

## 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026 MOTHERING SUNDAY – NEWSLETTER

*Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her (John 19.26a)*

Dear friends,

Creator God,

We thank you for your love which shapes us and helps us to grow.

### On this Mothering Sunday

we give thanks for women who have been examples of self-giving love, who have given time, wisdom and care to the nurture of children, their own or others.

We pray for those who find this a difficult day, who do not have happy memories of their own mothers, those who grieve for their mothers or for their children, and those who long to be mothers but cannot be.

We remember mothers in the Bible, giving thanks for the tenacity of Sarah the generosity of Hannah and the courage of Mary.

May your Spirit continue to shape us, heal us and guide us today.

Amen



### SERVICES ON MOTHERING SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

9.30am Winston St Andrew Mothering Sunday Service Children's Minister Paula Kirkup with CWs

Please notice the different service time at Staindrop St Mary

10am Staindrop St Mary Holy Communion with Baptism Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop and Sarah Fells

10.45am Gainford St Mary Mothering Sunday Service Lay Minister in Training Peter Craig with CWs

### Our churchwardens made this **ANNOUNCEMENT** to our 4 churches last Sunday



We have been informed that after much prayer and discernment, our Incumbent Priest-in-Charge Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop has decided to step down from ministry in our parishes. Eileen's last day of service will be Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

Tomorrow, on Monday, Headteachers of Gainford, Ingleton, and Staindrop C of E Primary Schools will be informed, and thereafter the wider deanery and the Trusts on which Eileen is a Trustee or Ex-Officio would be notified. Our parishes and communities will also be informed in due course.

Eileen has expressed thankfulness to God for bringing her to minister in our parishes and for the many blessings during her almost 10 years in Gainford and Winston and, since December 2022, in Ingleton and Staindrop. Brian and Eileen are especially thankful also for the love, care, and kindness they have received from many in our churches and communities. They are confident that God, who has favoured us with resources and sustained us with growth and creative joy, will continue to strengthen us in the months and years to come.

Services and events have been planned to continue productively and fruitfully during the months before their departure, alongside the transition of our parishes into a time of interregnum. We will provide more information of these arrangements in the weeks to come.

Spring is soon upon us – a new season that beckons new life. Remember the Lord's goodness in our shared years together and before; not deterred, distressed, nor persuaded by the noises of world. I am confident that God, whose favour we have known, will continue to strengthen you and our parishes.

*Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop*

## NOTICES:

Please pray for

- † **EDWARD GEORGE FOX BROWN**, who is **BEING BAPTISED** this Sunday at **Staindrop St Mary's Church**. Pray for his parents Jack and Philippa of Ingleton, and Edward's Godparents Victoria, Timothy, Ellen, and Michael, who will be making promises to guide him to know and follow their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- † **MATHIAS NEWBERRY** and **AMY LAMB** who **WILL BE MARRIED** on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026** at **noon in Staindrop St Mary's Church**. Pray for them, their families, and supporters as they begin their new lives together.

## LENTEN events:

- **LENT BIBLE STUDY: TUESDAYS 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> March 7-8pm** 2 Olivers Gardens, Staindrop
- **GATHER Lifegroup fellowship and Bible study 7pm Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> GAINFORD 2 Academy Gardens**
- **LENT LUNCHESES:** We're half way through our season of Lent lunches. Thank you to our teams for their generosity and hospitality
  - **Gainford: 12.30 Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> (St Osmund's) & 25<sup>th</sup> March (St Mary's)**
  - **Staindrop, 11.30am Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> at Scarth Hall**
  - **Ingleton: 12 noon Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at Ingleton Village Hall**
  - **Winston: From 11.30am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March – funds being raised for MIND – at Winston Village Hall**



## THANK YOU, CHURCHWARDENS, LAY-CHAIRS, and MINISTERS

Together, we have shared in discerning and serving God's purposes, in the leadership and nurture of our churches, schools, and parishes.

**WELL DONE** to our **PCCs** who keep our churches well for congregations and the whole community of our parishes. Please consider being part of our PCCs – we are especially in need of treasurers, secretaries, and churchwardens.

**Here is the newly restored east wall of Ingleton St John's Chancel**, which gives an idea of the rest of the church's interior restoration to come. Thank you, Judith, Joyce, Allison, Pat, Linda – and all whose giving has enabled this.



## **COLLECT for MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Merciful Lord,  
absolve your people from their offences,  
that through your bountiful goodness  
we may all be delivered from the chains of those  
sins  
which by our frailty we have committed;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and  
Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and  
drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **First Reading: I Samuel 1:20-28**

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'

She left him there for the Lord.

## **The Gospel: John 19:25-27**

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.