

Second LENT NEWSLETTER

16th – 22nd March 2025

Deep calls to deep in the thunder of your waterfalls; all your breakers and waves have gone over me. (Psalm 42:9)



There are writings in the Bible that are utterly visual and compelling, as we find in Psalm 42 when the Psalmist expresses feelings in the depths of his circumstances. Big happenings in the world are as thunder, and we are caught up helpless to do anything but acknowledge 'breakers and waves' going over us. But **this Lent, even we can change the world with one generous act at a time.** The generous act may be small and personal. Pray daily for one person for the rest of our 40 days of Lent; pick up the phone to speak to, or visit, a neighbour whom you may not have seen out and about for some time; ask God's help to forgive someone including yourself; or come into church to light a candle asking God to renew your own spirit.

Our **Lent Lunches** have been taking place: Churches Together in Gainford's lunch at St Osmund's Centre on Tuesday 11th March and Ingleton St John's at Ingleton Village Hall on Thursday 13th March. Ingleton's Treasurer Joyce Mead looks deservedly smug having devised a Lent and Bible wordsearch that defeated all 17 who enjoyed fellowship



after the lunch of wholesome soups. **Come along to Winston St Andrew's lunch on Saturday 15th March from 11.30am in Winston's Village Hall** whose donations go towards Water Aid; and to Churches Together in **Gainford's lunch at St Mary's on Tuesday 25th March at 12.30 in the church.**

Our Messy Church programme for families and children is being channelled into Holiday Clubs. But before this, **we have one last monthly Messy Church service this Sunday 16th March at 3.30pm** at Gainford, St Mary's 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. **Everyone is welcome.**

JOIN A PILGRIMAGE WALK! Are you longing to stride out or looking for a pilgrimage as a Lenten challenge? As the Diocese's honorary Canon for Pilgrimage, I have been tasked to walk the St Cuthbert's Pilgrimage with Bishop Sarah **from St Cuthbert's Church in Chester le Street on Saturday 22nd March starting at 10.30am**, to join other's at **Finchale Priory, who will set off towards Durham Cathedral at 12.30** with pilgrims on the Camino Ingles. Sign up with GATHER info@gatherchurchteesdale.com or 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.**



Second Sunday in Lent Services

9.15	Staindrop St Mary	Lay Service of the Word (Worship Group)
9.30	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop with Claire Mead preaching
10.45	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop with Claire Mead preaching

followed at 12.30 with a Baptism service

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 Claudette Warne, of Gainford Parish, a regular at Warm and Welcome and at Lunch Club in Winston, whose funeral was on Wednesday 12th March 2025.
- † The Late Mr George Avison, of Ingleton Parish, whose funeral at Darlington Crematorium takes place on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 3pm
- † The Late Mr David Ormandby, 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. Information about his funeral and service of thanksgiving will be available here next week.

BAPTISM:

Please pray for Robert Burnside, who will be baptised at Gainford St Mary's Church this Sunday, and his parents Robert and Chloe, and his Godparents.



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!



Well done GATHER for the Litter Pick last Sunday in Staindrop – we were grateful for sunshine and great visibility. The next **Little Pick** is on **Palm Sunday 13th April at 12.30 in Little Newsham.**

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/1HHilFB016eEYvRmtYVryyszFF5OAUQD3/view?usp=sharing>



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: Come along to a Churches Together 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

SAVE THIS DATE: On

Saturday 5th April 2025, our EIGHT BELLS are 100 years old in Staindrop St Mary's Church Tower! WE ARE CELEBRATING. The Bells are being rededicated and blessed by Bishop Frank White and a special cake has been



COLLECT for 2nd SUNDAY IN LENT

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's
sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to
help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and
hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Genesis 15.1-12,17-18

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ² But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³ And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' ⁵ He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' ⁸ But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' ⁹ He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

The Gospel according to Luke (13:31-35)

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' ³² He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'