

5th – 11th APRIL 2026 EASTER 2 – NEWSLETTER

'Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' (John 20:26b)

Dear friends,

We continue to rejoice this EASTER!

On Easter Monday, many joined the **EASTER WALK** through Raby's deer park and woods - a sponsored walk to raise funds for St Mary's, Staindrop. Among those who walked was Karen, who reported to the Staindrop Community: *"Thank you to everyone who organised the Church Easter walk through Raby today. What a glorious time we had! Super refreshments too (very much welcomed)." Well done, Staindrop St Mary's team!*



We had **WONDERFUL EASTER SERVICES**, whose congregations were treated to inspiring joyful expressions of Easter in flowers and symbols of Easter. Behind the scenes are church teams and families from

our parishes, who conceived of these beautiful decorations to mark the change from Lent to the glorious gift of this new season. Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed!



And what more fitting than **AN EASTER BAPTISM** to signify new life in Christ? **A full church in Gainford** celebrated with Simon and Sophie Raw, the Baptism of their son Oscar George. What joy for me, as I had married Simon and Sophie in 2021, baptised their first born Isabelle in 2023, and this Easter Sunday, to baptise their son Oscar on Easter Day 2026!



During the Easter Holidays, we are hosting a **HOLIDAY CLUB** for **7-13 year old youth** from our parishes and neighbouring communities on **Thursday 16th April** from **10am to 4pm** in **Gainford**. Sign up with Sarah or Sheila.

EASTER 2 SUNDAY SERVICES

9.15am Staindrop St Mary
9.30am Winston St Andrew
10.45am Gainford St Mary
11am Ingleton St John

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
Lay-Led by Lynne and Graham
Lay-Led with Peter Craig
Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Easter Sport In A Day Holiday Club


Thursday 16th April
St Mary's Church, Gainford
(Supported by Scripture Union)



Sporting challenges, ball games, stories, songs
and much more!
10.00am-3.00pm

£1 per child

Packed lunch & snacks provided

Open to children aged 7-13yrs (yrs 3-8)

Completed consent form needed to take part

Only 20 spaces – Book now to avoid
disappointment



Application forms from:
Sarah Fells in School, Youth Saints or email
sheilajones.nbvtd@gmail.com
www.gainfordwinston.church

NOTICES:

† **GATHER!** Our Pilgrimage Church has organised an inspiring, reflective, restorative, and renewing programme for the rest of this year. If you've not tried a **pilgrimage walk, a retreat, or the Camino**, you're most welcome to make a start. Everyone is most welcome. To enquire or to sign up, get in touch with Gather's Lead for Coordination and Administration Sheila info@gatherchurchteesdale.com

Or take a look at **our new GATHER website:**

<https://www.gatherchurchteesdale.com/>

You'll find fresh information about our 'church without walls', grounded in the north.

Note that the **Life Group** meetings are being rescheduled due to holidays of leaders: the next meeting has been moved from April 16th to **Thursday 23rd April** and will be at **2 Academy Gardens Gainford 7pm**. Continuing with Jonah.

There is also another **LITTER PICK IN GAINFORD on Saturday 25th April from 10.30-11.30am**. All equipment provided. Meet on the green. Families particularly welcome.



GATHER

UPCOMING EVENTS

RETREAT WEEKEND: BUTTERMERE
5 – 7 June. Rest and recharge in the heart of the Lakes.

PILGRIMAGE: THE HEARTH
3 July. A day of walking and reflection.

LIFE GROUPS
Every 2nd Thursday. Food, fellowship, and faith in our homes.

CAMINO EXPEDITION
4 – 13 September. The long walk together.

LAKES RETREAT: BORROWDALE
19 September (TBC). A final pause before autumn.

ST GEORGE'S DAY– Teesdale & District Scouts will be celebrating their service with the renewal of promises on **Sunday 26th April at 10am in Staindrop St Mary**. They will join our regular principal Sunday service with a special order of service to welcome them.

It occurs to me that **the Easter season** recalls what is a **bonus for everyone especially Jesus' disciples**. During this period, the risen Christ spends extra time amongst his friends and also others who have been wanting to know him.

Let us join them to know Jesus more.

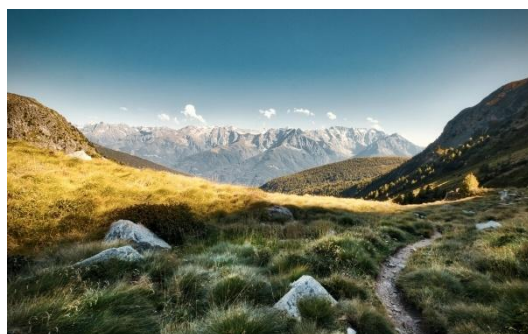
With confidence of our risen Lord:

Sit in his presence.

Ask our questions and listen in faith.

Get to know Christ in prayer

And read again his words.



The voice of the Beloved

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you that in your risen life you invite us to know your love and to follow you, sharing that love for the world. Give me courage and strength to follow where you lead. In your holy name. Amen.

Teesdale District Scouts

invite you to join them at
St Mary's Church, Staindrop
for the
St George's Day Service
Sunday 26th April at 10am

Happy



St. George's Day

COLLECT for EASTER 2

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and
wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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 God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

First Reading – Acts 2.14, 22-32

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

²² ‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

²⁹ ‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

The Gospel for Easter 2: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.