

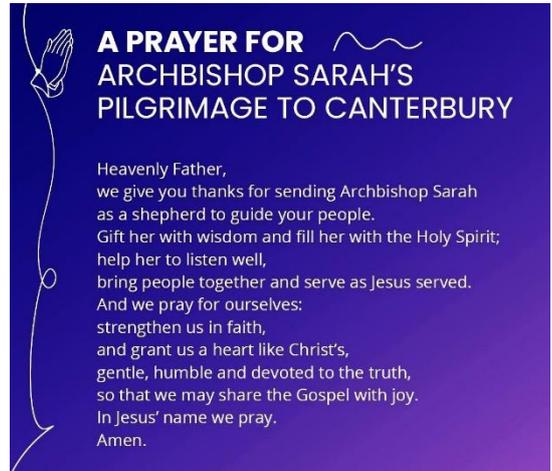
22nd – 28th March 2026 PASSIONTIDE BEGINS – NEWSLETTER

"I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11.25a)

Dear friends,

Passiontide begins this Sunday. **It's a Sunday that prepares us for rising to new life, to the resurrection unto eternal life.** We can see it as God's passionate love for us; to restore us to the very beings that he created to share eternity with him.

To prepare herself for the task and duties, which she will discharge as the **106th Archbishop of Canterbury**, The Most Rev'd and Rt Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, **is walking a pilgrimage on the Becket Camino from St Paul's Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral** reflecting her transition from Bishop of London to the Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray that she would meet God and see Jesus in her encounters with people and in the environment that surrounds her, and that in these first days of Passiontide, that she would find the fullness of the Holy Spirit for her new ministry. **Her enthronement service on Wednesday 25th March 2026 is livestreamed on BBC One.**



A PRAYER FOR ARCHBISHOP SARAH'S PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY

Heavenly Father,
we give you thanks for sending Archbishop Sarah as a shepherd to guide your people.
Gift her with wisdom and fill her with the Holy Spirit; help her to listen well,
bring people together and serve as Jesus served.
And we pray for ourselves:
strengthen us in faith,
and grant us a heart like Christ's,
gentle, humble and devoted to the truth,
so that we may share the Gospel with joy.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



Before Sunday, we have the active remembrance of St Cuthbert, whose faithful life in Christ continues to inspire faith in Durham and Northumbria. My **CUTHBERT PILGRIMAGE** in 2025 was my last, but countless pilgrims will continue to walk in his steps to Durham Cathedral for many years to come.

Serving our communities with **Lent Lunches** and raising contributions for charitable causes is hospitality that delights the Lord. Thank you everyone who has made soups, bread, and cheese, served and greeted. This week we continue **our final lunch on TUESDAY 24th March 12.30 in Gainford St Mary's Church.**



Our wedding couple **Mathias and Amy Newberry** were blessed by Spring sunshine at Staindrop St Mary's where they were married on Friday.

SERVICES ON PASSION SUNDAY 22nd March 2026

9.15am Staindrop St Mary Holy Communion Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
9.30am Winston St Andrew Holy Communion Rev'd David Spokes
10.45am Gainford St Mary Holy Communion Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
11am Ingleton St John Holy Communion Rev'd David Spokes



5pm Gainford St Mary
PASSIONTIDE CHORAL EVENSONG
Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

**Stations of the Cross @St Osmund's (Churches Together in Gainford)
FRIDAY 27th March 2pm**



Serving the Kingdom Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers
and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

NOTICES:

Please pray for

- † **MATHIAS NEWBERRY and AMY LAMB** who was married on Friday 20th March 2026 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** 10th, 17th, 24th March 7-8pm 2 Olivers Gardens, Staindrop

LENT LUNCHES: Our season of Lent lunches concludes with Gainford St Mary's on Tuesday at 12.30. Thank you to our teams for their generosity and hospitality

- **Gainford: 12.30 Tuesdays** 10th (St Osmund's) & 24th March (St Mary's)
- **Staindrop,** 11.30am Wednesday 11th at Scarth Hall
- **Ingleton:** 12 noon Tuesday 17th March at Ingleton Village Hall
- **Winston:** From 11.30am Saturday 21st March – funds being raised for MIND – at Winston Village Hall



A candid photograph of Ingleton St John's Lent Lunch

ADVANCE NOTICE OF HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

We hope you would choose to come to our Holy Week reflections and services and to an Easter Service

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 30th, 31st March, 1st April at Ingleton St John 6pm The Way of the Cross Reflections

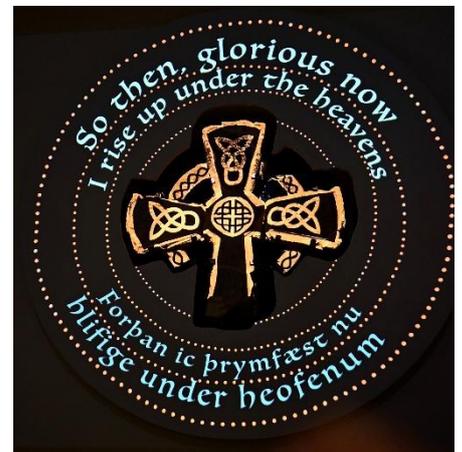
*Maundy Thursday 2nd April Last Supper, Foot Washing, and Stripping of the Altar 5pm Staindrop St Mary
7pm Gainford St Mary*

School Services: **Wednesday 1st April 1.15pm GAINFORD Primary in Gainford St Mary**
Thursday 2nd April 9.15am STAINDROP ACADEMY in Staindrop St Mary
1.15pm INGLETON Primary in Ingleton St John
1.15pm STAINDROP Primary in Staindrop St Mary

Good Friday Services 9.30am	Winston St Andrew
11am	Gainford St Mary (Churches Together)
2pm	Ingleton St John the Evangelist
3pm	Staindrop St Mary

EASTER DAY

COMMUNIONS: 9.30am	Winston St Andrew
10.45am	Gainford St Mary WITH BAPTISM
2pm	Ingleton St John
4pm	Staindrop St Mary



COLLECT for PASSION SUNDAY

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the
cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and
sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

The Gospel: John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are

there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.