



March 2021



St Michael's, Alnwick
The magazine for the people of the Church and the Town



WEEKLY WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT ST MICHAEL'S

8.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION (said)

A quiet early morning service (CW*) with a sermon. On the third Sunday of the month we use BCP

9.30 am

THE PARISH EUCHARIST

Sung Eucharist (CW) with Junior Church for children, a robed choir and the largest congregation of the day. On the first Sunday of the month a 'First's Eucharist' is especially welcoming to children.

11.15 am

LATE MORNING WORSAUS

A more flexible and varied service, which includes Holy Communion about once a month. The music includes traditional hydrons as well as contemporary Christian songs. A small and welcoming congregation with some provision for children.

6.00 pm

A traditional service of Evering (BCP) with sermon, choir, hymns and Anglican chant for Psalms and Q

WEDNESDAYS AT

10.15

HOLY COMMUNION

A said serve of Holy Communion (CW) followed by coffee and the opportunity for fellowship. Once a month we are joined by a class from St Michael's Church School and once a term the service takes place in the school.

DENWICK VILLAGE CHAPEL

A small chapel-of-ease built by the Duke of Northumberland in 1872

11.15 am on the Second Sunday of the month.

MATINS OR HOLY COMMUNION

*CW – Common Worship, BCP – Book of Common Prayer (1662)

For more information on St Michael's please visit our website at www.alnwickanglican.com

From the Vicar

St. Michael's Vicarage Alnwick

Dear People of Alnwick,

In early January Jane began her gardening year by planting tomato seeds. This year we will have red, yellow and black – yes, black – tomatoes.

The seeds were carefully nurtured in the warmth of the house but now, with plants some three to four inches high, they are lovingly transported to the greenhouse each morning and then returned to the house overnight.

Whilst Jane simply loves the whole process of propagation and nurture I'm afraid my real interest is in consuming the end product. At the height of the season I'd be very happy to have home-grown tomatoes for breakfast, lunch, tea and supper!

Perhaps it is because of 'lockdown' but I do find that I've taken more interest in watching the seedlings grow this year. Indeed, I was fascinated, when the tiny plants were mainly on the kitchen windowsill, to watch them grow and, more especially, to see how they needed to be turned each day as the leaves reoriented themselves to the direction of sun, growing taller and stronger as a result.

And then, at our streamed Eucharist for Candlemas, Gerard introduced me to a hymn I'd not come across before. I've found myself returning to the words regularly and they have become a source of encouragement and hope:

In a world where people walk in darkness, let us turn our faces to the light, to the light of God revealed in Jesus, to the daystar scattering our night.

For the light is stronger than the darkness and the day will overcome the night, though the shadows linger all around us, let us turn our faces to the light.

Principal Readings for March Holy Communion Evensong

Cunady	riory communion	Evendong
7th	Exodus 20. 1-17	Exodus 5.1 - 6.1
3rd of	1 Corinthians 1.18-25	Philippians 3. 4b-14
Lent	John 2.13-22	

Sunday

14th	Exodus 2. 1-10	Exodus 6. 2-13
4th of Lent	2 Corinthians. 1. 3-7	Romans 5.1-11
Mothering Sunday	John 19. 25-27	

21st	Jeremiah 31. 31-34	Exodus 7. 8-24
5th Sunday of Lent	Hebrews 5. 5-10	Romans 5. 12-21
Passion Sunday	John 12. 20-33	

28th	Isaiah 50. 4-9a	Isaiah 5. 1-79
2nd Sunday of Lent	Philippians 2. 5-11	Mark 12. 1-12
Palm Sunday	Mark 8. 31-end	

Liturgy of the Passion

FROM THE REGISTERS May the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory

	•
Peter Michael Matthew Thew.	29/01/21
Janneil Elliott.	03/02/21
Anne Grindley Turner.	08/02/21
John William Bolton.	15/02/21
Wendy & Michael Allan.	16/02/21
Olive Ingledew.	18/02/21
Hazel Armstrong.	19/02/21
Margaret Quigg	23/02/21
Eleanor Dover.	25/02/21

The most obvious way we can turn our faces to the light is by a time of regular prayer in which we connect with God, rest in his presence, bring him our thanks and praise and lay before him our concerns and our hopes.

As the tiny tomato plants have emerged from the seeds and, by turning their faces to the light each day, are growing stronger and more mature I have been inspired afresh. In that simple yet profound act of nature I've been reminded just how critical it is - for our own survival and for the good of the world and those around us - to turn our faces to the light.

As I write this letter we are about to hear from our Prime Minister what arrangements will come into force to help us ease out of lockdown. We will know very soon what the practical details may be but, however the path to recovery is laid out before us, I am convinced that turning our faces to the light will enhance our recovery as individuals, as a community of people here in Alnwick and in our wider context.

With every blessing,

Paul.

Front page picture

St Michael's Church in lockdown: showing where the back pews have been removed and the floor expertly paved to give much greater room for movement.



Thought for the Month

Wilderness

Linto the wilderness, a desolate landscape devoid of familiar landmarks. It's a place of loss, of disconnection from ordinary life, of disorientation without the familiar routines of everyday. It's where Jesus faced big questions, of identity, of how he would use his power, of the shape of his ministry to come.

We too have experienced wilderness, in varying degrees, as a result of the pandemic. A year on from the first lockdown, we have some of the same disconnection, especially from being with close family and friends, and our sense of distance has changed, as places which were readily accessible continue to be out of reach. For some it has been a year of major loss. But we've all experienced the loss of familiar routines, of being unable to participate in school, work, shopping, and gatherings of all sorts including church. For some, the lockdowns have brought a real crisis of identity. For all of us, they bring time to face big questions, of how we use our resources, and about the shape of our lives and the ministry of the Church. There is much to ponder on, as we keep Lent, in an existing context of wilderness.

But this is also a time to appreciate what we have, to be encouraged. From his isolation in prison, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote of the solace he found in the company of the ants. There is much to enjoy very close to us. Pots and vases of



hyacinths, tulips and daffodils can cheer us with their colour, whether set in front of dismal weather outside or bathed in sunshine. Snowdrops and crocuses remind us that Spring is coming. March is a time for sowing seeds in anticipation of good things to come. I have wondered at the delicacy of a blue tit on the birdfeeder, and the grandeur of a buzzard as it soared high above. Our delight in the natural world nearby points us towards our God as creator

Wilderness is not a mistake on God's part, it's a place that God can use. In the Old Testament God's people wandered through the wilderness for forty years towards the Promised Land. It was a time of dislocation and hardship, but also of discovering their identity. After travelling for many years they were given this reassurance from God, 'Surely this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away.... The word is very near to you'.

St Paul found a kind of wilderness when he spent time in Athens. The city abounded in altars to all sorts of gods, a very different but still disorientating experience. In this 'wilderness of plenty' Paul's message was similar to that given by Moses: 'God is not far off from each one of us'.

This is a message that offers us hope today, whatever form our own wilderness takes. Let's pray that God will show us how to use this time creatively, to ponder our big questions, to tease out how God might be using even the pandemic. And let's take delight in the nearby glory of God's creation, and especially that God is not far away, and that we can rejoice in our identity as God's beloved children.

Sue Allen

A Lent Prayer

Lord, it is Lent. Lent is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is Lent after a long year. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

Lent is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

Lent is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

Lent heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray. Amen.

Adapted by Jane Scott from the New Zealand Prayer Book

The bells will ring!

JIM CROWTHER, an entrepreneur and enthusiastic bellringer writes 'I had sold 6 bells from St James's Church Newton Hall to the Keltek Trust on the condition that they would donate them back and re-tune them free of charge provided I could find an appropriate church tower in Northumberland

'Prior to Alnwick I had looked at a number of possibilities. However, I confess that I was struggling a bit and starting to scratch my head. This was because, in my long experience, certain personal criteria needed to be met for a successful bell installation project and many churches fell short of that criteria

'It was during a regular holiday at Newton by the Sea in Nov. 2017, that I woke up early one sunny morning and thought that your tower might have all of the main requirements, jumped in the car to Alnwick, visited the church, bumped into Paul, explained the potential idea. Paul was quick to recognize the potential of this offer. We accessed the tower and confirmed that there was potential and by the end of the same day we had, subject to a structural survey, a proposal to put to the Churchwardens, the PCC and the people of Alnwick.'

Would this initiative solve an ongoing problem? The tower roof was leaking and an attempt at funding had just failed. Jim's enthusiasm was infectious and it was quickly realized that by combining the two projects the chance of success was a real possibility.

All that now seems a long time ago. In the meantime the structural survey has proved positive. The six bells to be reconditioned have all been sponsored, as have four new bells. Together they will make a ring of ten. St Michael's will be only the second church in Northumberland to have a ring of ten, the other being Hexham Abbey.

A detailed archeological survey of the lead on the roof was undertaken by John Buglass who has made a full report on the interesting graffiti, some of which is of national importance. This along with the most significant pieces will be preserved and displayed in church. John has outlined some ideas on how the Parish might profit financially from these displays and from some of the less significant or duplicated pieces.



David Beaumont, the architect for the project, has worked meticulously and with enthusiasm to bring the two inter-related aspects of the project together. The people of St Michael's, several others with previous links to the Parish, and local organizations have all contributed generously to the project, a once in a generation opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for St Michael's. In addition Martin Hulse, the project manager, has successfully applied to several trust funds. Now with the faculty granted, the new bells cast by Taylor's of Loughborough and transported to White's of Appleton, the bell hangers, the PCC being reassured that the financial situation is sufficiently robust, and after putting the project out to tender, the contract was finally signed on February 4th.

David Ferguson Ltd. of Haydon Bridge have made a detailed timetable for the works and as I write



Two lines of Alnwick Bells

are making plans to start building the scaffolding on the 22nd of February. As 2021 goes forward we look forward to having the tower made good, seeing some of the interesting graffiti, having the bells brought into church and blessed and with every hope of hearing the bells ring out in celebration of Michaelmas this year. In these strange times it is so good to have something that we can all look forward to.

Jean Darby

One person can't change the world but you can change the world for one person



St Michael's CE Primary School

Howling Lane, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1DJ Tel: 01665 602850 admin@stmichaelsalnwick.northumberland.sch.uk www.stmichaelsalnwick.northumberland.sch.uk Head Teacher: Mr G Johnston MEd NPQH



ST MICHAEL'S C E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christian Distinctiveness

Achieving and Growing Together

St Michael's is a Church of England Primary School built on distinctive Christian Values at the very heart of its community.

We will provide:

a welcoming, inclusive school with strong relationships across our community, that celebrates diversity;

excellent teaching with a nurturing approach, guiding first steps to next steps;

an inspirational and challenging curriculum which ignites curiosity, encourages resilience and grows confidence so children become lifelong learners:

a happy, safe and stimulating environment in which children can achieve their full potential;

So that our children will flourish in all they do and become good citizens

"And some seed fell on good ground. This seed grew and made 100 times more grain." (Luke 8:8)

















Lambeth Palace Library

YOU MAY have seen a television programme recently about the new Library built recently to house the collections of the Archbishops of Canterbury on the south side of the Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament.

Until the new library was built, completed in 2020, the books and other treasures and oddities were kept in the old palace in damp, leaky and draughty conditions dating from Tudor times.

It was the first free public library in England, becoming public in 1610, and it contains not only the C of E records, but various items including the

12th century Romanesque Lambeth Bible, the Celtic Macdurnan Gospels, a white glove worn by Charles I on the day of his execution, Queen Elizabeth I's personal prayer book and the death warrant for Mary Queen of Scots.

The library has been built on the edge of the palace garden, fronting on to Lambeth Palace Road. It is built of concrete faced with brick, a tower to keep the books well above the flood line and in good condition. Below are meeting rooms and the reading room with views of the garden.

The bricks were handmade, to reflect the bricks of the Palace walls, and the

wooden structures are of oak, yew, and cedar of Lebanon.

Subject to Covid restrictions the new library will be open to the public in next few months.

Colin Perkins



Christian Aid Week 2021

Small is very beautiful

As WE so often hear, having a reliable source of water means everything to people who don't have one. Water. Nothing fancy, nothing complicated, just water. We who have plenty need hardly think about it. When you don't have it, it must be all you can think about. When will it rain or even will it rain at all? How long will I be able to do the long walk to collect it. Who will do it if I can't? Or, will it flood and wash away the seedlings that are just starting to come up? Climate change is making it more and more difficult for people to answer these questions. It is imperative that strategies are put in place which find ways around the problems. This Christian Aid Week the focus is on building earth dams in Kenya and so, as May draws nearer, we have another chance to join together to make the playing field just a little more level.

But what can we do? At the moment we can't possibly know if we will be able to deliver envelopes or hold coffee mornings, have a bake sale or get together for a big Brekkie.

Well, last year, despite all that was being thrown at the world, Christian Aid Week raised £4m. While this was only about half of the usual amount, it hardly needs to be said that such a huge amount of money will be making hundreds of life-giving changes to people of every age, from tiny babies to folks who will have seen many seasons come and go. Perhaps, for some older people, it will fulfil dreams which they were beginning to think could never happen.

And, this year we are better armed! We've had months organising virtual events, we've enjoyed services, birthday celebrations and quizzes, all courtesy of the unfathomable magic that is the internet.

The Christian Aid website is full of ideas of things to do. They themselves are hosting another grand quiz which anyone can join in with or, as last year, we are encouraged to organise our own smaller events. If you would rather be outdoors than sitting in front of your computer their 300,000 step challenge during the whole of May might fit the bill (this works out at just under 10,000 steps a day). Of course, it doesn't have to be quite as challenging as that, it could be tailored to whatever feels do-able. Just a few people, asking sponsorship of 4 or 5 family members or friends, can together result in a very worthwhile amount. Other ideas suggested on the website are a sponsored 'shave-off' (if hairdressers are not able to open soon this one could prove very popular!), virtual Bingo or asking for donations in lieu of birthday presents if you happen to have a May birthday. They also suggest selling an unwanted item or two on e-bay and donating what is made.

If we are allowed to meet in an outdoor setting by the time Christian Aid week comes around (10th -16th), perhaps a plant sale could be held in a central place in the town. If you are a gardener would you consider planting a few extra seeds over the next few weeks?

Lots and lots of small (but very beautiful) efforts can work together to marvellous effect. So, please don't dismiss *any* ideas you might have about ways of making a small contribution this year.

Please don't hesitate to contact Sue Wiltshire, 604029, or Susan Trafford, 606180, to chat over any thoughts you might have.

Thank you.

Sue Wiltshire

ANAGRAMS OF SAINTS' NAMES

SAINT'S DAY

1	KICTRAP	
2	ELL OF IOO	M
3	CAMELHI	
4	DEMACNA	
5	OHJN HET DE	BOLVE
6	DIANA	
7	GREGOE	
8	TRUBCHET	
9	DHLI	
10	BULMACO	
DATES TO CHOOSE FROM:-		

AUGUST 31. DECEMBER 27. FEBRUARY 11. JUNE 9. SEPTEMBER 29. MARCH 17. NOVEMBER 17. AUGUST 15. APRIL 23. MARCH 20.

Answers on page 22

Some meanderings about trees

T MAY seem unlikely at the moment, but before long there will be signs of life in the bare-branches all around.

Last summer when I did a bit of pruning here and there, I kept (as usual) a few sprigs wrapped up in a wet tissue and shoved into a paper bag. Now, even with the recent low temperatures, there are signs of life.

Often, if I was in a rush, when I got home the cuttings were all treated in a similar way, then popped into a dark plastic water-filled container with just the top showing. Why dark? Because the roots develop better if the plant thinks it's base is underground.

Sprouting cuttings so far are -alilac (colour unknown), a camellia, two flowering shrubs from a garden in Bolton (cultivar unknown) but the plants seem to have small, profuse pink and blue blooms - these were just pushed into the edge of a planted-up container, having been given the same treatment as the others. Still sitting in water outside but looking promising, is a redstemmed willow that tends to produce spectacular examples of fasciation – odd perhaps, but they can make wonderful modern arrangements!

From many years ago, when the Alnwick Gardeners and helpers went on a charabanc outing to Holehird,

there I was given some cuttings from a crinodendrum, one of which is now a towering and rather beautiful but overgrown shrub. It's now time to prune it and refresh the compost with an ericaceous top-up.

The treatment mentioned above is always the same. Try to choose non-flowering bits, keep the stem moist, then when home, strip off all but a few top leaves, trim the bottom with sharp secateurs and (peculiar to me but it seems to work) make a gentle wound near the bottom to encourage fibrous roots, then plunge into compost at the edge of a pot or, if in a hurry — put into a dark watering can with the wounded bit underwater and the top in the air.

When I first started my own garden in Derbyshire, a lovely lady invited me to her garden and gave me cuttings of all sorts. She said most will thrive and you will save a lot of money by not going to Garden Centres. In those days I didn't drive or have a car so she did save me much expense.

The only thing she didn't know was that my garden backed onto farm pasture so, things did grow but were perpetually pruned by sheep and horses!

Ah well – we all live and learn! But it was, and still is, fun.

J. M. S-S.



THE WHOLE of March is in Lent this year. Regular Red-letter days include Joseph of Nazareth on 19th, and the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary on 25th.

Mothering Sunday, or Mid-Lent Sunday, is on 14th, and Passion-tide begins a week later.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on 28th leading up to Easter on 4th April.

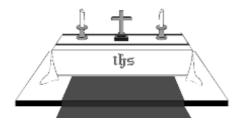
During Lent we have normally had early morning celebrations of the Prayer Book Holy Communion service. This year on Wednesdays the services are being streamed on our YouTube channel at 10.15, and available to be viewed later if preferred.

Other remembrances include, on 2nd, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield 672. He was educated on Lindisfarne with his brother Cedd, and Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne 687 is celebrated on 20th.

The Patron Saints of Wales, and Ireland, David and Patrick are commemorated on 1st and 17th respectively.

On 21st March is the date of the death of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in 1556, martyred during the reign of Mary I.

Colin Perkins



Smile

Building a better future

A young women in Kenya has founded a company which turns waste plastic into bricks. Nzambi Matee, a materials engineer, was tired of watching civil servants struggling to cope with the large amounts of plastic waste in Nairobi. So, in 2018 she founded her company, Gjenge Makers and started to produce bricks and other building materials using waste from local packing plants, (the bricks are 5 to 7 times stronger than concrete). She employs 110 people and churns out 1,500 bricks every day.

Wow!

On the 25th May 1986 between 5 and 6.5 million people held hands across America forming a human chain which passed through 16 states from the east to the west coast. It was a nationwide charity event organised to draw attention to the plight of the hungry and homeless. Many participants donated 10 dollars to reserve a place in the line and in total the event raised about 15 million dollars

(Perhaps, in the due course of time, hands across Alnwick...??)

(Compiled by Sue Wiltshire using information from the Internet)

THOMAS GRAY wrote seventy-five drafts of his 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' before he was satisfied with it.

Somerset Maugham earned only £250 in his first ten years as a writer.

George Gershwin composed almost a hundred tunes before he sold his first one - for \$5

It takes the hammer of persistence to drive the nail of success

10NE 9.	10. COLUMBA
NOVEMBER 17.	6. HILD
WARCH 20.	8. CUTHBERT
APRIL 23.	7. GEORGE
.18 TSUƏUA	6. AIDAN
DECEMBER 27.	2. JOHN THE BELOVED
EEBKOARY 11.	4. CAEDMAN
SEPTEMBER 29.	3. MICHAEL
. ZI TSUƏUA	2. MARY MOTHER OF JESUS
MARCH 17.	I. PATRICK

ANSWERS TO ANAGRAMS

PARISH HALL DRAW

Drawn on 22nd November the winners were

1st (£20) Anne Harrison 2nd (£10) John Onions 3rd (£5) Anne Blades

Drawn on 20th December:

 $\begin{array}{cccc} \text{1st} & & (\pounds 20) & & \text{Enid Brown} \\ \text{2nd} & & (\pounds 10) & & \text{Lynne Moir} \\ \text{3rd} & & (\pounds 5) & & \text{Gillian Maude} \end{array}$

Who's Who

VICAR

The Rev'd Canon Paul Scott 01665 603078 St Michael's Vicarage, Howling Lane, Alnwick, NE66 1DH

E-mail: paulscott1957@btintemet.com

CURATE

The Rev'd Gerard Rundell 07394792277 10 Allerbum Lea, Alnwick, NE66 2NJ E-mail: rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

The Vicar's day off is Friday and Gerard's day off is Monday. They would be glad to be spared all but the most urgent matters on these days.

CLERGY WITH PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

The Rev'd Canon Sue Allen 01665 605361 The Rev'd Gilly Maude 01665 603460 The Rev'd Colin Perkins 01665 510445 The Rev'd Martin Roff 01665 602207 The Rev'd Natasha Schemanoff

01665 603815

The Rev'd Jane Scott 01665 603078 The Rev'd Martin Turner 01665 603815 The Rev'd Canon Dennis Winter

01665 602658

READERS

John Cooke 01665 830419 Annette Playle 01665 606902

READER EMERITUS

Bill Callaghan 01665 602348 **CHURCHWARDENS**

Anne Blades 01665 602020 Pat Taylor 01665 603811

CHURCHWARDEN EMERITUS

Albert Brown 01665 602700

ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDEN

Pat Tweed 01665 479280

PCC TREASURER

Richard Dale 01665 606804

PCC SECRETARY

Rosie Buxton 01665 604830

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Susan Trafford 01665 606180

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Vacant

THE PARISH OFFICE 01665 602797 The Office is not currently staffed and so urgent calls should be addressed to the

Vicarage. E-mail

stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com

MOTHERS' UNION

Meets in church at 2 00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month from March to

December (in normal times).

Branch Leader

Val Hawker 01665 602348

> (Mobile) 07732431056

BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS

Currently not available until further notice

COMMUNION

for the SICK and HOUSEBOUND can be arranged by contacting The Vicar 01665 603078 or

Pat Taylor 01665 603811

For more information on St Michael's Church. please visit our website at www.alnwickanglican.com

To hire the PARISH HALL

Phone Mariana on 07424 272903 or E-mail bookstmichael@gmail.com



At the Cathedral

https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/coronavirus/live.streaming

Newcastle Cathedral ministry team

https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleCathedral. Facebook live stream of morning prayer led from home by one of the ministry team daily Monday to Friday at 8.30 am https://tinyur].com/NclCathedral

Subscribe to their channel on YouTube for notifications of the Daily Reflections (also Monday to Friday).

At St Michael's Alnwick

Sadly in response to the current Coronavirus situation until further notice there is no access to the building.

At 10.00 am on Sundays, there will be a Service of Holy Communion, which will be streamed at 10.00 am, or can be watched later, as online worship which is available on the website, and on our YouTube channel. Following the service, at approximately 11:15 am, we enjoy a virtual get together over coffee, via Zoom. If you would like to join us for this, please email Andrew Duff on <u>duffandrew@btinternet.com</u> for the meeting ID, password, or for any questions about using Zoom.

• In addition to this, we also have some groups meeting for fellowship and to pray Compline together on weekday evenings via **Zoom** - if you would like to know more about these or join in, please contact our Curate, the Rev'd Gerard Rundell (rev.g.rundell@gmail.com).

Copies of The Gateway can be obtained from St Michael's Church or ordered for delivery in this version or large print

> Phone The Parish Office 602797 leave a message or E-mail stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church of England nor of the editorial committee

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