

19th – 25th APRIL 2026 EASTER 3 – NEWSLETTER

'While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them' (Luke 24:15)

Dear friends,

I hope you are enjoying **the Spring** sunshine bringing fresh warmth, the sounds of birdsong, and sight of buds and bulbs transformed into flowers. For me, today, it's **a birthday treat!** Rather than thinking about the advancing years, it's a pleasing day with the precious added bonus of greetings, cards, and treats. Here's a rarely shared photograph of me as a child with my sister, God's gift for both our lives, as we were conceived together. I'll leave you to work out which of these children is me!



For we are
God's handiwork,
created in
Christ Jesus
to do good
works, which
God prepared
in advance
for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:10

Through the decades, the world has been a messy and at times a dangerous place. As Independence was planned for former colonies, I recall years of curfews set to protect us from Communist insurgence. Later on, the wider world was not unaffected by the break-up of the Soviet Bloc, nuclear threat, and many regional conflicts. So, today, when once again wars threaten lives around the world, we ought at least to be balanced in our perspective. **We have had overwhelming evidence to justify hopefulness.** We are witnessing, as our ancestors had previously witnessed, dishonourable leaders who have not chosen the ways of peace. It is unspeakably ugly, and political structures have failed. But history has shown in Old and New Testament scripture as well as history closer to our times, these individuals and their acts will not prevail. The power vested in men, in human beings, is untrustworthy – especially those who invoke the name of our Lord for purposes that are unloving, unjust, and do not bring peace. **Let us hold fast to what is good;** let us not despise righteousness; let us believe that God knows and we shall rise from our present worldly disturbance.

This was Jesus' first sermon from which we know truth and goodness.



Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

EASTER 3 SUNDAY SERVICES

9.15am **Staindrop St Mary**

9.30am **Winston St Andrew**

10.45am **Gainford St Mary**

5pm **Gainford St Mary**

CHORAL EVENSONG

Lay-Led with the Worship Group

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop with St Mary's Quire

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

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.

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.

MORE NOTICES:



WINSTON CAR BOOT SALE 9-11.30am Sunday 26th April. St Andrew's Church has a stall with interesting items for sale towards church funds.

St. Mary's Church Gainford

SPRING Concert

With Northern Voices

Saturday | May 9th | 2026

7pm in St Mary's Church

We are so pleased to welcome back the Northern Voices Choir. They always have a wonderfully varied and entertaining programme featuring solos. One will be sung by our own Paul Place from Gainford with his lovely tenor voice. They also have two other Gainford members: Tony Kennan and Anne Marie Wilson.

Tickets £8.
Wine, soft drinks & nibbles will be served

For Tickets: Contact Sue Taylor on
01325 730379 / geoffandsue379@gmail.com

Gainford St Mary's Church will once again welcome the **NORTHERN VOICES CHOIR** for their **SPRING CONCERT** at **7pm Saturday 9th May 2026**.

Tickets are only £8 to include drinks and nibbles.

For tickets, contact Sue on 01325 730379

or by email: geoffandsue379@gmail.com

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.

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 3

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh
hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading – Acts 2.14, 36-41

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.

³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ ³⁸ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Gospel for Easter 3: Luke 24.13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along? They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ ¹⁹ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ ²⁵ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.