



The Charity Auction of Surplus Christmas Gifts raised a wonderful £688.50. These funds went to The Barnabas Fund who support persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Many thanks to all those who donated gifts and to those who came and bid for the items. Hopefully all went away happy with plenty of bargains. Thanks also to the team who helped put it on.

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Malcolm's Musings

WARCH 2024				
I	Fri	10.30am World Day of Prayer at St Margaret's Church		
3	Sun	LENT 3 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion;		
		Ham Holy Communion.		
4	Mon	2pm Coffee Lounge Communion.		
5	Tues	9.45am Little Fishes in Church.		
6	Wed	10am Holy Communion.		
10	Sun	LENT 4 Mothering Sunday 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am		
		Parade Service; 4.30pm Cafe Church.		
12	Tues	9.45am Little Fishes in Church.		
13	Wed	10am Holy Communion.		
17	Sun	LENT 5 (Foodbank Sunday) 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am		
		Parish Communion; I Iam All Age Service; 4pm Choral Evensong.		
18	Mon	3pm Fry Court Service.		
19	Tues	9.45am Little Fishes in Church.		
20	Wed	10am Holy Communion in Church; 7.30pm Annual Church		
		Meeting in Christ Church Hall.		
24	Sun	PALM SUNDAY 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish		
		Communion.		
25	Mon	7.30pm Communion for Holy Week		
26	Tues	7.30pm Communion for Holy Week		
27	Wed	10am Communion for Holy Week		
28	Thurs	Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Commemoration of the Last		
		Supper		
29	Fri	Good Friday 2pm "The Last Hour" A Good Friday Devotion		
31	Sun	EASTER DAY. 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish		
		Communion; Ham Holy Communion.		

MARCH 2024

.Regular activities on back page

Prayer For The Day

Every Weekday at 8.45am on Zoom & Facebook Live. Same link for Sundays too.

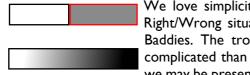
Daily Morning Worship ID: 895 | 102 4740 Password: 450872

What Is Truth?

"What is truth?", is the question asked by Pontius Pilate in the trial of Jesus as all sorts of charges and claims are laid against Jesus and Pilate struggles to administer justice.



Do you find yourself asking that same question today with many of the issues facing the world?



We love simplicity and a simple White/ Black, Yes/ No, Right/Wrong situation that can easily sort Goodies from Baddies. The trouble is that the world is usually more complicated than that, and rather than an obvious choice, we may be presented with a spectrum with white and black

at either end, but a lot of grey in between. When does the grey become white or black, and is it affected by who has the best PR?

When earthquakes hit, initial casualties are usually low until the full scale is revealed as the days go on. When it was thought an Israeli missile had hit a hospital in Gaza, Hamas immediately claimed that there were 500 casualties to this barbaric act. Then it turned out it was a rocket from their own side that hit the car park and the numbers were reduced to 50, and then quietly forgotten. What is truth? There is so much manipulation by both sides, it's often hard to see anything other than grey.

Social Media has complicated things too, as so much opinion is packaged as the truth, and It's so convincing. In November of last year an Artificial Intelligence generated audio of Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, disparaging Remembrance weekend and calling for pro-Palestine marches to take precedence went viral. It was believed by many, I suspect on both sides of the opinion, but it was a fake. Mark Twain said a lie can travel halfway around the world whilst truth is still putting on its shoes. But when you check that quote on Google, it appears Jonathan Swift said it first!

In his Letter, Saint James says My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. (James 1:19). In today's society where opinion is manipulated by PR, Artificial Intelligence and Algorithms, we would be wise to follow James advice. Be cautious about what you believe, and never Forward or pass on unless you know it to be right. Maybe Pilate had it right, and the most important question for us to ask today is "What is Truth?"

Paul

CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024 at 7.30pm

Appoint our Churchwardens for 2024

Elect Representatives to the Church Council

Adopt the Annual Report on Church Life and Organisations

Receive the Church Accounts for 2023

Encourage and Enthuse

Annual Reports for 2023 will be available for download on the Church website www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk

SPRING CLEAN WEEKEND

Friday 15th March from 5pm

High Dusting - We only had 5 people come this evening last year!

Saturday 16th March from 9am

Cleaning, Hoovering & Polishing.

All Welcome.

This is an All Age Event!

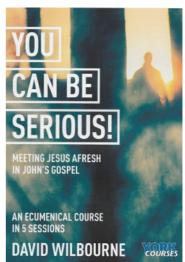


VILLAGE LENT COURSE

This year the village Lent Course will follow the York Course "You Can Be Serious" written and presented by Bishop David Wilbourne, who was once a Curate at Brookfield!

It follows Themes from Saint John's Gospel and is guaranteed to get people talking.

In 2019 David came to lead a Lent Course in person at Christ Church, and folk will remember how moving it was with laughter and tears.



Mondays at 1.30pm - 3pm - Last one at Royal Oak

26th February Strangers in the Night - Methodist Church

4th March The Winner Takes it all - Friends Meeting House

I Ith March I once was blind, but now I see - Christ Church

18th March Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones -

Royal Oak @ 6pm

For the last of our meetings we meet at The Royal Oak for a meal together at 6pm, and then go upstairs to have our meeting at 7.30pm.

All the meetings are stand alone, so you can come to as many as you wish.

Booklets are for sale in the Churches for £2.50



Charitable Giving 2023

Christ Church is generous in what we give away, from our Income, Special Appeals & Services and by allowing collections from baptisms, weddings and funerals go to good causes. Here is a breakdown of what has gone where. If we tried to keep this money for ourselves, without doubt the total would be a lot smaller.

Charity	£	Charity	£
Christian Aid	373.95	South Cleveland Heart Fund	823.86
United Society (restored as USPG)	500	South Tees Hospital Charity Sir R O 5EW142	239.53
Church Mission Society	500	South Tees Hospital Charity Critical Care unit	285.4
Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland	1000	Ward 1, James Cook University Hospital	268.9
Genesis Project	1000	Macmillan Cancer Support	1076.92
Childrens Society	547.95	Dementia UK	786.47
Children in Distress	548.9	Alzheimers Society	221.60
Christians Against Poverty	1000	MS Society	285.20
Barnabas Aid	381.25	MIND Foundation GmbH	167.33
The Message Trust (Respect ME)	1000	Daisy Chain	381.65
Big Kids (Brambles Farm)	1000	Zoe's Place	135.97
DEC Earthquake Appeal	1168.40	Teesside Hospice Care Foundation	170.59
School Aid India	1050.00	Motor Neurone Disease Association	415.09
Tear Fund (East Africa Famine Relief)	804.17	Тоу Вох	1200.00
British Red Cross	630.10	Young Lives v Cancer (CLIC Sargent)	530.12
RNLI	458.84	Anthony Nolan	86.82
Stainton Lodge Care Centre	405.36	Help for Heroes	102.59
Pancreatic Cancer UK	143.60	Middlesbrough Food Bank	1511.09
British Heart Foundation	508.35	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	323.13
Yorkshire Cancer Research	257.50	Christian Motorcyclists Association	30
Cancer Research UK	677.41	CRY- Cardiac risk in the Young	197.19
Stroke Association	790.94	TOTAL FOR 2023	28028.50
Glaucoma UK	386.78		
Anglican International Development	3062.66	Christian Charities	11749.00
Great North Air Ambulance	592.89	Humanitarian Charities	6018.43
		Medical & Care Charities	10261.19

WANTED

Badminton players to join our ladies' group.



Beginners welcome.

We meet every Tuesday at 9.15 am in the Christ Church Hall, Great Ayton.

If you are interested, just turn up and meet us one Tuesday.

Easter Flowers



If you would like to donate an arrangement for Easter in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a blessing received, please contact Marina Charlton 01642 722087 to book an arrangement. Suggested £30 donation.

Please contact Marina as soon as you can as these go quickly.

Funeral Thanks Ruth Waterton writes ...

My family and I wish to thank all who gave support and sympathy following the death of my husband Peter The many cards received made us realise how well liked Peter was. A funeral collection raised £400 £200 To RSPB and £200 to the Specialist Palliative care unit at the Friarage Hospital.

Sally Pettit would like to thank all friends who attended Mark's funeral on the 8th February for their love, kindness and support. Also for generous donations to Parkinsons UK in memory of Mark which raised £1000. Special thanks to Rev'd Canon Paul Peverell for his meaningful eulogy and help during this difficult time.

ALL SAINTS VOLUNTEER GUIDES NEEDED



All Saints 12th Century church, the only Grade I listed building in Great Ayton, urgently needs more volunteer guides if it is to remain open six afternoons per week during the summer months. The church is an important historical monument in its own right, but particularly as part of the Cook Trail receives visitors from all over the world as well as hosting various services and the occasional concert.

Becoming a guide does not require any detailed prior knowledge or expertise, just some interest in local history and a willingness to be a friendly face welcoming visitors. If you can spare one afternoon or more per month (a duty lasts from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.) And want to know more please contact the Custodian, **Robin Hazell – Tel: 01642 722975,** Mobile 07582 210731, email robin.hazell@btinternet.com

SPECIAL CHORAL EVENSONG

CHRIST CHURCH, GREAT AYTON

SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024 @ 4pm

- to commemorate:

- the 100th anniversary of the death of Charles Villiers Stanford (30/09/1852-29/03/1924)
- Saint Patrick (d. 17/03/461)
- Passion Sunday (The fifth Sunday in Lent), the start of
- 'Passiontide', when we bring to mind the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ before his death and resurrection

Deanery News

The Rev'd Robert Opala, currently Vicar of the Whorlton Group of Churches (Swainby, Carlton, Faceby, Hutton Rudby, Middleton & Crathorne) has been appointed to be the Vicar of Saint Cuthbert's, Ormesby Parish.

Robert will be inducted to Ormesby Parish on Sunday I4th April at 3pm at a Service in St Cuthberts.



Robert is married to Lisa Opala, who as well as being a Chaplain to James Cook University Hospital, is also an assistant curate at St Mary's Nunthorpe.

Robert, a native of Poland, has brought a great warmth and spirituality to both his Churches and to Stokesley Deanery. Always smiling and always cheerful, he exemplifies Christian joy.

I am sure the Whorlton Benefice will miss him and Lisa greatly, but the people of Ormesby Parish, who have waited a long time for this vacancy to be filled, will soon know that good things are worth waiting for. Our prayers are with them all in this new journey.

CONFIRMING THE THREE BETTYS









On Sunday 18 February we welcomed Bishop Paul for his last Confirmation Service with us before retirement in July, and what a lovely occasion we had.

It was a joint service bringing Saint Oswald's and Christ Church together, and was followed by a faith lunch afterwards that could have fed the 5,000.

Our three candidates - Caroline, Nicky & Fay - all shared the same middle name of Elizabeth, perhaps a tribute to our young Queen.

There was a lovely warmth of atmosphere in Church and you could see Bishop Paul was enjoying the occasion too.

We said our thank yous to him at the end of the service with a card and gift.





We managed to get some group photos of both the choir and Parish staff, although some were missing from both due to other commitments. The singing from both choir and congregation was excellent. Thank you to all.



CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Over the last year we have continued to meet for worship at our regular Sunday Services in church at 8am and 9.15am, with Sunday school meeting regularly at the 9.15 service. The 9.15am service continues to be transmitted by zoom and Facebook. Cafe church meets in the church hall every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 4pm, led by Nick Land, and Steve Green, and we are seeing increasing numbers of adults and children attending. A new discussion group has started for 8yr olds and over and this has an enthusiastic following. Weekday services - Holy Communion on Wednesday at 10am, and coffee lounge



Communion on the first Monday at 2pm, are also well attended. Prayer for the Day (8.45am via zoom and Facebook) continues to be a blessing to people, both from our own church and other churches near and far.

The damp that was affecting the south west corner of the church has been dealt with. Following re pointing of external stonework in that aea, the internal wall has been replasterd and painted. The main doors to the church have had draught proofing strips added and been re-hung, which has successfully reduced the draughts.

In September the Quinquenial Inspection was carried out, and reported that "The Church is in really good condition and is clearly well looked after by the PCC". We would like to thank all who have been involved in maintaining the Church building, both past and present, for a job well done. There are some isolated areas of re-pointing that need doing, as well as some redecorating, and we will be tackling these over the next months. The Spire also needs closer inspection and possible re-pointing.

We have checked that the church silver and other items of value are kept safely. Since Paul moved to Nunthorpe in the summer, we are very grateful to our team of "Doorkeepers" who regularly unlock and lock the church each day.

There is a large group of people working behind the scenes week by week to enable our church to function, and we are very grateful to everybody who helps. This group includes our sidespeople, servers, volunteer cleaners, flower arrangers, and the coffee team. New people have joined these teams, serving God and our

church community. We all have a role to play in the functioning of our church - please consider prayerfully what you could contribute.

We thank God for His continued blessings, enabling us to fulfil His ministry here in Great Ayton.

Helen Land & Jonathan Winterschladen

As reported in last month's Spire, Jonathan has decided not to stand again this year as Churchwarden due to other commitments.

This means that we are looking for someone else with time and interest, and hopefully a knowledge of the workings of the Church, to be able to take this on, but what does a Churchwarden do? Here is a brief Guide, but dont panic as the PCC and other Church Officers are there to assist.

Churchwardens are responsible for ensuring that the PCC cares for and maintains the church and its contents and other buildings in the parish, and the churchyard or grounds.

They are responsible for ensuring that::-

- there is a terrier, (the list and description of any land or buildings belonging to the church).
- proper records of any property transactions, including licences under Faculty and tenancy agreements and leases are kept..
- an annually updated inventory and photographic record of all the items belonging to the church it retained.
- quinqennial repairs are carried out
- a log book of all alterations and repairs to the church and its lands and contents exists.
- appropriate building and contents insurances are in place.
- an annual report is made on the fabric of the church and any other buildings to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
- all valuable items are securely kept.
- the Archdeacon and the DAC are consulted about any repairs or alteration to the church, or any acquisitions or disposals of contents, and that a Faculty is obtained before any work is begun.

Liturgy and Worship

In the absence of the parish priest they are responsible, with the Area Dean, for ensuring that there is someone to conduct services, and that liturgy and the life of the parish continues as far as possible as with the previous incumbent. They must check that all visiting clergy hold the Bishop's licence or Permission to Officiate. (At Christ Church we are very fortunate in having assistant staff, both clergy & Readers.)

- They should ensure that the service register and other registers are properly filled in.
- During a vacancy in the parish, they, with the Area Dean, are responsible for the good ordering of the parish.
- They are responsible for ensuring that people are properly welcomed to the church and to services, and that sidespeople are appointed.
- They are responsible for good order in the church and churchyard or the equivalent. In the event of a service being disrupted or a disturbance in church they should call the police, and, if necessary, may arrest a person, or escort them off the premises.
- At the end of their period of office churchwardens should handover their keys to their successors, and the inventory, which should then be checked and signed.

Churchwardens are not expected to do everything above themselves, but to make sure that there are other people available to carry out the various tasks.

As we approach the first vacancy in the Parish since 1992, we need to get the right person as Churchwarden

. The Church of England is not a congregational Church that just looks to itself, but has responsibilities to the wider community too.

So ideally a person of faith, a good organiser, someone who has a heart for the community as well as the Church, can help represent all the people who belong.

It's not an impossible job, as we have had a succession of very good Churchwardens in the Benefice who fulfil the role admirably. Could it be you?

Christ Church Visitors

In 2023 we had 16 Visitors who were in contact with 26 members of the congregation in Care Homes or their own homes. Since November 2005, we have been in contact with 189 people who are mostly elderly or housebound. Sometimes we visit for a short time, for instance, following a stay in hospital until someone is able to return to church and very often long term friendships are formed to the benefit of both sides. We continue to meet regularly with the clergy so that they



can monitor our visits and we review our guidelines annually.

Our aim is to visit anyone in the village in need – the housebound, lonely, sick and infirm – and this does not exclusively mean those who were regular churchgoers. We visit people mostly in their own homes but several of those visited eventually move out of the village to Care Homes and our Visitors travel to Stokesley, Middlesbrough, Nunthorpe, and Guisborough to stay in touch. We also visit hospitals when this is appropriate.

During the latter half of 2023 we made a concerted effort to increase the number of those attending the Coffee Lounge Communion. This takes place on the first Monday of the month at 2pm and we transport most of the people who would otherwise be unable to attend. These services are open to **anyone** who appreciates a **weekday afternoon service** and is followed by refreshments. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

On December 4th 2023 15 people and 8 helpers attended the Carol Service which was a 90% increase on the previous year.

We continue to deliver cards on the first anniversary of a bereavement and also a Welcome Pack whenever we see a removal van in the village. Please tell us if you know someone who would like a visit or if you have new neighbours who would like a Welcome Pack.

Rosemary Wheway

Looking Back... With Malcolm Race

Do you remember the nesting tawny owl in the Church Car Park? This wasn't the first bird to cause a problem to Ayton churchgoers.

Birds of Pray

In his book, Cleveland Village, the Rev. Robert Kettlewell recalls a story concerning the Rev. Joseph Ibbetson, who came to Ayton from

Nunthorpe in 1827 at the age of 26 and remained until 1887.



Mr David Bottomley, who was the constable for several years up to 1856, possessed a tame jackdaw generally known as "Jack." "Jack was a great favourite, though at times a considerable nuisance," says Mr Kettlewell. "It seems that the two bells in the old church tower had some peculiar fascination for him, for no sooner did they begin to ring than Jack, unfailingly, flew to the churchyard and, perching himself on the headstones there, began to cry 'Jack, Jack' to the people as they went up the path to church.

"When everyone had gone inside and the service had begun, Jack then flew to one of the windows and, looking in, started to tap on the glass panes loudly and continuously. The attention of the congregation was apt to be drawn away by this punctuation of Mr Ibbetson's sermons and some were amused.

"The vicar, therefore, wanted the nuisance to be stopped; but one day, meeting a certain William Williamson, an old blacksmith and a staunch friend of Jack, the following conversation ensued: 'Here, ah wants a wod wi thoo Misther Ibbetson'. 'Well, what is it?' said Mr Ibbetson.

"They tells me that thoo wants poor Jack putten off?" Mr Ibbetson replied that he thought any reasonable person would. Noo then,' said Mr Williamson, "Ah'll tell thoo summat! If a voat wer taken ti-morrow of t'wole village which should gan - thoo or Jack - IT WADN'T BE JACK!"

"And so the question was settled and Jack was left victoriously undisturbed!"

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer 2024 is on Friday 1st March at St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Great Ayton at 10.30am. A lively service is planned with readings, songs, meditation and much more! Refreshments afterwards.

This year it is written by the Christian women of Palestine so is particularly relevant at the present time. The theme is:- "I beg you, bear with one another in love".

Please come along and bring friends to join in on this special day of Prayer all over the world. All welcome.

Angela Jaques



CHURCH HALL 200 Club

FEBR	FEBRUARY 2024 Winners		
£20	10 GADS		
£20	12 Alison Lambert		
£20	86 Rita Helm		
£10	27 Craig Sheridan		
£10	53 Marilyn Walker		

If you would like to join the Church Hall 200 Club, and maybe become a lucky winner as well as helping raise funds for improvements and equipment, its only £24 a year.

This month 80 members of the 200 Club contributed £85 to the Hall Fund.

To Subscribe, contact either Julie Bourke juliebourke@hotmail.com or Karen Peverell &btinternet.com

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

25 February Delilah Ann Nichols

Confirmation on 18th February

Caroline Elizabeth Ellison Fay Elizabeth Blair Nicola Elizabeth DiStasi



Funerals & Memorial Services

I February Margaret Coatsworth

2 February Trish MacNay

John Wolfe

8 February Mark Pettit
15 February Jacqui Eaton
28 February Mary Miller

Services in Magenta took place at Saint Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry.

Parish website
Church Office e-mail
Diocese of York
Stokesley Deanery
A Church Near You

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk gapo 1876@outlook.com www.dioceseofyork.org.uk www.stokesleydeanery.org.uk www.acny.org.uk

Malcolm's Musings

"I have always held the view that a speech, to be immortal, need not be everlasting." - A former Archbishop of York.

The prominent lawyer F.E. Smith was expounding at length when the judge commented: "Well, Mr Smith, I for one am no wiser." Smith's reply was: "Quite so, my Lord, but better informed I trust." On another occasion Smith suggested to a witness: "Surely when



you saw this, you were as drunk as a judge?" The judge interposed: "Surely you mean as drunk as a lord?" The reply: "Quite so my Lord."

A writer to a newspaper recalled a pub where the bartender, called Jack, kept a mynah bird at the bar. "Every time someone ordered a round, the bird would say "And one for Jack" - to which Jack would reply: "That's very kind of you, I will have a half of bitter:" He got plenty of free drinks.

Another correspondent recalled a parrot which, every time the doorbell rang shrieked: "It's that dreadful woman again."

A centenarian in Nottingham said she had everything she needed "apart from a 100-year-old man or two 50 -year-olds." Another in Dorset said: "I have a nip of brandy in my coffee in the morning - no more than a teaspoon full, unless I tip the bottle too heavy."

The obituary of Captain Nigel Pease (89) a former Royal Lancer, landowner and High Sheriff, was described as "an irrepressible party animal." At a shooting party the guests were sitting in the drawing room after an excellent dinner when suddenly there was a loud noise from the long hall. In swept Pease driving his new ride-on lawn mower (an innovation at the time). "I have just come to mow the carpet, he declared." He always enjoyed dancing after dinner and his party piece was dancing on the grand piano to the song "Patrick the Stripper." One Burns night he left the dinner party for a few moments returning wearing his wife's tartan kilt "he then got on the

table and danced a vigorous but faultless highland reel around the family silver and the lighted candlesticks, without disturbing a single piece."

Malcolm Race

Editor of Spire

Paul Peverell revpev@btinternet.com

If you would like a paper copy of Spire delivering to your door, please contact lean Goat on 01642 723274.

The Parishes of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry

Services

Christ Church, Great Ayton

Sunday	, 8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)

9.15am Parish Communion Live on Zoom & Facebook.4.30pm Cafe Church (2nd & 4th Sundays of month)

Tuesday 9.45am Little Fishes Toddler Service (School Term time only)

Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer - every week

At Saint Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion on 1st & 5th Sundays of the month

All Age Service on 3rd Sunday of the month (No Service on 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month)

Contact the Vicar for Baptisms & Weddings

Baptisms, Banns and Weddings can be arranged by emailing the Vicar, Paul Peverell at revpev@btinternet.com

Contacts

Vicar	Rev'd Canon Paul Peverell	07871 854200
Curates	Rev'd Geoff Jaques	01642 722979
	Rev'd Jon Dean	01642 722649
Licensed Lay	Dr Nick Land	01642 778076
Ministers (LLM)	Margaret Lewis	01642 722628
	Peter Titchmarsh	01642 724153
ALM - Pastoral	Rosemary Wheway	01642 722451
Organist	Andrew Blair	blair37@btinternet.com
Churchwardens	Dr Helen Land	01642 778076
	Jonathan Winterschladen	01642 723576
PCC Treasurer	Ken Taylor	01642 722400
Safeguarding	Mary Mason	01642 724316
Gift Aid Sec.	Ynez Clarke	01642 723181

Church Hall Office

For **Church Hall bookings**, please contact the Church Office Email: gapo1876@outlook.com Tel 01642 722 665 Secretary available on Monday, Thursday & Fridays 9am - 12 noon

(For services or pastoral matters, please contact the vicar)