

Gateway

October 2022



The Great Nebula in Andromeda
The most distant object visible to the unaided eye
Photo by Stanley Trafford

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. This service is live-streamed on YouTube each week.

On the first Sunday of the month the worship is more informal, using a variety of resources and 'thinking outside the box'.

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. This month it will be a Taizé style service on 23rd October

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



HM The Queen in
Alnwick in 2011

THOSE WHO are as old as me have lived during four reigns, although I was too young to remember the first two.. When I was born King George V was on the throne; he died in 1936 and was replaced by Edward VIII who abdicated in the same year after only eleven months as king.

His younger brother became king, and took the title of George VI. His reign included the years of the Second World War, but in 1952 he died from lung cancer and Princess Elizabeth suddenly found herself Queen. As the king died in his sleep, the precise moment the monarchy passed to Elizabeth cannot be known, but as is well known, she and her husband were

on holiday in Kenya and it fell to the Duke of Edinburgh to tell his wife that she was now Queen.

They had to return to London quickly and were greeted by the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill who confided afterwards that he thought she was too young for this responsibility. Well, time changed that and as we have just been celebrating, the reign of Queen Elizabeth II was the longest of any. And now we have a new King Charles III.

Kingship is a biblical concept. The people of Israel insisted to the prophet and Judge, Samuel, that they wanted a king like other peoples round about. Samuel was doubtful about this but God allowed it to happen and even chose the first king: Saul. Although he started well, Saul was unsatisfactory and failed to repent of his sins. His successor was David who did repent of his sins and God promised that his son would be king after him and the kingship would follow down the generations so long as each king obeyed the laws of the Lord.

The great biblical king was Solomon, David's son. His coronation was carried out by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, "There the priest Zadok took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" (1 Kings 1.39). In the Coronation service the bit we probably won't see on television will be the anointing; certainly we did not see it in the 1953 Coronation

Principal Sunday Readings

Sunday	Holy Communion	Evensong
2nd October Trinity 16	Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4 2 Timothy 1.1-14 Luke 17. 5-10	Nehemiah 5.1-13 John 9
9th Oct Trinity 17	2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5 Luke 18.1-8	Nehemiah 6.1-16 John 15.12-end
16th Oct Trinity 18	Genesis 32.22-31 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5 Luke 18.1-8	Nehemiah 8.9-end John 16.1-11
23rd Oct Trinity 19	Jeremiah 14.7-10, 19-end 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18 Luke 18.9-14	Ecclesiastes 11, 12 2 Timothy 2.1-7
30th October All Saints	Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18 Ephesians 1.11-end Luke 6.20-31	Isaiah 65.17-end Hebrews 11.32-12.2

From the Registers

Baptism

28.8.22

Arlo James Logan

Marriage

16.9.22

Leo Hotchkies and Fassy Thomson

Funerals

30.8.22

Kevin Forster

7.9.22

John Davidson

service. The Coronation is not a political event, it is a religious one, held in the context of a Church of England Communion service and it has something of the nature of an ordination.

Ian Bradley, in his book *God Save the Queen: The Spiritual Heart of the Monarchy (Diamond Jubilee edition)* writes, 'At their coronations kings and queens are not simply crowned and enthroned but consecrated, set apart and anointed, dedicated to God and invested with sacerdotal garb and symbolic insignia ... coronations are primarily religious services rather than constitutional ceremonies.'

UK coronation services are closely modelled on the inauguration ceremonies for the kings of Israel as described in the Old Testament. Its most solemn moment, the anointing of the new monarch with holy oil is directly compared with the anointing of Solomon, and accompanied with the choir singing 'Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king; and all the people rejoiced and said: God save the King, Long live the King, May the king live for ever. Amen. Hallelujah.' Since 1727 these words have been sung to Handel's music, written for the coronation of George II.

We do not know yet what King Charles' Coronation will be like. Almost certainly there will be a greater recognition of other denominations and faiths. Charles said years ago that he thought he should be described as Defender of Faith, rather than Defender of the Faith. Every coin in our money since 1953 has on it the letters DG REG FD meaning, By the Grace of God, Queen, Defender of the Faith. (Or equally, Defender of Faith). Queen Elizabeth has certainly been that, and the tremendous numbers of people queuing for hours to pass through Westminster Hall to see the Queen's coffin, most making some form of bow or salute, indicates how greatly she was admired and loved. (And perhaps causes some people of republican tendencies to think.)

I am so pleased that she survived to enjoy the Platinum Jubilee, but her earthly life came to an end on 8th September. and just two days before that she received the resignation of one prime minister and appointed the next. Truly the old prayer is relevant to our queen: "God give me work until my life is over, and life until my work is done".

The Acting Bishop of Newcastle, Mark Wroe, said:

Colin Perkins

"Queen Elizabeth II served our nation with love and absolute dedication throughout her reign and provided wisdom and stability at times of great change and challenge. Her leadership was greatly admired at home and across the world, and her faith was an inspiration to the Church and beyond."

Editorial

THIS IS my last Gateway as editor. We now have an editorial team chaired by Mr George Nasmyth to whom all contributions should be addressed from now on. It is helpful if they can be submitted by the middle of the preceding month.

His E-mail address is

gandlnasmyth115@btinternet.com

It was soon after I moved to Alnwick in 2001 that The Gateway invited comments and replies to a questionnaire. I was rash enough to respond and soon found myself responsible for the front page which up till then had not had pictures on it. Since then the job has expanded. Because of the cost we are supposed to use colour only on the front, back and centre pages.

I am grateful to all the people who have contributed articles, Thoughts for the Month, quizzes, poems and prayers. We have had favourite hymns, poems, places, verses and so on, all of which have given scope to a variety of people to express something of their faith. I am sure there are still many readers who have something to say.

Keep them coming!

Colin Perkins

HARVEST THANKSGIVING
will be celebrated on Sunday 2nd October



A new face and a new challenge

I AM WRITING this article by way of a personal introduction, which seemed appropriate as I have been asked, and have agreed to take over the current responsibilities of Rev Colin Perkins in relation to the Gateway magazine. Although I moved to Alnwick with my wife, Lalik, about 18 months ago and for most of that time have been attending Sunday Worship at St Michael's, I rather suspect that many of you won't know my name even if you recognise my face which is now beardless. Responsibility for any perceived reticence is mine entirely because it's up to me to introduce myself. So let me start by making amends. My name is George Nasmyth, I was born in 1951 in London and until I graduated as a doctor in 1976, I had lived, worshipped and been educated in the Thames Valley at various locations in and between London and Oxford.

When our first son was born in 1982, I decided that my peripatetic lifestyle as a trainee surgeon was no excuse for not being an active member of a church community, the more so given the vows that I had made when he was baptised at St Paul's Church, Cookridge, Leeds. We worshipped there regularly for three years usually going to the shorter 08.00 service as our sons had not reached an age when both were able to attend Sunday School. Active



participation at that time was not easy, with two small boys and a job that often occupied my time in the evenings and weekends. It did have its lighter moments when one or other of the boys stole the limelight. One morning when the chalice was held up during the Eucharistic prayers, Jamie cried out "Peep bo" which brought an unexpected smile to everyone's face. After three years of surgical research in Leeds we moved to the Wirral and I completed my surgical training in Liverpool. Apart from being regular attenders at St Peter's in Heswall, the possibility of more active participation in the life of the Church was put on hold.

On completion of my higher surgical training, I obtained a post as Consultant General Surgeon in Barrow-in-Furness. We lived in the village of Urswick which was about four miles southwest of Ulverston

and six miles northeast of Barrow. After some research and sampling we settled on St Matthew's in the hamlet of Dendron as our new church home. It was originally built during the English Civil War as a Chapel of Ease. Even after modifications and additions over the centuries it remained small and at a push could seat about 80 people. There was a regular congregation of about 30-40 people including several children and we quickly felt a part of the "family" there.

In 1993, there was a new incumbent who had responsibility for four parish churches, as Urswick had now been added to the three (Dendron, Aldingham and Rampside) that had been looked after by his predecessor. Before taking Holy Orders, the new vicar, an American, had been a pilot in the US Airforce, and his arrival was headlined by the local newspaper as "God's Top Gun comes to Low Furness". He quickly saw that it was unrealistic to try to continue delivering the existing service pattern across four churches every Sunday, especially as the resident population of the four parishes combined was no more than about 3000 souls. Some of us were therefore given a crash course of instruction in relation to leading worship (Morning and Evening Prayer) and we got on with it. I also took advantage of my continuing friendship with my former headmaster (by then in his mid-

eighties) to get advice and tips on preaching. He was a lay preacher and Reader himself and was delighted in my interest.

By the time the incumbent changed again I was leading worship (Morning Prayer) about once a month. After the turn of the millennium, the Diocese began a process of formal training for lay ministry which was predominantly at weekends and we were privileged to have not just the Diocesan Training lead who was herself excellent, but tuition from both the Diocesan Bishops (Carlisle and Penrith). This culminated in us not just being formally trained but also certified as local lay ministers. By 2010, I was leading morning prayer on two Sundays every month, there was one communion service a month and on the Third Sunday in the month there was no service at Dendron. Given that I was still working full time I had not thought it advisable to get involved with the PCC as well as leading worship. On retirement in 2016 that changed because I had agreed to take over the magazine, *The Benefice News*. Thereafter I wrote, published, and printed a 24–32-page magazine 11 times a year, until I left for Alnwick. I must confess to quite enjoying that role and over time began to change the format and content. Unfortunately, our declining congregations (in all our churches) and the reluctance of anyone under the age of 65 to throw their hat in the

ring and help run things was taking its toll, both in terms of outreach and maintaining both financial stability and the fabric of buildings that were aged between 140 and 800 years (all, excepting the youngest, were at least Grade 2 listed). By the time I left Dendron my roles had burgeoned. I was Churchwarden, PCC Treasurer, the lay minister who took most services as well as being the editor of the monthly Magazine for all four churches. That was arguably an intolerable situation that I should not have agreed to.

The thing I have missed most since moving is the fun, and it was fun, of writing and publishing the magazine. One of the things that is common to nearly everything we do if we are to be successful is the need to build trust. We must build trust

both within teams and between those teams and the people we serve. In this context, I would like to share with you the question that I have asked myself increasingly over the past twenty years. That question is whether I am doing something that simply creates a warm glow of self-satisfaction within a church, or whether I am making the light of Christ shine more brightly in my own life, so that others may be attracted to that light (Matthew 5, 15). Jesus shone his light into the world's darkest places, upon the sick, the poor, upon tax collectors and prostitutes, and I feel very strongly that if we can't be sure that our light is shining into the darkest of places, we should ask ourselves, "Why not?"

George Nasmyth

Bible Sunday 30th October: how many translations by now?

EVER WONDER how many Bible translations there are in the world? And how many more are still needed? Wycliffe Bible Translators reports the following, as of 2021:

There are now 3,495 languages, which have some Scripture available to 7.04 billion people.

This figure of 3,495 breaks down into:
717 languages with a complete Bible – 5.75 billion people
1,582 languages with a complete New Testament (some also have Old Testament portions) – 830 million people
1,196 languages with some translated Bible portions – 457 million people

Meanwhile, there are a further 828 languages which have work in progress – 67.6 million people. And also, there are 1,892 languages still waiting for translation (or preparatory work) to begin – 145 million people.

Oberammergau 2022

Fr Robert writes ...

PHILIP AND I have just returned from leading a large group of folk to Oberammergau to see the 42nd Passion Play. We stayed five nights in an hotel in the Austrian Tyrol followed by two nights in the Alte Post hotel at the heart of the small village of Oberammergau. Of course, having been postponed because of Covid-19 – a 21st Century plague as some have described it – you may be forgiven for wondering if we would ever see the play but we did and how amazing it was, too.

During our time in the Tyrol we visited a number of churches, including a visit to the cathedral in Salzburg where we listened to an organ recital (on one of the 6 organs) had a tour of the Sacristy and shared in hospitality over a glass of wine, enjoyed great scenery and did the

usual touristy things – walking part of the St James Way with opportunities for worship along the route, talking, drinking coffee and eating apple strudel!

Some of you may have heard of Oberammergau and perhaps attended the magnificent play, which has been performed every year from 1634 to 1680 and every 10 years from 1680 with only a few exceptions. If you have not seen or heard of the play you might be interested to know that the village has a population of about 5,000. The theatre seats 5,000 and there is a very slick logistical operation to get 25,000 visitors each week into and out of the village, and into the theatre itself. There are five performances each week, from May to October. The theatre is enormous and the stage about 50 metres wide, perhaps more! The audience sits in relative



comfort in the theatre while the stage is open, although since 2010 an awning (roof cover) over the stage is used if wet. I am pleased to say that the awning does not block the Bavarian scenery behind the set! We had hot weather in Austria and cool, but dry, weather for the play – which was a bonus!

The play is long: two and a half hours in the afternoon, followed by a break for dinner, and then two and three-quarter hours in the evening. The language is German but each

think, was to demonstrate the wealth of King Herod.

Of course, in the beginning was the vow and behind the vow lies a story. The year was 1633 and the bubonic plague was spreading through the mountain village of Oberammergau. People were dying. The surviving villagers feared they would be next. So, they came up with a plan that would change their community forever. Out of a desperate hope that God would show them mercy, they pledged they



member of the audience is given a script in their own language. In the large crowd scenes – the entry into Jerusalem, the cleansing of the Temple, and the sentencing of Jesus by Pilate – there were several hundred people, including children, on stage together with horses, a donkey, goats, sheep, pigeons, and two camels. The camels' purpose, I

would stage a play depicting the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The next year, in 1634 they performed their first Passionspiele. No one else in the community died as a result of the plague and the village has been keeping its promise ever since.

Perhaps, this year especially everything Jesus talked about more than 2000 years ago seemed more

relevant than ever. Yes, the world is evolving and we live in 21st Century ways, but we still have hunger, disease and war.

People come from all over the world to Oberammergau to see the Passion play and with each new season of the play comes the opportunity to refresh the script. The Director, Christian Stückl, felt this year that the world has changed a lot in the past 12 years, and therefore it was important to play Jesus differently too. In this production Jesus is louder and more confrontational than he was portrayed in 2010. The director believed this time Jesus has to shout to get his message across, so we saw when Jesus is with the high priests, Judas and his disciples, he argues more about what is the right way to live. Stückl says, “there are sentences in the scripts that two years ago, we perhaps didn’t think about in the same way that we do today.”

At the beginning of the play, we heard Jesus talking passionately about fear in Jerusalem, about war and about the rich and the poor and how people are suffering from hunger and disease. Perhaps our Lord’s words have become even more meaningful for us over the past two years because they are about topics that are affecting us all right now.

Of course, the 5,000 people who gather in the theatre in

Oberammergau 5 days each week are there for all sorts of different reasons. For some people it will be their first experience of theatre, their first experience of witnessing the Passion of Christ in all its fullness; for others it is simply a piece of theatre, a spectacle, a response to a friend who simply said, “Come”. For yet others it is a spiritual experience, a long-awaited encounter with the living God – the One who walked on water and said, to Peter, ‘Come’. That same Jesus who comes to us day by day, week by week, in the simple gifts of bread and wine, Christ’s body and his blood. The same, sociable Jesus who still says, ‘Come’.

Whether people who travel to watch the passion play in Oberammergau have the faith that we may or may not have, one cannot be unaffected by the huge personal commitment of those who have lived and are living in that tiny village who have spent nearly 400 years putting Christ centre stage. The play reminds us that the person of Jesus, this extraordinary man has a timeless message for everyone; He continues to teach humanity about changing the world to make it a better place. Jesus made history HIS STORY therefore HE will not fail us. Like the people of Oberammergau, may we in Alnwick have the grace to believe and trust in Him.

St Francis of Assisi 4th October

- love for the Creation

ST FRANCIS (1181 – 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious – until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration

for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

Alnwick and District Choral Society - 2022/2023 Season

Saturday November 12 at 7.30pm in St. Paul's Church, Alnwick

Our concert for Remembrance weekend. We will be performing the "Messe Solenne" by the French composer Louis Vierne. The mass was written at the end of the 19th century. In addition there will be a number of other pieces, including Peter Brown's "For The Fallen", John Rutter's "Prayer For Ukraine", and Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus", which will be sung in memory of Colin Start, a previous conductor of the choir and who sadly died earlier this year.

Saturday December 17 at 6pm in St. Paul's Church, Alnwick

Our Christmas Concert switches to a Saturday but at a time to allow you to bring along the children and grandchildren. We will be performing Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" as well as a good selection of Christmas carols, some of which give our audience a chance to participate.

Saturday April 1 2023 at 7.30pm in St. Paul's Church, Alnwick

For our Spring Concert we will be performing Handel's "Messiah".

*Brian Corbett
Alnwick and District Choral Society*

Five senses

It seems sometimes we live our lives
Within our walls and fences
So nothing of the world outside
Can breach our strong defences;
So fully do we concentrate
On stresses and expenses
We fail to quite appreciate
Our five God-given senses.

Just touch and stroke a cat's soft coat
And smell a fragrant flower,
The taste of honey in your throat
A song's inspiring power!
The sight of rolling countryside
Of nature, gently thrilling
Just let your senses be your guide
To daily joys fulfilling.

For sometimes, through our ailing health
Our senses are denied us
No doctor's skill or plenteous wealth
Can put them back inside us;
So if you have your senses, five
Thank God – and daily use them
Part of the joy to be alive –
And one day we may lose them.

By Nigel Beeton



Angel Tree – Bringing Joy

ANGEL TREE QUIZ AND PRISON FELLOWSHIP FOR HMP NORTHUMBERLAND.

Out of those brave people who attempted the quiz, five people completed it successfully. Their names went into a draw and the winner was Mrs. Jane Shepherd of Alnwick. Congratulations to her and all of you. Thank you too for all your donations which will go Prison Fellowship by October 5th.

The Answers:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. NUDE STACK ATOP CLOTH (7,4,5) | BERWICK/ UPON TWEED |
| 2. ICY WATER (10) | COLDSTREAM |
| 3. CHURCH BUT ABODE (4,7,) | KIRK / YETHOLM |
| 4. WHEAT TOR (8) | CORNHILL |
| 5. APPLAUDERS (8) | CLAPPERS |
| 6. TRANSPORT COOKED PIG (6) | CARHAM |
| 7. CARE FOR GROG (7) | MINDRUM |
| 8. BREEZY SLYNESS (5,4) | WINDY/GYLE |
| 9. INERT LIQUID (9) | DEADWATER |
| 10. BOAT'S BOTTOM GERMAN 'THE' (7) | KIELDER |
| 11. BITER'S RESIDENCE (10) | MIDGEHOLME |
| 12. FISH'S PARTS +GROUND (8) | GILSLAND |
| 13. SPREAD IGNITE (10) | BUTTERBURN |
| 14. HIGHER LAIR WIEGHT (5,6) | UPPER / DENTON |
| 15. BABY SHEEP IS IT HEAVY (9) | LAMBERTON |
| 16. HOLY FINGERPRINTS MINUS 'D' (2,4) | ST. / ABBS |
| 17. SEAR YOUR 'NORTH & SOUTH' (9) | BURNMOUTH |
| 18. SPY CAKEHOLE (8) | EYEMOUTH |
| 19. FLOWERLET THE FRENCH (5) | BUDLE |
| 20. CAIN'S MIXED-UP BROTHER (4) | BEAL |

Thank you again.

Rachel Robinson.

Climate Change and Earth Changing Together

Mobile Phones

It is obviously important to save energy whenever we can. However, and it is a big however, it is crucial that we don't 'sweat the small stuff' at the expense of the big stuff, eg a mobile phone plugged in all day uses as much energy as driving a car for one second ('Sustainable energy without hot air' David Mackay). So, if you feel that you are doing everything else that you can to minimise your carbon footprint then constantly shutting down open apps and tabs on your phone, deleting draft and old messages, and photos in particular, is a good thing.

Leaving things on standby

The newer the appliance, whether it be a TV, music system, microwave or whatever, the less power it is likely to use when left on standby. (The cost of running an up-to-date TV for a year on standby is about £1). Older appliances will use more energy. While the figures we are considering are small, many households will have things constantly running, year in, year out. Multiply this by millions of homes and obviously it has a significant impact. Switch off what you can, (at the mains), paying special attention to items in rooms that are not in constant use.

Clothes.

The fashion industry is the second most polluting industry in the world. For example, conventional cotton (as opposed to organic) needs huge amounts of water to grow, (about 2,700L for one shirt) and it is often referred to as a 'dirty' crop because of the huge amounts of harmful pesticides used to maximise yields. Cotton farmers suffer as a consequence. The industry must change and in the mean time the best advice for the consumer is to simply buy less. The advice from Ethical Consumer* is worth taking to heart;

Buy fewer clothes, preferably buy second-hand;
recycle and upcycle and if you need to buy new, buy ethical brands.

When clothes are made 'ethically' ie when wages have been fair throughout the supply chain, when sustainable fabric has been used, when pollution from dyes and the carbon footprint has been kept to a minimum, clothes are more expensive. When we pay these higher prices we are paying the true cost.

Some of the familiar names on the high street *are* making strides to implement the necessary changes. However, there is a lot of ‘green-washing’ carried out and it is very difficult to make a truly guilt free choice. The good news is that, for those people who don’t mind spending time on the internet there are many, many more truly ethical brands of clothing than there used to be, though the price tag will reflect the efforts made. There are also many websites selling ‘pre-loved’ clothes.

It seems then that buying second hand or not at all is the very best ethical choice we can make and a lot of people do find hunting around in charity shops great fun. The euphoric feeling when a bargain is found is not to be matched! If you are just starting out, a couple of thoughts – look at clothes at least one size above and one size below your usual size, take your time and go regularly as new items are put out each day. (Ladies, if you are after a comfy, loose fitting jumper don’t forget to look in the men’s section.) It can take dedication but you may well find that it is worth the effort.

A final word about items that you no longer have a use for but that you feel are even ‘too far gone’ for reselling, something torn perhaps or stained. Please don’t put such things into your household waste. Most charity shops, and definitely all 7 which are currently operating in Alnwick, are happy to take ‘rags’ which they are able to sell on to be cleaned, shredded and used for various fillings e.g. car seats. They will take any material item – old dish cloths, threadbare socks, anything at all.

(*Ethical Consumer is an independent, not for profit organisation which researches and publishes facts and figures around the sustainability of over 40,000 items to help the consumer make informed choices, www.ethicalconsumer.org. Readers may also like to google <https://goodmakertales.com> for information about some well known brands that are making strides to implement good policies).

Smile

Helping Hands

In some parts of the country small local groups are organising themselves to support those people who are struggling with the rising cost of living and in particular the cost of fuel. People who are financially secure are coming forward to donate their government fuel grant so that it can be redistributed to households that are in difficulty.

(If you are interested in helping locally, please speak to Sue Wiltshire 01665 604029/07814822783/ sue.wiltshire15@gmail.com)

Sue Wiltshire

Who's Who

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 AND CHOIRMASTER

Vacant

THE PARISH SECRETARY 01665 602797

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

MOTHERS' UNION Branch Leader

Val Hawker 01665 602348

(Mobile) 07732431056

COMMUNION

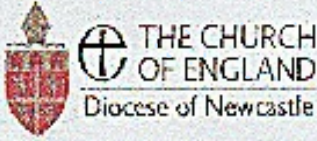
for the SICK and HOUSEBOUND
can be arranged by contacting
Pat Taylor 01665 603811

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