

### 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE LENT NEWSLETTER

16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

*'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'*  
(Matthew 5:16)

**We work hard for children in our parishes because God rates them!** *'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You (God) have perfected praise'* (Matthew 21:16c) We get distracted by voices of the world that suggest we do this because we need them to sustain the future of our churches. No, we work hard for and with our children and schools because **it pleases and gives praise to God**. I was reminded this week that God has granted us favour to do this well as we join Him in loving the children and schools in our parishes.



One of Church of England primary schools is **Ingleton Primary School**. The teachers, children, governors (Academy Trust councillors) and representatives from Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church, were inspected today (Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February). There are 2 types of statutory inspections, one the national Ofsted and the other for Church schools **SIAMS**. The latter asks **'how well is the school doing as a distinctively Christian school?'** The SIAMS at Ingleton was a joy! Although the result has not been disclosed, very well done headteacher Karen Whitaker, her pupils, and everyone who has lifted up our children to shine with the love of God and the light of Christ, nurtured and educated at the school. **Sharing a Missioner** sponsored by the churches of Ingleton, Gainford, and Staindrop, **we are committing resources to nurturing the children and their families in their knowledge and experience of God.**

The **Faith Explorer's Programme** designed by Chair of Governors and Children's Minister Paula Harrison and Deputy Headteacher Caroline Harland of **Staindrop Primary School** has received a **£2,000 grant** that will be overseen by Staindrop St Mary's Church. Congratulations!

**GATHER** church plant has started a new **ROOTED after school provision** at **Staindrop Academy** too. Do you know any year 7's at Staindrop Academy? Pray for them and encourage them to come along.

Today is Chap Go Mei – the 15<sup>th</sup> and final day of Chinese New Year. **Thank you children and Teacher Emma Gallagher of Gainford Primary School** for this thoughtful gift left at the vicarage drive.

#### **This Sunday's Services**

9.15 Staindrop St Mary Worship Group Lay Service  
9.30 Winston St Andrew Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop  
10.45 Gainford St Mary Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop  
**3pm MESSY CHURCH at Gainford St Mary**



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

*Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop*

## NOTICES

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

- † The Late Mrs Kathleen Hutchinson, whose funeral at Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church will take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 at 12.45 followed at 2pm by the Service of Committal at Darlington Crematorium #
- † The Late Claudette Warne, a regular at Warm and Welcome and much loved by our team, who passed away peacefully on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- † The Late Mrs Marion Cooper Reed, whose graveside funeral at Staindrop Cemetery will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 11am.

We give thanks for faithful parishioners who serve God, small and great, throughout the life of our churches. **The ashes of the late Brian and Renee Blackburn**, who served in St Mary's, Gainford for many years, **will be interred in Gainford St Mary's memorial garden on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm**. Their children Tim and Karen would be glad for anyone who knew Brian and Renee to attend the short Committal service.

**Churches Together in Gainford** supports a worthy cause every Lent. This year Woodhouse House Close Community Club, which has a foodbank, a charity shop selling children's clothes and help for pensioners, will speak about their work at our **AGM on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 10am at St Osmund's Centre**. Everyone is welcome to hear about this wonderful provision, the short AGM, and refreshments.



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> May
- † Gainford St Mary after the 10.45am service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May
- † Winston St Mary after the 9.30am service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May
- † Ingleton St John the Evangelist at 4.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

All parish churches are required to refresh our **Electoral Rolls** this year before the annual meetings. This is an **opportunity to invite residents** in our parishes, who have been baptised in a parish church and therefore a member of the Church of England, **to consider enrolling** on our churches' electoral rolls. Many baptised parishioners do not attend church services because they do not consider themselves to be religious. But many are thankful for their parish churches, coming in for private reflection and prayer, and would actively support social events and come to celebrate special services.

## GAINFORD ST MARY's Fundraiser

Our PCC has a lively and varied social programme that also brings funds for our church upkeep and mission.

Come along and invite others to our next event **'Mor Ukes' in Gainford Village Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March** and enjoy the scrumptious hearty Pie and Peas supper too.



## **COLLECT for 3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent**

Almighty God,  
who alone can bring order  
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful  
humanity:  
give your people grace  
so to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, among the many changes of this world,  
our hearts may surely there be fixed  
where true joys are to be found;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father,  
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of  
life,  
that those who come to him should never  
hunger:  
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,  
that we may eat and drink with him  
at his table in the kingdom,  
where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
Amen

## **I Corinthians 15.12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

## **The Gospel according to Luke (6.17-26)**

<sup>17</sup> He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,	for you will be filled.
for yours is the kingdom of God.	'Blessed are you who weep now,
<sup>21</sup> 'Blessed are you who are hungry now,	for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> 'But woe to you who are rich,	for you will be hungry.
for you have received your consolation.	'Woe to you who are laughing now,
<sup>25</sup> 'Woe to you who are full now,	for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.