

17th – 23rd August 2025 TRINITY 9 PROPER 15 NEWSLETTER

*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
(1 John 5:4)*

Dear friends,

Our anniversary holiday is drawing to a close as I write this. If you've not visit Stourhead, Wiltshire, a National Trust property, we encourage you to consider it. We were delighted that its beautiful landscaping was as distinctive in English beauty as we remember 40 years ago. You may recognise the scenes from Morse and Miss Marple. The grounds will delight our mind's eye for many more decades.



It is the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day 15th August as I write.

Like some of you, I lost family members in that dreadful war. My late mother's grief from losing her father consumed her all her life and weighed heavily on her children; my grandfather's ship having been bombed and his body never recovered. My late father resolved to become a medical doctor having seen death and injuries from the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. War is a terrible thing, and we pray for peace to return to people and places devastated by war today.



We had particular joy in visiting **Grant and Sheenah Davies**, who miss friends in our parishes especially of Ingleton, Gainford, and Staindrop. They are well, after health set-backs, and send their love.

SERVICES THIS SUNDAY (17th August PROPER 15 Trinity 9)

9.15am Staindrop St Mary

Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi

9.30am Winston St Andrew

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

VJ Act of Remembrance with Communion

10.45am Gainford St Mary

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

with Professor Chloe Starr preaching

Many thanks to colleagues, churchwardens and officers for looking after our parishes and churches in my absence.

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop



A PRAYER FOR VJ DAY

God of the nations,
our refuge and our dwelling place,
we remember with thanksgiving
those whose service achieved Allied victory
in the Pacific,
and hold before you all those who suffered
from the devastation and trauma of war.
As we pray for those who suffer
the atrocities of war,
strengthen our resolve
to pursue what makes for peace,
through the one in whom we are reconciled
and made one,
even Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



NOTICES

- † **Please pray for the family of the late Rory BURKE** whose funeral service will take place next week (date and time to be announced) in Gainford St Mary and thereafter for committal at Darlington Crematorium.
- † **Please pray for Sam Brown and Niamh Bourne** whose wedding takes place at 1pm on Saturday 23rd August at St John the Evangelist Church, Ingleton.
- † **WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONFIRM YOUR FAITH? If you've not been baptised you're welcome to be baptised and confirmed.** Please get in touch with Paula Harrison or Sarah Fells stmarys@gainfordwinston.church

YOUTH SAINTS HOLIDAY CLUB Thursday 28th August 2025 10am – 4pm

Open to all young people from 7 years. Contact Sarah Fells or Sheila Jones

stmarys@gainfordwinston.church

ADVANCE NOTICES

- ✦ **SARAH FELLS** is being licensed as our **LICENSED LAY MINISTER in DURHAM CATHEDRAL** on **SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER AT 11am!** Sarah, whose home church is Staindrop St Mary's, is being licensed to all 4 of our parish churches. She will share our ministry leading worship, preaching, conducting collective worship of schools in church and helping children and adults to explore and grow their faith. Sarah is hoping to arrange mini-bus transport. **We hope you'd come to the cathedral to support Sarah on the occasion of her Licensing.** Everyone is welcome.
- ✦ **CHURCH SOCIAL FUNDRAISER**



Join us for a night of fun and dancing
with local band
JAKES IGUANA
Pie & Pea Supper
please advise when booking
for vegetarian or dietary options

Saturday 20th September 2025
Start at 7.30 pm
Winston Village Hall

Bring your own alcohol/drinks and glasses

Tickets £15.00
Available from Joyce
07786072830

Bring cash for the raffle!
St Andrew's Fundraising Committee

COLLECT for 9th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your
Son
to share this meal with the whole household of
God:
in that new world where you reveal the fullness
of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen

First Reading (Trinity 9): Hebrews 11.29 - 12.2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

12 ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Gospel (Trinity 9): Luke 12:49-56

⁴⁹ 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Readings for The VJ Act of Remembrance (Winston St Andrew's, Sunday 17th August)

Micah 4:1-4

¹ In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

² and many nations shall come and say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

³ He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;

⁴ but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

The Gospel according to Luke chapter 15

¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²² But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.