

First LENT NEWSLETTER

9th – 15th March 2025

The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken, and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting. (Psalm 50:1)

Don't let the devil take away the joy God gave you. One thing may be wrong but 10 things are right. Focus on your blessings, not your problems.

As we begin the season of Lent, let us not put aside the seasons of hopefulness and encouragement that have preceded: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. It is God, the most mighty, who spoke the world and breathed life into being. We are called to hold fast to this reality as we reflect with sorrow, confession and repentance for the darkness and sin of the world. Our particular geographical and social seasonal life in the northern hemisphere challenge us to hold hope as Spring reveals itself and the light comes earlier and lasts longer, even as we reflect on how our lives as people saved by grace acknowledge and pray about the sin of the world.

Come along to our **Lent Lunches**: Churches Together in Gainford's lunches on Tuesday 11th March 12.30 in St Osmund's Centre and on Tuesday 18th March 12.30 in St Mary's, Gainford; St John's lunch Thursday 13th March in Ingleton Village Hall; and Winston St Andrew's on Saturday 15th March in the Village Hall.

I am borrowing information from Gainford and Winston's FOCUS magazine and Ingleton's Parish Pump for this week's newsletter. Our churches outreach is active!



First Sunday in Lent Services

9.15 Staindrop St Mary
Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

9.30 Winston St Andrew
Rev'd David Spokes

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, Ordained in Training, claire.mead@outlook.com



10.45 Gainford St Mary Rev'd David Spokes
11.00 Ingleton St John Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi

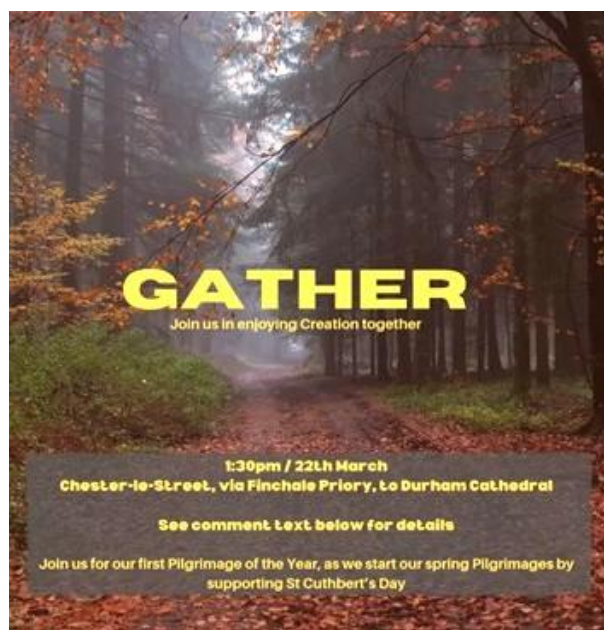
5pm CHORAL EVENSONG St Mary's, Gainford with Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

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.
- † The Late Mr George Avison, of Ingleton Parish, whose funeral at Darlington Crematorium takes place on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 3pm



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 Eucharist Service.

There is free car parking in Durham County Hall, and organised bus transport to Finchale Priory at £7 per seat.

Contact info@gatherchurchteesdale.com for more information and to make a booking.

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, 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 Tuesday 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. *Please note a change to the dates: Only Tuesday 25th March is now offered initially as I have been alerted to a clash with a community event.*



ROYAL MAUNDY SERVICE at Durham Cathedral

We are delighted that the Royal Maundy Service is to take place at Durham Cathedral with Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla in attendance on **Thursday 17 April 2025**. Royal Maundy takes place each year on the Thursday before Easter Day and is a special service in which the King expresses his gratitude for those who serve and volunteer in their communities. The service is rooted in the tradition of Jesus washing his disciples' feet in the Upper Room the night before his death and goes back to medieval times. During the service His Majesty will present 152 recipients, 76 men and 76 women (signifying the age of the Monarch), with specially-minted Maundy money to thank them for their outstanding Christian service and for making a difference to the lives of people in their local communities.

We are especially pleased that **Gainford St Mary's Churchwarden and Vice-Chair Geoff Taylor and Winston's Graham Young have been selected to receive His Majesty's thanks with the presentation of Maundy money**. It means a great deal to us that Christian service makes a positive difference to the lives of people in our communities. Well done Geoff for representing us all who endeavour to shine with Christ's light in the world.

COLLECT for FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and
prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from
heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true
and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The Gospel according to Luke (4:1-13)

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸ Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you",

¹¹ and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

¹² Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.