



Gateway

July 2020



Celtic Cross on Iona

St Michael's, Alnwick

The magazine for the people of the Church and the Town



WEEKLY WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT ST MICHAEL'S

8.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION (said)

A quiet early morning service (CW*) with a sermon. On the third Sunday of the month we use BCP

9.30 am

THE PARISH EUCHARIST

Sung Eucharist (CW) with Junior Church for children, a robed choir and the largest congregation of the day. On the first Sunday of the month a 'First Sunday Eucharist' is especially welcoming to children.

11.15 am

LATE MORNING WORSHIP

A more flexible and varied service, which includes Holy Communion about once a month. The music includes traditional hymns as well as contemporary Christian songs. A small and welcoming congregation with some provision for children.

6.00 pm

EVENSONG

A traditional service of Evening Prayer (BCP) with sermon, choir, hymns and Anglican chant for Psalms and Canticles.

WEDNESDAYS AT ST MICHAEL'S

10.15 am

HOLY COMMUNION

A said service of Holy Communion (CW) followed by coffee and the opportunity for fellowship. Once a month we are joined by a class from St Michael's Church School and once a term the service takes place in the school.

DENWICK VILLAGE CHAPEL

A small chapel-of-ease built by the Duke of Northumberland in 1872

11.15 am on the Second Sunday of the month.

MATINS OR HOLY COMMUNION

*CW – Common Worship, BCP – Book of Common Prayer (1662)

For more information on St Michael's please visit our website at
www.alnwickanglican.com

From the Vicar

St. Michael' Vicarage
Alnwick

Dear People of Alnwick,

I am writing this letter on the day our Prime Minister announced an easing in the Covid 19 lockdown situation in England.

The relaxation (which will come into effect from 4th July) includes, amongst other things, a reduction in social distancing from two metres to one, an ability to stay overnight in hotels, B&Bs and campsites and the luxury of getting a haircut!

Judging by the very reserved way in which people have taken advantage of more relaxed shopping regulations over the last two weeks, it may be that, apart perhaps from hairdressers and barbers, the 'uptake' of the new freedoms may be a trickle rather than a flood.

And the same may be true, of course, of the rate at which folk return to worship in church as that restriction, too, is lifted – but with a complicated set of instructions as to how it might be managed.

We have yet to work out details of what the return to worship in church might look like but, in the early days at least, it is unlikely to simply 'pick up' from where we left things in March.

In all that happens in the days that lie ahead I hope our prayer (and action) will continue to be focused on a vision of a church, a community and a society shaped on the values which Christ taught us.

And so I want to share with you the words of a hymn we have sung occasionally at St. Michael's and which, once singing is again permitted, we may well find ourselves using more often and with renewed understanding.

*For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.*

Continued on page 5

Principal Readings for this month

Date	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
5th July 4th Sunday after Trinity	Zechariah 9:9-12 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19 & 25-30	2 Samuel 2:1-11 & 3:1 Luke 18:31—19:10
12th July 5th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23	2 Samuel 7:18-29 Luke 19:41-20.8
19th July 6th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 44:6-8 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43	1 Kings 2:10-12 and 3:16-28 Acts 4:1-22
26th July 7th Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 3:5-12 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33 & 44-52	1 Kings 6:11-14 & 23-38 Acts 12:1-17

From the Registers

Funerals

*May the faithful departed rest in peace
and rise in glory*

11th June Dennis Dalby

*Lead us forward into freedom, from despair the world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness, fear will die and hope in-
crease.*

*All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.*

*You, Creator-God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.*

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Amongst all the anxiety and mental anguish that the Coronavirus pandemic has brought to many – and in respect for those thousands of people whose lives have been lost as a result of its virulent nature – surely we all have a duty to reassess our outlook on life.

When all the current issues of climate change and racial justice are added to our situation then the healing of the nations, freedom and abundant living need to be priorities for prayer and action in all that lies ahead.

With every blessing,

Paul



St Mary's Chapel
Jesmond Dene
(see page 16)

Thought for the Month

I AM SURE that 2020 will remain in most people's minds for many years ahead. In my case I began the year in Alnwick, with no thought of moving, unless that was to mean my death. After all, I am due to reach 87 in July this year. But as the year progressed, so everything began to change. For instance, after keeping a diary for at least 35 years, January 2020 proved difficult to get a diary of the same kind as before. The unintended result was that the year started and then continued with no diary being kept. The year was already beginning as unintended, and it got worse as the Covid virus began its march from China to rapidly progress through the world and that included Britain where more and more older people in particular were dying of the infection. By March my life was beginning to be affected. My wife had died three or four years ago, and now I was on my own. Fortunately my son and daughter-in-law had been living in nearby Felton for several years – and as the disease looked like claiming more and more people – so my son, Mark, and his wife Sheila, felt they needed to reach out and claim my life before it was too late. They succeeded before the middle of March, and I started to live

in Felton just in time before the complete silence affected everyone in society. Hardly anyone was able to get around. Shops were closed, streets were almost empty, cars hardly in use and now hardly used. The planes had almost stopped and airports were filled with empty air liners.

Doubtless you have your own stories of the lockdown over March, then April and May. In my case, somehow getting down to the village and home again when I tried to move too quickly and so fell flat on my face and was unable to get up at the side of the road. I was quickly helped and with my new home being only a few yards away a car from the family gave me a lift to the house. Unfortunately I had damaged my knee as I fell, and what I thought of as a slight accident proved to be more permanent than I realised. It was not just a knee problem, but soon I was covered with sores. That's what happened by mid-June.

So now I am looking forward to my 87th birthday on July 5th. Will I have made any progress by then, or will my knee, and now my left ear have made any progress by then?

Since my early days here in Felton Mark and Sheila have taken

me to Alnwick for part of Wednesday each week, and now I am beginning to return to Alnwick for longer periods in the old house. I can do a short drive in the road before putting my car back on the drive. So far my car starts immediately each time, and presents no problem! So where will I be as the doctor gives thought to more treatment to clear what has

now become almost the whole body infected..

As this seems to get worse, so my prayer begins to treat it all seriously. I can now join an opportunity each day for a two-hour prayer session on my own.

Dennis Winter



St. Michaels Pray Chain Launch

On the 1st July 2020, our prayer chain will become active.

What is a prayer chain you may ask?

It is a group of parishioners who want to support anyone who would like prayers said for either themselves or, someone who, they themselves have on their heart and would welcome extra prayer support.

It can be anyone you are concerned about, whether family, friend or neighbour, anyone that is laying heavily on your heart that would be encouraged and reassured from extra prayer support.

So don't delay God is ready to hear and help.

To contact the prayer chain gang just ring Paul Scott (Vicar), Gerard Rundell (Curate), Annette Playle, (all phone numbers in the Gateway, or Veronica Simpson (01670 788603)



Ordinary Christians (continued)

Sacraments

A Sacrament is “An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace” and a means by which we receive God’s gifts.

Think about a handshake. This is a sign of friendship, or agreement. Think of a kiss: a sign, of course, of love. But it is a better sign than a handshake. Why? Because people don’t shake hands for pleasure! The kiss not only signifies love, it conveys it too.

So you could say that a kiss is a sacrament: it is an outward and visible sign of something inward, the love, and it conveys the love as well. It is something lovers enjoy doing, to put it at its least.

Christian Sacraments

Holy Communion is a Sacrament, because it is an outward and visible sign – the bread and wine, of an inward and spiritual grace – the gift of Christ’s death to us for our salvation. It also conveys the gift when it is received in faith.

Baptism is a Sacrament, where the outward sign is the water, and the inward grace is new life in Christ.

There are five more Sacraments which are more or less optional, or don’t apply to everyone, but these two are commanded by Jesus in the Gospels.

Other Sacraments

Confirmation, Marriage, Orders (i.e. Ordination as priest etc.) Penance and Unction (anointing with oil). In all of these there is some visible action which personalises the event for the individual.

Confirmation is the one which many would say is necessary in addition to Baptism and Holy Communion. It has been described as “The Ordination of the Laity”, which sounds impressive, but it is the C of E’s second bite at the cherry of initiation which began with baptism, probably as an infant.

If you have not been confirmed (or baptised) ask the vicar about it. He will be pleased to prepare you and as an adult you won’t have to join a class with eleven-year olds.

Confirmation is given by a Bishop, representing the whole Church. He **confirms** God’s acceptance of you as you **confirm** your acceptance of God.

Two wrong views about Sacraments

1. They work like magic. If you say the words and go through the motions,

blessing automatically follows.

2. They don't work at all unless you really, really pray and you are really, really worthy.

The most important thing to remember about Sacraments is that they are what God does for us, not what we do for God. The direction of the action is downwards: from God to us.

How to receive Communion

We do this in remembrance of Jesus, to remember his perfect sacrifice for us. We receive the bread and wine as tokens of his body broken for us and his blood shed for us. Such an act requires careful preparation. In the church service the General Confession is in general terms. The time for specific confession of actual sins is before we leave home, perhaps the evening before.

Self examination

Heavenly Father, I am about to share in the celebration of the sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus. Give me grace to search out my faults, so that I may confess my sins and receive the Sacrament free from any hidden sin.

Since my last Communion,

What has been my attitude towards God and the church, my family and other people?

Have my thoughts, aspirations, words and actions been honouring to Christ?

How have I spent my time?

A brief act of contrition

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am a sinner. I confess my sins to you, especially those upon my conscience. I firmly believe that you died for me to take away my sins. And now, according to your promise, I open my heart to you. Come in, Lord Jesus, and be my Saviour and Friend for ever. Amen.

After receiving Communion

My God, I am not my own but yours.

Take me for your own and help me in all things to do your holy will.

My God I give myself to you

in joy and in sorrow, In success and in failure,

In life and in death, in time and for eternity.

To be continued

Colin Perkins

The Reverend William Proctor, Curate in 1799, died in 1839

“Tracking and tracing the silver from Alnwick to New South Wales, Australia”

MANY FAMILIES have heirlooms which link them to their ancestors and may wonder about where they have originated and what story they could tell.

Today in New South Wales Australia the xxxx great-grandsons of the Reverend Proctor from St Michael’s have very special heirlooms in the form of a silver candelabra and tea service. These were presented to Rev Proctor of St Michael’s after 44 years of service to the grammar school and church, and have found their way to New South Wales Australia.

William Proctor was born in 1762 in Long Preston Yorkshire. He began his teaching career in Bowes as head teacher of the Grammar School and this is where he met and married Mary Aislabie in 1784. During his time there he was ordained a deacon and then a priest. In 1794 he was appointed master of the Alnwick Grammar School and moved here with his wife and their five children for what he thought would be a better life.

The school was in Pottergate near the tower and had a house and garden attached to it to provide accommodation for the school master. The school catered for the sons of Freemen who were taught Latin, Greek and English Literature. Besides the day pupils there were also boarders living with the family. As a teacher he became very respected by the parishioners of St Michael’s who on the death of Reverend Samuel Hall in 1799 petitioned the Bishop of Durham to appoint him as curate of St Michael’s.

From this point Reverend Proctor would undertake this dual role as teacher and vicar. Over the forty-five years he taught classics at the school he became a much revered teacher turning out some exceptional scholars who would go on to become great academics themselves. His old scholars from the Grammar School recognised his great contribution and wanted to present him with a token of their esteem. In 1836 a subscription was established and he was presented with a four-light silver candelabra on which was engraved “Viro Reverend Guileimo Proctor, A M Scholae Grammatical ...



“To Reverend William Proctor MA now for 42 years Headmaster of the Grammar School this light bringer, silver chandelier as a memorial of our high regard, and one by no means concealing his gifts by which he enlightened our minds with the Humanities, and touched our souls with affection, and uplifted our hearts, we his former pupils dedicate in memory of his truly fatherly kindness 1836”



In the same year such was his contribution to the church that the parishioners, following a meeting at the White Swan, set up their own subscription to present Reverend Proctor with a silver tea urn, silver salver, coffee pot, tea pot, cream jug and sugar basin.

The inscription reads: “Presented by the parishioners of Alnwick to the Reverend William Proctor MA in token of their respect for him and their esteem during the period of 36 years 29th March 1836”

During his forty years as curate of St Michael’s, William had seen great changes to the church. At the start of the nineteenth century there was a religious revival and the Four and Twenty of Alnwick decided in 1818 due to the large congregations the church needed to increase its capacity. The church spent £2,000 to have the building repaired, altered and re-seated. They increased the seating to 1,200, created a large gallery, removed pillars and threw away an ancient font. William did not live long enough to see this all overturned in 1863 when the Duke restored the church along with his castle.

In 1811 the Duke of Northumberland conferred on him the vicarage of Lesbury and living of Longhoughton by the Lord Chancellor. He was also made chaplain to the Baron Percy and received a Master of Arts degree from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Duke of Northumberland in 1835 had wanted to provide a house for William on his retirement as there was no house attached to the living. However, William preferred to stay at Pottergate where he had raised his twelve children. His curate Reverend Leonard Shaftoe Orde who had worked alongside him for four years took up residence there instead.

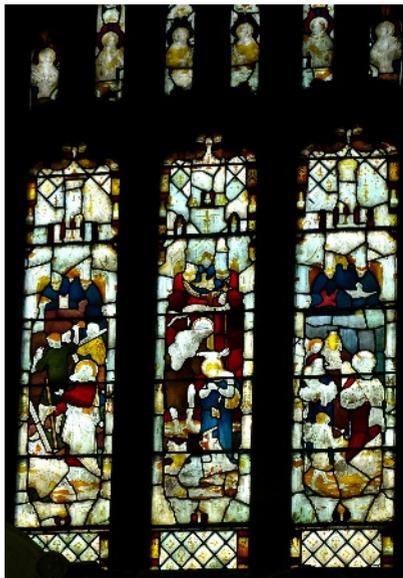


William continued his work up until his death on March 19th 1839 He died at the Old Grammar school aged seventy-seven and is buried near the south porch of the parish church under a simple gravestone monument

alongside his wife Mary. A beautiful tablet and stained glass window inside the church was erected to his memory.

“MEMORIAL WINDOW AT ALNWICK –

The first of a series of memorial windows have just been erected in St. Michael’s Church, to the memory of the late Rev. William Proctor, for 40 years the esteemed incumbent of Alnwick, and for a long period of 45 years master of the Grammar School of that town. A new generation has sprung up since Mr Proctor was removed, but there are still living some who retain a lively recollection of his sterling qualities. The memorial window is under the great tower, and is formed of three lights with tressed arches, with tracery of a simple but pleasing character, and is of the perpendicular period of architecture. The masonry of the old window has become much dilapidated, but an exact model has been beautifully restored by Mr George Armstrong. The stained glass has been entrusted to the celebrated establishment of Messrs Clayton and Bell, of London. The subjects have been selected from one of the prayers in the baptismal service. In the centre light is strikingly set forth ‘The Baptism of Christ by St. John in the river Jordan’. On either side of this the ‘Passage of the Red Sea by the Israelites’ and the ‘Building of the Ark by Noah’. The whole is tastefully relieved by the filling up of the tracery. At the bottom of the window is the following inscription :- ‘This window is erected to the memory of William Proctor, M.A., by his descendants and his wife Mary’”



8 September 1871 *Berwick Advertiser, Berwick on Tweed*

How did the silver presented to Reverend William Proctor arrive in New South Wales?

Edmund Bowker Proctor born in 1828 was the eldest son of William’s son George, a naval surgeon. Like his grandfather he became a Church of England clergyman and emigrated to New South Wales in 1852.

The family are unsure how it was sent to Australia but it now treasured by William’s descendants and is a link to Alnwick and St Michael’s church. If anyone knows where the missing silver which completed the tea service is, the family would be pleased to know!



The Silver Tea Urn

Patricia Jones and Colin Watson

HospiceCare's Virtual Open Gardens 2020

BECAUSE OF Covid-19 everyone's lives have changed since March and sadly we have had to cancel our 25th Anniversary Open Garden events. However, instead, we're excited to bring you a virtual tour from the comfort of your own armchair. HospiceCare's Patron, Lady Joicey, has kindly agreed to introduce our Virtual Gardens 2020 tour which you can view by visiting our website www.hospicecare.nn.org.uk and clicking on the image of our 'virtual Open Gardens' on our main page.



Over the last 12 years, HospiceCare's annual Open Gardens have become the jewel in our fundraising calendar. Each year we welcome around 3000 visitors wishing to explore some of the most beautiful private gardens in Northumberland, kindly opened by their owners and with the support of our wonderful hospice volunteers. Since 2008 the Garden events have raised over £174,000 which has been generated from entrance fees, donations, cream teas and plant sales. This incredible amount of money has contributed towards the delivery of in excess of 7,000 hours of our specialist Hospice at Home Services here in North Northumberland. So we hope that you will enjoy our virtual Open Garden tour today. If after watching you feel that you can make a donation towards our Hospice at Home care and support, however large or small, we would be so grateful – thank you.

*Rebecca Taylor
Events & Community Fundraiser*

Max Boyce MBE has written a special poem in these troubled times, and he has dedicated it to all the people in the NHS.



'When Just The Tide Went Out'

Last night as I lay sleeping, when dreams came fast to me
I dreamt I saw JERUSALEM beside a tideless sea
And one dream I'll remember as the stars began to fall
Was Banksy painting Alun Wyn on my neighbour's garage wall
And dreams like that sustain me 'til these darkest times have passed
And chase away the shadows no caring night should cast
But times like this can shine a light as hardship often can
To see the best in people and the good there is in man
And I remember Swansea with nobody about
The shops were closed like Sunday and just the tide went out
And I remember Mumbles with the harbour in its keep
And the fishing boats at anchor that trawl the waters deep
And I heard the seabirds calling as the gulls all wheeled about
But all the town was sleeping now and just the tide went out
And when these days are over and memories remain
When children painted Rainbows and the sun shone through the rain
And the doctors and the nurses who stretchered all the pain
And I hope the carers never see a time like this again
And I prayed last week for Boris, who knocked on Heavens door
And I thought of voting Tory, which I've never done before
And though the sun is shining I've no immediate plans
So I'll write a book on 'Staying In' and 'Ways To Wash Your Hands'
And now more days of lockdown, three weeks of staying in
I'm running out of vodka and I've started on the gin
And my neighbours are complaining, I've heard them scream and shout
With the sound the bins are making when I take the empties out
And when all this is over, and our fragile world survives
And I hope that God is caring now for the ones who gave their lives
And I pray we'll find an answer, for my faith is cast in doubt
And God draws back the heavens and all the stars come out
And I'll remember mornings with nobody about
When the shops were closed like Sunday, and just the tide went out.

*Contributed by Christine Pilgrim Text from Max Boyce's Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/officialmaxboyce*

It's important to me...

I HAVE BEEN been a committed Christian since the age of 18, but for many years I struggled with a fear of failure and rejection. At the age of 37, I was feeling stuck in a flat-lining job, unable to make headway in life. I felt that there had to be more than this.

One day I came across the story of Jabez, buried in a long list of 'who-begat-who's in the Old Testament, 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. It's probably the shortest character study in the Bible:

"...Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez because his birth had been so painful. Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, 'Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from trouble and pain!' And God granted what he asked."

This intrigued me –here's a man who seemed to want more territory, yet he was marked out as 'honourable' (or distinguished) – with only these few lines offered as evidence. His pleas to God struck me as rather self-centred. But as I reflected on this I began to see that this may have been less to do with physical borders, and more to do with wanting to break free from a binding fear. He came to a place of desperation, emboldened to seek God for a blessing that would set him free from the limitations this imposed on his life.

This was an eye-opener. I realised that my fear of failure was rooted in a childhood experience of being made to cram tests for a prestige school entrance exam –which I failed. I recalled being repeatedly told that if I didn't study harder I would never be a success. It was meant well, but it went deep and left an unintended legacy.

This little story helped me to see that God was actually interested in all this. I decided to do what Jabez did: to be intentional about calling out to God for his blessing and to be set free from my fear of failure and rejection. It was a turning point in my life. With a new sense of freedom I soon found myself stepping away from my safe job-for-life to take up a risky three-year contract that took me way out of my comfort zone. I was no longer a slave to fear. I began to learn to be comfortable with my vulnerability and to step out in faith. Both my career and spiritual life took on more progressive and at times unexpected directions, for which I feel blessed and very thankful.

*I will not die an un-lived life,
I will not live in fear
of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart
until it becomes a wing,
a torch, a promise...*

[Dawna Markova, quoted in Celtic Daily Prayer]

Andrew Duff

A Pilgrimage...to Jesmond Dene

“I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims...” (1 Peter 2:11)

IN THE baptismal liturgy of Common Worship, Christians are described as “the company of Christ’s pilgrim people”, and in the Bible and elsewhere, the journey of faith is described as a pilgrimage, the journey of an exiled people toward God, and the heavenly country and City to which they belong. All life itself is a pilgrimage, but, at least since the time of the emperor Constantine, Christians have sought out holy places connected to Christ and the Saints to pray, to worship, and to help them grow in faith. Travel to the Holy Land was (and still is) beyond the reach of many people, but particularly from the Middle Ages onwards, ordinary people travelled to holy sites closer to home. In the North of England, those sites included places like Lindisfarne, with its connection to Sts. Cuthbert and Aidan, as well as famous shrines in Canterbury, London, Walsingham...and Jesmond.

Should you visit Jesmond Dene, you will find, almost hidden away, the ruins of an old chapel. This is what remains of St. Mary’s Chapel, once an important site of Christian pilgrimage in England. It was constructed in the early 12th century, and then enlarged in the 14th to accommodate the people who wished to visit, to pray, and to hear Mass in the chapel. In its heyday, it was famous – in 1472 a priest in Yorkshire left money to pay for pilgrimages to a number of famous shrines, among them that of “the Blessed Mary of Jesmownt”, and it’s said that Pilgrim Street in Newcastle was named for all the people who came to visit Jesmond.

England was commonly known as “Mary’s dowry” because of the devotion of Christians here for the Mother of God which is partly why a shrine to “Our Lady of Jesmond” would have been popular. Sadly, historical records for the Newcastle area are patchy, and we don’t have records from any of the pilgrims, or the priests who served the Chapel to tell us a great deal about the history of the shrine. Even today, all Catholic churches contain at least one relic, and it’s possible that St. Mary’s Chapel contained an important one, which might have been obtained by the Lords of Jesmond, the Grenville family. There is a legend that, sometime after the Conquest, the Virgin Mary was seen at what is now known as St. Mary’s Rock in the Dene, although sadly this legend appears to have first been recorded in the 20th century. It’s known that there was a nearby holy well where people were brought for healing (though the current “St. Mary’s Well” is probably not on the correct site, as archaeological investigations have only dated it to the 17th century), and a small hospital attached to the chapel, presumably to facilitate this, in the same way as there are several hospitals and accommodations for the sick in Lourdes. Whatever the reasons which led to Jesmond first becoming a shrine, the

combination of the images of maternal care which all Marian shrines drew upon, with a well believed to heal the sick would have proved a powerful draw for those who were sick, as well as those who sought to enhance their journey of faith by asking the intercession of Christ's Mother.

The precise reasons behind the veneration of "the Blessed Mary of Jesmond" may never be known, but the records that have survived do indicate the importance that the shrine once had. St Mary's Chapel was first mentioned in 1272, in assize court records, because, unfortunately, the priest-in-charge, Robert Sautmareis, and his four assistants had been gaoled after breaking the head of a merchant in Newcastle and throwing him in a stream, with the priest later organising a prison-break to rescue one of his assistants. Unedifying though this is, it does demonstrate that the chapel was permanently staffed by a number of people. The rest of the records about Jesmond concern a protracted quarrel about who owned the chapel and who had the right to collect the income from it, a quarrel which managed to involve assorted local aristocrats, the King, the Bishop of London, and also the Pope, which gives an indication of how important Jesmond was seen at the time.

When the Reformation came to England, the chapel, like many others, was dissolved, and no more services were held there after 1548. Edward VI then sold the "late Free Chapell of Our Lady of Jesmonde" (along with some other lands) for £144 13s. 4d. to the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle, who then gave it to the Brandling family, who largely dismantled the building for use in other building projects. It then passed through several hands before ending up with Lord Armstrong, who gave it, and the rest of Jesmond Dene, to the people of Newcastle in 1883.

Today, St. Mary's Chapel is still in very occasional formal use, and still attracts pilgrims. There is evidence of folk devotions in the ruins, with icons, small statues of Mary, and votive offerings left here and there. A modern stained glass window has been set in one wall, though I was unable to find out by whom, and the recent Catholic Dowry of Mary tour mentioned Jesmond as one of a number of sites sacred to Mary in England. While Marian devotion is not part of everyone's pilgrimage of faith, spending time in places where thousands of Christians have also travelled in order to worship God, and to commit themselves to following him better can help us to travel the journey Godward, just as it did our ancestors. St. Mary's Chapel is a lovely place to visit on a fine day, and I do recommend it.

If you'd like to read more about the chapel, please do look up the journal *Archaeologia Aeliana* (particularly the special edition "An Account of Jesmond" published in 1904, and the article "Saint Mary's Well, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne" in the 1983 edition). All editions of this journal are free to access online at <https://bit.ly/2ALjhBA>.

Emma Mavin

Week 12 of Lockdown.

LIKE MANY others I've been watching a lot of TV recently, probably too much, but it's a way to relax and keep in touch with "the outside world." One program in particular, on BBC2, "Back in Time for the Weekend" has caught my attention. It's based around "an average family, a father, mother, daughter and son" who embark on an experiment to give up their 21st century lifestyle and travel in time to experience what it was like living in the 50's, 60's, and as I write this the 70's. An enjoyable informative programme. A trip down memory lane! Where do the years go?

One of the things that struck me was the vocabulary and language we associate with different times.

Spacehoppers,
The three day week,
Teenagers,
Hire purchase,
Colour TV,
Buying houses,
Life in the 1970s.

Watching TV, again, earlier today it was a different sort of vocabulary and language, that although new, we are all familiar with.

Social distancing
Support Bubble
Staying safe
Daily update

Self isolating
Furlough scheme

Is this how we're going to remember 2020, this time in our lives? Our days seem to be dominated by COVID19. Our conversations, our behaviour, our reading, our TV viewing, our anxieties, our shopping habits. The list is long and ever changing. Everyone has had to learn to cope with the countless scenarios. The rules and guidance sometimes take us to the edge of our understanding, as interpretations differ so widely.

After many weeks of lockdown, led by science, we seem to have a better understanding of what we need to do, and we're become really good at reading data. Some feel that we're on the downward slope, at least for the moment and we're hearing the phrase "after the pandemic" more frequently. So what's next?

Next year is 2021, and among many other things, there will be a national census.

This is when the government collects information to help to plan for the future, influencing policies that impact the everyday lives of real people, including decisions made in education, transportation, health, housing and environmental issues.

Keith Middlemas, used the 1831 census, and the drawings of Percy Forster to give an insight of the people of Alnwick in his wonderful book, “As They Really Were” published in 2011. He highlighted many of the characters, various trades and occupations of the time.

Ten years later, the 1841 census, considered to be the first modern census, was when each householder across the UK was required to complete a census schedule which contained the household address and the names, ages, sexes, occupations and places of birth of each individual living at the address. This was then collected by the enumerator, who often had to complete on their behalf as they couldn't read or write.

The 1841 census records Alnwick Township having 776 homes. I think that must be the houses within the walls.

Over the years the census has become more sophisticated, and thanks to developments in technology, can quickly analyse data. Hopefully by the time we take part in the 2021 census we will have had time to reflect and take stock of our time in lockdown. How will that influence the information we give?

Have our values changed over the last few weeks, or have they been reinforced?

Who do we need / value?

Will we be safe and have better systems in place to look after each other? Will we be able to protect lives and livelihoods? Will we be able to have trust in each other and work together? Will it be normal?

When I take time I often remember school days when children, particularly the younger ones, would count on fingers the words “I must think of others”: a simple way to think about and remember others. So it was good to hear the emphasis of messages from the government was just the same—think of others!

This in turn has highlighted the ways we have cared for others over the last few weeks. I've also seen people saying thank you. I've seen a lot of sad things but I've also seen a lot of good things.

More than anything I've seen people thinking of and wanting to help others. I want us to continue helping and supporting each other. We're better together!

The information we provide on our census returns next year can inform the government on what we want our society to look like.

Freddie Wellingly.

Praying

IT IS not hard to pray for those we love,
Their wants are clamant every day.
But others, whom we do not love
For whom perhaps no one will pray:
They are the ones who really need us
Although they know it not.
"Love your enemies", we're told,
"Do good to them that hate you while you can."
Asking for their good, we're bold
They're loved by God, if not by man.
Without our love where he will lead us
Solitude is their lot.

CBP

Simple pleasures during virus lockdown

- 1) Recovering from a painful knee and being able to walk freely again.
- 2) Our granddaughters, looking at us through the kitchen window but keeping 2 metres away.
- 3) Seeing bluetits feeding their young and the youngsters leaving the nest box.
- 4) Having a car ride round the countryside and seeing signs of Spring in the hedgerows.
- 5) Having a picnic in the countryside and hearing only bird song – peace!
- 6) Sitting by the river at Alnmouth on a hot day and watching a small boy jumping onto an island formed by the incoming tide.
- 7) Again, when the tide was out, people on the sands paddling and others in two sailing boats.
- 8) My birthday, with no family celebration. A knock on the door. Flowers and a book left on the door step. No hugs but a friendly wave.
- 9) Seeing two services on television from Canterbury and St David's Cathedrals.
- 10) Church magazines delivered, communion cards from Paul and Gerard and calls from Sue with thanks to everyone.

From D Rhodes. See you all in Church.

Could you help?

We need one or two more people to share the job of printing Gateway.

It takes about four hours, two or three times during the year, and consists mainly of watching the machine, replenishing paper and rarely ink, and bundling up the results for the distributors. The machine does all the rest.

If this is something you could do, please get in touch with Colin Perkins or Joan Dunn.

Smile

Good news from around the world

Uganda

Two Ugandan entrepreneurs whose business normally involves turning waste plastic into building materials, have found their skills to be invaluable during the current crisis. Using their expertise, they have turned their hands to making protective face masks from plastic bottle. The first delivery of 10 masks to a local hospital was quickly followed by further requests and to date they have sold 1,200 to NGOs, privately managed health facilities and donated 700 to local hospitals. The business, which is owned by Peter Okwoko and Paige Balcon, employs 14 staff all of whom were once homeless and jobless young people.

South Africa

Covid 19 has resulted in an extraordinary peace breaking out in Cape Town. Members of opposing gangs have come together to deliver food to those most in need. Andie Steele-Smith, an Australian born pastor who works with the gang members in the community, has described what is happening as “literally a miracle”.

On realising how many people were struggling to get basic essentials, he hit upon the idea of turning it into a ‘win win’ situation. On being asked if he could ever have anticipated such a thing happening, he replied “Yes and no. I’ve learned through experience in life that really nothing is impossible for God” In another press statement he said “as soon as these guys were given the opportunity to do something good, they grabbed the opportunity with both hands and are just wringing it for everything they can”

(South Africa as a whole has seen a 75% drop in violent crime since the start of the pandemic.)

Contributed by Sue Wiltshire using information which first appeared in ‘The Week’ magazine

Calendar of Events

Please note that all events have had to be postponed because of Government restrictions. Hopefully these will restart when the pandemic is under control.

Tuesdays 3.00 pm Julian Group for
Contemplative Prayer in St
Catherine's Chapel

Thursdays 1.00 pm 'Places of Welcome' at the
Community Centre

Thursdays during term time

9.30 am Mini Michaels in church
7.00 pm Rock Solid Youth Group at
Alwick Methodist Chapel

3rd Wednesday of each month

2.00 pm Mothers' Union in church

Saturday –once a month

11.00 am Messy Church in St Michael's

Wednesday once a month

7.30 pm Baptism Preparation in Church

Parish Information

VICAR

The Rev'd Canon Paul Scott 01665 603078 St Michael's Vicarage

Howling Lane, Alnwick, NE66 1DH

Email: paulscott1957@btinternet.com

The Vicar's day off is Friday and Gerard's day off is Monday. They would be glad to be spared all but the most urgent matters on these days

CURATE

The Rev'd Gerard Rundell 07394792277

10 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick, NE66 2NJ

Email rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

CLERGY WITH PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

The Rev'd Canon Sue Allen 01665 605361

The Rev'd Gilly Maude 01665 603460

The Rev'd Colin Perkins 01665 510445

The Rev'd Martin Roff 01665 602207

The Rev'd Natasha Schemanoff 01665 603815

The Rev'd Jane Scott 01665 603078

The Rev'd Martin Turner 01665 603815

The Rev'd Canon Dennis Winter 01665 602658

READERS

John Cooke 01665 830419

Annette Playle 01665 606902

READER EMERITUS

Bill Callaghan 01665 602348

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Susan Trafford 01665 606180

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Vacant

CHURCHWARDENS

Anne Blades 01665 602020

Pat Taylor 01665 603811

CHURCHWARDEN EMERITUS

Albert Brown 01665 602700

ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDEN

Pat Tweed 01665 479280

PCC TREASURER

Richard Dale 01665 606804

PCC SECRETARY

Rosie Buxton 01665 604830

THE PARISH SECRETARY

Joan Dunn (home) 01665 602908

Office 01665 602797

Mobile 07709564010

E-mail stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com
or joan.d.dunn@btinternet.com

MOTHERS' UNION

Meets in church at 2.00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month from March to

December

Branch Leader

Val. Hawker 01665 602348

(Mobile) 07732431056

BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS

Currently not available Until further notice

COMMUNION

for the **SICK and HOUSEBOUND**

can be arranged by contacting

The Vicar 01665 603078

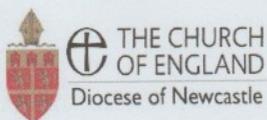
Or

Pat Taylor 01665 603811

For more information on St Michael's,
please visit our website at www.alnwickanglican.com

To hire the PARISH HALL

Phone Mariana on 07424272903 or email bookstmichael@gmail.com



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Newcastle

Staying Connected during this pandemic **At the Cathedral**

[https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/
coronavirus/live_streaming/](https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/coronavirus/live_streaming/)

Newcastle Cathedral ministry team

<https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleCathedral/> Facebook live stream of morning prayer led from home by one of the ministry team daily Monday to Friday at 8.30 am

<https://tinyurl.com/NclCathedral>

Subscribe to their channel on YouTube for notifications of the Daily Reflection (also Monday to Friday)

At St Michael's Alnwick

Thanks to the easing of some CoronaVirus restrictions, St Michael's Church is now open for private prayer (with social distancing and hygiene measures in place) on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10.00 am-12.00 pm**, and **Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 2.00 pm-4.00 pm**.

Please come by to spend some time in prayer in our beloved building.

From **10.00 am on Sundays**, St Michael's is offering online worship which is available on the website, and on [our YouTube channel](#). This will allow us to maintain our communal Christian life without compromising health and wellbeing.

Following the service, at **10:30 am**, we enjoy a **virtual get together** over coffee, via Zoom. If you would like to join us for this, please email Andrew Duff on duffandrew@btinternet.com for the meeting ID, password, or for any questions about using Zoom.

In addition to this, we also have some groups meeting for fellowship and to pray Compline together on weekday evenings via **Zoom** – if you would like to know more about these or join in, please contact our Curate, the Rev'd Gerard Rundell (rev.g.rundell@gmail.com).

Copies of **'The Gateway'** can usually be obtained in St Michael's Church or ordered for delivery in this version or **large print**

☎ The Parish Office 602797 (Thursdays, or leave a message)

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church of England nor of the editorial committee

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