

# Gateway

February 2022



Denwick Chapel blocked by Storm Arwen

St Michael's, Alnwick

*The magazine for the people of the Church and the Town*



# WEEKLY WORSHIP

## SUNDAYS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

8.30am HOLY COMMUNION (Said)

A quiet celebration of Holy Communion with a sermon. Using Common Worship except for the third Sunday of the month when the Book of Common prayer is used.

10.00am THE PARISH COMMUNION

Usually sung with hymns and a sermon and using Common Worship. The main service of the day followed by tea/coffee and the chance to meet up with others. On the first Sunday of the month the worship will be more informal, using a variety of resources and 'thinking outside the box'.

This service will be live-streamed on YouTube each week.

4.00pm 'SUNDAY PLUS'

Monthly. An informal time of worship and reflection with a particular theme each month. Usually available to watch live on Zoom.

6.00pm EVENING WORSHIP

On the first Sunday of the month a traditional Sung Evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer with sermon.

On other Sundays a variety of worship including Compline and worship in the style of the Iona Community.

## WEDNESDAYS ST. MICHAEL'S

10.15am HOLY COMMUNION

A said service followed by tea/coffee and the opportunity for fellowship. Once a month, in term time, we are joined by a class from St. Michael's Church of England Primary School and once a term the service takes place in the school.

## DENWICK CHAPEL

A small chapel-of-ease built by the Duke of Northumberland in 1872. Usually a service of matins or Holy Communion once a month. Following the pandemic the provision of services is under review.

# Thought for the Month

## Looking Back

**I**T WAS a funny old year. A combination of Covid 19, Brexit, the apparent results of global warming ending in the severe effects of storm Arwen in this area which caused our churchyard to be blocked by a fallen tree, so that for the first time, probably ever, no service could be held on the last Sunday of November. As you see from the picture on the cover Denwick chapel was also blocked just a fortnight before a planned Carol Service. It was cleared in time for that to take place.

There were various stages of lockdown, masks, social distancing, hand-washing. Many of us found the advantages of shopping on-line, including having groceries delivered to our doors.

In church we continued with masks and spaced seats, the use of the nave altar table so that we had to receive the bread standing and masked, awkwardly getting the wafer into our mouths on the way back to our seats, going the long way round to avoid others coming forward. (The main altar was not used to avoid lots of hands possibly contaminating the altar rail.) As communicants we were not given the cup of wine, just the bread.

There was no choir and at first the hymns were not sung, but the words meditated upon as the tunes were played on the organ. Later we were allowed to sing, but without a choir there was no musical setting for the service, just the hymns. No servers or candle-bearers, no processional cross.

Coffee and biscuits were available after the morning Eucharist but later this stopped with the prevalence of the omicron virus. And of course, no hand-shaking, and the Peace could only be passed by waving to each other.

The School visits to church on Wednesdays once a month were stopped, as were the once-a-term celebrations of Communion in the School.

Nevertheless, some good things happened. Congregational numbers kept up or even increased, no doubt partly because the former Late Morning Worship was discontinued and the two morning services put half an hour later than previously. The Parish Eucharist was 'live-streamed', not always successfully, so that people could watch and join in from home.

*Continued on page 5*

# Principal Sunday Readings

Sunday	Holy Communion	Evensong
6th February 4 before Lent	Isaiah 6.1-8 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Luke 5.1-11	Hosea 1 Colossians 3.1-22
13th 3 before Lent	Jeremiah 17.5-10 1 Corinthians 15.12-20 Luke 6.17-26	Hosea 10.1-8,12 Galatians 4.8-20
20th 2 before Lent	Genesis 2.4b-9,15-end Revelation 4 Luke 8.22-25	Genesis 1.1-2.3 Matthew 6.25-end
27th Sunday before Lent	Exodus 34.29-end 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2 Luke 9.28-36	Exodus 3.1-6 John 12.27-36a
2nd March Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58.1-12 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21	

## The Searcher's Prayer

*You know well how the search for reality  
Goes on throughout our lives  
How truth must always find new language,  
New symbols  
Help us while we walk the pilgrim way  
Of searching and re-searching  
To hold fast to what we know of truth,  
To heed the promptings of truth and live  
In our own hearts  
And in the world around us,  
Which only grow in us  
As we obey the given light,  
And dwindle as we disobey*

Ruth Fawell

Some repair work was done, particularly to the tower roof, more space created by removing pews from front and rear of the nave and paving the latter space.

The winter Market was held in Church for the first time, and proved very successful.

And the great event of the year was the installation of ten bells into the tower, with two visits by the Bishop of Berwick to bless the bells which were on view in the chancel, and then to dedicate them once the bells were ready to be rung.

Now we look forward to a new Bishop of Newcastle, and a new Vicar of Alnwick. I guess the former will be appointed before the latter.

*Colin Perkins*

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## From the Registers

### **Baptisms**

29.1.22

Natalie Edwina Agan

We regret to report the death of Professor John Sawyer on 9th January. His funeral took place in Scotland, conducted by an old student friend, Graeme Auld. Strangely, his sister Claire died on the same day. There will be a celebration of his life in Edinburgh later.



John achieved eminence in the academic world, learning several languages, and publishing several academic books and he was a Church of Scotland minister.

In 2012 John married Jean, and they moved to Northumberland. They both belonged to the Alnwick and District Choral Society as well as St Michael's Church choir.

John gave a series of lectures at the home of Bill Hugonin in Advent 2016, "Through Advent with Isaiah".

# From Canon Paul Scott

## Farewell and Goodbye

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 seemed a very long way off when I announced my retirement in early October last year – but it seemed to arrive with great haste!

My last Sunday leading worship as Vicar of Alnwick was, indeed, a memorable one and both Jane and I were overwhelmed with the warmth and appreciation which was expressed by many folks on that day.

As Churchwardens, Pat and Anne spoke movingly about the last ten years pointing out, amongst other things, that in 2012 St Michael's received a bachelor Vicar but were now saying farewell to a Grandpa!

The generosity of your farewell gift was quite astounding and I know we will put it to good use. Top of the list, at the moment, is a new shed and a small greenhouse.

Much has happened over the decade which we have shared together as it has been my privilege to minister in this place. Through good times and not so good times we have had a great deal of fun and, I am convinced, become a more welcoming, loving, and supportive community as, together, we have tried to ensure that "All are welcome in this place". Equally, we have attempted to make our ministry more outward-looking not only to the community of Alnwick but also further afield – and for this 'thanks be to God'.

As the time draws near for Jane and me to leave for pastures new and to learn a new way of being – how to be retired together – we give thanks for all that has been and wish you every blessing for all that lies ahead.

With our love and prayers,

*Paul & Jane.*

# Holy Days in February

ON THE 2nd February we celebrate Candlemas: the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. The Prayer Book adds, The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin. According to Luke chapter 2 it took place forty days after Jesus' birth. It is a Wednesday this year, so it will no doubt be recognised in the 10.15 service.

It was on that occasion, in the Temple in Jerusalem, that the old man Simeon who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ. Inspired by the Spirit he took the child in his arms and gave thanks in the words we know as the Nunc Dimittis.

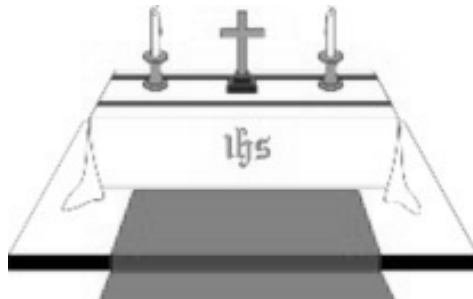
The term Candlemas comes from a custom of processing with candles to the church which have been blessed elsewhere. This dates from the 7th Century in Rome,

The 14th is a well-known date: St Valentine's Day. He is supposed to have been martyred in Rome about AD 269.

The 6th is the 70th anniversary of the Accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II on the death of her father, King George VI. This will be celebrated in the extended weekend of 2nd - 5th June.

Other dates this year include Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, Easter Day, 17th April, Ascension Day, 26th May, and Pentecost, 5th June.

*Colin Perkins*



# JUDITH'S STORY John 8: 2-11

**Y**ES, I'M JUDITH. You want to hear my story? You want to know what changed me? So, listen.

It was listening that changed me, a man listening to *me*, though I said not a word in my defence. How could I, with so many *men* witnessing against me? In any case, I was guilty of the charge, they had caught the two of us in full passion, but it was *his* fault as well as mine, Benjamin's. And that shrew of a wife of his. I sometimes wonder if it was her who told them where to find us, but, no matter. Perhaps God used a bad intention on her part, and on the part of those who wanted to trap him, to transform not only my life but the lives of many who saw what happened.

I could make excuses, claim mitigation – I was young, my young husband was dead, left lonely and widowed in the prime of life, and there was my neighbour, not much older than me, nagged to distraction by his childless wife. A common enough story, and our adultery a common enough outcome. Except that it wasn't the final outcome: we were caught, and I was dragged, alone, all the way to the Temple precincts to be thrust into the circle where a young Rabbi was teaching. They'd been shouting at me all the time, bringing me there, but they suddenly became quieter, and

started asking *him*, the teacher, over and over, (quietly, but you could tell they weren't meaning to be polite) 'The law of Moses says this woman should be stoned, what do you think, Rabbi?' I was terrified, but puzzled too. After all, there was no doubt of my guilt, I knew what the law was as well as they did, so why were they asking someone else?

At first I just stood there, my shawl over my face, trying to pretend I wasn't there, waiting for the sentence of condemnation. But nothing happened, except that my accusers redoubled their efforts to get an answer. Then I looked at him. He was quite close to me, writing with his fingertip in the dust. I didn't know who he was then, – though I had heard about the teacher from Galilee, word had gone round, about the teachings and the miracles (usually with a snide comment that anything good should come out of the North country!) I don't know what he was writing, I'm not that good at reading; it might have been 'Do you love him?' but it was probably nothing. He just sat so still, and wrote. And my accusers fell silent.

Then he spoke, quietly, but for all to hear: 'You who are without sin, you throw the first stone'. Then the silence fell again, to be broken only by the sound of footsteps and the



rustle of clothing. When I eventually looked up again, I was amazed to see that they had all gone, it was just him and me. He looked at me with his clear gaze and asked 'Where are they, is no one here to condemn you?' Can you imagine my relief? One minute under sentence of death, the next, reprieved, I hardly knew how. I stammered out some sort of reply, and he sent me away, with a gentle reproof which did more to make me determined to change my ways than threats of stoning.

I did attempt to put things right: Benjamin is reconciled with his wife, (though she still nags) and I have a husband, a Galilean like Jesus, one of his friends. I went to hear him

teach many times after that, made friends with the other women who learned from him and followed him. We followed him till those who had accused me had achieved their aim and used our Roman oppressors to condemn him. He who would not condemn me died guiltless, while I, guilty, live on. That's why I try to live as he would have wanted, and tell my story too.

*The telling of this story was inspired by Brother Pablo of the community at Taizé, who asked the question 'Where was the man? It takes two to commit adultery!' and suggested that Jesus might have been asking the name of the guilty man as he doodled in the dust.*

## From the department of the blindingly obvious...

**I** DID SOMETHING stupid the other day. The sort of thing that makes you think, "I wish I hadn't done that; how pleased I would be if I had not been so daft".

But of course, if I had not done it, there would be nothing in that connection to be pleased about.

So I realised that all the time there are potential disasters or minor inconveniences that don't happen, that we are completely unaware of, unless we have a narrow squeak.

And we can be pleased about that!

*Colin Perkins*

In Forest School our Reception children have enjoyed making beaters to use on our new outdoor music wall. We selected sticks and snapped them to the correct size before winding wool to form a handle. We are all ready to make some music!





Paul and Jane Scott on their final Sunday with us

Epiphany: the Crib with the Magi



# Words from the garden bench

**W**HAT A strange winter season this is. I forecast trouble at t'mill later on. The question is – if we get snow in February, will that cause problems for them and any other plants that should still be dormant?

My Exochorda is coming into flower, the sparrows have just about polished off all the flowers from my tall Mahonia and yesterday I picked a rose from my garden.

Last summer I filled a big tub with chard seedlings and since my sparrows love eating pansy blossoms, I put some of those in the same big pot. Hah! What a silly person I am – it seems that chard is even tastier than pansies; it fascinates me to watch the little fellas perched in the tub taking great big chunks of chard! Interestingly enough they don't eat the stalks – just the soft leafy bits.

Last autumn I planted three different colours of *Sugar Rush* wallflowers – they flowered then, and are now coming into flower again, instead of in the coming springtime! The good thing about wallflowers is that the sparrows don't seem to like the taste of them. so they are left for the pollinating insects.

A few days ago I was sitting in my car on the drive. I have a *Lonicera nitida* which I keep trimmed to a size and shape that just hides my wheelie bins from the street. It is just about ready now for a springtime haircut but that hasn't been done yet. I noticed the blackbirds behaving as if they were practising for the finch gymnastics – they were on the shrub and obviously eating something from it – on the top, trying to hang onto the vertical sides. I went and had a closer look and all I could see was that the berries had all gone. I've never seen the birds doing that before so maybe the weird weather has made the shrub flower very early.

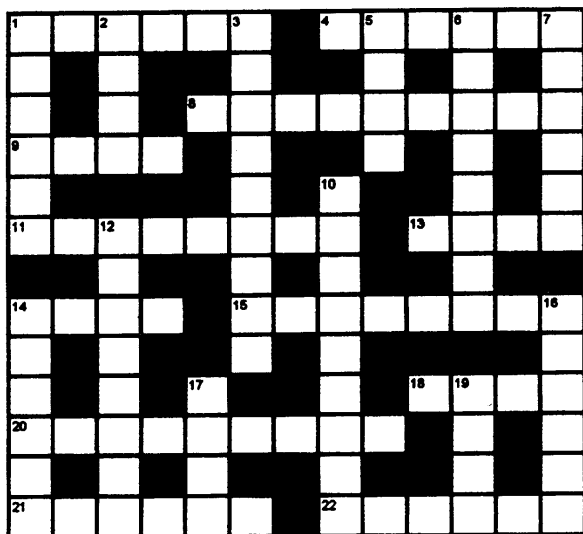


*Lonicera nitida* Baggesons Gold

What an amazing thing nature can be! Like they say – God must be working his purpose out.

JDD





## CROSSWORD

Answers on page 14

### Across

- 1 Motivating spirit or feeling (6)
- 4 Dextrous (6)
- 8 Member of the eighth order of the nine ranks of heavenly beings (9)
- 9 Abode of Adam and Eve (4)
- 11 A small dagger (8)
- 13 .... Lux. Let there be light (4)
- 14 Fiery saint of seamen (4)
- 15 Deliverance from sin and redemption (8)
- 18 Aramaic word for father, used by Christ (4)
- 20 Home-maker (9)
- 21 To recount incidents (6)
- 22 Reformer who translated the bible (6)

### Down

- 1 Woman at the head of a community of nuns (6)
- 2 The gloomy dean of St Paul's Cathedral (4)
- 3 Sacred writings (9)
- 5 Head of the chapter of a cathedral (4)
- 6 Living individual (8)
- 7 Special aptitude (6)
- 10 ..... counsellor. Words from Handel's Messiah (9)
- 12 Christ as the deliverer of Judah as prophesied by Isaiah (8)
- 14 Book of the old testament named after a Jewish queen (6)
- 16 Lector (6)
- 17 Bible .... Area of Southern United States (4)
- 19 Joint Anglican diocese with Wells (4)

# AN ATTRACTIVE PIECE

Have you ever watched a someone standing by a wardrobe, with a choice of garments and saying: which shall it be today?

In its metaphorical way of putting things, the Bible tells us of one particularly attractive garment of which Jesus was very fond.

‘All of you, clothe yourselves with humility’, Simon Peter writes. The word clothe is used of a slave’s apron, for example when Jesus girded himself with a towel to wash his disciples’ feet.

Peter always remembered Jesus’ humility. ‘By myself I can do nothing’, Jesus said. ‘These words you hear are not my own. They belong to the Father who sent me’.

Peter found over many years that the garment of humility, though not fashionable, is serviceable (‘Wear the overall of humility in serving one another’ - J.B. Phillips), comfortable (‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble’) and becoming (‘Humble yourselves under God’s mighty hand’).

My prayer for this year: ‘Lord Jesus, give me more of your humility’.

GORDON HARMAN

1 Peter 5 5-6, John 13 1-15  
New International Version

5 Dean	15 Redeemer	ANSWERS
6 Organism	18 Abba	Across
7 Talent	20 Housewife	1 Animus
10 Wonderful	21 Relate	4 Adroit
12 Immanuel	22 Luther	8 Archangel
14 Esther	Down	9 Eden
16 Reader	1 Abbess	11 Stiletto
17 Belt	2 Inge	13 Fiat
19 Bath	3 Scripture	14 Elmo

# Messy Church at St Michael's

**W**E MEET at the church at 11a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. We begin with a Bible-based story, followed by several craft activities, and then have a light lunch together, finishing at about 12.30. Our target age-range is around 2-10, but we are flexible, and younger children especially are catered for.

An adult must stay with all children throughout. If you know a family who might be interested please feel free to invite them to join us.

Dates for 2022 are:

February 19<sup>th</sup> March 19<sup>th</sup> April 16<sup>th</sup> May 21<sup>st</sup> June 18<sup>th</sup> July 16<sup>th</sup>

August: no meeting

Thereafter to be arranged

Any alterations will be notified on Facebook.

*'We're so used to standing on our heads that when God shows up, we think he's the one who's upside down.'*

Robert Farrar Capon, 'The Mystery of Christ and why we don't get it'.

*Christians Together Coffee Mornings*

at

**St. James's Church Centre  
Pottergate, Alnwick, NE66 1JW**

We warmly welcome you to join us for coffee, a chat and  
'Thought for the day' between 10.00 and 11.30am  
on the following dates

7th February  
1st March  
9th May

21st February  
4th April  
23rd May

7th March  
25th April

**Children Welcome**

# Climate change and Earth

## Changing Together

IN DECEMBER it was decided that it might be helpful if a simple 'green' tip was printed on the pew sheet each week. We have all no doubt been 'doing our bit' for quite a few years now but it is easy to get stuck in a bit of a groove and to not keep on changing our old ways for new. And change we must.

So, for those who may have missed the tips so far, they are being given a second 'airing' below and hopefully they will serve as gentle reminders to the rest of us.

(Throughout the coming year the tips and hints from the previous weeks' pew sheets will be printed in the The Gateway each month)

- **Food.** Sadly, here is the UK, households waste 4.5m tonnes of food each year and worldwide it has been estimated that a volume of water three times that of Lake Geneva is used each year to produce the food that goes to waste.

Every tiny thing we can do will help. So, three things to keep on bearing in mind:

- Don't over shop or over cook.

- Keep those little bits of left overs and perhaps have a left-overs meal once a week. (Try having a tapas style meal of several small courses).

- Small amounts of left-over vegetable can be popped into soup, even tinned soup or a 'cuppa' soup don't mind having a few extra vitamins added!

- Waste packaging. Food generates a huge amount of packaging, only a percentage of which is recycled. Both the Coop and Sainsbury's now have soft plastic recycling facilities. Waste gets made into pellets which are used in the production of such things as dustpans, buckets and flower pots.

It has been estimated that about 22% of all carbon emissions comes from our homes. A little tweaking here and there, multiplied many times over, will make a big difference.

- **Heating.** At this time of year most of us have our heating on, for at least some part of the day. Take a quick tour of your house or flat. Are there any radiators which can be turned down a little or even turned completely off? Or, could you turn the thermostat down one degree?

- The idea that it is better to keep heating on all the time rather than switching it on and off throughout the



day is a myth. When your heating is off you aren't using any power but radiators will stay warm and continue to heat your home for a while. So, if for example, you know you're going to be out for a couple of hours in the afternoon, it makes sense to turn your heating off half an hour or so before you leave. If you normally go up to bed about 10:30 why not try turning your heating off at 9:30 or 10pm.

Just now, more than ever, when there are so many restrictions and extra stresses around, it is of the utmost importance that we enjoy our homes and are comfortable in them but perhaps, with just a little thought, we can shave a fraction off the time that our heating is actually on each day. (With fuel prices spiraling

perhaps we will save our pockets a little as well!)

- **The humble kettle** eats up more electricity in our homes per year, than an electric oven, hob or microwave. Over filling our kettles for a quick cuppa (and then often walking away and re-boiling a couple of minutes later) uses enough power annually that equals half the output of one of the world's largest offshore wind farms, off the coast of Kent. Don't overfill (measure the water in by the mug ?) and try to stick around until it boils and use immediately.

Perhaps we cannot remember to do all of these things all the time so it might be an idea to choose just one or two which you are not in the habit of doing and which you think you can realistically stick to.

# Smile

## Never say never

Kuttiyamma grew up in Southern India at a time when there was no opportunity for girls to go to school (even boys' education stopped at nine). Her job was to look after her eleven siblings while her parents, and no doubt some of the other older children, worked as agricultural labourers. Later on in her life she had her own children, and is now a grandmother. The opportunity to learn to read had never arisen but she had always been 'curious about the world'. Seeing her grandchildren learning to read she decided to enrol in a literacy programme and in the official literacy test achieved a score of 89%. Kattiayamma is 104 years of age.

## Moving in the right direction

Our beaches are much cleaner than they used to be. The overall litter count per every 100 yards is down (with plastic bags in particular down from 13 every 100 yards to 3). The most common items picked up by the 6,000 volunteers who helped with 'The Great British Beach Clean' were fragments of polystyrene and plastic, crisp packets and cigarette ends.

(From information originally printed in 'The Week')

(If you are interested in helping to pick up litter locally search 'Alnwick and District Litter Pickers' on Facebook or, if you would like to know more about 'The Great British Beach Clean', which is an annual event each September, ring 01989 567807)

*Sue Wiltshire*



Winter Market in Church

# Who's Who

## VICAR

*Vacant*

## CLERGY WITH PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

The Rev'd Canon Sue Allen 01665 605361

The Rev'd Canon Dr Philip Bourne  
01665 574008

The Rev'd Robert Chavner 01665 574008

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 Martin Turner 01665 603815

The Rev'd Canon Dennis Winter  
01665 602658

## READERS

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Annette Playle 01665 606902

## READER EMERITUS

Bill Callaghan 01665 602348

## 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

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Susan Trafford 01665 606180

## SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Patty Everitt 07768 869 551

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*Vacant*

## THE PARISH SECRETARY 01665 602797

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## MOTHERS' UNION Branch Leader

Val Hawker 01665 602348

(Mobile) 07732431056

## COMMUNION

for the SICK and HOUSEBOUND  
can be arranged by contacting The Vicar  
01665 603078 or

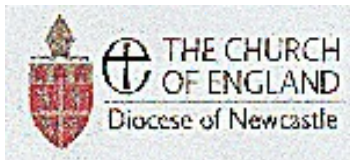
Pat Taylor 01665 603811

## BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS

Please apply to the Churchwardens

## To hire the PARISH HALL

Phone Mariana on 07562 418837 or E-mail [bookstmichael@gmail.com](mailto:bookstmichael@gmail.com)



## *Staying connected during this pandemic*

### **At the Cathedral**

<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 Reflections (also Monday to Friday).

### **At St Michael's Alnwick**

The Church is now open for private prayer from 9 am to 4 pm. Entry through the Duke's Door.

On Sundays at 8.30 am, 10 am and 6 pm, we are able to worship in person in church. The 10 am Eucharist will still be live-streamed for all those joining us from home. On Wednesdays there is a celebration of the Eucharist at 10.15 am.

For other services see page 2.

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

Phone The Parish Office 602797 leave a message or E-mail  
[stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com](mailto:stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com)

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