

The 1st Week after TRINITY – NEWSLETTER

2nd – 8th June 2024

Greetings from Eileen

We will remember. On the **80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings** we will remember the tactical turning point of WWII. It was a costly action but it was significant in moving the Allied Forces towards Victory in Europe. There will be a **Service at Ingleton's Memorial on Sunday 9th June at 11am**; and on 6th June bells will ring from our church towers in Staindrop and Gainford; and a light will be specially hung outside St John the Evangelist Church in Ingleton.



In the early hours of D-Day 6th June 1944, 24,000 paratroopers and glider-borne troops landed behind enemy lines, then a ground force of more than 130,000 troops came ashore on five beaches across a 50-mile stretch of Normandy coast. Among the Allied troops were those from the Far East including Chinese soldiers from British colonies in this sacrifice. We will remember all of them.

Our churches are especially visible in their parishes this week:

† This Saturday 1st June, **St Andrew's, Winston had a successful Coffee and Cake fundraising afternoon** in the Village Hall on behalf of the Great North Air Ambulance.

† On **Saturday, 8th June**, we look forward to a continuous stream of 'leapers' abseiling Gainford St Mary's Church Tower at our **Leap of Faith event from 10am to 4pm. Slots are still available – please contact Geoff or Sue 01325 730379**. Family ticket discounts have been added. Call Geoff or Sue to book. Supporters are especially welcome on the day as food and drink are available throughout that day in the church. A drone will capture each leap on camera that would be projected live on big screen in the church!

† On **Saturday, 8th June from 1-4pm, St John the Evangelist's Church PCC will be at Ingleton's Village Fayre** on Ingleton's Recreation Ground with a prominent stall launching our BB-Lotto fundraising programme and offering fridge magnets and tote bags in exchange for donations.

LEAP OF FAITH
Join us for an unforgettable
abseil from the top of
St Mary's church tower!

Time Slots:
10:00 – 11:45 AM
12:15 – 2:00 PM
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Early bird tickets: £18 adults,
£9 children. Includes equipment
& accredited rope instructors

8th June
www.facebook.com/gainfordwinston
Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Save the date: Monday 17th June 2024 6.30pm! I am awaiting confirmation from one candidate and hope on this date/time we will hold our **General Elections hustings at St Mary's Church, Gainford**. The invitation to vote towards choosing our member of parliament is a hard-won freedom as is national peace when a government is formed. We must look to what hope there is for the future of our country and our contribution towards hope for the world, and pray for wisdom towards realising that hope.

Services on the 1st Sunday after TRINITY 2nd June 2024

9.15am	Service of the Word (Trinity time)	Staindrop St Mary	Worship Group
9.30am	Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
10.45am	Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
12.30pm	Holy Baptism	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens, cleanse you by his holiness, and send you to proclaim his word.

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

NOTICES

BAPTISM at Gainford St Mary on this SUNDAY 2nd June 2024: Please pray for Leo Maxell and for his Parents – Lewis (who was baptised on Pentecost Sunday) and Sarah; and his Godparents, and families.

TODDLERS at Staindrop return after the school holidays and resume this 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.

Join GATHER at their LITTER PICK on Thursday 6th June at 2pm meeting at Gainford's Cross. Hi-Viz jackets, litter pickers, and bin bags will be provided. No pre-booking needed.

PASTORAL PRAYERS & VISITS: We have pastoral visitors, who would welcome hearing from you if you, or anyone you know, would welcome a visit or would like to be remembered in prayer. For Winston, contact churchwarden Lynne (730844); for Ingleton, Rev'd Moji 07856690593 or moji@yaho.com; for Staindrop contact Sarah (01833 660773) or contact@stmarysstaindrop.org.uk; and for Gainford contact Authorised Pastoral Minister Wendy (730665) or w.m.broderick@gmail.com.

YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE APPRECIATED!



POP UP AFTERNOON CONCERT

ST MARYS, GAINFORD, DARLINGTON
SATURDAY 15 JUNE AT 2PM

ENJOY SOME OF THE BEST SONGS FROM POP,
MUSICALS AND MORE SUNG BY TYNESIDE'S
LEADING WOMEN'S CHOIR AND GUESTS.

NOT TO BE MISSED!

ADMISSION IS BY DONATION ON THE DOOR
TYNESIDEACAPPELLA.ORG.UK



ST. ANDREW'S, WINSTON PRESENTS A CELEBRATION OF WEDDING DRESSES & FLOWERS

Come and join us at St. Andrews,
for a magical display of wedding dresses and
floral arrangements.

Preview Evening
with Refreshments & Entertainment
Friday 5th July 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Tickets £15 from Joyce 07786072830

Saturday 6th July - Sunday 7th July
11.00am - 4.00pm
Entrance on the door £5.00 - children free
Grand Raffle

Refreshments served at Winston Village Hall



COLLECT for 1st after TRINITY

O God,
 the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
 mercifully accept our prayers and, because through
 the weakness of our mortal nature
 we can do no good thing without you,
 grant us the help of your grace,
 that in the keeping of your commandments
 we may please you both in will and deed;
 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

COLLECT for Corpus Christi

Lord Jesus Christ,
 we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament
 you have given us the memorial of your passion:
 grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries
 of your body and blood
 that we may know within ourselves
 and show forth in our lives
 the fruits of your redemption;
 for you are alive and reign with the Father
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings for CORPUS CHRISTI**I Corinthians 11:23-26**

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

John 6:51-58

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal Father,
 we thank you for nourishing us
 with these heavenly gifts:
 may our communion strengthen us in faith,
 build us up in hope,
 and make us grow in love;
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER for Corpus Christi

All praise to you, our God and Father,
 for you have fed us with the bread of heaven
 and quenched our thirst from the true vine:
 hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ,
 we may grow together in unity
 and feast with him in his kingdom;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

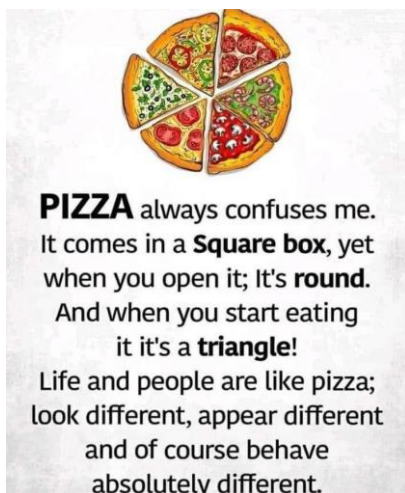
Sermon, TRINITY Sunday 26th May 2024: Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop (Romans 8.12-17; John 3.1-17)

A particularly well-heard Bible reading at weddings is 1 Corinthians 13 – St Paul's timeless letter about love. We had this reading at a wedding in Ingleton yesterday. In that chapter, Paul wrote: "...*as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part... For now we see in a mirror, dimly.*"

This was Nicodemus' quandary in our Gospel reading. Like many people, especially the learned whose understanding is determined by physical observation, Nicodemus was unsettled because he expected his knowledge to explain what he had seen Jesus do and had heard Jesus teach. So, he came to Jesus for a private conversation, although it is likely that he would have been accompanied by trusted members of his household. Nicodemus' questions are questions about the nature of God and how God has engaged with the world – God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Unlike others from the council of chief priests and rabbis or of the Sanhedrin, which is the governing council of Jews of which Nicodemus was a respected member, he had not come to Jesus to catch him out. He was genuinely puzzled asking what someone today might ask us: "*How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?*" Throughout the generations, people have asked the same questions about our belief in God: *How can God be 3?* Might not God then be as the Hindus or Greeks believe in numerous gods not only 3? Perhaps some of us have stopped trying to work that out, happy to rest in our faith.

This is what I read of someone's quandary recently: Pizza -



There are actually many analogies or illustrations in our ordinary observations that addresses the Trinity quandary.

Looking around us gathered today, I see many of you are parents – some of you are fathers. I see also that whether you are a parent – a father or a mother – you and I are a son or a daughter. You can be both Father and Son. And because we are relational beings, what we have said or done has affected someone and become part of their being. You have affected their spirit, so that even if you are absent in person, something about you has remained with them and continues to be active in their lives. They may even call upon you in memory to inform a decision, an action; be warned or comforted.

You and I in this description are as 3 in one. Now I am pleased to say that I have not blasphemed nor guilty of heresy by saying this. Instead, it should not be surprising to us that we too are 3 in one as God is 3 in one. We are after all created by God in his image. And many of us are known by others differently: you may be the person in Tea and Chat, or the Pilgrimage leader; yet you are to your husband, his wife whom he may never have seen in the context of Tea and Chat or leading on Pilgrimage. You may be that ballroom dancer or perhaps a sportsperson or a fundraiser, who has inspired and gifted life to someone because of who you are in these ways. We may take for granted that we are each several people, yet that may be a blessed mystery too.

What we know in part in our earthly phenomena reflects God's Trinity. Water, which is essential to earthly life, is liquid – what we drink, what is in our rivers, seas, and oceans – is also steam and vapour; cloud, snow, frost, hail, and ice. Water is many things: gentle and comforting; cleansing and refreshing; hydrating to restore and sustain. Yet it is also ferocious and terrifying; fast and furious; uncontrollable and destructive.

But God Almighty, the Creator, before all things, is not the created. It is by His will and purpose that he took his triune form with specific purpose to give us life, to restore us, to make us whole and holy again. Our faith is in God who chose to be as one of us in the form of the Son. Our faith is in God who chose to instil and gift to us His Spirit, his breath of life, that even without Jesus' physical human presence, we would continue to be whole and holy not remaining sullied nor destroyed by the sin of the world.

That's where our reading from Romans comes in: "*So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh... For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*"

God is a mystery only as much as we are a mystery, because God has revealed himself to us in Jesus and by His Spirit in us. Let us not live as if we do not know that we are children of God. Instead, live as we ought, in the knowledge and understanding that we belong and live in the eternal and present God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A footnote: Geoff Taylor delivered a Trinity Homily in St Mary's, Gainford. In his message, he shared an important aspect of The Trinity – that Christians since the time of Council of Nicea that was overseen by the Christian Emperor Constantine, have been united around the Creed, which declares our faith in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That we are also One in the Body of Christ is echoed in the all-encompassing nature of each part of the Trinity and Oneness of the Trinity. Geoff's homily presented the congregation with a memorable take-away as Geoff declared the Emperor Constantine to be a Yorkshireman! Constantine was proclaimed emperor by his army while in York in ad 306.