

3rd – 9th May 2026 EASTER 5 – NEWSLETTER

*'Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these'.
(John 14:12)*

Dear friends,

As parishes of the Established Church, we are legally bound to hold **Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)**, to review and report on ministry, finance and accounts, church property and fabric, worship and all aspects of church life to church members. We do this voluntarily as stewards and ministers of God, whether remunerated or not, to bless the place and people in our parishes.

APCM in our parish churches

I hope many members and supporters would come to our meetings; to encourage church officers, volunteers of church teams, and lay and ordained ministers; to be encouraged by God's favour that has enabled many accomplishments and even better things to come.

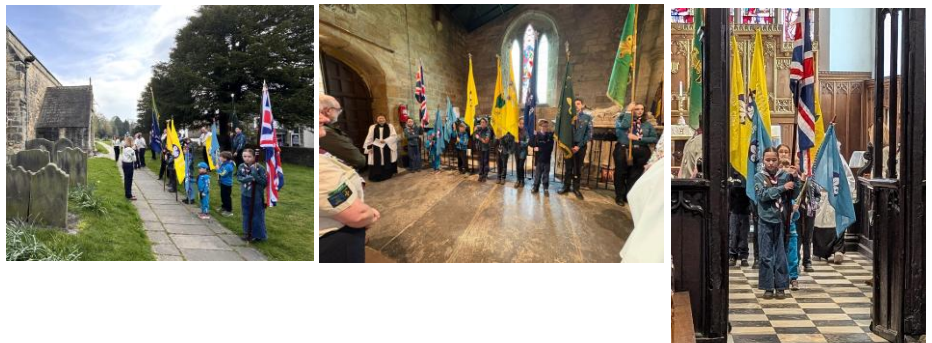
1. **3rd May 2026 10.15am in Staindrop St Mary Church** immediately following our Sunday 9.15am morning Communion service
2. **10th May 2026 12 noon in Gainford St Mary Church** immediately following our Sunday 10.45am morning Communion service
3. **17th May 2026 10.30am in Winston St Andrew Church** immediately following our Sunday 9.30am morning Communion service
4. **24th May 2026 12 noon in Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church** immediately following our Sunday 11am morning Communion service

We anticipate electing new PCC members, co-opted during the past year, and 2 new churchwardens in 2 of our churches. This is an affirming answer to a lot of prayer. These will be my last APCMs in our churches, so I feel particularly blessed that our churches are all in a sound, missionally active, secure, and positive place. There will always be ups, downs, highs, and lows, but let us always be joyful, hopeful, and generous in lifting one another up in Jesus' name.

Here are photographs of **Ingleton St John's recent completed interior renovation works, thanks to former and current PCC members' patience, diligence, and collective action.** We also thank generous givers for financial support and buildings' expertise given freely. Well done!



Staindrop St Mary's hosted the **Scouts at their annual St George's Day Service** last Sunday. All found it meaningful on a beautiful Spring day.



EASTER 5 SUNDAY SERVICES

9.15am Staindrop St Mary Communion followed by the APCM

**9.30am Winston St Andrew
10.45am Gainford St Mary**

**Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
with Sarah Fells preaching
Rev'd Canon Ian Gomersall
Lay-Led with Peter Craig**

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

**We have a newly consecrated
BISHOP OF DURHAM**



**THE RT REVD
RICK SIMPSON**



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 17th May, 1pm
- † **Dottie Beatrice Brown** and **Kit Michael Brown** on Sunday 24th 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 23rd May 2026 11.30am Winston St Andrew
- † **Andy Joseph Greener** to **Jillian Keast Johnston** nee Greenwood on Saturday 23rd May 2026 2pm Gainford St Mary's Church



Thank you our CHURCH TEAM at the WINSTON CAR BOOT SALE for raising almost £215 for St Andrew's Church funds. Items unsold were gratefully welcomed by several local charities.

Gainford St Mary's Church will once again welcome the **NORTHERN VOICES CHOIR** for their **SPRING CONCERT** this **Saturday 9th 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

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.**

Would you be among the 12 disciples walking on Camino to Santiago in September? Booking early means lower travel costs. Get in touch for these events

with Sheila Gather's Lead for Coordination and Administration Sheila info@gatherchurchteesdale.com

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

COLLECT for EASTER 5

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus
Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate
of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth,
and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

First Reading – Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

The Gospel for Easter 5: John 14:1-14

¹ 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'