

Gateway

November 2022



RAFA Memorial at the National Memorial and Arboretum

St Michael's, Alnwick

The magazine for the people of the Church and the Town



Weekly Worship

SUNDAYS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

08.30am HOLY COMMUNION (winter months)

Occurs on the third and fourth Sundays of each month only, from 30th October 2022 (when the clocks go back). A said celebration of Holy Communion using Common Worship. For further details see the Sunday Pew Sheet each week which also includes the week following.

10.00am THE PARISH COMMUNION

Usually a sung service using Common Worship with hymns and a sermon. On the first Sunday of the month worship is more informal using a variety of additional resources and "thinking outside the box". This main service each Sunday is followed by tea/coffee and the chance to meet up with others. The main service is also live streamed on YouTube each week for those unable to attend.

06.00pm EVENING WORSHIP (winter months)

Only occurs on the first and second Sundays of each month from 30th October 2022 (when the clocks go back). Details of the style of worship for the current and following week is in the Sunday Pew Sheet.

WEDNESDAYS AT 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. Prior to the pandemic a service of Matins or Holy Communion was held once a month, re-provision remains under review.

Thought for the Month

The Importance of Remembrance

The period of All Saints to Advent is sometimes known as 'the season of remembrance' and includes All Saints' Day, the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls' Day and Remembrance Sunday. Remembering those who have gone before us reminds us of the fact that no Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death. As Charles Wesley once expressed it:

*"One family, we dwell in him,
one Church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death."*

William Gladstone, the former 19th century prime minister of the United Kingdom, once said this: "Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the law of the land and their loyalty to high ideals."

People who deal with death every day – professional caregivers such as hospice staff, grief counsellors, church ministers and medical practitioners – have long understood the importance of remembrance. It is an established principle that aids healing, so that we can go on living our lives in meaningful ways.

Funeral and cremation services, as well as memorial and remembrance rituals, are not only ways to say 'goodbye' to a loved one, but are also time-tested ways that can help families and friends move from grieving to remembrance. Permanent remembrances further provide a place and a way for families to remember and honour their loved ones forever.

There are many reasons to celebrate and mourn the life of a loved one, but for many, these six things sum up why remembrance is important:

- to acknowledge the reality of death.
- to acknowledge the emotions associated with the death.
- to acknowledge that the relationship with the person who died has shifted from physical presence to memory.
- to acknowledge changes in personal self-identity.
- to ponder and search for new meaning in life.
- to receive the loving support of remaining family and friends.

Sadness at the loss of a loved one may never entirely go away, but remembrance lives on. The desire to be remembered lives within our genetic makeup. It is the age-old reason people carve their initials in trees, place their hands in cement, and chalk their names on rocks. They want to leave their mark. They want to be remembered. But for the living, the real marks they leave are the ones they've left on us- such as a hug, a smile, a timely word of advice. We want to remember those we've loved and lost, not only for them, but also as importantly for ourselves, to mend, to heal, to live, and never to forget.

This poem, by the 21st century poet Patrick Cunningham, tries to express in words a few thoughts about life, and dying, and remembering:

Remembrance

*We talk openly of life.
Of the joyful times we had.
And the joyful times we will have together.
Death gives no joy.
It has no voice.
We have muted it because there are no more
times to have together.
While the remembrance of death is painful,
the remembrance of those who lived,
those we loved, is joyous.
They have left footprints implanted in our minds,
in our hearts, and in the very essence of our being
that shall remain forever.
Death is sad.
Remembrance is not.
So let us remember their lives.
Forever.*

(The Reverend Canon Dr Philip Bourne)

PRINCIPAL SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday	Holy Communion	Evensong
6th Nov	Job 19, 23-27a	1 Kings 3, 1-15
3rd before Advent (Year C)	2 Thessalonians 2, 1-5 & 13-17 Luke 20, 27-38	Romans 8, 31-39
13th Nov	Malachi 4, 1-2a	Daniel 6
2nd before Advent	2 Thessalonians 3, 6-13 Luke 21, 5-19	Matthew 13, 1-9 & 18-23
20th Nov	Jeremiah 23, 1-6	
Christ the King	Colossians 1, 11-20 Luke 23, 33-43	
27th Nov	Isaiah 2, 1-5	
Advent (Year A)	Romans 13, 11-14 Matthew 24 36-44	

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/lectionary>

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism	
25.09.22	Anya Paterson
Marriage	-
Funerals	
20.09.22	Hazel Jacques
07.10.22	Karen Gregory
10.10.22	Margaret McFarlane

EDITORIAL

Spending the first 17 days of the month, in which one has agreed to take over the editing of the Church Magazine, on holiday in East Anglia might be viewed as poor planning. On the other hand it is an opportunity to see how other communities cope with the exigencies of the modern world, not to mention the rich history in buildings, art and culture which teach us how their forebears coped in years gone by. Many towns in England, including the wool and cloth towns of Suffolk, had their population halved by the Black Death in the mid 14th century, yet within a hundred years the cloth trade had made them very wealthy, and towns like Lavenham and Long Melford were much richer than their politically more important counterparts in cities such as Lincoln and York. The evidence of their prosperity and their grateful thanks can be seen in their Church buildings - characterised by the Perpendicular style which lets in a huge amount of light, and is not infrequently topped off with a hammerbeam roof and carved angels, some of which have been and still are painted (photographs page 7). It came as a timely reminder that in spite of the vicissitudes of pandemics, climate change and the threat of conflict, there is much that we can do if we pull together and help each other. As on many occasions I feel drawn to the wonderful words of St. Paul, who reminds us when he talks about love in 1 Corinthians 13; love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres and never fails.

Continuing in this theme can I draw your attention to some of the articles in the magazine this month, not least the story of our Bellringers and their triumph in hope and perseverance (page 9). We live in difficult times; and Gateway this month has some ideas about how those of us who are able to might assist those in fuel and/or food poverty (page 16). There are also some events this month which I hope you will be able to support, particularly our Winter Market on Saturday 26th November (page 18), the Alnwick & District Choral Society Concert in St Pauls Church on Saturday 12th November (page 18) and the coffee mornings at St James Church (page 15).

George Nasmyth

Thank you Colin Perkins

I felt slightly humbled, not to mention anxious, when I heard that my predecessor as Editor of the Gateway magazine (Rev. Colin Perkins) had undertaken the task since 2001, the year in which he retired to Alnwick. Loyal service of such length, combined with humour, affability, innovation and the ability to get others involved are qualities that we should all value. On behalf of the PCC and all who have known and worked with Colin, I would like to publicly acknowledge his contribution and offer our sincere thanks for all that he has done. You may not know that Colin is a keen photographer and most of the photographs that have appeared in the magazine are taken by him, including the RAFA memorial at the National Arboretum on the front of this month's edition. You might think that all his efforts have been focused on the magazine, but he has had many other strings to his bow for which we are very grateful; most of the photographs on the Church website were taken by him, and he has supported a wealth of other Church events in a myriad of different ways. So again; thank you Colin for all that you have done.

George Nasmyth



Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, Suffolk and one pane of restored mediaeval glass

Smile

Our doors were open once again!

A huge thank you to the eighteen people who every week since the 10th April have enabled St Michael's to be open to visitors. Thank you too to 'the reserves' who stood in when needed, sometimes at very short notice!

This beautiful building was very much appreciated by people who had come from as far away as Hanoi to those who had only had to do a hop, skip and a jump from Howick. Indeed, many familiar local places appear in the 'Town' list – Amble, Blyth, Felton and sometimes these sit right next door to 'Virginia, USA', 'Rome, Italy', or 'Victoria, Australia'. Each page in the visitors book shows evidence that folks from every corner of the UK as well as many different countries around the world walked through the doors and appreciated what they found. Comments left in the book range from a simple, heartfelt 'Stunning' to the more detailed 'Lovely, so well kept, friendly and helpful volunteers, child orientated'. Some visitors were obviously returning 'Fabulous as ever, glorious' while for most it was a first time visit, 'Beautiful church and a warm welcome'. The graffiti and bells were enjoyed too, 'Loved the chat about the old graffiti on the roof' and 'Beautiful, calm – bell ringing practice – lovely'. And for one one visitor, who must have found us on one of the hotter days, there was the added pleasure of a drop in temperature 'Peaceful and cool'.

Despite being in an interregnum and all the extra duties which this means for many people, not least our church wardens, Pat Taylor and Anne Blades, without whom so much of that which regularly takes place each week simply would not be able to happen, we have, in addition welcomed over 600 visitors this year. Thank you so much to all who made this possible.

Sue Wiltshire

BELLRINGERS BIRTHDAY

Time flies, it only seems like yesterday since my ringing colleagues and I presented the case for installing a full peal of bells to the PCC of St. Michaels.

We were told that the tower roof had seen better days and that fund raising to replace it was proving difficult. The Vicar, Paul Scott, realised that the Bell project proposal had the potential to attract bell donors and help fund the tower repairs.

The project was accepted by the PCC and started, but worse was to come. Once the scaffolding went up, closer inspection around the medieval louvre stonework revealed serious erosion - more money and time were needed. In the end the tower repair costs exceeded the bell project costs considerably.

Our thanks are due to Jean Darby, although us experts regularly met to ensure that the building and bell elements were being carried out to the highest standards, Jean did the lion's share of the work, coordinating the project during the fund raising and building/bell installation years.

Jean, we can't thank you enough!

Finally, the bell installation was completed and the bells rang out for the first time in September 2021.

A REVIEW of our first year..... how has it gone?

Well, in over 50 years of giving bell ringing tuition and implementing bell projects like this throughout northern England, my ringing colleagues and I have never encountered a monster as big as this! The ringing demand for Alnwick bells has never been known since Victorian times.

It has been much more successful than any of us experienced ringers ever anticipated and has caught us a little flat footed. Demand was anticipated but not to this level, thank goodness we had the vision to install very effective 'sound control', which reduces the bell decibels through the louvres. The closing of the louvres allows us to ring frequently without disturbing the neighbours during the week.

continued on page 10



The Alnwick Band

HOW COME? Where have all of these ringers appeared from?
There are three reasons:

- 1) Out of over 5,000 peals of bells in England, Alnwick are the most northerly peal of 10 bells in England. The Northumberland coastline attracts visitors. Alnwick is a first class peal of bells and we have already achieved a good ringing reputation nationally. The high standard of ringing attracts a significant number of visiting ringers who come to Northumberland on holiday.
- 2) Other local towers, namely Berwick, Embleton, Rothbury and Bamburgh have bells which are more difficult to ring so these ringers also support Alnwick in return for tuition on 8/10 bells. They have been a great asset.
- 3) We have trained a number of new recruits from scratch who reside in Alnwick, including members of St. Michael's congregation and this will allow us to ring the bells more frequently using local ringers for services, weddings and other special occasions.



A very tasty Celebration!

THE PASSING of QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Alnwick bells were rung 'half muffled' regularly during the mourning period of 10 days up to and including the Queens funeral. In all, some 33 local bellringers were able to take part, a truly remarkable achievement. Many towers have no ringers at all whist others will struggle to ring 6 bells.

PLANS FOR THE 2nd. YEARdevelop the existing band, improve quality of striking accuracy, ring for more services and teach more Alnwick people the art of English Change Ringing

Simple!

Jim Crowther
Bellringer

Climate change and Earth

Changing Together

Warm homes. If the sun is out and is shining directly into a room, make sure that the curtains are pushed back as far as possible to maximise solar heating. When cooler days do require the heating to be on remember that your home will stay warm for quite a while even after it is switched off, so you may like to experiment with 'on' and 'off' times.

A few seasonal thoughts:

More than ever before we must try to ensure that our desire to be thoughtful and loving at Christmas time does not damage the planet. How do we do this?

1. When choosing cards and gift wrap remember that glitter, 'shiny bits' and glossy paper are not recyclable. (Traidcraft ensure that all their cards can be recycled). The Oxfam shop in Narrowgate has a lovely selection of wrapping paper which has been made from recycled material.

2. Let the words 'Craft Fair', 'Handmade Gifts,' and 'Local Artists', draw you like bees to a honey pot! Here you are likely to find sustainably sourced items which will support the livelihoods of local people. Art galleries too have much to offer in the way of locally made jewellery, pottery and other items which make lovely presents. It might be fun, if you are able, to make a day of visiting a few galleries in the area. Going on the bus or offering a friend a lift would help with carbon cutting.

'World of Difference' is another shop worth visiting in our efforts to have a sustainable Christmas. There is a gorgeous selection of hand knitted hats and gloves and many, many other great gift items. If we can 'put our money where our heart is' it will not just be the receiver of the gift who benefits but also the person who produced it.

3. When shopping generally, keep up the 'I'm fine without a bag, thank you' mantra.

WAR & CHRISTIANITY - DIFFERENT PATHS TO GLORY

In one of the churches in my previous benefice is a memorial, carved in stone, to four male relatives of a former Rector of the Church. All four men died in the service of their country in the last decades of the 19th century or the first decades of the 20th century. At the bottom of the memorial is the inscription in Latin: *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*. This Latin phrase does not date from any Christian writing, it is pre-Christian and forms part of a collection of verse by the Roman writer Horace. It is not hard to understand why his fellow Romans would have considered Horace's line: *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*, a worthy one. Translated into English it literally means "It is sweet and proper to die for the fatherland." From what we hear in the media there are, apparently, still parts of the world where such sentiment prevails today. On the other hand it was not a sentiment shared by the First World War poet; Wilfred Owen. One of Owen's most famous poems about that war was entitled "*Dulce et decorum est*". Owen describes some of the awful aspects of that conflict before concluding:

My friend, you would not tell with such high zest

To children ardent for some desperate glory,

The old Lie: "Dulce et decorum est

Pro patria mori".

When thinking about what Owen saw in that conflict and why he considered that phrase from Horace a lie, it is important to understand the context in which it was written. Owen was commissioned in the Manchester Regiment in 1916, and saw action on the Somme in the early part of 2017 and was eventually evacuated with shell shock in May of that year. He was taken to the war hospital at Craiglockhart near Edinburgh in June 2017. It was at Craiglockhart that Owen first drafted *Dulce et decorum est*. It is a poem that describes a gas attack in which one unfortunate soldier fails to get his gas mask on in time and the subsequent consequences of his exposure to gas. One must assume that Owen's descriptions were based on his own experiences. Owen went back to the front in September 1918 and was killed only 7 days

before the Armistice on November 11 of that year. Use of toxic gas in warfare is now banned under the Geneva Convention along with other weapons of mass destruction. It is not difficult in this context to both understand and agree with Owen's conclusion about the epithet from the Odes of Horace.

People often ask what the response of a Christian community should be to acts that challenge our values and beliefs. In fact the American folk singer Bob Dylan asked the question, *If God's on our side will he stop the next war?* My instinctive answer to Dylan is to say it is the wrong question. It assumes a relationship that goes beyond our dependence on God's grace. The right question, in my view, is to ask whether our actions are aligned to the will of God. Owen is not decrying the bravery and courage of those who defend our freedoms and our values, but he is challenging the view that it is in some way glorious to die a terrible death, without any thought as to whether there might be a better way. Horace's line was pursued by some members of the early Christian Church in relationship to martyrdom and by English Kings in relation to warfare as exemplified by Shakespeare's Henry V in his speech to his men before Harfleur. Upholding the values and beliefs that Christ taught us is our duty as Christians, but how we do that is something that we must hold before God and try to seek his guidance in relation to all our actions. Surely as Christians we should be asking ourselves whether or not we are doing the will of God, or if you prefer; are we on God's side? This should be a constant anxiety about which we pray.

I think the most pertinent aspect of Christ's teaching that helps me try to understand this situation are his words in John 18, 36. Jesus is being questioned by Pontius Pilate who is asking him whether he is a King and what he has done that the Jewish authorities should have handed him over. To which Jesus replied, *"My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."* For me this puts everything in its right context, because we are all commissioned as Christians to advance God's kingdom, but that kingdom is not of this world. We can only become members of God's kingdom through the grace of God, and most importantly it is through listening

to God and taking things to Him in prayer, that we can best serve his will. We all have freedom to live our lives as we wish, but if we are to get the most out of our lives we need to think what and who is at the centre of them, If we ourselves are at the centre of our lives, if the only thing we serve is our personal interest, the societal structure on which the success of the human race is based is put in jeopardy. But then you say, surely defending our freedom is important? That can't be self centred, and is for the good of all men? Indeed that is the case; we have to find ways to defend our freedoms and to do that most effectively we must base our actions on prayer, on God's guidance through his word and by listening to God. If we resort to armed conflict on the assumption that God is on our side, we are making a grave mistake, instead we should constantly be asking ourselves (and God) whether we are on God's side. In remembering those who have fallen, it is our duty to do our best to ensure that the heroes of future conflicts don't feel victims of a false philosophy as some of the heroes of past conflicts have done, as exemplified by Wilfred Owen.

George Nasmyth

Christians Together Coffee Morning

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 11.30pm on the
following dates:*

26 th September 2022	9 th January 2023	3 rd April 2023
10 th October 2022	23 rd January 2023	17 th April 2023
24 th October 2022	6 th February 2023	1 st May 2023
7 th November 2022	20 th February 2023	15 th May 2023
21 st November 2022	6 th March 2023	29 th May 2023
5 th December 2022	20 th March 2023	

Children Welcome

Fuel Poverty

National Energy Action is a fuel poverty charity based in Newcastle. Their aim is to 'ensure that everyone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is warm and safe at home'. In September they launched their 'Donate the Rebate' appeal aiming to reach those people who will be in receipt of the Government's £400 energy support this winter but who feel that they are financially secure and would prefer that this money went to where it is needed. Anyone interested may like to visit their website www.nea.org.uk/donate/

The Community Centre, which is run by Hannah Moeini, community@NE66, have a 'hardship' fund to help clients when it is necessary. They are expecting to have to support their clients more than usual this winter. Cash is never given. A client who needs fuel support must, using their mobile phone, show a photograph of their metre or bill and a top up can be paid directly to the energy supplier. The centre is a registered charity and as such all financial transactions are audited by the charity commission. Anyone wishing to know more may like to contact the centre at jacqueline.brewster@communityatne66.co.uk

Food Poverty

Alnwick Food Bank supports those in the town who are in food poverty and are often referred by their doctor or a social worker. Their website tells you how you can support them in kind or by making a regular donation, which can be Gift Aided if you are a taxpayer. Cash donations provide an opportunity for them to buy additional resources to meet specific needs of their clients. Their website is www.alnwickdistrictfoodbank.co.uk Telephone 0749 848 8797 or email: alnwickdistrictfoodbank@gmail.com Donations of food can be left at Morrisons, Sainsburys, Nisa, or Lidl. Contact the Alnwick Food Bank directly for regular donations of money or Gift Aid.

Another organisation involved in supporting food poverty is The Trussell Trust: www.trusselltrust.org Details are on their website.

Sue Wiltshire & George Nasmyth

ALNWICK HISTORIC GRAFFITI CRAFT GROUP

A community project to celebrate in various media the historic graffiti from 1764 onwards discovered in Alnwick.



Initial get together

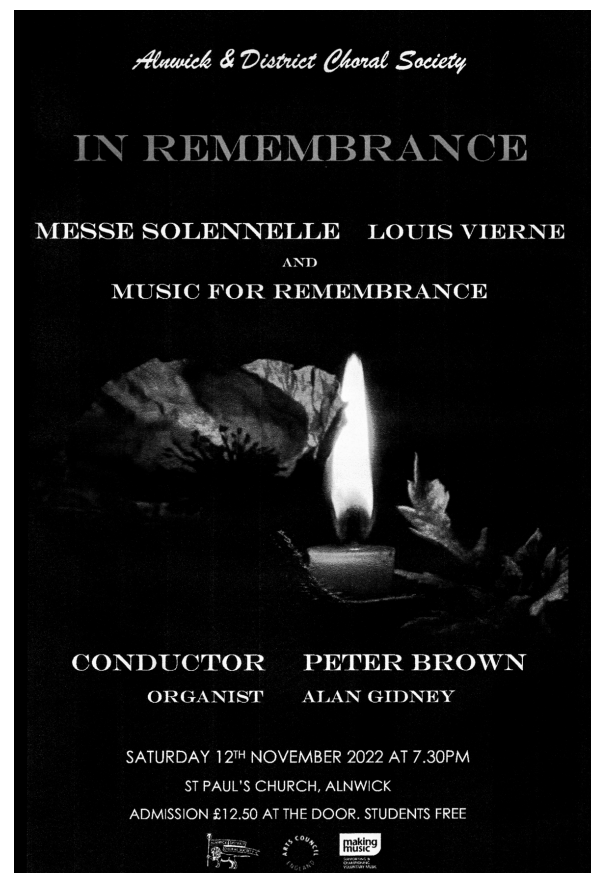
Thursday 17th November 7 to 8-30pm

Alnwick Arts and Crafts Centre

Free Refreshments



Please contact us to book a place or for more information.
01665 606777 enquiries@alnwickartcentre.co.uk



Saturday November 12th at 7.30pm in St. Paul's Church, Alnwick Alnwick & District Choral Society

Our concert for Remembrance weekend is the Messe Solonelle by the French composer Louis Vierne. The Mass was written at the end of the 19th century. The performance will also include:

For the Fallen, *Peter Brown*

Prayer for Ukraine, *John Rutter*

Ave Verum Corpus, *Amadeus Mozart*

(In memory of Colin Start; a previous conductor of the Choral Society who sadly died earlier this year)

Future Dates at St Paul's

Saturday December 17th 6pm

Christmas Concert

Saturday 1st April 2023 "The Messiah"

WINTER MARKET

Following the success of the annual Winter Market held in church last year, this year's major fund-raising effort will again be held in church on Saturday November 26th from 10am until noon.

Entry will be £2 to include coffee / tea and biscuits. Do come along and bring your friends.

As well as refreshments there will be the following stalls:

Grand Draw	Toys
Bottle stall	Tombola
Jams and preserves	Mystery parcels
Cakes, preserves and home baking	Children's games
Crafts	
Books and jigsaws	

Who's Who at St Michael's

VICAR

Vacant

RETIRED CLERGY AND THOSE 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 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

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

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Susan Trafford 01665 606180

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Patty Everitt 07768 869 551

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER

Vacant

PARISH SECRETARY 01665 602797

Lorna Gilroy - who is in the office on Thursday mornings. E-mail: stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com

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GATEWAY - CHURCH MAGAZINE

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COMMUNION

For the **sick** and the **housebound** can be arranged by contacting Pat Taylor 01665 603811

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Please apply to the Churchwardens

TO HIRE THE PARISH HALL

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

For services from Newcastle Cathedral visit their YouTube Channel

<https://tinyurl.com/NclCathedral>

Links to this Channel can be found on the Cathedral Facebook Page as well

<https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleCathedral>



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH *Alnwick*

The main services each week from St Michael's Church in Alnwick can be found on page 2. Details of other Church activities that do not appear in this magazine may be found on the Church **website: www.alnwickanglican.com**

If you wish to view any of the main Sunday Services, they can be found by opening YouTube and searching for St Michael's Church Alnwick. If you then click on the subscribe button (it's free) you will be able to quickly access the site on subsequent occasions.

Copies of **The Gateway** can be obtained from St Michael's Church or ordered for delivery in **small** or **large** print. Phone the Parish Secretary (page 19) 01665 602797 and leave a message, alternatively e-mail: **stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com**

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church of England nor of the editorial committee. **Gateway is Desktop-Published by St Michael's Magazine Group.**

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