

## 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 EASTER 6 – NEWSLETTER

*“In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28a)*

Dear friends,



Brian and I had a memorable day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Coronation of King Charles III. When I informed Bishop Sarah, then Acting Bishop of Durham, of my resignation, I mentioned my hope to finish well. She graciously nominated me to receive the honour of **an invitation to The Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace.**



We knew God's favour coming to this diocese. My particular gifts contributed to missional blessings in Bishop Auckland as Entrepreneur Priest and in Gainford and Winston in plurality as Priest in Charge. There were highlights in Bishop Auckland, where mission-led innovation continues to flourish in the town. In Gainford, God led us to start a Youth Ministry, refresh our relationship with the school, root ministry on weekly prayer, introduce Choral Evensong, launch GATHER our church plant, facilitate the weekly Warm and Welcome, and establish our place in pilgrimage. A great blessing at Winston St Andrew's is the continuity of strong and stable lay leadership, inspiring community confidence in the church, enlivening engagement, and pastoral care is embedded in the parish. Despite the pandemic's disruption, faithful worship was deepened. Many discerned vocation through training placements with us, being afterwards ordained or licensed to various ministries. By God's prompting, I relinquished Bishop Auckland's ministry, adding Staindrop and Ingleton to my parochial ministry. I believe both parishes and churches have raised their aspiration, more aware of God's presence living in Jesus, in word and action. In Staindrop the Worship Group, Fabric Works Sub-group, and ministry with our schools are highlights, with Staindrop Primary School joining Gainford Primary School winning national Growing Faith Foundation awards. Ingleton Church is renewed with a great PCC team, secure financially, and a soon-to-be authorised Children's Minister will lead Ingleton's young families to discover Jesus through Forest Church. I hope to announce my continuing ministry elsewhere before we leave, even if it takes on a lighter and more spacious form providing Brian and me time to enjoy our new home together.

### APCM in our parish churches

Last Sunday, Staindrop St Mary's held her APCM, where the many who attended heard of encouraging developments and acknowledged how we have progressed in so many ways. Our next APCMs are:

1. **10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 12 noon in Gainford St Mary Church** immediately following the 10.45am morning Communion service
2. **17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 10.30am in Winston St Andrew Church** immediately following the 9.30am morning Communion service
3. **24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 12 noon in Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church** immediately following the 11am morning Communion service

### EASTER 6 SUNDAY SERVICES

- 9.15am Staindrop St Mary Communion**  
**9.30am Winston St Andrew Service of the Word**  
**10.45am Gainford St Mary Communion followed by APCM**  
**11am Ingleton St John Service of the Word**

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

*Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop*

## NOTICES:

**Bereavement:** We thank God for the late **JOAN MARRIOTT**, who lived her **100-year-old faithful life**. Her funeral service will take place in **St Mary's Church, Gainford on Friday 29th May 2026 at 11.30am** followed by Cremation at Darlington Crematorium at 1pm. We hold in prayer her daughters Roberta and Lesley, Granddaughter Laura, and all her family.

**Baptisms in May:** We have 5 baptisms to look forward to. Please pray for these children and candidates, their parents, Godparents and friends:

† **Daisy Todd**, at Winston St Andrew's Church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1pm

† **Dottie Beatrice Brown** and **Kit Michael Brown** on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1pm together with Dottie's Godparents – **Catherine Wilson, Ellie Tinkler, and Nidhi Devgan**, who will also be baptised at the same service.

**Weddings in May:** We look forward to the weddings of:

† **Marc Nicholas Guffick** to **Samantha Jayne Jewson** on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 11.30am Winston St Andrew

† **Andy Joseph Greener** to **Jillian Keast Johnston** nee Greenwood on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 2pm Gainford St Mary's Church

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

Tickets are only £8 to include drinks and nibbles. For tickets, contact Sue on 01325 730379 or by email:

[geoffandsue379@gmail.com](mailto:geoffandsue379@gmail.com)

There are still places at **GATHER's annual summer retreat in the Lake District** – a weekend to be refreshed, restored and re-energised **from 5th to 7th June 2026**.

**GATHER** is with **The Hearth in The Auckland Project** on **Friday 3rd July 10am – 4pm in Bishop Auckland**. This **Pilgrimage Day** opportunity is **FREE** including lunch.

Would you be among the **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 for these events:

[info@gatherchurchteesdale.com](mailto:info@gatherchurchteesdale.com)

### COLLECT for EASTER 6

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:

help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen



## First Reading – Acts 17:22-31

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

<sup>28</sup> For “*In him we live and move and have our being*”; as even some of your own poets have said, “*For we too are his offspring.*”

<sup>29</sup> Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

## The Gospel for Easter 6: John 14:15-21

<sup>15</sup> ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’