

31st May 2026 TRINITY SUNDAY – NEWSLETTER

'For you shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace' (Isaiah 55:12a)

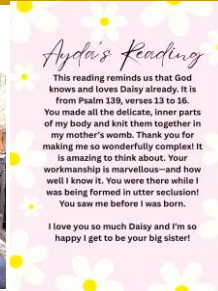
Dear friends,

We celebrate The Trinity this Sunday, culmination of Easter, The Ascension, and Pentecost. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead for our redemption to everlasting life. God the Son, Christ Jesus, ascended into eternal glory, returning to His heavenly throne. God the Holy Spirit came into fulness for every believer, ever-present source of counsel and comfort, stirring the world to truth and righteousness. **Holy, Holy, Holy!**

Isaiah 55 verse 12 describes God's assurance to Brian and me as we leave and enter our next chapter:

'For you shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace;

*the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.'*



During this final fortnight, I was blessed with **6 baptisms** – 3 children and 3 adults; **2 weddings**, and **final services with outpouring of love**, confidence amongst our PCCs and congregations, and gracious clergy who shall care for our parishes and parishioners in the vacancy. I had married parents of the baptized children at both services; and also Ayda, Daisy's elder sister, who read the Bible passage beautifully. There was such joy in Winston St Andrew, with 28 children enthusiastically at the font, and at Marc and Sammy's wedding on a glorious early summer's morning. I felt God's humour in my final wedding of Jilly and Andy from The Auckland Project, calling to mind my role as Entrepreneur Priest, which brought me to minister in Durham Diocese. Shall I be remembered for administering communion with chopsticks and the unconventional method of baptizing children?



On Sunday many **wonderfully thoughtful gifts** from each church **will be displayed at our farewell service**. These include Ingleton churchwarden Joyce's creation of the mini-Eileen reversible priest and Staindrop St Mary's 2 heritage pots with hybrid bushes of Eileen Rose and Brian Rose!



You are invited to a
FAREWELL SERVICE
FOR EILEEN AND BRIAN HARROP

Sunday 31st of May
4pm
St Mary's Church
Gainford

ALL WELCOME

Tea in Gainford Village Hall afterwards

There's no morning service in Gainford St Mary's Church

Brian and I thank you all for your kindness, generous care and love. You shall be in our prayers for God's continued blessings.

TRINITY SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30am Winston St Andrew

10am Staindrop St Mary

4pm Gainford St Mary

with Canon Chancellor, Rev'd Canon Charlie Allen preaching

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Lay-Led Worship Group

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

NOTICES:

Appointment of Churchwardens

We pray for our appointed churchwardens of all 4 churches and our GATHER Leads.

Our Churchwardens in **Together Winston, Ingleton, Gainford**, (with) **GATHER**, (and) **Staindrop – TWIGGS** our group of parishes in plurality, are:

- ☺ Lynne Lobley and Graham Young (also Lay Chair) at Winston St Andrew
- ☺ Judith Pressley (also Lay Chair) and Joyce Mead (also Treasurer) at Ingleton St John the Evangelist
- ☺ Geoff and Sue Taylor, and Peter Graham (also Treasurer) at Gainford St Mary
- ☺ Tom Deakin, Sheila Jones, and Mark Samuelson (*co-leads* of GATHER – God's Tent in Teesdale)
- ☺ Linda Hausemanis (also Lay Chair) and Mark Palmer (also Treasurer) in Staindrop St Mary

The special service (Bishop's Visitation) at which churchwardens are sworn in takes place on:

- **Sunday 14th June 2026 at 3:30pm at Durham Cathedral** or alternatively on
- **Wednesday 17th June for 6:00 for 6:45pm at Merrington St John the Baptist** (Rockcliffe Terrace, Kirk Merrington, Durham, DL16 7HP)

Please check with your churchwardens which service they will be attending. Everyone is encouraged to attend the service to support them.

Looking Ahead

- Our **Area Dean Rev'd Canon Alec Harding** is the responsible minister in vacancy. He will be **supported by Priests with 'Permission to Officiate'**, who **share services in our churches**. They include: The Reverends Susanne Jukes, David Spokes, Ian Gormersall, Geoff Lowson, and Ruth Stables. **Rev'd Ana Moskovina, Assistant Curate, will also assist** and lead Choral Evensong Services at Gainford St Mary. We are pleased that Rev'd Michael (Mike) Madden, will soon also receive Permission to Officiate and be available to take services. **Churchwardens are the contact persons for booking Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals.**
- A **Digital Diary of Services and Events** (iKnowChurch) is now available to enable our parishes and GATHER to **share TWIGG information** including Sundays, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Burials, and events e.g. fundraising and social events, Bible Study and Seasonal Courses, Pilgrimage and Retreats. We thank **Rev'd David Spokes, the Administrator** assisting our churchwardens, ministers, and lay leaders to use and communicate using the digital diary.
- Our **Children, Young People, and Schools Ministry** will continue growing, with the help of:
 - Sheila Jones and Sarah Fells co-leaders **Youth Saints and Holiday Club** for our 4 parishes and beyond
 - Sue Taylor and the **Open The Book Team** (for Gainford and Ingleton Primary Schools)
 - Felicity Bleazard, to be licensed as **Children's Minister for Ingleton St John** – 11am Saturday 12th September in Durham Cathedral (to start **Forest Church** in the autumn)
 - Paula Harrison (Children's Minister and Chair of Staindrop CE Primary Governors) with Deputy Headteacher Caroline Harland will implement **Growing Faith Foundation Hub 'Faith Explorers' Programme**
 - Sarah Fells with GATHER will continue to lead a **weekly afterschool ROOTED club** at **Staindrop Academy**, and the Academy's **'Awe and Wonder' programme** at Staindrop St Mary's Church
 - Sarah Fells with Rosemary Wilson (Foundation Governor from Staindrop St Mary) will continue hosting and mentoring the **monthly school Worship for Staindrop Primary in Staindrop St Mary's Church**
- **Pastoral Care and Prayer**
 - Wendy Broderick is Gainford's Authorised Pastoral Assistant, assisted by Nancy Hull.
 - Sarah Fells and Peter Craig (until September) assist Joyce Mead and Judith Pressly in Ingleton, and do home visits in Staindrop.
 - Churchwardens Lynne and Graham, together with many in Winston St Andrew's congregation, provide informal pastoral care
 - Sheila Jones is GATHER's pastoral care lead
 - Jen Hindhaugh hosts and leads Prayer every Tuesday at her home outside Gainford school's gates
 - Sarah Fells and Peter Craig leads Morning Prayer 9am Tuesday in Gainford and Wednesday in Staindrop

Bereavement: We thank God for the late **JOAN MARRIOTT, 100**, whose funeral took place on Friday 29th May in Gainford St Mary. We hold all her family in prayer.

COLLECT for TRINITY SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to
worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all
adversities;
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

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and
Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever. Amen

First Reading – 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The Gospel for TRINITY Sunday: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

A Glimpse of God's Blessing of Brian and Eileen's New Home



Note:

To clear the vicarage, Eileen and Brian will be, on and off, in Gainford's Vicarage until possibly the end of June. We'd be happy to see you as friends although, without a ministry license in Durham Diocese, Eileen is not permitted to minister to parishioners.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE

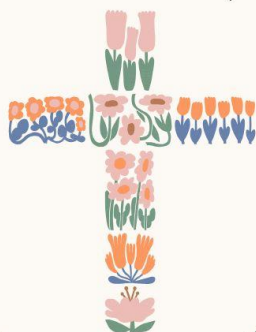
CLAIRE'S ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

Claire has enjoyed a good start to her Ordained Ministry as a Curate and Deacon at St Luke's and All Saints' Parish in Stranton, Hartlepool.

We are delighted that she is to be Ordained as a Priest on Saturday 27th June 2026 at 4pm in Durham Cathedral. She extends an invitation to everyone to support her at her Ordination.

Eileen is honoured to be invited to give the sermon address at Claire's first Communion Service on Sunday 28th June at her church of St Luke's, Stranton, Hartlepool, where she will preside and celebrate Communion at the Priest for the first time.

***Please pray for all those to be
ordained this Pentecost, among them:***



Claire Mead

**to be ordained priest by
The Rt Revd Rick Simpson, Bishop of Durham**

Durham Cathedral, Saturday 27 June, 4pm

***Please also pray for Revd John Bell and the whole
people of God at St Luke's & All Saints, Stranton
(Hartlepool) where she continues to serve.***

*'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably
more than all we ask or imagine, according to
his power that is at work within us, to him be
glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, for ever and ever!
Amen.'* (Ephesians 3: 20-21, NIV)