

6th Sunday of EASTER and ASCENSION NEWSLETTER

5th – 11th May 2024

Greetings from Eileen

Blessed with ideal conditions, 19 joined **GATHER's Wellbeing Pilgrimage** (including 2 hosts at Whorlton and Barnard Castle, 2 who joined at Whorlton, and 2 greeters welcoming pilgrims on the Demesne) Saturday 27th April. It was particularly apt for Debs, a Methodist Preacher from our St Andrew's, Winston congregation, with dog Amber, who had an equestrian accident the day before and found healing as walking wounded.



21 children, staff, and church members were received for **Communion at Gainford Primary School** at a special Collective Worship service on Monday 30th April. Mini-Disciples led prayers and readings, and Brian accompanied the school in singing 2 eclectic songs: My Lighthouse and The Tiny Ant! We look forward to preparing more children for Baptism and young people for Confirmation.

As we approach the end of the resurrected Jesus' time on earth, we are reminded that we have a faith with the power of the Holy Spirit that moves mountains.

"You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." Matthew 17:20

This week, the Archbishop of Canterbury led Primates (Archbishops) of the Worldwide Anglican Communion to a gathering in Rome for a time of prayer, culminating with an audience with Pope Francis. We may think little of this, but it is analogous of mountains moved. There have been times in the history of the Church family when these parts of the Church cruelly executed leaders of the other. In our broken world, we count ourselves blessed to witness such an occasion of welcome and conciliation as this.



We shall be in a liminal time – of heaven and earth – from **Ascension Day to Pentecost (9th – 19th May)**. From Sri Lanka to Scotland, Brazil to Burundi, Cambodia to Canada, Christians are invited to **join the global prayer movement 'Thy Kingdom Come'**. I hope you would come to the **combined Ascension Service 8am Thursday 9th May at Gainford's Riverside** down

the path south of St Mary's Church **followed by an Ascension Breakfast Gathering around 8.30am in the church**, when we shall be distributing Thy Kingdom Come prayer journals and reflection guides. On **Thursday 23rd May 6-7pm** everyone is invited to share our nine days of dwelling with the Spirit at a **Pentecost Bring and Share Supper in Gainford St Mary's**. For information, speak to Rev'd Moji, Sarah Fells, Sheila Jones, or me.

Services on SUNDAY 5th April 2024

9.15am Holy Communion **Staindrop St Mary**

9.30am Holy Communion **Winston St Andrew**

10.45am Holy Communion **Gainford St Mary** *followed by our Annual Meeting*

Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi

May the glory of Jesus's Ascension prepare us with expectant hearts and eager minds for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

NOTICES

On **Tuesday 7th May 7pm** in **St Mary's Church, Barnard Castle**, our parishes are invited to an **Easter Praise Service** to give thanks for and welcome one another to our new extended Deanery. All welcome.

BEREAVEMENT: Please remember the families of those recently departed in your prayers
The funeral service at **Staindrop St Mary's** followed by burial in Staindrop Cemetery of the late **Gordon Race** will take place on **Friday 10th May at 1.30pm**.

Connie Metcalfe, mother of Jonathan and mother-in-law of Allison (of Ingleton PCC) passed away on 1st May 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Edward and Vivian Kirby** who were married on **Wednesday 1st May** in **St Mary's Church, Staindrop**.

TODDLERS at **Staindrop** continues on **Thursdays 9am** – to find out more contact Kath or Pat c/o contact@stmarysstaindrop.org.uk

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.

YOUTH SAINTS welcomes 7 to 12 year olds including new members on **Thursday 9th May 6.30-8pm** for a time of fun, food, new friends, or catching up with familiar friends at **St Mary's, Gainford**.



ADVANCED NOTICES

Saturday 8th June is a very special day for 2 of our parishes, Gainford and Ingleton.

THE LEAP OF FAITH returns! Everyone is welcome to sign up for the opportunity to abseil **Gainford St Mary's Tower** from **10am to 4pm**. Get in touch with Geoff for more information.

Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church will be prominent at **Ingleton's Fayre** from **1-4pm**

Let us continue to hold our troubled world in prayer, especially remembering the people caught in conflict and whose homes are being destroyed by aggression including **The Ukraine** and **Palestine**.

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.

Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in **The Ukraine**, **Russia**, **Israel** and **Palestine**.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

COLLECT for 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

God our redeemer,
 you have delivered us from the power of darkness
 and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
 grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
 so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
 to eternal joy;
 through 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 our Father,
 whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of
 eternal life:
 may we thirst for you,
 the spring of life and source of goodness,
 through him who is alive and reigns, now and
 for ever. Amen

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER Readings**Acts 10:44-48**

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

John 15.9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

We celebrate God's favour on our 4 parishes at our **Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)**, which take place **after our Sunday Services: Gainford 5th May; Winston 12th May; Ingleton 12th May; and Staindrop 19th May**. Do stay after the service of your church on these Sundays when we shall be confirming the election of churchwardens, PCC members, and giving thanks for officers of our churches who are retiring after years of faithful service, as well as hearing brief reports of our collective accomplishments and priorities with the help of God.