

Third LENT NEWSLETTER

23rd – 29th March 2025

For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down that it will sprout again. And that its tender shoots will not cease. (Job 14:7)



I write this on Spring Equinox the first day of Spring this year. Being on a brief Lenten time away, I don't know if the Cherry Blossoms have indeed responded to the warmth and glorious sunshine to bloom as profusely as this photograph taken several years ago just outside The Vicarage in Gainford. But Spring in its blossoming raises our thoughts of hope and reminds us that God has chosen to bless us year after year.

As **Spring has sprung**, we move towards Mothering Sunday on 30th March, when we bless God's mothering nature, reminding The Church of

her pastoral and caring responsibilities. We also take this opportunity to say thank you to mothers. Well-timed is therefore **St John the Evangelist's Spring Fayre with Refreshments**: Come along on to **Ingleton Village Hall on Saturday 29th March between 10am and 12noon** where you'll find stalls with gifts for mothers on Mothering Sunday and refreshments including cake that can be enjoyed there or to take away for mums!



Referring to the responsibilities of The Church, **come along on Tuesday 25th March 6-7.30pm to the Vicarage, Gainford for a FIRESIDE CHAT**. You may have heard or read disturbing things about the Church of England. Family, friends, and neighbours may have raised these things conversation. Being among the 3 non-bishops elected to the House of Bishops in recent years, I am able to shed light if you wish to know more accurately the issues instead of what is portrayed in the media and by critics. **Invite friends and neighbours if you feel they would also be interested.**

THIS SATURDAY 22nd March we celebrate St Cuthbert with our Annual St Cuthbert's Pilgrimage Walk. As the Diocese's honorary Canon for Pilgrimage, I have been tasked to walk with Bishop Sarah from **St Mary and St Cuthbert's Church in Chester le Street starting at 10.30am**, joining others at **Finchale Priory, who will set off towards Durham Cathedral at 12.30** with pilgrims on the Camino Ingles. Just turn up with walking attire. Refreshments can be purchased at Finchale Priory. **A Pilgrims Eucharist Service will conclude this day at 4pm in Durham Cathedral.**

Just into April on the 5th is a particularly special celebration of **Staindrop St Mary's Church Centenary of the Recasting, Casting, and Hanging of our eight Bells**. Ringing in and out the celebration will be our Tower Team of Change Ringers, **with Assistant Bishop of Durham The Rt Rev'd Frank White** coming to bless and rededicate our bells at a the **service at 10.30am**. Our Patron, Lord Barnard has sponsored a Centenary Celebration Cake, which he will cut for everyone to enjoy. Our schools and their families have been specially invited to join in trying out hand bells after the service. Everyone is welcome.



Third Sunday in Lent Services

9.15	Staindrop St Mary	Rev'd Susanne Jukes
9.30	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
10.45	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
11.00	Ingleton St John the Evangelist	Rev'd Susanne Jukes

Take away, Good Lord, the sin that corrupts us; give us the sorrow that heals; and the joy that praises. Amen

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Please pray for families recently bereaved and give thanks for the life of

- † The Late Mr George Avison, of Ingleton Parish, whose funeral at Darlington Crematorium took place on Tuesday 18th March 2025
- † The Late Dr David Ormandy, of Ingleton Parish who passed away on Saturday 8th March 2025. David was a stalwart and faithful member of Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church and Parish. A private funeral service will be conducted by Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi on Tuesday 8th April, and a Service of Thanksgiving when we celebrate his life will take place on Wednesday 9th April in Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church. More details in next week's newsletter.
- † The Late Mrs Beryl Porter of Stonehaven, Winston, whose funeral will take place in Winston St Andrew's Church on Tuesday 1st April at 1.45pm. A private committal will follow at Darlington Crematorium.

BAPTISM:

We give thanks for baby Robert Burnside, who was baptised at Gainford St Mary's Church on Sunday 16th March 2025. Please pray for him, his parents Robert and Chloe, and his Godparents.

Everyone welcome!

Video showing of the hugely successful 'The Chosen' about the life of Jesus

Followed by discussion with tea & cake

St Osmunds Centre, Gainford
Monday 31 March, 2.30-4.30pm

Free. Donations welcome to cover cost of refreshments.
Supported and hosted by Churches Together in Gainford.

For more info: Claire Mead, Ordinand in Training, claire.l.mead@outlook.com



Lent Study with excerpts of a film and conversation:

All welcome to a Lent gathering on Monday 31st March at 2.30pm in Gainford's St Osmund's Centre. There's a large free

car park if you're coming from outside Gainford. The drive way is on the opposite side of the Village Hall off the main road. Refreshments are provided. **For information contact Ordinand-in-Training Claire** claire.l.mead@outlook.com



ENJOYABLE OCCASIONS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Fool's Gold returns to Ingleton Village Hall to perform Sirens Song on Friday 2nd May at 7pm. £8 only with all proceeds from the entrance fee, raffle and refreshments go to St John The Evangelist Church.



Our young organist Llewellyn Joshua Greenwell is giving an **ORGAN RECITAL** on **Saturday 10th May 3pm** in **Gainford St Mary's Church**. Come along to enjoy a **CREAM TEA** at this recital. **Donations gratefully appreciated!**



GATHER's RETREAT WEEKEND is being opened to all who would like to be renewed finding oneself in the fresh landscape of the Lake District. For **3 days Friday 16th – Sunday 18th May**, this **residential retreat in Buttermere** provides time for reflection, fellowship both indoors and outdoors including an evening around a firepit and by the lakeside, conversation, sharing in the cooking and gathering for meals, and worship during an outdoor Eucharist. For more information, to register your interest, or to sign up for it, contact info@gatherchurchteesdale.com click this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HHilFB016eEyyRmtYVryyszFF5OAUQD3/view?usp=sharing>

Churchwardens needed!

Our churches in Ingleton, Staindrop, and Winston each have a churchwarden, who would appreciate sharing this role with another churchwarden. We'd be glad to hear from anyone who may be open to being an Assistant Churchwarden in the first instance too. It's wonderful to serve God in this way. The duties are fulfilling and not arduous when shared! Churchwardens Judith Pressley (Ingleton), Linda Hausmanis (Staindrop), and Lynne Loble (Winston) would be glad to hear from you.

COLLECT for 3rd SUNDAY IN LENT

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the
temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the
only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that
which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not
satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting
covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not
know,
and nations that do not know you shall
run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One
of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may
have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the
earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Gospel according to Luke (13:1-9)

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?' ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

⁶ Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" ⁸ He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"