

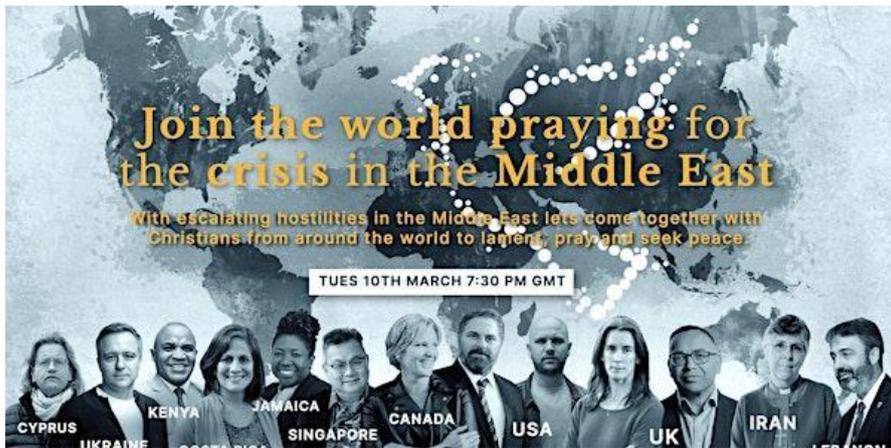
8th – 14th March 2026 Third Sunday of LENT – NEWSLETTER

'The face of the Lord is against those who do evil' (Psalm 34.16a)

Dear friends, Let us pray.

*Send your holy angels
to watch over us, O God,
that on our lips will be found your truth
and in our hearts your love;
so we may ever taste your goodness
in the land of the living;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN*

Last weekend, the same national leader who prided himself for brokering peace in Israel and Palestine, initiated war against Iran. The ancient instrument of diplomacy requires patience, as **patience is as a balm that heals and prepares the wounded for reconciliation** from intractable disagreement. Diplomacy in its pure and right form, draws on the goodness present in our DNA as people created in the image of God. It is premised on hope, and willing to act for the sake of mutual respect and the honour of all. It recognises the need to suspend judgement in the differences that are surely present. It remembers the experience of discovering the inspired blessing of differences that bring unexpected joy of newfound gifts that result in peace.



A Global Prayer Gathering has been organised with the **Bishop of Chelmsford The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani**, who is of Iranian nationality and who came as an exile seeking refuge following persecution during which her brother was killed.

Here is the link to join in on at **7pm to 8.15pm on Tuesday March 10th**:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crisis-in-the-middle-east-global-prayer-event-tickets-1984456668315?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawQWVrhleHRuA2FibQlxMABicmlkETBXQVwTXZ4dIRSSHRkdI V5c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHv0oOF2IRCnZuIx6hk2a00q3vt9fT_wDdn2SMz-DACRi4xV_Mj6_pCmGG-Cb_aem_9beUggTluekWF4VOez6JwA

Step Out of the Noise and Join GATHER's March 13th PILGRIMAGE –

Friday 10am – 4pm Places are free but limited to ensure the day remains restorative. You can secure your spot via this

link: <https://tickets.aucklandproject.org/event-tickets/71612?catID=40885>

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 8th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.15am	Staindrop St Mary	Holy Communion	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
9.30am	Winston St Andrew	Holy Communion	Rev'd Susanne Jukes
10.45am	Gainford St Mary	Holy Communion	Rev'd Susanne Jukes 5pm
11am	Ingleton St John	Holy Communion	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop



Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

The Vicarage telephone landline 01325 733154 has been restored! You may continue to use my mobile number 07976676098 if you wish rather than leaving a voice message on the landline. Thank you.

NOTICES:

Please pray for the families of the recently departed of

† **DORIS RAPER** formerly a faithful member of St John the Evangelist Church, Ingleton. Her funeral service took place on Thursday 5th March, conducted by Rev'd Lloyd Evans.

LENTEN events:

- **LENT BIBLE STUDY: TUESDAYS 10th, 17th, 24th March 7-8pm** 2 Olivers Gardens, Staindrop
- **GATHER Lifegroup fellowship and Bible study 7pm Thursday 19th GAINFORD 2 Academy Gardens**
- **LENT LUNCHEs:**
 - **Gainford:** 12 noon Tuesdays 10th (St Osmund's) & 25th March (St Mary's)
 - **Staindrop,** 11.30am Wednesday 11th at Scarth Hall
 - **Ingleton:** 12 noon Tuesday 17th March at Ingleton Village Hall
 - **Winston:** Saturday 21st March – funds being raised for MIND – at Winston Village Hall

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUR CHURCHES

- ☺ **GAINFORD ST MARY'S BAND** welcomes musicians and instrumentalists to join them. A relaxed and happy group meets to play for our 10.45am Sunday service one Sunday a month. Presently 5 musicians rehearse about once a month on Monday evenings. Peter Dransfield, their band leader, would be delighted to hear from you: pd@pdmail.co.uk 01325 730450
- **PCCs: We have vacancies.** Our PCCs meet about 6 times a year. Being a member of a PCC is an important and valued role that does not require much time nor involve many tasks. PCC officers are invaluable to the running and life of our churches. **Please consider joining a PCC. For Staindrop St Mary's PCC** get in touch with churchwarden Linda: linda.hausmanis@gmail.com **For Ingleton St John's PCC** get in touch with churchwarden Judith pressley.j@hotmail.com or Treasurer Joyce treasurer.ingletonpcc@gmail.com

FUNDRAISERS for your support!

We look forward to strong support for our **COFFEE MORNING**

STAINDROP'S SCARTH HALL on Friday 13th March in support of St Mary's Church funds

At Winston, join us at our Charity Lunch on Saturday 21st March at Winston Village Hall, supporting MIND.

CHARITY LUNCH

donations in aid of



Saturday 21st March 2026

11.30am - 1.00pm

Winston Village Hall

Please join us for
good food
good company
and making a difference

No booking required.



St. Andrew's Fundraising Committee
in the Season of Lent

COLLECT for 3rd Sunday of LENT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but
first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was
crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of
the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life 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

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the
temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the
only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

The Gospel: John 4:5-42

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this

mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’²¹ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.’²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.’²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.’²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’²⁵ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’²⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’³² But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’³³ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’³⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.’³⁵ Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.’³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.’³⁷ For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.”³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.