

12th Week after Trinity: 4th-10th September 2022

Greetings from Eileen

Dear friends,

I reluctantly bid farewell to summertime although I'm thankful as I look out onto a sunny garden still lush with greenery and trees heavy with fruit.

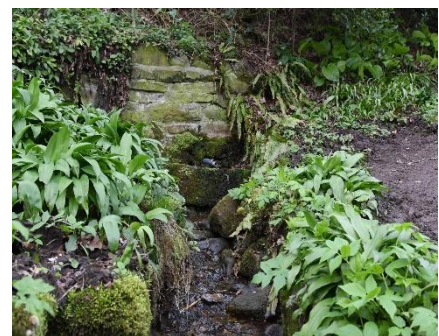


This September, the Church is raising its emphasis on Creation-tide – designating this month a Season of Creation.

Here is a brief reminder from Archbishop Justin Welby that our love for God's Created World must be more than enjoying it, that we should love it for all the world. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bovWrpqWcqY&t=4s>

The climate crisis is hurting the world, and at this time we pray for those affected by floods in Pakistan.

Our **Teesdale Riverside Pilgrimage**, a Deanery-wide event on **Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September**, will encourage us to appreciate God's blessings where we live and worship. Pilgrims physically walking as well as pilgrims participating without being on your feet, will lift our eyes as well as our hearts to enjoy this beautiful route connecting existing pathways along the Tees from Barnard Castle to Whorlton, Winston, and Gainford. What a treat for our senses this will be! Specific information is attached separately.



Schools in the 4 parishes enroute will be preparing **Burning Bush Prayer Trees** and invite everyone to place prayers on flame-coloured tags and ribbons on them. Look out for the trees in Winston (*at the entrance to Church Mews*) and in St Mary's, Gainford churchyard. <https://gainfordwinston.church/trp-pilgrimage-launches-sept-2022/>



Let us pray for children and staff returning or new to school. May excitement and curiosity triumph over anxiety and fears.

Lastly, remember our invitation to enjoy **'JAZZ ON THE GREEN'** this Sunday 4th September at 1pm in

GAINFORD with THE NEW ORLEANS PRESERVATION JAZZ BAND is at 1pm on Sunday 4th September. Bring your own chairs and picnic. If wet, in church. Donations for St. Mary's Church.



This Sunday 12th Sunday after Trinity, 4th September 2022, do join me at 9.30am, St Andrew's, Winston, Holy Communion
10.45am St Mary's, Gainford, Service of the Word

God, the most holy and glorious Trinity is with us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

NOTICES

Can you help?

The pilgrims bearing the replica of St Cuthbert's coffin walking the 130 miles **Lindisfarne Gospels Pilgrimage** will be with us. **Could you provide 2 pilgrims a room in Gainford for one night Sunday 11th September?** Thank you to Chris and Sheila for offering one room for 2 pilgrims, and to Geoff and Sue for hosting supper for the 4 pilgrims that evening. Please contact me on 01325 733154 or ekgharrop@gmail.com if you are able to help. On Sunday 11th September, the replica of St Cuthbert's coffin, facsimile of the Lindisfarne Gospels, a replica of the pouch in which St Cuthbert's bore his copy of St John's Gospel, will be on display in the chancel. Pilgrims will be joining our Deanery Pilgrimage and Patronal Service on Sunday 11th September, and 4 pilgrims, who will be carrying the coffin on the 130 mile route, will commence their journey from St Mary's Well, Gainford, with our school children walking the Way of Life Northern Saints Trail on Monday 12th September. They will carry the Bishop of Durham's personal walking staff until they reach Durham Cathedral.

Youth Saints with Bible Study and Creation Club resumes on Thursday 8th September at St Mary's, Gainford! New members are always welcome! Bible study: 5.45pm. Youth Saints (8-12 years) and Creation Club (12 years and older): 6.30-8pm. Come to catch up with friends and make new friends. Have fun with games, crafts, and music; discover interests; and enjoy food together. Youth must be accompanied to the church by a parent or guardian. For information contact Sheila: 01325 733228 or email Claire: stmarys@gainfordwinston.church

Funeral of Colin Davison (of Neville's Close, Gainford): Please pray for Mrs Davison and the family. There will be a funeral service at St Mary's Church, Gainford, 2pm, 16th September 2022 followed by a private Committal at Darlington Crematorium.

Collect for 12th Sunday after TRINITY

Almighty and everlasting God,
 you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
 and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
 pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
 forgiving us those things of which our conscience is
 afraid
 and giving us those good things
 which we are not worthy to ask
 but through the merits and mediation
 of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
 Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

God of all mercy,
 in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
 and given us your healing:
 grant that we who are made whole in Christ
 may bring that healing to this broken world,
 in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen

The First Reading: Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
 To our beloved co-worker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Rather than my sermon from last Sunday, here is a prayer that I'd encourage us to raise to God together, to reflect on, and to ask God to direct us to action and behaviours in sincere response.

Season of Creation Prayer

Creator of All,

From your communion of love your Word went forth to create a symphony of life that sings your praise.

By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationships with each creature so that we could listen to their voices, and learn how to safeguard the conditions for life. But we turn in on ourselves and away from our co-creatures. We close our ears to the counsel of our fellow creatures. We fail to listen to the cries of the poor and the needs of the most vulnerable. We silence the voices of those who hold the traditions that teach us to care for the Earth.

We close our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the Scriptures.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats that will never speak again. We grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished. Creation cries out as forests crackle, and animals alike flee the fires of injustice that we have lit by our unwillingness to listen.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that you would call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Breathe upon us. Open our ears and move our hearts. Turn us from our inward gaze. Teach us to contemplate your creation, and listen for the voice of each creature declaring your glory. For “faith comes from hearing.”

Give us hearts to listen for the good news of your promise to renew the face of the Earth. Enlighten us with the grace to follow the Way of Christ as we learn to walk lightly upon this holy ground. Fill us with the hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of your healing love that sustains our common home.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.