

2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT NEWSLETTER

23rd February – 1st March 2025

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed.' (Luke 4:18)

Dear friends, this week, Churches Together in Gainford (CTiG) learnt about the work of **Woodhouse Close Community Centre**. It was humbling to hear that the unfortunate and needy have increased since the centre began 20 years ago. People are stricken by devastating circumstances, whether brought to us as asylum seekers fleeing from conflict and persecution in their home countries or local residents brought low by critical illness and bereavement of the breadwinner. **Started by the church to help the needy**, today a small number of grant-funded staff are joined by volunteers who run a Crisis hub; Foodbank; cookery classes; Community shop offering free essentials to households; a social space for the isolated, toddlers and young parents; and rent out space for a youth and drama club and an art club. CTiG **Lent Lunches** will raise funds for the centre. Come along at 12.30 on **Tuesdays 11th March at St Osmund's** and **18th March at St Mary's, Gainford**. In between these lunch dates are **Ingleton St John the Evangelist's Lent Lunch with a thought-provoking quiz on Thursday 13th March from 12.30 at Ingleton Village Hall**, and **Winston St Andrew's Lent Lunch on Saturday 15th March from 11.30am in the Village Hall**.

More dates for our diaries:

- † **Ash Wednesday 5th March**, a service with Communion and Ashing is **hosted by Winston St Andrew's at 9.30am** for all 4 churches.
- † **Monday 31st March 2.30pm – 4.30pm** everyone is invited to a **Lenten Gathering with a difference in St Osmund's Centre, Gainford** – segments of 'The Chosen' followed by a time of conversation with tea and cake, led by our Ordinand Claire Mead.

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



For light relief, enjoy a **hearty supper of pie and peas while listening to Mor Ukes in Gainford Village Hall on Saturday 1st March 7pm**

Gainford Village Hall
Saturday 1st March

50s 60s 70s

Music from
Mor-Ukes

Pie and Pea Supper and Bar
Doors open 7pm
Tickets £12 from Sue on 01325 730379
£100 for Parkinson's UK.
Other proceeds to St Mary's Church

Please join churches around the world to **pray for Christian leaders and communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** where 70 Christians have been beheaded in a church last week, and 50 more captured by militants. It is difficult for us to imagine such inhumane violence, and instructive to hear how persecuted Christians do not feel abandoned, and instead their faith is deepened and relationship in God strengthened. We give thanks for their faith and for ourselves in our peace and safety.

LORD HAVE MERCY: Whether we are politically-minded or not, we are aware of reported positions of leaders who are exercising political power beyond their own countries. We pray for God's righteousness and justice to override their threat to real peace.

2nd before Lent Services

9.15	Staindrop St Mary	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
9.30	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd David Spokes
10.45	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd David Spokes
11.00	Ingleton St John	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
12.30		Baptism of Rosa Dobinson

Raise us up, O God, that we may live in your presence. Amen

Sunday before Lent Services

9.15	Staindrop St Mary	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
9.30	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
10.45	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

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

- † The Late Mrs Marion Cooper Reed, of South Cleathlam, Staindrop Parish.
- † The Late Mrs Kathleen Hutchinson, of Ingleton Parish.
- † The Late Claudette Warne, a regular at Warm and Welcome, of Gainford Parish.

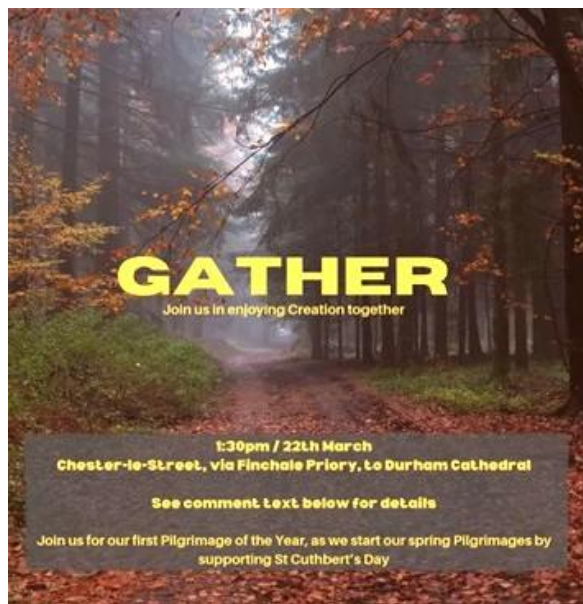


An Invitation to Fireside Chats with The Vicar/Rector

In recent months, the Church of England has been disturbed by issues that have triggered the Archbishop of Canterbury's resignation and other senior bishops stepping down from their episcopal roles. Although unconnected to these issues, we have been informed that the nominated Bishop to be the next Bishop of Durham has withdrawn, which means our Diocese's

Vacancy in See period is extended. Everyone is welcome to informal conversation about these and other national church matters at **the Vicarage, Gainford on Tuesdays 18th and 25th March at 6-7.30pm.**

So that we can accommodate everyone wishing to attend comfortably, **please email Eileen in advance:** ekgharrop@gmail.com If interest is high, more sessions can be arranged.



A GATHER PILGRIMAGE INVITATION

On **Saturday 22nd March**, GATHER will join in the Diocese and Cathedral's annual celebration of St Cuthbert. We will walk the route from St Cuthbert's Church in Chester-le-Street to Finchale Priory and onwards on the Camino Ingles trail to Durham Cathedral.

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop will be walking with Bishop Sarah, Acting Bishop of Durham, from Chester-le-Street starting at 10.30am. Others will begin their pilgrimage walk from Finchale Priory at 1.30pm. We will all meet at Durham Cathedral before 4pm, for a special Pilgrim's service.

There is free car parking in Durham County Hall, and organised bus transport to Finchale Priory is available at £7 per seat. **Contact** info@gatherchurchteesdale.com **for more information and to make a booking.**

FROM OUR PARISHES

Our **Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)** will be held in each church:

- † Staindrop St Mary after the 9.15am service on Sunday 4th May
- † Gainford St Mary after the 10.45am service on Sunday 4th May
- † Winston St Andrew after the 9.30am service on Sunday 11th May
- † Ingleton St John the Evangelist at 4.30pm on Thursday 22nd May

This year, all parish churches are required to refresh our **Electoral Rolls** before the annual meetings. This is an **opportunity to invite residents** of our parishes **to consider enrolling**. Anyone who has been baptised in a parish church are members of the Church of England and eligible to enrol as residents of the parish in which they live. Others, who are non-residents, can also enrol if they have attended our churches for 6 months. **Electoral Roll Forms are available at the back of each church** to be completed and returned.

STAINDROP St Mary's Centenary of Bells – save this date: Saturday 5th April 2025 when the bells will be blessed for another 100 years!

COLLECT for 2nd before Lent

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme
over all things,
now and for ever. Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly
paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table
on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Revelation 4

¹ After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' ² At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! ³ And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; ⁶ and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

'Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.'

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

¹¹ 'You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.'

The Gospel according to Luke (8:22-25)

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, ²³ and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴ They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'