

26th APRIL – 2nd May 2026 EASTER 4 – NEWSLETTER

'May those who sow in tears, reap with shouts of joy'. (Psalm 126:5)

Dear friends,

It seems a particular honour for George to have been appointed **Patron Saint of England**, at least that's the sentiment instead of England being honoured by **George** being her particular saint. A third century Roman soldier of Greek origin born in Cappadocia (modern-day Turkey), George refused to renounce his Christian faith during the persecution by Emperor Diocletian, resulting in his martyrdom around 303 AD. It may be deduced that England heralds the courageous steadfastness of Christian faith. The award of the George Cross is given to non-operational gallantry (for both civilians and military persons), the equivalent of the Victory Cross awarded for military gallantry – both the highest awards for gallantry. Oh that this nation remembers that her flag bears testimony of her saint of true faith in Christ, slaying the dragon of evil and wickedness manifest in all ways in the world.

Prayer on the Feast of St George

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and death: give us the same faith and power of love that those who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection.



Our Youth end their Easter break at our HOLIDAY CLUB

It seems God's favour is with us – the youth verdict is that church is cool!



On a gloriously happy Easter Spring Day, our youth enjoyed games indoors and out, lunch and marshmallows over a firepit. Led by Scripture Union's Neil, our youth club's partner for several years, church in the holidays was fun! It gives me great joy to see how our youth have had super holiday club.



The camping season, if such there is, has begun. At least we may have thought so with **25 sleeping bags** crammed into the boot of our churchwarden's car in Winston. But this was an excellent response for **Winston St Andrew's appeal to support Shelter Suit Support for the Homeless**. Thank you to all who donated sleeping bags and we pray that those who are homeless would find relief and comfort in using them.

EASTER 4 SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30am Winston St Andrew

10am Staindrop St Mary – ST GEORGE'S SCOUTS SERVICE

10.45am Gainford St Mary

11am Ingleton St John

Rev'd David Spokes

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Lay-Led with Peter Craig

Rev'd David Spokes

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

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. Pop along before or after church service to support us.

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

Sign up for **GATHER's annual summer retreat in the Lake District** – a weekend to be refreshed, restored and re-energised from 5th to 7th June 2026.

We are aiming to be a group of 12 disciples walking on Camino to Santiago in September. Booking early means lower travel costs. Get in touch with Sheila 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.

COLLECT for EASTER 4

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Reading – Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Gospel for Easter 4: John 10:1-10

¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Reading for St George's Day – 2 Timothy 2:3-13

Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.