

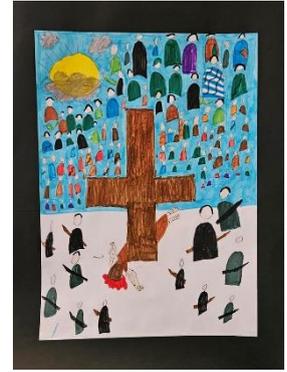
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of EASTER NEWSLETTER

7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Greetings from Eileen



Happy Easter! We had joyful Easter Services with strong attendances, where parishioners were lifted up by the Easter flowers, decorations, and hospitality in our churches. Thank you to all who helped spring clean and decorate. I was moved by a piece of art from a Gainford Primary School child that I found rather theologically-insightful of the Easter story. In Staindrop, the children told the story in dramatic mime, which moved a full-church of children, teachers, and families. Well done, Missioner Sarah, with Moji, Wendy, Judith, and our Open the Book team, who help to bring God's message into our schools.



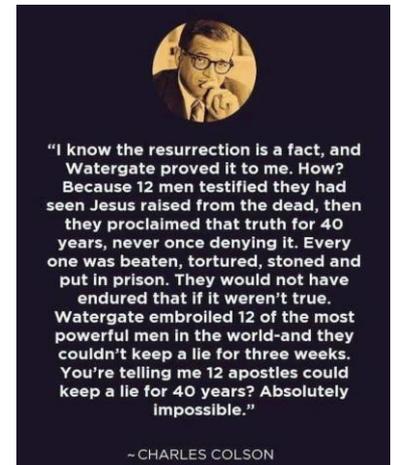
A group met on Holy Saturday for GATHER's Easter Pilgrimage to Gainford Spa. We were blessed with ideal conditions, which improved with glorious sunshine on Easter Day.



Despite weather for the ducks, many set off for the Easter Monday walk starting at St Mary's, Staindrop, through Raby Park. Everyone was grateful for hot soup as well as Tea and scrumptious home-made cakes at the Scarth Hall afterwards. Hannah Thompson modelled the Easter Bonnet made by her sister Emily, which brightened up the afternoon.



Let us never take Easter for granted. Not only is the reality of Easter the totally credible testimony of personal witnesses, God's love for everyone was truly costly that we may all share the wondrous and eternal outcome. Anyone who mocks or makes light of the Easter message would do well to consider these reflective words from Chuck (Charles) Coulson, who was among those involved in the Watergate scandal that rocked the United States and embarrassed the Western world.



### Services on SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

9.15am Holy Communion **Staindrop St Mary** Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop  
9.30am Holy Communion **Winston St Andrew** Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi  
10.45am Holy Communion **Gainford St Mary** Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi  
**No service at Ingleton St John the Evangelist**

*Eileen is away on retreat from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April inclusive. In her absence, please contact churchwardens*

*May the glory of Jesus's resurrection fill us with all joy, knowing that with God, nothing is impossible or without hope.*

*Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL and DAISY  
ARNOLD-FELLS who were married at Staindrop, St  
Mary's Church, on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April.**



## **EVENTS**

**GATHER CHURCH TEESDALE**  
**27TH APRIL**  
**WELLBEING WALK**

- o Meet **Gainford Green** 9:30am, bring boots, a packed lunch & drink
- o Walking to **Barnard Castle**
- o **Refreshments** at Village Hall en-route
- o **Moderate fitness** required to move on riverside paths
- o Led by a **guide**
- o Reflections throughout the route
- o Restful **guided meditation** at the end of the day
- o Minibus organised to return everyone to Gainford

Info@gatherchurchteesdale.com  
facebook.com/GatherChurchTeesdale

We are invited to sign up for the next **GATHER** event on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024** – a whole day **‘WELLBEING WALK’** from **Gainford to Barnard Castle**. Starting from Gainford’s Green at 9.30am, the walk will take us along the river to Whorlton Village Hall where we pause for refreshments, before continuing to the Labyrinth in St Mary’s, Barnard Castle and finish around 4.30pm. We should bring our own packed lunch and drink; and walking boots are advised.

**A mini-bus will take walkers back to Gainford.** There will be guided reflections throughout the day and a guided meditation to close.

Please sign-up on the sheets at the back of our churches but please feel free to contact GATHER for information if you wish: [info@gatherchurchteesdale.com](mailto:info@gatherchurchteesdale.com)

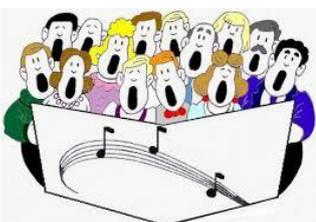
**On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, join GATHER at The Wheatsheaf Pub in Staindrop for a QUIZ NIGHT!** If you’re wondering what quizzing with GATHER might be like, the best way to find out is to come! Bring along a neighbour, friend or family. For information contact Sheila [info@gatherchurchteesdale.com](mailto:info@gatherchurchteesdale.com)



## **NOTICES**

**TODDLERS at Staindrop are away for the Easter Holiday; resuming Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 9am**

**Warm and Welcome continues every Friday 10am to 12noon in Gainford Village Hall,** with hot drinks, cake or other comfort food! A warm space to enjoy company, share or listen, and enjoy new activity proposed by regulars who have enjoyed this weekly time together.



**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2pm**

**COME ALONG to HYMNS FOR HIM & HER**

**in Staindrop St Mary’s Church**

**COLLECT for 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Almighty Father,  
 you have given your only Son to die for our sins  
 and to rise again for our justification:  
 grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and  
 wickedness  
 that we may always serve you  
 in pureness of living and truth;  
 through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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**

Lord God our Father,  
 through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
 you have assured your children of eternal life  
 and in baptism have made us one with him:  
 deliver us from the death of sin  
 and raise us to new life in your love,  
 in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
 by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 Amen

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER Readings****Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.