reformation and the ideas of Martin Luther. The title has been inherited by all British monarchs since then.

Ironically, it was only 17 years later that Henry was excommunicated by another Pope, Paul III, because of his divorce from Catherine of Aragon. Even more ironically, this came after Henry had his next queen, Anne Boleyn, executed. His infatuation with Anne had been the reason he decided excommunication was a price worth paying, in the hope that she would provide him with an heir.

Anne was a keen supporter of Martin Luther, and her influence – and the excommunication – led to the independence of Britain from the Roman Catholic Church, and therefore to the Reformation.

Anne was the mother of Queen Elizabeth I, the strongly Protestant and long-lived sovereign who was in fact the successor that Henry VIII had longed for. It just never occurred to him that it could be a woman!

PUZ?LES



Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

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	2				7		9		
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		4		9		6			
		7			8				

HARVEST

October brings us Harvest Thanksgiving, when we thank God for all the bounty of Creation. If you ever doubt God's generosity towards us, just stroll down the aisles of your local supermarket: they are groaning with food of a vast variety, of every colour, texture and taste that you can imagine. Our God is a hedonist when it comes to food - He could have provided just a few basic edible things for us to eat; instead, the choice seems endless. But in the midst of all this bounty, take time to remember all the millions of people worldwide who are starving this month, desperate for any kind of food. Before God in prayer, decide how much you can give this month to one of the many charities who are trying to help people in need, and be generous.

October	creation	variety	starving
Harvest	generosity	edible	pray
Thanksgiving	supermarket	choice	give
bounty	food	endless	charities
God	vast	millions	eat
help	desperate		

Y A N T E C Y E S T Y R E
 L O L M V A R I E T Y C B
 D O G I R Y I T I H A R I
 O H O P T V A S T A T E E
 O T I N N R O T I N S A V
 F S U P E R M A R K E T S
 I O N P E H I R A S V I I
 B V S N E O L V H G R O E
 P E E L P V L I C I A N L
 D G P E S R I N T V H A B
 R E B O T C O G V I E B I
 H S S E L D N E R N B N D
 C H O I C E S N G G E K E

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES - SEE PAGE 24

Another recipe from Bywell Flower Festival Summer 1989 Favourite Recipes.

APPLE CHUTNEY

- 4 lb cooking apples
- 1 lb stoned raisins
- 1/2 lb demerara sugar
- 1 saltspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 pint vinegar
- 2 lb onions

Peel, core and dice apples. Chop onions fairly finely. Mix together and add sugar and pepper. Add vinegar and simmer very slowly until soft and mushy. Bottle when cold.

S. Fretwell

Thought that this recipe might also be useful if you are lucky enough to have a surplus of apples this year. As a family we try to resist eating this until Christmas. Great with cheese, pork pie, quiche and Plough-mans.

"The Easy OJ's"

All in the month of OCTOBER

It was:

250 years ago, on 17th Oct 1771 that the premiere of Mozart's pastoral opera, Ascanio in Alba, took place in Milan, Italy. Mozart was then aged 15.

125 years ago, on 3rd Oct 1896 that William Morris, British textile designer, pot novelist and socialist, died. Best known for his association with the Arts and Crafts Movement.

90 years ago, on 24th Oct 1931 that the George Washington Bridge was opened. It spans the Hudson River and links Manhattan to Fort Lee, New Jersey.

75 years ago, on 1st Oct 1946 that the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg ended. 12 Nazi leaders were sentenced to death for war crimes committed during

WWII. 10 of them were hanged on 16th October. Hermann Goering committed suicide the night before he was to be hanged.

70 years ago, from 15th to 17th Oct 1951 that the first party election broadcasts were televised in the UK. The three main parties, Liberal, Conservative and Labour, were allocated 15 minutes each.

Also 70 years ago, on 31st Oct 1951, that zebra crossings were introduced in the UK. The first one was in Slough, Berks.

50 years ago, on 1st Oct 1971 that the first CT scan was performed on a patient at Atkinson Morley Hospital in Wimbledon.

20 years ago, on 7th Oct 2001, that the first US and British forces arrived in Afghanistan to launch a massive military offensive following the 9/11 terrorist attack.



**British Summer Time Ends
 October 31st
 Clocks Go Back 1 Hour!**

New research reveals significant contribution by cathedrals to local economies

A new report has highlighted the hugely positive economic and social impact England's cathedrals have on their cities.

In 2019, England's 42 Anglican cathedrals contributed £235m to their local economies. They provided 6,065 jobs, full time equivalent jobs and volunteering posts for 15,400 people who gave 906,000 hours of their time. They welcomed more than 14.6 million visits, 308,000 by schoolchildren for educational events, and 9.5m from tourists.

In the same year, cathedrals hosted a rich programme of arts, music, heritage and culture – amounting to 9,580 events equivalent to two every three days – as well as providing the venues for film shoots such as *The Crown*, *Doctor Who* and *Avengers: Endgame*.

The cathedrals have also run foodbanks, supported groups for the more vulnerable, the unemployed, and the homeless. They have helped outreach activities in schools, residential homes and hospitals, lunch clubs, parent and toddler groups, as well as community cafes. Also, over two-thirds of cathedrals are part of the A Rocha Eco Church programme, helping the Church of England achieve its carbon reduction targets by 2030.

TALKING OF CATHEDRALS...



The refurbishment of Newcastle Cathedral is now complete and the cathedral is open for visits and worship, so if you are in Newcastle, why not pop in?

For more details, see:

<https://newcastlecathedral.org.uk/were-open-from-12-august/>

Persecution of Christians set to rise in Afghanistan

As the Taliban tighten their grip on Afghanistan, Release International has warned that attacks on Christians are likely to rise across the region.

One church leader in Afghanistan said Christians were living in great fear. Some who worked for the government now face reprisals, and any identified as Christians could be killed. Christians risk betrayal, even from their own family members.

A Christian contact of one Release International partner describes the situation as 'dire.' Says 'Micah': "Our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us how afraid they are. In the areas that the Taliban now control girls are not allowed to go to school and women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male companion."

The church in Afghanistan already faced sharp persecution, even before the Taliban advance. That church is invisible and must operate underground in this land where Muslims who change their faith are breaking the law and considered to have betrayed their communities.

To be exposed as a Christian is to risk being charged with apostasy, which is punishable by death or imprisonment. There have also been honour killings of Christians by their families.

One of the communities worst affected by the Taliban is the Shia Hazara minority, which has been especially responsive to the Christian message.

In May 2021, the Taliban bombed the Sayed UI-Shuhada High School in Kabul, killing at least 85, mainly schoolgirls. The previous year the Taliban staged a shooting at a maternity clinic, killing women, children, and babies.

It was the Pakistan Taliban who shot 15-year-old Malala Yousafzai for going to school and telling the world about it in a blog.

Thousands of Afghans, including Christians, are now seeking refuge in neighbouring Pakistan. But the Taliban are growing in influence there, too. Before the Afghan president fled, he accused Pakistan of permitting thousands of jihadi fighters to cross its border to support the Taliban.

Through its international network of missions, Release International is active in some 25 countries around the world, supporting pastors, Christian prisoners and their families.

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

When the film makers come to church

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be permanently gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.

Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble of going round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not have been there in the nineteenth century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmount was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary patience that they needed a nineteenth century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting them from rural life. The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Looking for a good book?

When the first lockdown began I quickly scoured my favourite second-hand books website for all the unread titles in my favourite series of that moment, and indeed the last few years. I don't normally have much time for reading but it was to be one of the few pleasures permitted for long stretches of time. Perhaps we will turn to reading again as the autumn and winter draw in, so if you haven't already tried them, let me tell you about **Laurie R King's** Mary Russell series, described by Lee Child as 'the most sustained feat of imagination in mystery fiction today'.

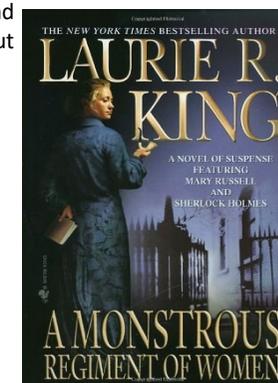
Now I haven't read any of Lee Child's books so don't know whether our taste in other things would overlap but in this he is spot on. King's series is a masterpiece that transports me at least into a parallel universe of adventure, joy and cerebral puzzles that has become addictive and I now look forward all year to the next title to come from the publisher.

The series is tremendously varied with each novel set in a different location, bursting with carefully crafted plots, witty dialogue, absorbing historical settings and action-packed adventure that one wouldn't expect from a novel featuring an elderly Sherlock Holmes enduring a tedious retirement in 1920s Sussex.

Yes, it is necessary to suspend belief to start on these novels. The premise is that the Holmes Conan Doyle immortalised was prematurely aged by Dr Watson to lend a gravitas appropriate to his staid Victorian readers. Whereas, the idea goes, Holmes was actually a young fellow through the 1870s and the heights of his fame, only retiring down to the Sussex Downs in the early years of the 20th Century. This is when the second great leap of imagination comes in because it is in Sussex that we meet Mary Russell herself; deductive protégée, Oxford undergraduate, theologian, amateur chemist and far-from-amateur knife thrower.

If you can make those two giant leaps though, you are in for a joyful romp through the Rif rebellion, the San Francisco earthquake, the Venice lagoon of the roaring twenties, you will enter Jerusalem with General Allenby, endure a trek through northern India in search of Kim, and a whole lot more.

To find out how these characters initially meet each other then you really ought to start at the beginning with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* and *The Monstrous Regiment of Women*. However, if you are willing to take things as you find them, then each of the seventeen books is a stand-alone delight. In my opinion they are respectful and reference the original Sherlock Holmes canon throughout but move those characters into a later century with a wit, panoramic sweep, sense of thrilling adventure and a more modern, female perspective that is completely lacking from the original creations. They are not quite a guilty pleasure but they certainly give me very great pleasure and if you're at all intrigued I'd suggest you give one a go.



Abby French

ST PETER'S NORTH CHAPEL ROOF

It was great that the work on the north chapel roof at St Peter's was completed in time for us returning to church at the beginning of September. As you can see from the photographs, the roof is looking rather smart, and it is actually not lead but stainless steel which was permitted, even though St Peter's is a Grade I listed building, because the roof is not visible from the ground.



We have been fortunate enough to receive grants from Northumbria Historic Churches Trust, All Churches Trust, Friends of St Peter's as well as several generous personal donations, and we are grateful for all the support received both from people locally as well as from our church architect, Mr Ian Ness and contractors, David Ferguson who secured the building initially and main contractors Neal Roofing from York

ST JOHN'S 2020 GARDEN



St John's 2020 garden came into being as a response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Covid 19 has had a huge effect on all of us, but particularly on those people who have lost loved ones during the pandemic, have been unable to say good-bye or have been unable to have the funeral service they would have wished for. It has been a painful time for so many.

The idea was to create a place of beauty where those we have loved and lost could be remembered, a place to come and sit, remember and mark the suffering of so many.

On 29th August we held a memorial service in the garden during which people were invited to write the name of their loved one on a stone and place the stone in the garden.

St John's is open from Thursday to Sunday, and in the porch is a box of stones and some pens, so everyone is welcome to come and place a stone in the garden in memory of a loved one.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBERING FOR ALL SOULS SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER AT 3 PM AT ST JOHN'S



Each year on the Sunday nearest to 1st & 2nd November, the feast of All Saints and All Souls, we hold a service to give thanks for and remember loved ones that we have lost, and to pray that they are at rest. This is a gentle, quiet and reflective service and during the service, we are invited to light candles in memory of those who have died while their names are read out.

Everyone is welcome to come along to this service. Refreshments are normally served afterwards for those who wish to stay.

Please do check the website nearer the date in case arrangements have had to be adapted because of the pandemic.

Thomas Harrison and his wife Di are two local farmers, probably known well by many of us, and they live here in the village of Mickley, raising their Hereford cattle on land farmed for generations by Thomas' family.

Tom & Di have agreed (with a little gentle 'encouragement' from me!) to contribute to our magazine and give us regular updates as to what is going on in the farming industry, and events during the farming year.

So please do look out in future editions for their articles.

Joy M.

Just a bit about Tom & Di...



"We are Moralee Herefords, established in 2011 by Tom & Di Harrison. We run a herd of 40 pedigree Hereford cows plus followers on our farm in Stocksfield, Northumberland.

We sell prime Hereford Beef, from cattle born and reared on the farm, direct to customers via our "Beef Box" Scheme. The Hereford has a unique ability to produce top quality beef naturally from grass, resulting in the most amazing taste.

We are also passionate about showcasing our cattle at agricultural shows around the country and to date have had some great successes.

If you have watched Clarkson's Farm, this will be the same but Mickley style!! Including our opinions, and updates on the farming calendar at Moralee Herefords"

Tom & Di

David Pickup, a solicitor, is a keen supporter of church magazines. Here's why!

Good reasons to have a church magazine

After a year of lockdown, should we still bother with church magazines now that church life is picking up again? **Yes!**

It is read by lots of people. If each issue is read on average by two people, then more people see it than ever go to church. So, it is a very good way of putting Christian values and ideas into people's hands, whether they come to church or not.

It is a service to the community. Communities need local networks to thrive. Magazines are a great way of binding the people who live in one place together.

It can make money. Well, enough to cover the costs of production! Let's aim for a revenue balanced on paid subscriptions and advertising.

It is seen by those outside the church family. Think of the people just moving into our area, or those who live here already and want to get married or to baptise their child. Our magazine can help them see the sort of community we are, and that we would welcome them to join us.

It is read by people who do not go to church, but who know someone who does. This is a major way of how groups, including churches, grow. Not many people walk into a church off their own bat. Most people are invited, or already have a connection.

It supports local businesses. Local businesses who advertise locally, can thrive.

It can help inform our community about itself - especially if we include a local history or local natural history section!

SO, don't believe it if someone tells you that print is dead. It is not. Many people still prefer to read something they can hold in their hands. The future is not EITHER print OR digital, but BOTH. AND people will flick through a magazine that arrives through the door, even though they may never dream of visiting their local church's website.



Prudhoe & District u3a

Now that restrictions are lifting, our regular monthly meetings will be held in Prudhoe Parish Hall and will be hybrid meetings, i.e. some members will meet in the hall whilst others will be welcome to join the meeting on ZOOM. For details of how to join our meetings (both physically and via ZOOM) please contact u3a.prudhoe@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is on Monday 25th October at 10 a.m. when Gillian

Russell Hoylake will give a presentation on "A Stranger in a Strange Land". This talk illustrates Ms Hoylake's experiences of life as an expatriate in Japan.

We look forward to welcoming current members, former members, new members and visitors to our meetings. Full membership is £15.00. Please check our website for more information: <https://sites.google.com/site/u3a4prudhoe/>



PRUDHOE WI

Wednesday, October 20th at 7.00pm,
Prudhoe Parish Hall

Speaker - *The Northumberland Honey Company*

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Stocksfield Local History Society



Stocksfield Methodist Church
Mount View Terrace,
Stocksfield

Wednesday October 13th, 7.30pm

AGM - and also "The Flood of 1771"

Speaker - *Gordon Scorer*

VISITORS ARE
ALWAYS WELCOME - £3.00

Stocksfield Plants & Gardens Society

Tuesday 19th October 7.15pm for
7.30pm

Speaker - Stella Exley
Camassia, Chris, Chelsea & Chaos

All events are currently planned to be on Zoom and are open to non-members, priced £3 - contact Sue Sinclair on:

stocksfieldpg@gmail.com

Alternatively, as a member of Stocksfield Community Association (£9 individual; £12 joint via www.stocksfieldca.org.uk), you can join the Society for a year's worth of events and activities for just £3 individual; £5 joint (via www.stocksfieldplantsandgardens.co.uk).



October

BAPTISMS

"Heavenly Father, fill all who come to baptism with the light of your presence and establish them in the joy of your kingdom."

Baptised on Sunday 12th September at St Peter's church

Sophie Jennifer Margaret Andrews

Baptised on Sunday 26th September at St John's church

Oscar John Mason Pitman

ANNIVERSARY OF BAPTISMS

We pray for the following children, the anniversary of whose baptism falls this month, and also for their parents and godparents.

- 2016** Oliver Peter Brown
- 2016** Lucy Rose Weir
- 2016** Luke Henry McArthur
- 2017** Findlay Thomas Wilson Brown
- 2017** Freddie David Peter Finn
- 2018** Emily Ann Duncan
- 2018** Sienna Rose Giblin
- 2019** Holly Sarah Booth
- 2019** Eleanor Bridget Booth
- 2019** Jack Riley Smart
- 2019** Rose Kate Baxter

Year's Mind for October

This list of names of the deceased is compiled from church registers.

Families or friends of those who have died ask for their loved ones to be commemorated on the anniversary of their death.

In addition to being published on this list, these names are also included in prayers at the main service the week before the date falls.

If you would like a loved one commemorated in this way, please contact any Churchwarden.

2nd	Elizabeth Ann Heslop
5th	Richard Peter Astbury
6th	Vera Alexandrovna Boissenvain
8th	Cherry Douglas
8th	Evelyn Garbutt
10th	Daisy Allen
11th	Dorothy (Dossie) March
12th	James Wilson
12th	Sarah (Sally) Batey
13th	Ellen Elliot
14th	Nancy Papworth
16th	Jane Satterley
19th	Tommy Elliott
22nd	Kenneth Rutherford
25th	Alice Broughton
25th	Joan Milbanke Johnson
26th	Kenneth Gilholm
26th	John Donald Hope
26th	John Cameron Milbourne
29th	Margaret Thompson
31st	Alfred Fish

Autumn Prayer

Dear Loving, Father God,

As the season changes and we enjoy the beautiful colours of autumn, there are other changes which we don't enjoy. Changes we cannot control; changes and suffering in the world, beyond our comprehension; changes to our work routines, or health, or circumstances; changes which cause us anxiety and uncertainty.

When everything seems to be falling around us like the autumn leaves, help us, Lord, to remember that you stand firm. You are our rock. You never change. You are always faithful, always with us, as we move into each new day and each new season.

Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus, so that by putting our trust in Him, we can know the security of your love, for ever!

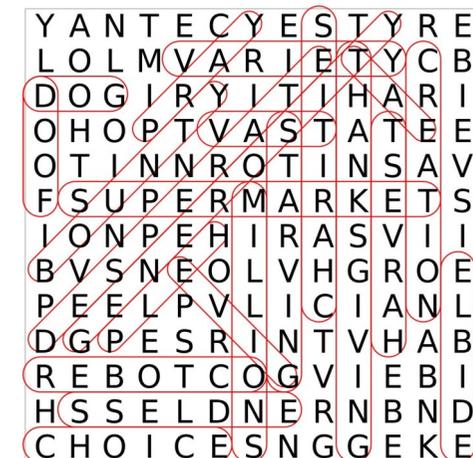
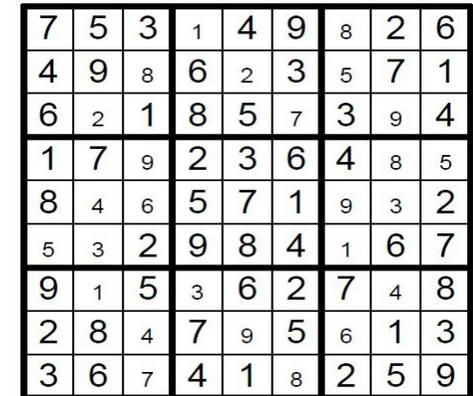
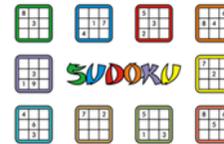
In His name, we thank you, Sovereign Lord.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Puzzle Solutions



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MAGAZINE

To include material in this magazine, please contact:

Joy Marshall

Email: marshall_mickley@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 07801 131422

Note: The deadline for material for the November 2021 magazine will be:

Saturday 9th October 2021

Please forward any contributions to Joy Marshall

Email: marshall_mickley@yahoo.co.uk

We are always seeking more articles, stories and information. Thank you!

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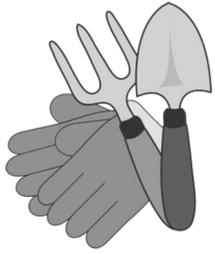
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Bywell Church Wardens:

Mrs Jessie Reisner Tel: 01661 843136
Mrs Melna Martin Tel: 01661 844040

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Mr Barry Onions Tel: 07771 772400
Mrs Jean Comb (Asst) Tel: 01661 842601

Parish Administrator:

Mrs Sue Hayman Tel: 07585 129300
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Church Hall:

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