

27th July – 2nd August 2025 TRINITY 6 NEWSLETTER

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

Dear friends,

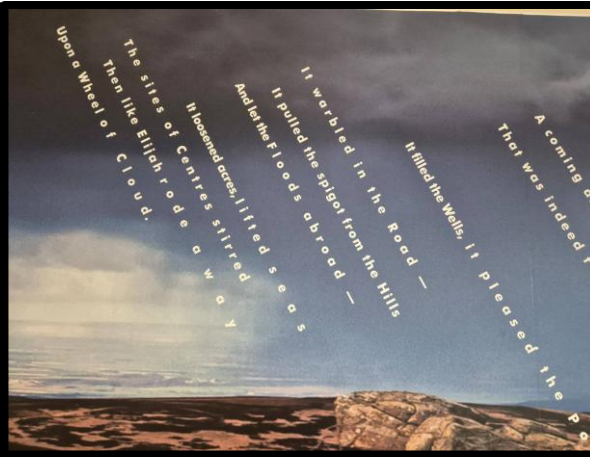
During a time such as this, when all news seems dark and positive news comes (only) from events like England's Women's Football Team being EURO finalists for the 4th consecutive time, we are thankful for evidence of **hoping not in vain** in the history of God's people in our scriptures.

Last weekend, a small number of pilgrims, joined **GATHER @ THE SILL**, to make time to listen to God in the natural landscape of Northumberland and the man-built Hadrians Wall. We reflected on the history of people keeping one another separate with stone, and how stones have not been inanimate but symbols of witness and testimony to life and journeying. We reflected on the Prophet Ezekiel prophesying that God would bring new life to God's wayward and disobedient people who had destroyed God's blessings for them. Ezekiel 37:



The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

And it was so. The situation in the Middle East is grievous. Those in authority seem to have hearts of stone. They have turned their eyes not only away from those they have caused to be injured, homeless, starving, and dying, they have also turned their face away from their God. Is there hope? The evidence of God's mercy and grace in our scriptures tell us that we must continue to hope in the Lord.



We have **good news in Staindrop St Mary's Church** and PCC: **2 Churchwardens have been duly elected on Sunday 20th July** We wish Linda Hausmanis and Helen Gourley God's blessings as they take on this important role as Bishop's Officers on behalf of the church.

SERVICES THIS SUNDAY (PROPER 12 Trinity 6)

9.15am Staindrop St Mary

Rev'd David Spokes

9.30am Winston St Andrew

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop with preacher Sarah Fells

10.45am Gainford St Mary

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop with preacher Sarah Fells

11am Ingleton St John the Evangelist

Rev'd David Spokes

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

NOTICES

- † **Please pray for the family of the late Maureen Thompson** whose funeral service will take place on Monday 4th August 11am in Gainford St Mary and thereafter for committal at Wear Valley Crematorium, followed by refreshments in Headlam Hall.
- † **Please pray for Mandy, family and friends of the late John Waterson of Langton**, whose funeral service will take place on Tuesday 29th July 11am in Gainford St Mary and thereafter for committal at Darlington Crematorium Chapel, followed by refreshments in Headlam Hall.
- † **BAPTISM:** Please pray for **Etta Mitchell**, who was baptised on **Sunday 20th July in Staindrop St Mary**.
- † **WEDDING:** We rejoice and give thanks for **Mr and Mrs Myles and Louise Wharton**, who were married on **Friday 25th July at Staindrop St Mary's Church**. Please pray for them as they begin their life together as a newly married couple.
- † **PRAY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SARAH AND PAULA** as they prepare for their **Scripture Union Holiday Club LAUNCHPAD** on **Monday to Wednesday 28th -30th July**



THE ARCHBISHOP
OF YORK

Statement by the Archbishop of York on the situation in Gaza

With each passing day in Gaza, the violence, starvation and dehumanisation being inflicted on the civilian population by the Government of Israel becomes more depraved and unconscionable. In the name of God, I cry out against this barbaric assault on human life and dignity. It is a stain on the conscience of the international community, and a flagrant breach of international humanitarian law.

The statement this week by the UK and 27 other states condemning the denial of aid, and the inhumane killing of civilians at aid posts, is an important – if long overdue – sign of growing international resolve to end this war. But while the group stated their preparedness to take further action, there is no time to wait. Action must be taken now to stop this ongoing assault on Gaza, end settlement-building and settler violence in the West Bank, and secure negotiation for a lasting and just peace.

My prayers remain with the steadfast and suffering Christian community in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and most particularly in Gaza after the recent deadly attack on the Roman Catholic Holy Family Church. I stand in pastoral solidarity with the Latin and Greek Patriarchs of Jerusalem, and give thanks for their recent visit to Gaza. There are no excuses for the bombing of places of worship where desperate people are taking shelter, or hospitals where the sick and injured are being cared for. I echo the words of Pope Leo XIV and say clearly that this barbarism must stop.

With my sister and brother bishops in the Church of England, I have condemned many times the horrific Hamas attacks on 7 October, and I continue to call for the release of those still cruelly held hostage. We deplore every assault on the innocent. But as we said in May this year, this war is now one of aggression – it is a grave sin and it must stop.

Last week the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum, spoke powerfully at the Church of England General Synod in York. I support Archbishop Hosam in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, for the release of all hostages and captives and for the rebuilding of Gaza. I support him in rejecting any policy that would amount to the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian population from Gaza. And in the name of Jesus Christ, I encourage dioceses and parishes to continue praying for our Palestinian Anglican sisters and brothers and all other Christian communities – and for security, freedom and dignity for Palestinians, Israelis and all the peoples of the region.

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

COLLECT for 6th Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding;
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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 of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Reading: Colossians 2:6-19

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

The Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

¹ He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' ² He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

⁵ And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." ⁷ And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'