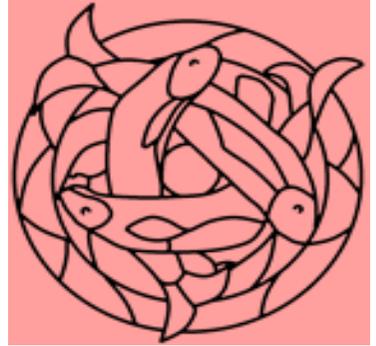


# PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2019



**THE WILDERNESS – STANLEY SPENCER, 1954**

# Worship at the Church of the Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

## SUNDAY

- 8.00 am**      **Holy Communion [said]**
- 10.00 am**      **Holy Communion and Sunday Club for children in term time.**  
*On the second Sunday of each month the children join in the Parish Communion for a specially adapted liturgy at our All-Age service*
- 6.00 pm**      **Evening Prayer**  
*On the last Sunday of the month a Book of Common Prayer Evensong is celebrated.*

## MONDAY

- 6.00 pm**      **Christian Meditation in the Parish Centre**

## WEDNESDAY

- 11.00 am**      **Holy Communion [said] according to the Book of Common Prayer**  
This service is held in the chancel. Coffee and biscuits are served in the Parish Centre before the service, from 10.15 onwards.

## AT ALL TIMES

The Church is open during the hours of daylight and the **Lady Chapel** – recessed on the south side of the chancel – is available for personal use.

**The Votive Candle stand** beside the pulpit may also be used as an aid to prayer, remembrance and dedication. Please leave money for candles in the collection box on the stand. You may find the following prayer useful when lighting a candle.

*Lord may this candle be a light for you to enlighten me in my difficult decisions, and may it be a fire for you to purify me from all pride and selfishness. May it be a flame for you to build warmth into my heart towards my family, my neighbours and all those who meet me. Through this prayer I place in your care those I come to remember, especially..... In leaving this candle, I wish to give you something of myself. Help me to continue this prayer into everything I do this day. Amen.*





**THE VICAR WRITES:** I was amused when I once read in a church notice sheet that *'The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals'!*? We are entering Lent and I am always surprised that many people with no real church connection ask others what they are giving up for Lent and talk of their own fast. Often these deprivations seem minor and require little sacrifice or self-discipline. Many assume that fasting in Lent relates to the forty days which Jesus spent fasting in the desert after his baptism but this is only a secondary link. In the early church preparation for

baptism, the catechumenate, took three years and Lent was the final season of preparation for baptism at Easter. As strict rules for worship precluded the catechumen from being present for the Eucharist, baptism was a very special moment. So Lent is as much a time for reflection, learning, acceptance and welcome as it is for fasting, just as Jesus' forty days was a time of reflection and preparation for his coming ministry of teaching, healing and self-giving sacrifice.

When we consider what we might *give up* for Lent I would suggest that we think what we might *give* for Lent. We might give up chocolate or alcohol and give what we might have spent to charity. We might use our time differently - volunteering with a community group rather than relaxing self-indulgently. During Lent and Holy Week, some of us here will be giving up time for personal and group reflection as we study *Looking Through Jesus*, a book by local vicar Alan Bartlett which uses daily reflections from Luke's Gospel to guide us through to Easter Day – for details see page six.

The Lenten fast is still alive in our current culture, even if pursued with skewed motives: we should be humbly self-reflective rather than brashly self-righteous. At Matthew 6 Jesus says *And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.* Lent should be a joy rather than a duty, a time when we can inwardly grow into a deeper relationship with Jesus through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. So I hope that we can see Lent in its true context and gain a positive perspective on this wonderful season as we consider what we give as well as give up.

**Steve Dixon**

## EDITORIAL - THE B\*\*\*\*\* WORD

**John Pearce writes:** It is a matter of record that the pattern of Anglican voting in the EU referendum differed sharply from the national pattern. 52% of the participating electorate voted Leave as against 48% who voted Remain, whereas 66% of Anglicans voted Leave and only 34% Remain. The only Anglicans who showed enthusiastic support for Remain were Evangelicals, who produced a clear majority for Remain. Brexit has thus pointed up the sharp divisions in the Church of England. Justin Welby and John Sentamu were both, before the referendum, fervent and proselytising Remainers, so it is interesting that both men have recently moderated their fervour. A joint statement in late 2018 read:

*“We echo the call of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to Christians and all those of faith and goodwill to give time for prayer beginning this Sunday in their local churches or as they choose: praying for wisdom, courage, integrity and compassion for our political leaders and all MPs; for reconciliation; and for fresh and uniting vision for all in our country.”*

This neutral, not to say neutered, statement contrasts strongly with Justin Welby’s stance in June 2016, when he warned against succumbing to our worst instincts on immigration, said that we should remain in the EU to avert economic damage, which would harm the poorest in our society, and that we should be building bridges and not barriers, peace and reconciliation being principles at the heart of Britain’s Christian heritage.

This partisan stance makes the bland 2018 statement hard to understand. Some commentators suggest that this change of heart stems from Welby’s realising that his Remain stance aggravates the tension between Anglo Catholics and Evangelicals which, deplorably, forms a significant part of the Anglican narrative. Evangelicals are the majority of Anglican membership; but power, in Synod and the hierarchy is Anglo Catholic. This makes political sense of Justin Welby’s recent statement that he prays in tongues daily, thus affirming that he has not left behind his Evangelical roots at HTB. All of which is to demonstrate that the Christian attitude to Brexit is rooted in political attitudes as diverse and contradictory as those which have turned the whole process into the colossal and divisive shambles which seems to invade our every waking moment.

The problem is that in concentrating on the effects of Brexit on the Church’s internal politics [as grubby and convoluted as secular politics] our hierarchy has now forgotten the people at the sharp end of the process; those worried about losing jobs, benefits, businesses, educational opportunities, families, citizenship.

On this last topic, this achingly sad letter below appeared in the *Church Times* on February 23<sup>rd</sup> last. Other than some light editing for space, it can speak for itself.

*“Sir: I am a Belgian living in the UK, and a member of the Church of England. While I am not speaking on behalf of all EU-citizen members, I speak for many when I say that I am deeply disappointed about the lack of moral leadership exhibited by the Church with regard to Brexit, and, particularly, to our rights as citizens and our human dignity. I was disgusted when the Lords Spiritual voted down an amendment to the Brexit Bill which would secure our rights in the event of “no deal”. Watching John Sentamu’s speech in the House of Lords turned my stomach. I thought, if anyone knew what it was like to feel like a foreigner, that he would.*

*Now we are months further, and it’s still possible that there is no deal and our rights are all up in the air; nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. A simple amendment to the withdrawal Bill could have stopped it, but no; our uncertainty continues. Maybe the transitional deal will be scuppered; it is apparently such a burden to have EU citizens come here to get the same rights as other EU citizens.*

*The Church, meanwhile, remains silent. My letters to Lambeth Palace go largely unanswered. When I do get one, it is along the lines of “We’re already doing enough.” I quote from a recent letter: “I trust that these examples will reassure you that the Archbishop is aware of the concerns you have and is sympathetic to them.” (The examples are wishy-washy speeches about changing times.)*

*I used to go to church weekly, but after the referendum it all changed. I felt that I could not go anymore. The past two Novembers, I watched the ceremonies from a distance and wondered how I was ever part of it. Did I honestly sing “God save the Queen” along with the congregation? Who am I kidding? She is not my Queen, and the C of E is the Church for English people. I can’t talk to my vicar either, as my former vicar moved away shortly before the referendum and I have not been in touch with the new one. So I feel lonely, alienated, and angry at the Church. Perhaps I am also angry at God for making this happen and staying silent while this is all going on under the guise of democracy. I doubt that my letter will change anything in the Church, but I just wanted to let you know: no, you are not doing enough; you need to stand up and show moral leadership.”*

The salient detail above is the failure to answer to letters, which suggests that His Excellency places a higher priority on trying to mediate the Evangelical – Catholic conflict [which neither party actually wishes to resolve], than on attending to the needs of a troubled and endangered member of his flock. And if a shepherd cannot make his flock feel valued, protected and safe, then what is he *for*?

The Church of the Holy Saviour

# Lent 2019 Course



[holysaviours.org.uk](http://holysaviours.org.uk)

Explore daily readings which invite us to take a fresh look at the person of Jesus and what he means to us today, then come together in five weekly discussions about our journey through Luke's presentation of Jesus.

Starting:

2.00pm Tue 12 March

7.30pm Thu 14 March

at the Vicarage, 1 Crossway



Looking  
through  
Jesus  
Alan Bartlett

# LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER PROGRAMME 2019

**Steve Dixon writes:** the following programme includes the innovation of a Sunrise Service on Easter Day [which will replace the Easter Eve service formerly held on Easter Saturday evening]. This will start at 0530 in advance of sunrise at 0549, and will take place at the Spanish Battery. We will light [in a barrel] an Easter Fire, and breakfast will be provided afterwards.

## Sunday worship in Lent:

<b>6 March</b>	Ash Wednesday	7pm Holy Communion
<b>31 March</b>	Mothering Sunday	10am Parade Service
<b>7 April</b>	Lent 5	11.30am APCM
<b>14 April</b>	Palm Sunday	Services as usual

## Holy Week:

<b>15 April</b> Monday	7.00 pm Compline with Holy Week Reflection
<b>16 April</b> Tuesday	7.00 pm Compline with Holy Week Reflection
<b>17 April</b> Wednesday	7.00 pm Compline with Holy Week Reflection
<b>18 April</b> Maundy Thursday	7.00 pm Holy Communion
<b>19 April</b> Good Friday	11.00 am Children's service
	2.00 pm Vigil of the Cross

## Easter Day – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April

5.30 am	Sunrise Service at Spanish Battery
8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	All Age Holy Communion
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer

## Lent Study Groups

2.00 pm Tuesdays: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>; April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

7.30pm Thursdays: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>; April 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>



## ALL-AGE WORSHIP AT HOLY SAVIOURS

SUNDAY MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> - MOTHERING SUNDAY

The 1000 Sunday Service will be an All-Age service combined with a Parade Service for our Uniformed Organisations.

This will be a service of Holy Communion especially adapted so that children of all ages can participate.

Music and songs will be accompanied by the Church Band.

## CHURCH FLOWERS

**Sheila Park writes:** There will be baskets for contributions towards the cost of the Easter Flowers at the back of Church and in the Parish Centre from Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March. People often ask me what we do with the altar flowers; well, we keep them going as long as we can. They are moved around the church, maybe into the Lady Chapel or the porch. On Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> last I found, when arranging the flowers in the porch that there were still three carnations alive from the arrangements done at Christmas – eight weeks old! So you see how carefully we can nurture our flowers in the winter temperatures.

## THE ELECTORAL ROLL - A REMINDER

We will begin the revision of our Electoral Roll on Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>, when enrolment forms will be available for completion. The period for completion will end on Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> when the new roll will be closed before its presentation at the Annual Parish Church Meeting on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that membership on the current electoral roll does not qualify you for automatic inclusion on the new one – you need to renew your membership by filling out the form. New members may also apply during the enrolment period. If you have any queries or concerns, please direct these to Stuart Crozier who, as Parish Administrator, is also our Electoral Roll Officer. Telephone him during office hours [weekdays 0900 – 1300] on 0191 597 9815 or email [office@holysaviours.org.uk](mailto:office@holysaviours.org.uk).

## FROM THE PCC MEETING, TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019

**John Pearce writes:** the following is an abstract of business transacted at the most recent meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

### Matters arising

- quotations for building work on the church porch and parish hall had been received, totalling £169,000 in all; discussion of these was deferred
- a quotation of £1290 for work on the garden trees had been received and was unanimously accepted
- the new notice board has been installed
- the Social and Events sub-committee will meet this month
- twenty people have signed up for the Lent course; referring to the “fish” logo [based on the porch Millennium Window] used on the Lent Course poster, **Steve Dixon** proposed that this logo be adopted as the church’s official logo. This proposal was carried – see this month’s Parish News cover
- Steve Dixon had written to Ecclesiastical Insurance asking for a copy of the Health and Safety Audit Report; Ecclesiastical said that the audit had had nothing to do with them; **Stuart Crozier** reported that the email he had been sent clearly stated that it originated from Ecclesiastical

### Reports

- **Steve Dixon** reported that the change of time for the Wednesday morning service had been well received, and had recruited two new members for the lunch club
- the Mothering Sunday service was extensively discussed; the feeling was that it should be Eucharistic, but be as short and interesting as possible
- **The wardens** reported briefly; the new Archdeacon may make a visitation this year, and the church log book is up to date
- much positive feedback had come in after the February All-Age Service, especially its interactive element; Steve Dixon that he would aim to continue in this style
- it was noted that there is still a demand for a Pram Service, and the PCC agreed in principle to its continuance although thought would need to be given to days, times, possible clashes with other activities and the needs of siblings
- two PCC members will reach the end of their three year term; of these, **Tony Baird** will stand down and **Liz Shipway** will stand for re-election

- there is no need to elect new Deanery Synod members as all three have at least a further year to serve
- **Diane Bayley** will stand down as Churchwarden at Easter, and Steve Dixon expressed everyone's thanks for her committed service which had included two interregnums. A volunteer has been identified who is willing to stand as Churchwarden, but this need not predicate other candidates from coming forward
- **Steve Dixon** highlighted the need for a new Vision Statement, and led an exercise in the meeting which produced words and phrases which could form the basis of such a statement. This list will be printed in a large format, and the congregation asked to endorse and add to the list as they see fit. The PCC's ideas appear below

### Standing items

- the church accounts for 2018-19 are with the auditors and should be signed off by March 16th, the required 21 days before the APCM. **Karen Bilton** noted that January plate collections were slightly down, that Parish News subscriptions were being collected, that the Ceilidh takings had been shared between the church and W3, and that parish share was being paid having been held at last year's levels
- a 2.5% pay increase was unanimously agreed for the Organist and the Parish Administrator
- our investment portfolio was currently valued at £331,327 – a 1% increase. **Ian Buxton** noted that in the event of a hard Brexit, this value will increase further given that this would be the result of a fall in the value of the pound
- quotations regarding the wireless control of our heating are being sought as, despite **Steve Dixon's** re-configuring of the controls, the heating is on constantly – the thermostat, currently near the boiler house door, may be in the wrong place
- the safeguarding policy, circulated prior to the meeting, was signed off
- there were no Deanery or Diocesan Synod reports

### Correspondence

- a letter from the New Friends of Northumberland Park soliciting financial support for their Labyrinth project had been received. It was felt that whilst such support might form part of our future charity giving, we should not offer a guarantee of support. On the other hand, an idea that we could offer them the use of the Church Hall free of charge for a fundraising project received general approval

- the PCC agreed to support a delegation to *Lead Your Church Into Growth* programme meetings. This would involve one full day [Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September] at a local church, and a two day event [October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>] at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel. The cost would be £35 per delegate, and delegates would need to commit to substantial preparation and follow up work as well as to the meetings themselves
- Tynemouth Village Day Centre had written requesting exemption from the Church Hall hire charge increase which would bring their rent to £18,900 per annum. **Steve Dixon** having declared his interest as chair of the TVDC, a wide ranging discussion followed. It was noted that a previous year's full rent increase had been deferred, which had to be set against a decline in TVDC's client base, and the lack of an alternative local venue. The TVDC's monopoly of daytime use of the Hall made it more difficult for us to market the hall for local hirings. It was also clear that the hall was going to need substantial structural repair expenditure in the near future [estimates for this were £136,000]. It was concluded that, given that we allowed TVDC a substantial discount already, it was unable to accede to their request to waive or defer the rent increase. David Bilton will write to TVDC to this effect

### **Any other business**

- **Ian Buxton** noted that plastic currency notes, especially £5 and £10 values, did not compress well and were apt to fall out of open collection plates. Should we seek more secure receptacles for our collections – deeper bowls, velvet bags with handles, slotted collecting boxes? Following the meeting, two velvet bags were ordered of Kevin Mayhew Church Supplies and these will in use shortly

### **Date of future meetings**

- a short Sunday morning meeting will be convened in mid-March to agree and sign off the Church accounts prior to the Annual Parish Church Meeting, which has been set for April 7th
- the next full PCC meeting will take place on Thursday May 7th, and future dates for subsequent meetings will also be proposed then

**The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15 p.m.**

**Should you wish to raise any matter with the PCC, please speak to any member [see the list in the church porch], phone Stuart Crozier at 0191 597 9815 between 0900 – 1200 on any weekday or email him at [hstcrossway@gmail.com](mailto:hstcrossway@gmail.com)**

## PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2019/20

**Karen Bilton writes:** The Planned Giving Envelopes for your weekly and periodic giving through the next financial year 2019/20 will be available from the back of church, or from Stuart Crozier in the Church Office, from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019. I would be very grateful if you could also deliver any boxes where a friend or neighbour may be unable to collect their own. Please do not hesitate to ring me on (0191) 258 0270 if you

- have any queries or problems concerning the envelopes
- would like to change your method of giving from the envelope scheme to a Banker's Standing Order
- would like to join the Planned Giving Scheme
- would like to increase your annual planned giving amount.

If you give regularly through the collection plate or the blue pew envelopes, perhaps you would consider completing a Promise and, if you are a taxpayer, a Gift Aid declaration form. This would enable Holy Saviour's Church to reclaim the tax element of your gift back from the Inland Revenue (which amounts to 25p for every £1 given), therefore maximising your contribution to the Church at no extra cost to yourself.

The Promise & GA declaration form is a simple document, and it allows us to increase our income each year by a significant amount with the help of the Inland Revenue, as well as giving us a regular and reliably predictable source of income. As soon as I have the necessary information, after 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019, I will be writing to those of you who contribute by the planned giving scheme, either by envelope or by bankers' standing order, with an end of year summary. If you have any queries arising from this, again, please do not hesitate to telephone me.

I would like to thank everyone who gives to Holy Saviour's Church; your contribution is greatly appreciated and needed.

### **PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE**

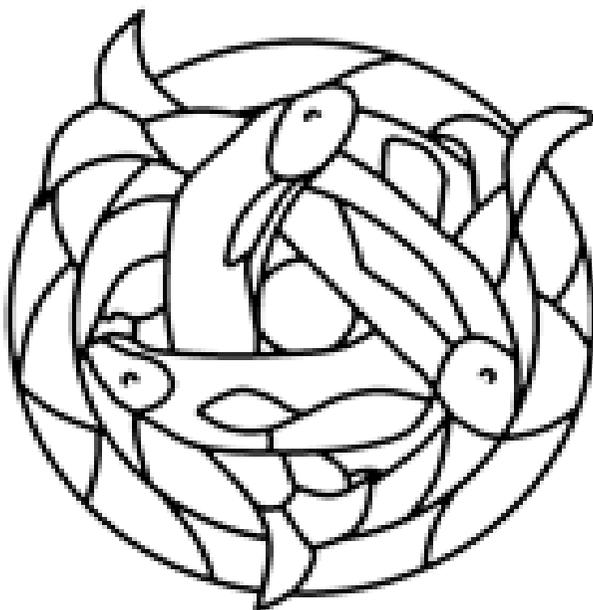
**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>, RE-OPENING ON MONDAY MARCH 11<sup>th</sup>. STUART CROZIER, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, WILL BE ON HOLIDAY. DURING THIS PERIOD PLEASE DIRECT URGENT QUERIES TO REV. CAPTAIN STEVE DIXON ON 0191 697 4562 OR 07729 393 580.**

## A NEW CURATE.....

**John Pearce writes:** As announced on Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>, Malcolm Railton will be joining us as a non-stipendiary minister following his ordination as deacon in St Nicholas' Cathedral on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>. As a non-stipendiary curate Malcolm will serve us on Sundays and for two additional days during the week. We look forward to supporting him at his ordination and when he and his wife Glynis join us during the summer. Should Malcolm be agreeable I hope that I will be able to include an *In his own words* article in the September *Parish News*.

## .....AND A NEW LOGO

As mentioned in the abstract of the PCC minutes [page 9], Steve Dixon has developed a new logo for our church, based on the design for the Millennium window in the church porch. If, like me, you walk past it more often than you look at it, take the chance to pause and take it in properly. The interlocking design of three fish – recalling the Trinity as well as perhaps the most famous parable of Christ – lights up the porch on even the dullest day. Steve has extracted from it an outline drawing which, like all good logos, attracts a second and third look before you can quite work out what it is. See below.



## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



**Marilyn Docherty writes:** On January 26th, The New Friends of Northumberland Park held their first labyrinth walk at Broadway Methodist Church.

Twenty people enjoyed walking the beautiful, hand-painted canvas, 14 metres in diameter, which is based on the design of the famous labyrinth in Chartres Cathedral. This is the design proposed for the Northumberland Park labyrinth.

There is no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. As a metaphor for life's journey, it prompts us to consider the ways in which we choose to travel, whilst gently keeping us safe on its unicursal<sup>1</sup> path leading to our centre.

For those of us who find sitting still difficult, and even impossible, the labyrinth brings inner stillness through movement. Concentrating on the gentle curves our feet are following calms our mental chatter and allows our inner peace to emerge. The stillness moves from the individual to the group, and even the observer is enveloped in the peace that passes all understanding.

The next labyrinth walk will take place on March 16th in Breamish Hall, Powburn and is to be hosted by Reverend Marion Penfold. Everyone will be welcome.

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<sup>1</sup> *I didn't know what unicursal meant either. Historically a labyrinth was a complex puzzle or maze which offered many choices of path and direction. A unicursal labyrinth is one which has only one path to the centre. As a metaphor for self-discovery this seems to me to embody the famous Aristotelean paradox that the more you know, the less you know. Think about it. [Editor]*

## CORRESPONDENCE

**From Heather Clark:** Many of you will have been praying for a little boy called Frank Turnbull who will have his third birthday on March 14th. Almost a year ago, little Frank was diagnosed with high-risk neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer. He is the grandson of a close friend of mine, and the son of Rebecca and Craig, all of whom live locally. After a year of demanding and debilitating treatment including chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy, he is now in remission, and undergoing immunotherapy. In May or June he will go to New York to receive treatment using a pioneering vaccine which we hope will prevent the relapse which can happen with this awful disease. This treatment has been made possible through the enormous generosity of family, friends and complete strangers, as this treatment is not available through the National Health Service. Please continue to pray for Frank; his future is still uncertain, but with God's help he will, we hope, live a long and fruitful life.

### What's on...



## Mothers' Union

*Christian Care For Families*

**Meetings for February and March**

**All meetings take place at 2 pm in the Parish Centre unless otherwise indicated.**

Monday 4th March 2p.m.

Talk by Sandra Davison and Joan Howard on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Monday 25th March 12.00

Lady Day service and lunch

**Sunday Club:** Sunday Club has begun to meet again regularly under the expert guidance of Victoria and Gareth Ruddle. The children's "report back" to the congregation at the end of the 10 o' clock service invariably shows that they are being taught skilfully and engagingly. At the same time we could still do with volunteers to help with Sunday Club sessions. If we could assemble a team large

enough to make leadership an occasional rather than a weekly duty and then we could assure the club's future more securely. If you wish to volunteer, please leave your details with **Stuart Crozier, Parish Administrator**. 1.00pm.

**Dusting & Gardening Dates:** The team meets every other Friday from 9am onwards to clean the church and the Parish Centre, and tidy the garden - followed by coffee, chat and Ian Crawford's famous Cheese Scones at about 10.45am. If you are able to give any time, the next dates are **March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Knitting (and nattering) for fun** Our get-togethers take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. This month we will meet on **March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>**. Bring some needles and wool or a project you are working on – you'll be most welcome. If you prefer to sew, that's fine.

**The Soup Lunch Club** meets every Wednesday at 12 noon in the Parish Centre. Soup and bread are followed by cakes and tea or coffee, all of which costs only £4.00. If you are able to help by providing soup or cakes, please use the sign-up sheet at the back of church. At the moment we are covering the weekly rota effectively enough, but new cooks and confectioners are always welcome. In the first instance, if you wish to volunteer, email the editor of the Parish News [[JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk](mailto:JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk)] and your message will be passed on. Please note that all out of pocket expenses for ingredients can be reimbursed if you wish.

Equally, if you know someone who might like to join the Lunch Club, then please encourage them to come along at 12.00 on a Wednesday, bring them if you can, or if they need transport, contact Stuart Crozier in the Parish Office or email John Pearce at the Parish News email address.

**The Bay Food Bank:** from the Independent newspaper, 12/02/19: *“Amber Rudd, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, has finally said the un-sayable: British food banks are facing unprecedented demand because of the government's failures to manage the introduction of its new benefits system, known as universal credit. This first admission that the welfare system is implicated in the well-documented rise in food poverty, cannot be uncalculated. Someone, somewhere, deep inside the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has decided that gas-lighting the public over the devastating effects of leaving poor people with nothing to live on for five weeks, while the administrative cogs rotate slowly, isn't going to cut it anymore.”*

**Please continue to give generously to our Food Bank.**

## STILL WANTED – BOOK REVIEWERS

**John Pearce writes:** I was disappointed [though not surprised] to receive no response at all to my appeal last month for four fellow congregants to read and review a selection of books which are of interest to any thinking Christian. On the principle that shy bairns get nowt, I am renewing this appeal for a further month as well as adding a further book to the collection [by the splendidly named Ysenda Maxtone Graham]. Like the other four volumes, it is interesting, informative, thought provoking and enjoyable. The list now reads:

- **With Love to the Church**, by Monica Furlong, Hodder and Stoughton, 1965
- **Tell it the way it is** – a primer for Christian Communicators, by George Target, Lutterworth Press, 1976.
- **The C of E – the state it’s in**, by Monica Furlong, Hodder and Stoughton, 2006
- **The Church Hesitant – A portrait of the Church of England Today** - Ysenda Maxtone Graham, Hodder and Stoughton, 1993
- **That was the church that was – how the Church of England lost the English People**, by Andrew Brown and Linda Woodhead, Bloomsbury Continuum, 2016

**So: are there five readers of the Parish News who would like to read and review these books in these pages?** There is no fee, although I would be happy to buy any reviewers a glass of wine and give them a free copy of the book they review. I shall not renew this appeal for a third month, but instead adopt the more direct tactic of asking individuals directly for their help.

This edition of The Parish News marks my completion of a year as Editor. It may be appropriate to end this article with some words from my first editorial. *“None of these functions – newsletter, ministry, forum – can be discharged without active participation, and to that extent the Parish News can only be as good as the parish is prepared to make it. The Parish News should be written in the main by its readers, talking – and listening – to themselves. On which note – over to you”.*

An average edition of this magazine contains 7,500 words; this month I have written 4,250 of them – well over half the copy. This is not a boast, nor is it a complaint – writing is something I enjoy very much. But I can’t help wondering how long it will be before the sound of my own voice – much as I love it – begins to pall, even for me.

## DEAR WHATSISNAME.....

**John Pearce writes:** A consistently interesting weekly feature in *The Guardian* is ***A letter to....the letter you've always wanted to write***. In it, readers publish, anonymously, a letter which enables them to part with feelings they have harboured for too long, and often to their detriment. The idea derives from the counselling technique of writing a letter to someone beyond reach – a dead parent, an estranged child, an ex-partner, a bully [or a victim] from schooldays, a past self. The letter is never sent, nor will it be read, and that is the point. This is to enable you to put into words feelings which you have carried, maybe even cherished, to the point where they have become toxic. And, as in many counselling techniques, the process is more important than the product.

Firstly, in writing your letter you will have to confront your feelings and wrestle with them, find the words precisely to frame them and, in the process, understand what they are. They may have felt too powerful to manage, too formless to put into words; but in the process of doing so, you will sense their dimensions and see that there may have been less to be afraid of than you thought.

The second aspect is less abstract. In writing your letter you have, in a small way, parted from the feelings you have wrestled with; and what may have been nameless terrors are now reduced to words on paper, their power to hurt diminished. This diminution may be by only a small margin, but perhaps enough that you can now cope with what seemed insurmountable beforehand.

In the nature of things, these letters tend to dwell on difficult or negative feelings, and so it was a real pleasure, not long ago, to read in the *Guardian* a ***“Letter to my Guide Leader”***. In this, a fifty year old woman wrote of her days as a Girl Guide, sometimes resenting missing her favourite TV programme in order to go to troop meetings and working for her badges, among them a first aid badge which included practising mouth-to-mouth CPR on a dummy. The letter continues:

*“Thirty years later, my five-month-old baby stopped breathing and turned blue. Because, and only because, of what my Guide captain made me learn, I knew exactly what to do, and by the time the ambulance arrived, he was breathing again. He has just turned 18, and last year at school he was offered the chance to do first aid training. I insisted he do it. One day, perhaps he, too, will use what he has learned and save a life. For this, I thank you”.*

What a beautiful story; I am glad that this letter was sent and read.

## **And finally some secular food for thought: the blogger David Sloan Wilson tells his fellow atheists some inconvenient truths.**

“It is easy to show that fundamentalist religions portray a world without [compromises or] trade-offs which propel the believer along a single path of [absolute truths] towards glory. Some versions of atheism fare no better.

Consider Ayn Rand, the new atheist of her day whose philosophy was based, she said, entirely on reason and science. All the same, her philosophy portrays a world without tradeoffs, just like religious fundamentalism. The two belief systems motivate different behaviours, but they both stuff the believer, a human cannonball, into an ideological cannon fired towards glory and away from ruin.

Rand was treated as infallible – the very opposite of an outcome of reasoned discourse – and her disciples spent their time casting out false premises as if they were so many demons. A lifelong smoker, Rand was nevertheless astonished when she contracted lung cancer. How could *she* get cancer when her rationalism contained no false premises? She was no more rational about the cause of disease than evangelical Christians lining up to be healed by their faith.

How about the new atheism of our day? I wish I could report otherwise, but it has all the hallmarks of a stealth religion, including a polarized belief system that represents everything as *good, good, good* or *bad, bad, bad* (“how religion poisons everything”), the unquestioned authority of its leaders (the “Four Horsemen of Modern Atheism”), and even the portrayal of bad ideas as being demons (parasitic memes) that need to be cast out (“breaking the spell”).

One reason that I am passionate about exposing the new atheism as a stealth religion is because it distracts attention from something far more important and interesting – the proper study of religion and all forms of human mentality from an evolutionary perspective.

Finally, the fact that factual realism tends to be subservient to practical realism is a statement about how the mind works, not about how modern belief systems should be. We need respect for factual realism as never before to arrive at practical solutions to life’s complicated problems. Evolutionary theory tells us that this objective doesn’t come naturally and that some clever social engineering will be required, much as enduring religions manage to expand the circle of cooperation more widely than the tiny social groups of our ancestral past. The new atheists will need to display a virtue typically associated with religion – humility – if they wish to join this enterprise.”

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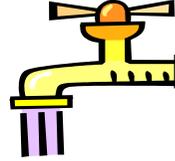


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## Services

### Sundays

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion
6pm	Evening Prayer [4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Evensong]

### Wednesday

10am	Holy Communion [BCP]
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<b>Sunday Club</b>	Sundays 10am
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**To discuss arrangements for Baptisms & Weddings, please speak to the Vicar after the 10am Sunday service**

For further information please telephone the Parish Office on 597 9815 or email to [hstcrossway@gmail.com](mailto:hstcrossway@gmail.com)

<b>Pram Service</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday</b> <b>2pm in Church</b> Babies & toddlers
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<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Revd. Captain Steve Dixon</b>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:office@holysaviours.org.uk">office@holysaviours.org.uk</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>07729 393 580</b> <b>0191 697 4562</b>

<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<b>Stuart Crozier</b>
<b>Church Office</b>	<b>Tel. 0191 597 9815</b>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:hstcrossway@gmail.com">hstcrossway@gmail.com</a>
<b>Church website:</b>	<a href="http://www.holysaviours.org.uk">www.holysaviours.org.uk</a>

### Churchwardens:

Diane Bayley 5, King John's Court, Ponteland  
Tel.01661 823738  
email: [dbayley2691@btinternet.com](mailto:dbayley2691@btinternet.com)

David Bilton, 19 Ashleigh Grove  
Tel. 2580270 email: [drbilton@gmail.com](mailto:drbilton@gmail.com)

### PCC Vice Chairman:

Gareth Ruddle, 10A Dockwray square  
Tel. 2584835

### PCC Treasurer:

Karen Bilton, 19 Ashleigh Grove  
Tel. 2580270 email: [kebilton58@gmail.com](mailto:kebilton58@gmail.com)

### Church Flowers:

Sheila Park, 15 Ashleigh Grove,  
Tel. 257 5481  
Barbara Walker, 2 Monkstone Crescent,  
Tel. 257 4159

## Activities

### Mothers' Union

1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	2.00pm	Parish Centre
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	2.00pm	Parish Centre
Cathy Duff	Tel 0191 257 4811	

### W3 – Women's Group

1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	7.30pm	Parish Centre
Debbie Baird	Tel. 296 1663	

### Rainbows

Lucy Skillen	Tel. 07891101262
Laura Elgie	<a href="mailto:laura.elgie@live.co.uk">laura.elgie@live.co.uk</a>

### Brownies

Pat Corbett	Tel. 0191 2800510
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### Guides

Grace Paul	Tel. 07803371929
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### Rangers

Grace Paul	Tel. 07803371929
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### Beavers

Gillian Smith	Tel. 296 1426
<a href="mailto:tynemouthbeavers@gmail.com">tynemouthbeavers@gmail.com</a>	

### Cub Scouts

Fiona Lydall	Tel 257 3047
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### Scouts

David Littlefield	Tel. 257 8740
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### Explorer Scouts

Lucy Mace	Tel. 258 5948
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### Group Scout Leader

Michael Dyer	Tel. 2596236
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### Asst. Group Leader

David Littlefield	Tel. 257 8740
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### Scout Hut bookings:

<b>Helen Preston</b>	<b>Tel: 257 0574</b>
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### Tynemouth Village Day Centre – Parish Hall

Tel. 259 5569

### Manor Road Community Playgroup – Parish Hall

Leaders: Glynis & Heather Tel: 07854222597

### Mother & Toddler Group – Parish Hall

Friday 9.30am

## ARTICLES FOR THE PARISH NEWS

These should be submitted to the editor, **John Pearce**, at [JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk](mailto:JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk) – the deadline will be published each month. Post written contributions in the Parish News Mailbox outside the Parish Office. **All queries to 0191 291 2742 or 07903 227 192.**