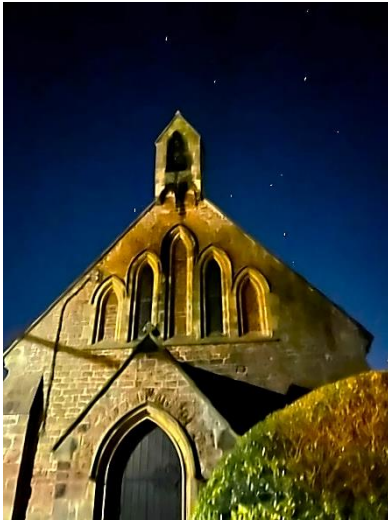


### 3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK OF EPIPHANY NEWSLETTER

19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

*'For you who honour my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings.'* Malachi 4:2



**'Past 3 o'clock on a cold frosty morning...'** the opening words of this Christmas carol came to me as I looked out of the vicarage window in the early hours. Because of my circumstances, Advent and Christmas passed Brian and me by, but the seasonal experience has continued into Epiphany-tide. In the new world of digital technology of cameras in mobiles, these 2 beautiful scenes were captured in recent weeks of the night sky above Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church and sunrise over Winston St Andrew's (reproduced with permission).



*'Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.'* Proverbs 13:12

The ceasefire-hostage deal between Israel and Hamas has been far too long in the making, but it is welcome news for those caught up in this devastating violence.

My prayers are with all the families being reunited over the coming days, and for those who are still held in captivity. My prayers too are with the people of Gaza who have suffered such immense destruction, deprivation and displacement. Now must be the time – again, so long overdue – for unfettered aid to reach the people of Gaza, and for the indispensable role of UNRWA to be respected and protected by all parties. May this deal be a precursor to a wider, more durable and just settlement in the region: it must not be a false dawn.

Please pray for Archbishop Hosam and our Anglican sisters and brothers in Palestine and Israel, and for all the Christians of the Holy Land as they bear the light of Christ in such dark times. Pray too for the courageous staff of the Anglican Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, and those in their care. Across the West Bank, this war is being felt not just in the daily grievous news from Gaza, but through widespread intensification of the occupation. I pray this deal acts as a catalyst to bring freedom, justice and dignity to the Palestinian people as well as being a small step towards the long term security of both Palestinians and Israelis.

We lift before God the peoples of the Holy Land, and for His justice, mercy and peace to be known by all.



Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell

The political stance taken by leaders of Israel and Hamas wreaked terrible sorrow and devastation on the people they serve. The longer the impasse continued the more difficult to see how the people caught in their positions could be delivered from their plight.

But yesterday, agreement was reached to a ceasefire and release of hostages. We pray this translates to reality for the affected families, loved ones, the injured, and hostages.

The Archbishop of York's statement communicates our prayers to them.

#### Epiphany 3 Communion & Services

9.15 Staindrop St Mary LAY Service of the Word  
(Note: Staindrop is celebrating the Baptism of Christ)  
9.30 Winston St Andrew Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop  
10.45 Gainford St Mary Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop  
3pm Gainford St Mary **MESSY CHURCH Team**

#### Epiphany 4 Communion & Services

9.15 Staindrop St Mary Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop  
9.30 Winston St Andrew Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi  
10.45 Gainford St Mary Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi  
11 Ingleton St John Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop  
3pm St Osmunds Churches Together  
Christian Unity Service

*May God, Emmanuel, fill us with His Holy Spirit, and be with us in every aspect of our lives this year that His Righteousness and Love bless our words, thoughts, and deeds.*

*Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop*

## NOTICES

### *We pray for families recently bereaved and give thanks for the lives of*

- † The Late William Andrew Goyder (Bill), whose funeral took place at Gainford St Mary's followed by a private burial on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 12.30
- † The Late Mrs Joyce White, whose funeral at Wear Valley Crematorium (private) and Thanksgiving Service at Winston St Andrew's takes place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at 1pm

## FROM OUR PARISHES



The Theme for the **Week of Christian Unity** considers the **Nicene Creed** on its 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025

The preacher at this service on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January** at **St Osmund's, Gainford**, is **Methodist Minister Rev'd Yemi**.

**All are welcome.**

## Invitations

### † **To join our Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)**

All our churches are lovingly cared for by parishioners who step forward to serve on our PCCs. We have vacancies in Ingleton, Staindrop, and Winston, also for churchwardens. All interest welcome!

**Staindrop St Mary's PCC meeting, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 4.30pm** at 32 North Green, Staindrop – speak to churchwarden Linda Hausmanis before or after church services if you wish to enquire, observe, or join the PCC.

**Ingleton St John the Evangelist's PCC meeting, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 4.30pm** at Allison's (opposite the church) – speak to churchwarden Judith Pressley or assistant warden Liz Chandler before or after church services if you wish to enquire, observe, or join the PCC.

### † **To join GATHER church: God's Tent in Teesdale**

Check out <https://durhamdiocese.org/gather-a-new-rural-church-plant-for-teesdale.php>

**GATHER LIFEGROUP** – small groups in conversation, exploring God's word in the Bible and fellowship over drinks and nibbles – **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evenings in Staindrop**; practical events including **Litter Picks around our 4 parishes – next on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 10am Ingleton**; fun including Pub Quizzes. **Next Pints of View Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 7pm at The Black Horse, Ingleton**. To find out more contact Sheila Jones (GATHER administrative lead) and Tom Deakin (GATHER pilgrimage lead): [info@gatherchurchteesdale.com](mailto:info@gatherchurchteesdale.com)

### † **BELL RINGING**

**BREAKING NEWS: 2025 is STAINDROP ST MARY'S BELLS RESTORATION CENTENARY!** Plans have begun for a Festival of Bells. Get in touch with Tower Captain Mark Palmer if you'd like to know more and how you can help: [mark@palmerfrost.plus.com](mailto:mark@palmerfrost.plus.com)

## COLLECT for Epiphany 2

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly  
grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
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

Almighty Father,  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the  
light of the world:  
may your people,  
illuminated by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and  
obeyed  
to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.  
Amen

## I Corinthians 12:12-31

<sup>13</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

<sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

## The Gospel according to Luke (4:14-21)

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

***For context, it would be helpful to read the Gospel record of The Baptism of Christ from Luke 3.15-17,21,22***

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

