

The
Magazine of the
Church of England in
Great Ayton with
Easby & Newton
under Roseberry
Parishes

DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021

Spire



Watch Out for the Advent Windows around the village. Revealed daily on Facebook

Community Carols from your Doorstep

Monday 21st December at 6.30pm

(Replaces Carols on High Green this year)

Will be streamed on YouTube

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk

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60p

DECEMBER & JANUARY

- 6 Sun **Advent 2** 9.30am Holy Communion - Ayton; Morning Worship with Z & FB - Stokesley; I I am Holy Communion at Saint Oswald's (Z) ; 2pm Wedding at Stokesley; 5pm Holy Communion (Stokesley)
- 11 Fri 12 noon Wedding at St Oswald's.
- 13 Sun **Advent 3** 9.30am Morning Worship with Z & FB (Stokesley); 5pm BCP Holy Communion (Ayton)
- 20 Sun **Advent 4** 9.30am Morning Worship with Z & FB (Ayton) ; I I am Sunday Worship at Saint Oswald's (Z) 6pm Joint Christmas Carol Service on Zoom and Facebook Live
- 24 Thurs **Christmas Eve** 4pm Crib Service on FB; I I pm Midnight Mass - Live Streamed on Facebook (Ayton)
- 25 Fri **Christmas Day** 9.30am Christmas Communion
- 27 Sun **Christmas I** 9.30am Sunday Morning Worship with Z & FB (Stokesley); 5pm BCP Holy Communion (Ayton)

JANUARY 2021

- 3 Sun **Christmas 2** 9.30am Morning Worship with Z & FB (Ayton); I I am Sunday Worship at Saint Oswald's with Zoom; 5pm Holy Communion (Stokesley);
- 10 Sun **Epiphany I** 9.30am Morning Worship with Z & FB (Stokesley); 5pm BCP Holy Communion (Ayton)
- 14 Wed 7.30pm Ayton Churches Together on Zoom
- 17 Sun **Epiphany 2** 9.30am Morning Worship with Z & FB (Ayton); I I am Sunday Worship at Saint Oswald's & Zoom; 5pm Holy Communion (Stokesley.)
- 24 Sun 9.30am Morning Worship with Z & FB (Stokesley); 5pm BCP Holy Communion (Ayton)
- 31 Sun **Epiphany 3** 9.30am Morning Worship with Z & FB (Ayton); 5pm Holy Communion (Stokesley);

Items in Magenta all take place at St Oswald's Church at Newton.

Items in blue at Stokesley Parish Church

Z = Zoom, FB = Facebook Live on Christ Church's Page

A Very Different Year

That must rank as one of the quickest years of my life, and yet the one with the greatest number of changes. Like it or not Coronavirus has changed life completely and we will have to adapt accordingly.



Cash has virtually disappeared and the Internet has come into worship in a way we couldn't have imagined a year ago. Face Masks are here to stay as the Government still have 11,000 containers full at the docks that they need to sell!

Some will undoubtedly have prospered through this period, especially in deliveries, and IT, but a lot have struggled both financially and mentally through the loss of income and the lack of human contact, A 90 year old told me that this period had been the hardest of their lives - so don't underestimate the effects that it has had on you or your neighbours. We must be careful that society doesn't become even more unfair with the poor getting even more poor - and poverty isn't just about money - its love and relationships too.

Whilst the Government is giving us a break from restrictions at Christmas the Virus won't take a holiday, so many will still feel trapped. Make a special effort to contact your neighbours or folks you know who are living alone. Perhaps be a Secret Santa to someone you know who is struggling financially. Folk don't like admitting they need help so keep your eyes open, and like the good Saint Nicholas whom you will read about elsewhere in Spire you could drop something through their door.

Our Christmas Services will be limited in attendance this year, and I will advise on the website how to book a place when things get clearer nearer the time, as things can change in hours, let alone three weeks, so pointless saying too much now.

The Crib Service will be all Online this year as I dare not risk the children missing any more school by passing anything between them, but let us thank God for Zoom and Facebook (Never thought I would ever say that!) for keeping us all together. If you have Internet you can join us each day for Prayer for the Day at 8.45am on Christ Church's Facebook Page or join the regular Zoomers, who now number 30, so you can hide in the crowd.

Whilst there are concerns, from October to December this year I have only had 5 funerals so far from Great Ayton. Last year in the same period it was 19. So far this year 45 funerals from this Benefice, but 7 years out of the last 20 have seen 50+ funerals with 58 in 2002 (I don't know what happened then!) Be sensible in what you do and may 2021 bring safer and happier times.

Christmas Blessing to you all and keep you safe in 2021.

Paul

No Room at the Inn? Oh yes there is!

School nativity plays can be a minefield for teachers - and parents For example ...

There was the innkeeper who caused consternation when, asked by Joseph if he had any accommodation, replied “Yes.”



An equally amiable host departed from the script to reply :”No... Oh come in then and have a cup of tea, then you will have to go!”

Not so friendly was the innkeeper who stubbornly refused accommodation, even in the stables. Asked by Joseph “Why ?” he replied bluntly: “Because I wanted to be Joseph.”

My favourite story, however, is still the one where Joseph asks for a room, adding: “My wife is about to give birth.” To which the innkeeper angrily responds: ”No - and it’s not my fault your wife is pregnant.” Not surprisingly annoyed, Joseph tells him: “No, and if you read the Bible story, you’ll find it’s not my fault either.”

It is not only innkeepers and anxious husbands who can run into difficulties, however The three Kings have their moments. In one play the three, wearing crowns contrived from converted cake tins covered in foil, duly pointed upward, observing “Behold the star in the east.”. Unfortunately, one was over-enthusiastic and caught his fellow king on the head with his “gift” - a foil-wrapped coffee jar. At which the victim bellowed: “Mum, Harvey hit me with his Frankenstein !”

Other characters can also get carried away in the heat of the moment. There was the two-year-old shepherd who got involved in a punch-up over an argument about who should stand next to Mary. Another young shepherd halted proceedings when he emptied the crib after a scuffle with an officious Virgin Mary and climbed into it himself - to loud applause!

Even animals are not immune. A donkey in one play turned to the side of the stage so far through and yelled through his donkey head :” B***** H*** Mrs Quirk, it’s hot in here !”

One Virgin Mary had allowed her favourite doll to be used as a baby Jesus. When the Angel Gabriel announced the Christ Child’s name, however, this was too much for her. She rebuked him: “It’s not called Jesus. It’s Annabel.”

Malcolm

A TIME OF GIVING

Last month our PCC met to decide on the recipients of our Charitable Giving from Church Funds this year. If we expect people to be generous with us, then we in turn need to lead by example and be generous with others. So every November the PCC Members are asked to come prepared with suggestions that they have researched and prayed about. These are the chosen causes.

Christmas Appeal - **BARNABAS FUND** Nick Land spoke of the plight of children in Zimbabwe after the years of misgovernment of the Mugabe regime. Many are going hungry made worse by the effects of the Covid Pandemic. In Lupane in Matabeleland, one of the poorest areas, the problem is even worse where incomes average just £22 per month. The ePap program is to supply food to children aged 4 - 12 years. EPap is a concentrated dry powder that is made from soya beans and maize with added vitamins and minerals. It is pre-cooked, so easy to prepare by simply mixing with water to make a highly nutritious porridge.

To feed the children in 15 Primary Schools in the area will cost £1,000 per month. Wouldn't it be good as we sit down to our Christmas dinners to know that we have fed them throughout the winter months. Good nutrition makes such a difference.



We also had £10,000 from Church Funds to distribute, so the following 10 charities have been sent £1,000 each.

TEAR FUND Helen Land proposed the toilet & tap twinning project, for there are 4.2 billion people who don't have access to a toilet, yet one can be provided for as little as £60. In Sun Saharan Africa one fifth of the population die from Sanitation issues, so our £1,000 will make a difference for some.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY Is a UK based charity started by the Church of England. At one time they did a lot with children needing adoption, but have now moved onto children suffering abuse and other social ills. Vicki Nath proposed that we support them. The Great Ayton Committee have been one of the most active in the Country, but Covid has prevented most of the fund-raising, so this £1,000 will go some way to make up for it.

UCCF Proposed by [Ken Taylor](#) on behalf of [Martin Simmons](#). It is the organisation that supports Christians at Universities with Christian Unions. It is a way of encouraging and supporting young Christians when away from home, possibly for the first time. They also produce Christian study materials.

RESPECT ME is part of the Message Trust and funds workers going into our schools to talk to teenagers on such subjects as sex, relationships and self-esteem from a faith perspective. [Jonny Winterschladen](#) proposed this as Spire readers will remember that Joe Winterschladen wrote an excellent article about working for them just a few months ago. We wish Joe well in his work.

THE SAMARTIANS are a well known organisation working to support those at risk of taking their own lives. Depression and mental issues have got decidedly worse during the pandemic with Covid and loss of jobs, so their work is even more vital. [Robin Harmar](#) proposed this cause.

USPG now called *United Society Partners in the Gospel*, and **CMS**, the *Church Mission Society*, are two Anglican Societies that support the world Church. However hard we think we have been affected by lockdown and the pandemic, it's nothing compared to the challenges facing the Church in many developing countries overseas who rely greatly on both of these Societies. These were both proposed by [Rosemary Wheway](#).

BIG KIDS are Christian Youthworkers supporting the Churches and schools in Middlesbrough where their work is greatly valued. Like ourselves, they have had to move some of their work Online, and if you follow Christ Church's Facebook Page you may have watched their moving video on Remembrance. There's another on Christingle due out in December. This was proposed by [Ken Taylor](#).



CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY proposed by [Helen Land](#) is a Christian Debt Counselling Agency. The poor often get the worst terms for loans and it is easy to sink into debt, especially in the present situation. This charity helps people get back to helping themselves.

A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL is a new one to us, proposed by [Geoff Jaques](#). They are a Christian Charity working in the area of nature conservation. If we care for our planet and want to see positive change, then it's important that the Christian voice is heard.

In addition to our planned Giving, we also raised a further £1,700 between Christ Church & Ss Peter & Paul Stokesley to fund repairs to the roof of **SAINT CHAD'S CHURCH** in Middlesbrough following their recent lead theft.

We have also donated over £3,000 so far this year to **MIDDLESBROUGH FOODBANK** together with car loads of goods, and also support **THE GENESIS PROJECT** with donations of furniture and clothing.

Thank You for your support for us, without which we couldn't be so generous in support of all these good causes.

“And the King will say whatever you did for the least of one of these brothers & sisters of mine, you did for me.”

A Psalm for Covid - 19

1. Lord, why has the world changed;
why does it seem so strange?
2. The places that were full of people are empty;
The streets that rang with laughter are silent.
3. People are filled with fear;
Their mouths are dry, their hearts pound.
4. Their future is a foreign country;
Their trusted maps are all useless.
5. But you Lord are unchanging;
Your Love is constant and secure.
6. You are not surprised by the virus;
Our future is held in your hands.
7. Your Love is a safe harbour;
You chart our way and set our path.
8. We can rejoice in your beauty;
And set sail to you eternal light.

Nick Land

A Very Different Remembrance



Two years ago half the village turned out for the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day - the day that the guns finally fell silent on the Western Front.

Two years later and only a few folk gathered on Guisborough Road, the rest either watching the Live Stream or listening to the Act of Remembrance through Peter Greenwell's PA system. We heard reports from folk in Wheatlands and Sunnyfield that they could hear us as they stood on their doorsteps.

100 years ago the country was in the grip of the Second wave of Spanish Flu. This year the second wave of Coronavirus was beginning to take its effect and the Nation had been put under Lockdown once again.



My thanks to those who rallied to help make the occasion both moving and dignified. To all who came to lay wreaths including Her Majesty the Queen's Representative, Mr Peter Scrope DL who laid the first wreath on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire. The British Legion and Parish Council followed with village Churches and organisations also taking part. Thanks to Ceri for a very moving Last Post, to Rebecca for carrying the Union Flag, Karen and Jane recording & streaming the service and Paul Grainge for the photos.

The setting looked great thanks to Karen and team of the poppy knitters who put out a smaller amount of poppies to mark the occasion together with the banner on the bridge. Hopefully we will be able to do more next year.



Before & After in All Saints Churchyard

2020 has been a good year for ivy and other unwanted growth which has continued to grow through lockdowns. The Loy Memorial and Ibbotson Grave were particularly overgrown, so many thanks to Martin Helm and friends who volunteered to help and have made such a huge difference.



Our thanks also to Hambleton District Council for repairing part of the Churchyard wall that had collapsed into the next door field.



CHRISTMAS WITH THE FOODBANK

The Christmas holidays will present particular challenges to many more people this year, as many will have lost jobs because of the pandemic. The work of our Foodbanks will be even more important.

We will be making our December collection on Sunday 6th December to get it collected in time. They welcome selection boxes, Christmas goods, sponge pudding & custard, tinned fruit, mashed potato & toiletries.

Christ Church will be open on the Saturday & Sunday from 1pm - 3pm to receive donations.

MOVING ON



Looking for something to keep your mind occupied in the winter months and a way to meet others? Then why not try a Moving On Course.

The Moving on Course takes us further on the journey of Christian Discipleship and is a great way to start a New Year with a fresh vision.

The Video input is from Robin Gamble - a Vicar from South Yorkshire with a great gift for communication and a lovely sense of humour, ably assisted by Phyllis, a Baptist Minister from London. Our facilitators will then help the discussion along with groups of around 8. This will all be done on Zoom as we still wont be able to meet personally, so easy to come and easy to go is you need to.

We are starting two courses - one in December and one in January. Times and days will be decided on what people can make, so please express interest now.

The Moving On Courses will be facilitated by Jon Dean & John Dickinson for December, and Geoff Jaques & Steve Green in January.

To show interest please email

December's John Dickinson - jgdickinson@outlook.com

January's Steve Green - srigdengreen@gmail.com

Santa's Secret Past

The origins of Santa Claus are complex, but they lie at least in part in the figure of Saint Nicholas.

Saint Nicholas was the bishop of the Mediterranean city of Myra. He was born to rich parents in Patara in about 270 AD. His parents died when he was young and he was left a fortune. As a young man, Nicholas heard about a family that was starving. Under the cover of night, Nicholas threw a bag of gold coins through the window of their humble dwelling.



Nicholas became a minister and was eventually made bishop of Myra. He led his churches through one of the worst times of persecution in Christian history. In AD 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian ordered a brutal attack on all Christians. Those suspected of being followers of Jesus were ordered to make sacrifices to pagan gods. Nicholas and thousands of others refused.

Ministers, bishops and lay people were dragged to prison and tortured. Believers were executed in horrible and public ways. Yet persecution did not triumph. Christians who survived this time were called "saints" or "confessors" because they kept on confessing that Jesus is Lord. Nicholas was one of these.

Finally, Bishop Nicholas came out of prison, freed by a decree of the new Emperor Constantine (who had become a Christian). As Nicholas returned to Myra, his people came out and shouted, "Nicholas! Confessor! Saint Nicholas has come home!"

Saint Nicholas served as bishop in Myra for another 30 years. Through his ministry, thousands found salvation and healing. Nicholas died on December 6, about 343 AD, and his death was mourned by everyone in the city.

Santa Claus of yuletide tradition still has some echoes of this great saint. The colour of his outfit recollects the red of the bishop's robes. Gifts secretly brought on Christmas Eve remind us of his generosity to the poor.

JOINING OUR SERVICES ONLINE

You can join any of our services either by watching on Facebook either at the time or catching up anytime during the day. Or you can join Zoom either with computer/iPad or telephone in using one of the numbers at the bottom and putting in the Meeting ID number.

Sunday Morning Worship Sundays at 9.30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89511024740>

Meeting ID: 895 1102 4740

Password: 450872

Sunday Communion at 5pm

Live Service alternating between
Ayton & Stokesley Churches.
No Zoom/FB

Service for Saint Oswald's at 11am (1st & 3rd Sundays)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89376005713>

Meeting ID: 893 7600 5713

Password: 969354

To join by phone, dial 0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Prayer for the Day Monday to Saturday at 8.45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84024175583>

Meeting ID: 840 2417 5583

Password: 974982



Welcome to Ben

It has been announced that the Rev'd Ben Gunter will be the next Rector of Stokesley & Seamer and will likely be starting in February.

Ben is the Curate at Norton near Malton at the moment and is married to Jacqui and they have a young family.

We look forward to welcoming Ben to the area and to the Deanery. Hopefully we will still see something of the many friends we have made at Stokesley over the time we have shared our Sunday services on the Internet this last year.

The Memory Tree



This year has been an extremely hard year for all who have lost loved ones as the traditional ways of grieving at Funeral Services have been denied them, with restricted numbers, graveside services and no funeral teas to meet with friends.

From Advent Sunday, 29th November, onwards Christ Church will be open each day from 1pm until 3pm for people to come in and leave a message on the tree and say a quiet prayer.

If anyone wishes to make a donation in the box, we will send all these together to support the wonderful work of Herriott Hospice Homecare who do so much to support the terminally ill in our area.

These opening times will replace the 3pm - 5pm slots we had previously - because its cold and dark and hardly anyone is coming, so hopefully the warmth and light will help. Someone will also be in attendance.

The tree will come down after Sunday 3rd January.

ADVENT WINDOWS



Look out for the Advent Windows around our village during December. We will post the location of the next one on Facebook the day before it appears, and at the end a trail of all the windows for you to enjoy as you have your Christmas walk around the village.

Thank you to all who volunteered to take part.

POSADA Mary & Joseph will also be doing a Virtual Posada around the village for Nazareth is in Tier 3 and they are not allowed to mix households. If you want to welcome them to your Inbox email revjanerob@gmail.com

Faith in Nature

Which bit of God's Creation is the most important to you?



Trees, Birds, Insects, Plants, Mammals (including the human variety!), Fish, Rivers, Mountains? The list could go on and on!

Of course, it's all important. Bio diversity is vital.

We can each play our part in Caring for God's Creation.

Climate Change is real and has captured everybody's attention in recent months with Sir David Attenborough's BBC programme Extinction: The Facts in September; followed by the launch of the £50m "Earthshot Prize" launched by Prince William and Sir David Attenborough in October.

In September we formed an Eco Church steering group to give us a focus for our Christian Stewardship of our planet.

We're looking at 5 different areas: our Buildings, our Land, our Lifestyle, our relationships with our Local Community & our Global Engagement and our Worship & Teaching.



You may remember that earlier in 2020 the Church of England announced that all of our buildings would be Net Zero by 2030. Ten years to get our Carbon Footprint down to zero.

Some of you may well have joined our Deanery gathering in Stokesley Parish Church in early March when the Bishop of Sheffield led an excellent evening exploring Climate Change and some of the steps we could take to achieve our 2030 goal.

Send us your own ideas - what are you already doing to help save the planet? Each issue of Spire will contain news about how we as a church community are making a positive difference in our church, in our homes, in our village and beyond.

To find out more and get involved, please get in touch with any of the Eco Church Steering Group members:

Geoff Jaques, Helen Land, Ken Taylor or Robin Harmar.

A Christmas Quiz

1. **Birth of Jesus** How many children had Mary had before she gave birth to Jesus?
2. **Birth of Jesus** Who said to whom, "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you ; He is Christ the Lord? "
3. **Birth of Jesus** Fill in the missing words: "So they hurried off and found _____ and _____ and the _____ who was lying in the manger. "
4. **Visit of the wise men** True or false? There were only three wise men.
5. **Visit of the wise men** Where were the wise men when they asked, "Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews?"
6. **Visit of the wise men** What were the three gifts the wise men gave to Jesus?
7. **Death of Herod** How did Joseph know that Herod was set to kill Jesus?
8. **Death of Herod** Where did Joseph, Mary and Jesus flee to as refugees?
9. **Death of Herod** After Joseph heard that Herod was dead, where did he settle down with Mary and Jesus?
10. **Jesus at Twelve in the Temple** True or false? Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem because he wanted to have a good look at Herod's magnificent temple.
11. **Jesus at Twelve in the Temple** To whom did Jesus say: "Didn't you know I had to be in my father's house?"
12. **Jesus at Twelve in the Temple** Fill in the missing words: "And Jesus _____ in wisdom and stature, and in favour with _____ and _____. (Luke 2: 52)
13. **John the Baptist** To whom did this fiery preacher say, "You brood of Vipers! "?"
14. **John the Baptist** Fill in the missing words: "He will baptise you with the _____ and with _____." (Matthew 3:11)
15. **John the Baptist** True or false? John wore clothes made of sheepskin.

How have you done? See below

1. None. She was a virgin. 2. The angel, to the shepherds. 3. Mary, Joseph, baby. 4. False. We are not told how many wise men there were. 5. In Jerusalem. 6. Gold, frankincense (incense) and myrrh. 7. The Lord warned him in a dream. 8. Egypt. 9. Nazareth. 10. False. Jesus listened to and asked questions of the teachers in the temple courts (Luke 2:41-50). 11. Mary. 12. God, men. 13. The Pharisees and Sadducees (religious leaders). 14. Holy Spirit, fire. 15. False. They were made of camel's hair (John 3:4)

Answers

The Twelve Dames of Christmas

It's so sad that the virus has robbed us of Panto this year. O yes it is! Panto is a tradition peculiar to this country and is great fun. There's nothing more intoxicating than hearing people laugh and enjoy themselves, so to keep you going I thought I would treat you to the 12 Dames of Christmas, also featuring my Ugly Sister.

Special thoughts with all who usually work in Theatres at this time of year - actors, musicians, technicians and all involved in productions, which will be standing empty. Let's hope we are back next year.



JOINT CHOIRS ONLINE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Angrove Singers, Stokesley Choral Society, and Vox Choir



Friday 11th December 2020 7.30pm

and

Sunday 20th December 2020 3.00pm



Musical Director: Jeremy Harbottle

Accompanists: Jenny Hesford & Lada Khazanovych

Household ticket £5

Percentage of proceeds to local charities

Tickets on sale from Monday 23rd November 2020

www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-joint-choirs

Welcome to the Joint Choirs Christmas Carol Concert!

We are a group of three choirs, based around Great Ayton and Stokesley who all share the same Musical Director, Jeremy Harbottle. At this time of year we would normally be rehearsing for our separate Christmas carol concerts; clearly not a possibility this year. However, we couldn't let Christmas go by without finding other ways to bring a bit of cheery Christmas music to people, so for the past few weeks we've been learning how to rehearse in zoom meetings, and how to record ourselves at home (a very steep learning curve for some of us!)

We would love you to join us on either Friday 11 December at 7.30pm or Sunday 20 December at 3pm (Repeat of 11th) - or both, if you enjoy our concert! If you bring your ears, we'll bring our voices!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Our recorded concert will be streamed via a private link. If you wish to watch the concert all you need to do is buy a ticket, as below, then a couple of hours prior to the concert we will send you a unique viewing link to watch the concert. This link will be unique to you and can only be viewed within your house. The concert will be streamed via YouTube, so you will need a computer, tablet or TV that links up to YouTube.

You can book your tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-joint-choirs
Tickets available from Monday 23rd November

From the Registers

Holy Matrimony



Robert Jackson & Amelia Herbert married at Christ Church on 4th November



Lydia Howard & Hugo Truffert married at Christ Church on 4th November



When the Government announced the lock down, two couples managed to arrange their weddings within a couple of days. Many family members couldn't make it, but Zoom came to the rescue beaming the service to France and the USA. It was a real joy to take both of these services. Love & best wishes to both couples.

Christian Burial and Cremation

19 November
27 November
28 November
30 November
2 December
3 December
3 December
4 December

Fred Curry
John Benson
Arthur Garbutt
Jean Morton
Brian Druce
Betty Wolfe
Phil Quigley
Bob Burns

Entries in Black from Great Ayton

Entries in Magenta from Newton under Roseberry

Entries in Blue from Stokesley

Parish website	www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk
Church Office e-mail	gapo1876@outlook.com
Diocese of York	www.dioceseofyork.org.uk
Stokesley Deanery	www.stokesleydeanery.org.uk
A Church Near You	www.acny.org.uk

Malcolm's Musings

From a church newsletter... "Christmas Fayre. A good chance to get rid of anything unwanted. Bring your husbands."

Taken from a Cornish newspaper advert some years ago: "See fascinating Jerusalem (as featured in the Bible)"



Two young American missionaries presenting the seasonal message from door to door were assailed by one housewife: "Fancy coming round at this time of year - everybody is far too busy with Christmas."

From a parish bulletin: "I am looking for someone to take over from me at the presbytery looking after two Reverend Fathers. They need feeding three times a week (normally) and cleaning once a week."

"They underestimated me!" - *George W. Bush*

"Influence," declared the regular propping up the bar, "is what the other fellow has when he gets the job you should have got on merit."

An officer told a council committee that two-wheeled vehicles were particularly at risk at large roundabouts "due to their low conspicuity." Presumably they were difficult to see as well.

An official at the Pentagon had the title Eastern Intelligence Executive Information Officer and used the initial letters of this title as an abbreviation. His name was McDonald!

"This is Santa's first visit to Edlington. Weather permitting, he will tour the streets to arrive at his ghetto at 2pm." - *Newspaper report*

"It is well known that I have always welcomed the poor to my church," a vicar declared. "Looking at the collection, I see they have come."

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 Jean Goat on 01642 723274.

The Parishes of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry

Services

Christ Church, Great Ayton

Sunday 9.30am Morning Worship 1st & 3rd Sundays of month in Christ Church
and Live on Zoom & Facebook Live: 2nd & 4th Sundays in Stokes-
ley Parish Church and Live on Zoom & Facebook Live.

4.00pm Come & Praise (2nd Sunday of month on Zoom)
5.00pm Holy Communion in Church that doesn't have Morning Service

At St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11.00am Services on 1st, 3rd Sundays of the month only
Hopefully resuming in August. Check website or Facebook Page for confirmation

Contacts

Vicar	Rev'd Paul Peverell	The Vicarage	01642 722333
Curate	Revd Jane Robson		revjanerob@gmail.com
	Rev'd Geoff Jaques		01642 722979
	Rev'd Jon Dean		01642 722649
Readers	Margaret Lewis		01642 722628
	Peter Titchmarsh		01642 724153
Organist			
Pastoral Ass't	Rosemary Wheway		01642 722451
Churchwardens	Helen Land		01642 778076
	Jonathan Winterschladen		01642 723576
PCC Treasurer	Ken Taylor		01642 722400
Safeguarding	David Fox		07595 898844
Gift Aid Sec.	Ynez Clarke		01642 723181

Church Hall Office

For **Church Hall bookings**, please contact the Church Office Tel 01642 722333

Email. gap01876@outlook.com (For services or pastoral matters, please contact the vicar as this phone isn't manned every day)