

# Gateway

September 2022



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.

6.00pm

### EVENING WORSHIP

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

Second, Third and Fifth Sundays are Said Evensong

On Fourth Sundays a rotation of Compline, Iona and Taizé style worship.

## WEDNESDAYS ST. MICHAEL'S

10.15am

### HOLY COMMUNION

A said service followed by tea/coffee and the opportunity for fellowship.

### DENWICK CHAPEL

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

# Thought for the Month

## A WARM WELCOME

I'M WRITING just after this year's very successful Flower Festival. It has been a real tribute to all, from St Paul's as well as St Michael's, who have worked so hard in all the many different roles. What a delight it has been to welcome so many people into the church.

The word "Welcome" – Well Come – occurs many times in the Bible, especially in Luke's writings. In his gospel and in his account of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles, there's a special emphasis on Jesus' care for the misfits of his day, poor people, lepers, and non- Jews like Samaritans. And unusually, in a society that was run by men for men, Jesus shows particular sympathy for women, and even more surprisingly, for children. See for example Luke 9.48, where Jesus brushes off the well-meaning attempts of the disciples to discourage children from coming to him. Jesus goes out of his way to welcome a child, picking them up and blessing them.

So I find myself wondering, as we seek to follow the example of Jesus, who else might we welcome as winter approaches? This is especially important as household bills increase, and many families will struggle to heat their homes and to find enough to eat. Maybe we can find a way to welcome people into church, by providing a warm space, or a simple lunch. Or perhaps we shall join with people from other churches and the community in opening churches or other welcoming spaces in our town.

And as the new school year begins, there will be new pupils, new teachers, and families moving in to our neighbourhoods. I wonder how each of us might be especially welcoming to newcomers and strangers among us.

After Jesus has welcomed the little child, his words challenge us even further. He makes an extraordinary statement: *"Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."*

Jesus' meaning seems inescapable. Whenever we welcome someone unlikely, into our church, our town, our homes and our hearts, we are also welcoming Jesus!

Sue Allen

# Principal Sunday Readings

Sunday	Holy Communion	Evensong
4th September Trinity 12	Deuteronomy 30.15-end Philemon 1-21 Luke 14.25-33	Isaiah 43.14-44.5 John 5.30-end
11th Sept Trinity 13	Exodus 32.7-14 1 Timothy 1.12-17 Luke 15.1-10	Isaiah 60 John 6.51-69
18th Sept Trinity 14	Amos 8.4-7 1 Timothy 2.1-7 Luke 16.1-13	Ezra 1 John 7.14-36
25th Sept Trinity 15	Amos 6.1a,4-7 1 Timothy 6.6-19 Luke 16.19-end	Nehemiah 2 John 8.31-38,48-end

## From the Registers

### Baptism

6.8.22

William Andrew Colquhoun Todd

### Funerals

10.8.22

Lilian Gaines

3.8.22

We also regret to report the funeral at South Charlton of Florence Hodgson, wife of our former organist and choirmaster, Alan Hodgson.

# All in the month of SEPTEMBER

## It was:

1900 years ago, from 13th September 122 to 128 that Hadrian's Wall was built in northern England. It ran for 80 miles from coast to coast and marked the northern limit of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, wanted to separate the Romans from 'the barbarians.'

200 years ago, on 11th September 1822 that the Catholic Church admitted that the 16th century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun.

100 years ago, on 13th September 1922 that the highest temperature ever recorded in the world was reported to be 57.7 Centigrade (136 Fahrenheit) in Al'Aziziyah in Libya. (Unofficial record)

80 years ago, on 10th September 1942 that the British Royal Air Force launched a massive air raid over Dusseldorf Germany.

50 years ago, on 5th September 1972 that Palestinian terrorists invaded the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany during the 1972 Olympic Games and took 11 members of the Israeli team hostage. All the hostages were killed, as well as five of the eight terrorists and a

German police officer, when a rescue attempt failed.

30 years ago, on 7th September 1992 that the radio station Classic FM began broadcasting in the UK.

25 years ago, on 5th September 1997 that Mother Teresa, Macedonian-born/Albanian India nun and humanitarian died. She founded the Missionaries of Charity and was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was beatified in October 2003.

Also 25 years ago, on 9th September 1997 that Sinn Fein formally renounced violence and committed itself to resolving the troubles of Northern Ireland through peaceful means. This eventually led to the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998.

Also 25 years ago, on 11th September 1997 that the people of Scotland voted in a referendum to establish their own parliament. (Opened 1st July 1999.)

Also 25 years ago, on 18th September 1997 that the people of Wales voted in a referendum to create the National Assembly for Wales, with devolved powers from Westminster. (Opened May 1999.)

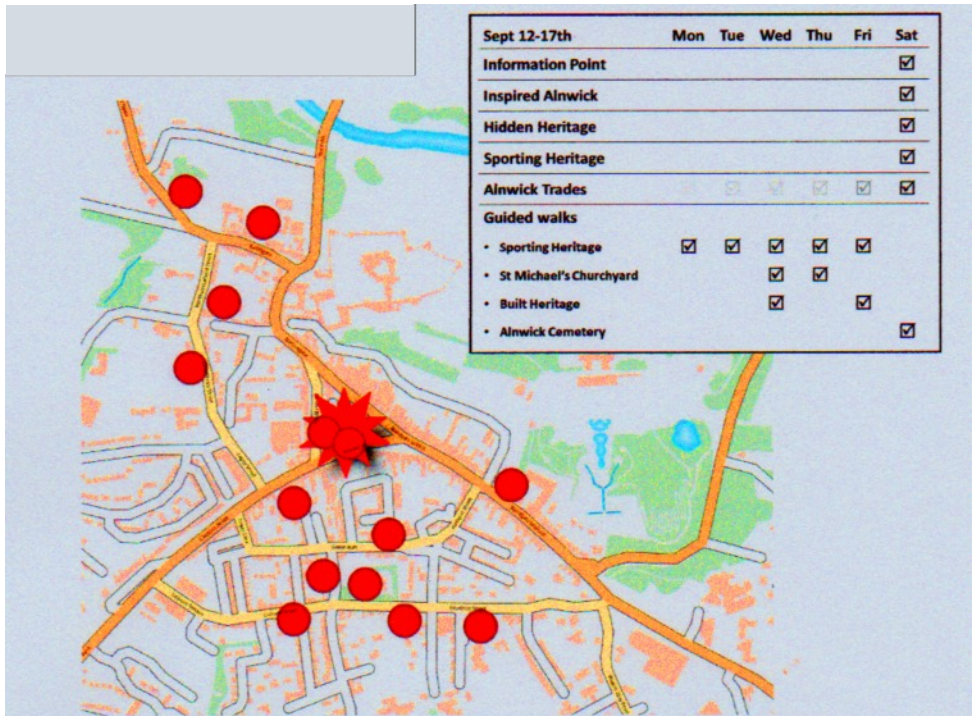
# Heritage Open Days, 12-17th September. Plan your Day

Heritage Open Days provide an opportunity to raise awareness of our heritage locally and beyond Alnwick. We think we have something for everyone in 2022: whether you want to re-visit attractions that you enjoyed last year, see places that you missed last year, or try new experiences that are available for the first time. Two new guided tours, an exhibition of Astounding Inventions,

displays by local heritage groups, and access to sports heritage.

The busiest day will be September 17<sup>th</sup>, but look out for different events from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

For full details: <https://sites.google.com/view/alnwickhod/>



Information kiosk

On Saturday 17th Sept friendly volunteers in the Market Place will help you to plan your day.

Inspired Alnwick: Christian Heritage

• **St. Michael's Church:** including medieval bells, and an exhibition of remarkable graffiti.

- **St. James's Centre:** the home of Alnwick's United Reformed Church.
- **Alnwick Methodist Church:** John Wesley's pulpit and over 260 years of Methodist heritage..
- **St. Paul's Church:** Alnwick's Roman Catholic church, with a remarkable East Window.

#### Alnwick's Hidden Heritage

- **Masonic Lodge:** a rare opportunity to see the famous Chevy Chase carved sideboard.
- **Town Hall:** with information on the building and the trade guilds that effectively governed the town from here until the 19th century.
- **Alnwick Playhouse:** see behind the scenes at Alnwick Playhouse.
- **Youth Hostel:** Once Alnwick's Courthouse, Police Station and House of Correction. With refreshments and music.
- **Ain Valley Railway:** guided tours of the engine shed, workshops and signal box.
- **Northumberland Hall:** exhibitions of Astounding Inventions and displays by local heritage groups.

#### Alnwick Trades

- Alnwick's **Independent Shops** are seen as one of the town's strengths.

Discover the stories behind our high street businesses.

#### Bailiffgate Museum

- 1,000 years of history, a stunning **Textiles Exhibition** and free advice on **Family History**.

#### Guided walks

- **Alnwick Cemetery:** with stories of some of Alnwick's most eminent and notorious residents.
- **St Michael's Churchyard** led by the team who researched burials that have taken place over the centuries.
- **Alnwick's Built Heritage:** explore Alnwick's heritage with members of Alnwick Civic Society.
- **Alnwick's Sporting Heritage:** visit the sites of Alnwick's pre 1918 sporting heritage.

#### Sporting Heritage

- **Bowling Club:** with displays of the club's history, photographs, honours boards and trophies.
- **Tennis Club:** join members as they explore the story of the sport in Alnwick.
- **Golf Club:** Visit the new clubhouse and Peace Column, with opportunities to try golf, and compare how equipment has evolved.

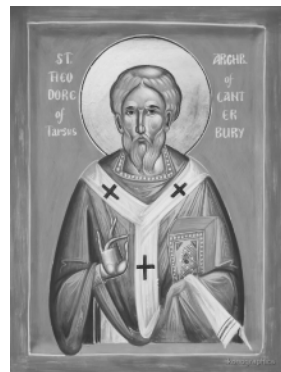
# Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury in troubled times

**T**HEODORE HAD several things in common with Justin Welby: despite living in troubled times, and in the aftermath of a severe national plague, he made extensive tours of his archbishopric, spoke at many Synods, and worked tirelessly to unite the bickering factions of the Church in England.

But, unlike Justin Welby, Theodore did not start off as English. He was a Greek living quietly in a Roman monastery when in 664, after Archbishop Deusdedit died, the Pope began looking for a new Archbishop of Canterbury. Theodore was recommended as a good candidate, even though he was not even ordained at the time.

The Pope moved quickly: Theodore was ordained deacon, and four months later (when his hair had grown long enough) he was ordained priest and immediately consecrated bishop. Then he was sent, with some companions, off to Canterbury to be Archbishop. It was a very long journey, but Theodore used the weeks on the road well: by the time he arrived in Canterbury he could at least speak English.

Theodore arrived in Britain in May 669, and soon set about strengthening the leadership of the Church through appointing more



bishops, improving administration and order, and setting up a yearly meeting for the whole church.

His main challenge was settling the areas with Celtic tradition, and bringing them gently but firmly into the Roman Church. He wisely allowed a blending of Roman and Celtic traditions, which went well, and which began to give a common and unique identity to the church in Britain.

Theodore's legacy was immense: he is regarded as being the principal force behind the common Church in Britain. He was a gifted theologian and teacher, teaching science, astronomy, law, Latin and Greek. Above all, Theodore was an astute church politician and a visionary leader. Little wonder he is credited with having overseen one of the most fruitful periods of the church in Britain.



# PROSPECT COTTAGE



**I**T WAS in April 2020 that we published an article about Art Fund trying to buy Prospect Cottage so that it was secured for the future as a sort of museum and art centre, in memory of Derek Jarman and my former colleague Keith Collins. I contributed a very small amount toward their funds and, thanks to those much more affluent, the cottage was bought and saved, together with Derek's shingle garden. So, I suppose that I may be the only local link.

*Joan Dunn*

Derek Jarman's former home and creative space in Dungeness is open for pre-booked visits from July to December 2022.

This would not have been possible without the support of many kind donors. We're extremely grateful for the generosity of all those

who supported the landmark campaign to #SaveProspectCottage. Thanks to you, this remarkable place can continue to inspire for generations to come.

At the cottage, visitors are able to view works of art, gain greater insight into the life and work of this extraordinary artist in his creative haven, and reflect on the profound importance of this special place. Much work has been, and is being, undertaken to protect the authentic appearance and atmosphere of the cottage and garden, and to bring the garden back to the vibrancy of Jarman's lifetime.

We look forward to keeping you updated with more news on the forthcoming artist residency programme, and plans from Tate to share key pieces from Jarman's Dungeness archive.

*Art Fund*







A selection of pictures from our Joint  
Flower Festival in August



# Flower Festival

The August Flower Festival was very successful. Shared between St Michael's and St Paul's, it also included contributions by members of other churches.

The total raised over the four days of the festival was £1,881.12, shared between St Michael's and St Paul's churches. Many thanks to all who were involved with donations, arranging, catering and stewarding.

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Contributions for the October Gateway should be given by  
14th September if possible.

## A Prayer for September

Father,

September – a month of new starts for many. We pray for all starting school, university or college, or moving into a new class or job.

We pray for the new Prime Minister to prove to a person of integrity, dedicated to working for the good of all.

We especially ask you to help those struggling with the rising cost of living who don't know how they are going to make ends meet.

Have mercy on this nation, Lord and bring us back to Your ways.

Thank You for Jesus and that through trusting in Him we can know You, as Father and God of truth, mercy and compassion.

Thank You that You never give up on us. You will help us if we turn to You,

In Jesus name,

Amen.



# Angel Tree – Bringing Joy

September to October is when Angel Tree comes into prominence in our prisons. Prisoners who are parents with children are asked if they would like to send a personal gift to their children. They are then given a form to fill in stating what their child would like. They also can send a personal message written by themselves to make the gift extra special.

'Why does Prison Fellowship do this?' you may ask. Well, Christmas is especially difficult for prisoners and their children. Angel Tree lessens the devastation experienced as a result of a parent being absent by not only helping families to connect and build relationships, but also by providing children with much-needed joy.

This year's quiz is :- **Places in Northumberland from along the Scottish Border with Northumberland as far as the border with Durham. (1-14). 15 -20 are around the Scottish/English coastal border.** You can use any method to find them. Have fun.

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. NUDE STACK ATOP CLOTH (7,4,5)      | -- -- / -- -- / -- -- |
| 2. ICY WATER (10)                     | -----                 |
| 3. CHURCH BUT ABODE (4,7,)            | -----/-----           |
| 4. WHEAT TOR (8)                      | -----                 |
| 5. APPLAUDERS (8)                     | -----                 |
| 6. TRANSPORT COOKED PIG (6)           | -----                 |
| 7. CARE FOR GROG (7)                  | -----                 |
| 8. BREEZY SLYNESS (5,4)               | -----/-----           |
| 9. INERT LIQUID (9)                   | -----                 |
| 10. BOAT'S BOTTOM GERMAN 'THE' (7)    | -----                 |
| 11. BITER'S RESIDENCE (10)            | -----                 |
| 12. FISH'S PARTS +GROUND (8)          | -----                 |
| 13. SPREAD IGNITE (10)                | -----                 |
| 14. HIGHER LAIR WIEGHT (5,6)          | -----/-----           |
| 15. BABY SHEEP IS IT HEAVY (9)        | -----                 |
| 16. HOLY FINGERPRINTS MINUS 'D' (2,4) | ---/-----             |
| 17. SEAR YOUR 'NORTH & SOUTH' (9)     | -----                 |
| 18. SPY CAKEHOLE (8)                  | -----                 |
| 19. FLOWERLET THE FRENCH (5)          | -----                 |
| 20. CAIN'S MIXED-UP BROTHER (4)       | -----                 |

Rachel Robinson

Answers next month.

# A fresh start for Mighty Oaks Alnwick

**Mighty Oaks Alnwick\*** is an ecumenical Christian outreach project providing a fully equipped coffee van which is run by rotating teams of 3 or 4 volunteers in the town centre on Saturday evenings (and other occasional events). This offers hot drinks and a friendly point of contact for youngsters and other town centre visitors.



Off road due to 'Covid' since March 2020, the van and its equipment have required extensive repairs and servicing. However, thanks to some generous donations we have been able to get all the work done. The van is now ready for action once more!

## *Why do we do this, you may ask?*

We see this as Christian hospitality in action 'on the street' – a way of reaching out to people not generally engaged with 'church'. In Hebrews 13:2 we read this intriguing exhortation: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hospitality comes in many forms: welcoming visitors into our homes or church buildings, giving sanctuary to refugees, and in many other ways. Simply offering a hot drink to those out on the street at night can help build bridges and pave the way for meaningful contact. As for angels – well, who knows?

Help needed!

As we prepare to resume services, we are looking for three kinds of help:

1. We need to recruit some **new volunteers** to help serve on the van. There are a variety of hot drinks served for which training will be provided. Andrew and Michelle Duff are part of the existing team, but they would like to have one or two others to come alongside in this.
2. Serving hot drinks on a chilly evening might not be your forte – but perhaps you could help us by taking on **a supporting role** like coordinating

the rota or ordering catering supplies? This would make a real difference in support of our team.

3. We also urgently need to find ***somewhere to store the van*** - if you or someone you know has an off-road space in or close to Alnwick that they can offer please get in touch!

If you'd like to serve the community in one of these ways then please pray about joining the Mighty Oaks team! For more information please contact our current coordinator Karen Smith via email: [karen.smith@alnwickbaptist.org.uk](mailto:karen.smith@alnwickbaptist.org.uk) Or contact Andrew or Michelle Duff, tel. 01665 605663 or email [duffandrew@btinternet.com](mailto:duffandrew@btinternet.com)

We would appreciate your prayers and support as we look to restart.

\*Footnote: Mighty Oaks Alnwick operates under the umbrella of **IGNITE** Alnwick: the working name for Contagious - Registered Charity no. 1089954

*Andrew Duff*

## Observations on daily life

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. – *Dorothy Nevill*

It's easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them. – *Alfred Adler*

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with knowledge that you are never alone. – *Audrey Hepburn*

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. – *Charles Gordy*

The older one gets the more one finds the present must be enjoyed; it is a precious gift, comparable to a state of grace. – *Marie Curie*

Happiness sometimes comes through doors you didn't even know you left open. – *Anon*

Afflictions should be the spiritual wings of the soul. – *Richard Sibbes*

Many lovely things pass out of life when jealousy comes in. – *Anon*

Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live. – *Larry Lorenzoni*

# Climate Change and Earth

## Changing Together

### A few things to consider as we get used to a warmer climate

As we watch our lawns change from green to a yellowy brown we may be tempted to reach for the garden hose more often but do remember that it uses a great deal of water, between 9 and 17 gallons per minute, (the average householder uses about 37 gallons in day). As there is a direct link between grass height and root growth, allowing your lawn to be a little longer will encourage the roots to grow and so reach deeper water reserves. However, even if hot days and our desire to save water results in a rather sad, tired looking lawn it will soon spring back when the rain does come.

**While watering plants** in the morning or evening is better than in the full height of the sun, there are a couple of reasons why morning is best of all. Obviously, as soon as the sun comes up plants start to lose water through their leaves by evaporation. If they have had a morning drink they will cope better and be less likely to wilt. (After all most of us would wilt without our morning tea or coffee !). Secondly, leaving the soil damp at the end of the day will make a very welcome environment for slugs.

**We are all aware that pipes** can burst during frosty weather but extreme heat can also cause problems. Hot days may cause pipes to expand and together with the added pressure of increased water usage, leaks may occur. (In 2020 the BBC reported that just under 3 billion litres of water was lost in England and Wales due to leaks.) If you are out and about and spot a leak, please ring Northumbrian Water on 03457335566 or visit their website, [www.nwl.co.uk](http://www.nwl.co.uk) where you can establish if the leak has already been reported and if not, let them know of your concerns. (If the water is coming from a manhole or is dirty, it is classed as an emergency).

**A plastic watering can** with a hole or crack can be mended in moments with a little melted candle wax. Having dripped the wax as closely as possible to where it is needed, spread it quickly into place with a piece of very stiff cardboard or an old lollypop stick. Works a treat!

**If you find yourself** heading to the coast for a breath of lovely sea air would you consider taking a plastic bag with you to pick up any rubbish that



you come across? Discarded fishing tackle, nets and plastic in it's many guises can trap, entangle, cut or be ingested by wildlife both on and off shore. Just picking up one or two items will make a real difference to the creatures which might otherwise have encountered them.

**If you are going away** for a few days but have milk that is likely to go off before your return (the plastic bottle type), just pop it into the freezer. Once you have returned it will thaw out beautifully overnight.

### **Hymns for People Over 50**

Give Me the Old Timers' Religion

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up

Just a Slower Walk with Thee

Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up

Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten  
Where I've Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One  
By One

Blessed Insurance

It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

## **Smile**

**Something old, something new.**

**T**HE SALVATION Army is planning to employ a hi-tech scanner to help to put to good use the many donated items which are deemed unsuitable to sell. The scanner uses infrared to separate out the wool garments which can then be sent to textile mills in Huddersfield to be turned back into fresh yarn. Cotton, polyester and viscose items will be recycled by factories in Europe.

*Sue Wiltshire*

# 'Tis the gift to be simple

HAVE YOU ever read a book by Robin Meyers, 'Morning Sun on a White Piano'? It is subtitled 'simple pleasures and the sacramental life.' Its theme is that we can easily pass life by, as we search for it. We shun the 'ordinary' and the simple in pursuit of more worthwhile endeavours because we equate the 'ordinary' with the mundane and unrewarding.

The Shaker melody 'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free' is the origin of the popular hymn 'The Lord of the Dance.' It says: Look closely at the simple things of life and find in them depth and divinity. The 17th century Dutch artist Vermeer created masterpieces out of the ordinary – a woman reading a letter or pouring water into a basin. Critics have described his work as 'the timeless contemplation of the ordinary.'

A Danish artist, Hammershøi, painted in 1900 'Dust Motes Dancing in Sunbeams'. We are shown quite simply an empty room with a wall, a window, a floor and a door. There is no handle on the door. All is stillness and peace. And all is shadow until the winter sun streams into the room, catching in its rays the dust and lighting up the floor. It is the miracle of sunlight bringing life into the stillness. An ordinary aspect of creation, but lighting up a room and bringing wonder in its wake. One critic has called it 'a hymn to an everyday marvel.'

In this and in all of his paintings, Hammershøi seems to be saying: Accept the simplicity of the present, find beauty there and live in that beauty. For him the grass is never greener in the next field – it is here and now in the world we have that we find beauty and meaning.

John Keble's hymn 'New ev'ry morning is the love' says that 'the trivial round, the common task will furnish all we need to ask.' The artist is echoing that truth on canvas, telling us that the ordinary and common things of everyday life can provide the backcloth against which we can live and act.

When we are young, that backcloth stretches out to embrace the wider world and time: it is full of potential and promise. As we grow older, that world shrinks to our home, our church, our town. If illness comes, our world may be bedroom or the hospital ward. In that smaller world life can seem trivial and ordinary. But wherever we are, Hammershøi invites us to pause, to ponder and to find there beauty and light which will bring us 'daily nearer God.'

# Who's Who

## VICAR

*Vacant*

## CLERGY WITH PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

The Rev'd Canon Sue Allen 01665 605361

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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  
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Pat Taylor 01665 603811

## CHURCHWARDEN EMERITUS

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## COMMUNION

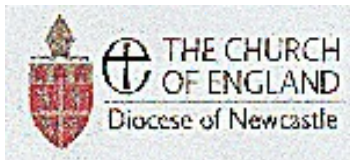
for the SICK and HOUSEBOUND  
can be arranged by contacting  
Pat Taylor 01665 603811

## BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS

Please apply to the Churchwardens

## To hire the PARISH HALL

Phone Mariana on 07562 418837 or E-mail bookstmichael@gmail.com



## *Staying connected during this pandemic*

### **At the Cathedral**

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

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