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'Do not be afraid!'

Bishop Mark's Christmas message

WE hear those words a lot in the Christmas season. Spoken by the Angel to an overwhelmed Mary and to terrified shepherds. 'Do not be afraid,' or similar, could be the words spoken by our leaders in an attempt to bring calm and confidence in the face of the climate crisis, terrorism, rising costs and retail shortages.

At the moment, there seems to be a lot that can make us fearful, anxious or at least uncertain, whether we're considering the future of our planet, the continuing effects of the global pandemic, the economic and political challenges of our nation, or our own personal circumstances. And of course, our shared journey into an episcopal vacancy as a Diocese.

'Do not be afraid.'

In the account of Christ's birth, these aren't words attempting to bring calm or instil confidence or shore up the status quo like a biblical version of 'keep calm and carry on'. These are introductory words before a new encounter with a new message about a new future.

For Mary and the shepherds, it meant not being afraid of God drawing you into his story in unexpected ways; demanding an obedience you

didn't know you were capable of, surprising you with a hope you didn't think was possible.

I sometimes wonder if the messenger needed to hear the message too? How would God's plan sound to angelic ears? Would there be worry about the fragility of human life and the risk of God himself surrendered to a manger bed, a poor family and a green hill far away? Would there have been fear of pain and brokenness glimpsing a future of rejection, denial and betrayal?

Perhaps like many of us who preach, I wonder if the Angel needed to be convinced by his own words: "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people!" (Luke 2.10)

What will these words mean to you this Christmas when you hear them aloud in our carol services and church worship? One class, in one of our brilliant Church of England primary schools, have been thinking about these words of the Angel and what they mean to them. They thought about the way

Jesus offers comfort in place of fear, welcome in the face of derision and a way through sin and confusion. Surely that sums up the good news we celebrate this Christmas and are called to share all year round.

In the midst of all our uncertainties and worries, let's hear the Angel's words once more:

'Do not be afraid...I am bringing you good news...!' (Luke 2.10) They are our invitation to believe and trust again in the good news of Christmas.

Peace, hope, joy and love this Christmas,

+ Mark



Bishop Christine's **Farewell Service** and **Freedom of the City** Pages 3&4 »



> Bishop Mark Wroe

Bishop's Diary *December/January*

This is not a full list of the Bishop's engagements, but includes the items we think might be of particular interest to you.

Bishop of Berwick

December 2021

- 1st** Preaching at The Mercers Advent Service, London
- 5th** Visit to Preach and Preside, Vacancy Cover at Ninebanks St Mark Church, Hexham Deanery
- 8th** Meeting of the Bishop's Staff Team
- 9th** Meeting of Area Deans and Bishop's Staff Team
Meeting of Next Steps Transformation Core Team
- 11th** Newcastle Cathedral Patronal Festival, Newcastle Central Deanery
- 12th** Visit to Preach and Preside, Vacancy Cover at Widdrington Holy Trinity Church, Morpeth Deanery
- 13th** Meeting of the House of Bishops
Meeting of Counselling Management
- 14th** Meeting of Next Steps Transformation Core Team
Meeting with Diocesan Director of Ordinands
Meeting with Director of Mission and Ministry
- 15th** Meeting of Next Steps Transformation Core Team
- 19th** Visit to Preach and Preside at Walker Christ Church, Newcastle East Deanery
- 20th** Meeting of Next Steps Transformation Core Team
Meeting of the Northern Church Leaders
- 21st** Meeting with Director of Mission and Ministry
- 24th** Newcastle Cathedral Service: Nine Lessons and Carols, Newcastle Central Deanery
- 25th** Newcastle Cathedral Christmas Day Service
- 26th** Preach and Preside Vacancy Cover, Bellingham Deanery

January 2022

- 9th** Visit to Preach and Preside, Vacancy Cover Cresswell and Lynemouth Benefice, Morpeth Deanery
- 10th** Meeting with Diocesan Director of Ordinands
- 11th** Meeting to Shortlist for Appointment
Meeting of the Bishop's Council
- 12th** Meeting of the Bishop's Staff Team
- 13th** Meeting of Next Steps Transformation Core Team
- 17th** Meeting of the House of Bishops
- 18-20th** New Bishops Meeting, Cambridge
- 23rd** Licensing Service at Allendale St Cuthbert Church, Hexham Deanery
- 24th** Meeting with Training Incumbents and Director of Initial Ministerial Education
Meeting of the Northern Church Leaders
- 25th** Meeting of Trustees of Transforming Communities Together: Tyne to Tweed
- 26th** Meeting of the College of Bishops
- 27th** Interviews, Bellingham Deanery
Meeting of Next Steps Transformation Core Team
- 30th** Visit to Preach and Preside at Ancroft St Anne Church, Norham Deanery
- 31st** Annual General Meeting of NEAT Academy Trust

Special service celebrates new Canons



➤ Left to right, Revd Sarah Lunn, The Very Revd Geoff Miller, Revd Dr Jennifer Cooper, Revd Simon White, Revd Jeremy Thompson, Bishop Christine, Bishop Mark, Ruth Rogan, Paul Rickeard and Jane Lowdon

SEVEN new Canons have been welcomed to Newcastle Cathedral.

A service in November saw Bishop Christine collate, and the Dean of Newcastle, the Very Revd Geoff Miller, install the new Canons.

Jane Lowdon and Ruth Rogan were welcomed as Lay Canons, Paul Rickeard as Ecumenical Canon, and Revd Dr Jennifer Cooper, Revd Sarah Lunn, Revd Jeremy Thompson and Revd Simon White as Honorary Canons.

You can learn more about each of them [here](#).

Gospel Readings

December/January

December					
1st	Matthew 15.29-37	22nd	Luke 1.46-56	11th	Mark 1.21-28
2nd	Matthew 7.21, 24-27	23rd	Luke 1.57-66	12th	Mark 1.29-39
3rd	Matthew 9.27-31	24th	Luke 1.67-79	13th	Mark 1.40-end
4th	Matthew 9.35-10.1, 6-8	25th	Luke 2.1-14 {15-20}	14th	Mark 2.1-12
5th	Luke 3.1-6	26th	Matthew 10.17-22	15th	Mark 2.13-17
6th	Luke 5.17-26	27th	John 21.19b-end	16th	John 2.1-11
7th	Matthew 18.12-14	28th	Matthew 2.13-18	17th	Mark 2.18-22
8th	Matthew 11.28 - end	29th	Luke 2.22-35	18th	Mark 2.23-end
9th	Matthew 11.11-15	30th	Luke 2.36-40	19th	Mark 3.1-6
10th	Matthew 11.16-19	31st	John 1.1-18	20th	Mark 3.7-12
11th	Matthew 17.10-13	January		21st	Mark 3.13-19
12th	Luke 3.7-18	1st	Luke 2.15-21	22nd	Mark 3.20-21
13th	Matthew 21.23-27	2nd	Matthew 2.1-12	23rd	Luke 4.14-21
14th	Matthew 21.28-32	3rd	Matthew 4.12-17, 23-end	24th	Mark 3.22-30
15th	Luke 7.18b-23	4th	Mark 6.34-44	25th	Matthew 19.27-end
16th	Luke 7.24-30	5th	Mark 6.45-52	26th	Luke 10.1-9
17th	Matthew 1.1-17	6th	Luke 4.14-22	27th	Mark 4.21-25
18th	Matthew 1.18-24	7th	Luke 5.12-16	28th	Mark 4.26-34
19th	Luke 1.39-45 {46-55}	8th	John 3.22-30	29th	Mark 4.35-end
20th	Luke 1.26-38	9th	Luke 3.15-17, 21-22	30th	Luke 2.22-40
21st	Luke 1.39-45	10th	Mark 1.14-20	31st	Mark 5.1-20

Comings & Goings

Appointments

Revd Martin Naylor, currently Vicar of the United Benefice of Batley in the Diocese of Leeds, is going to be Priest in Charge of Allendale with Whitfield and Area Dean of Hexham and Deanery Lay Ministry Enabler

Revd Tracey Usher, currently Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Berwick Holy Trinity and St Mary, is going to be Interim Minister in the Breamish and Till Group

of Parishes

Retirements

Revd Christine Shield, Associate Priest in the Benefice of Warkworth, Acklington and Shilbottle, will retire on 31 December 2021

Resignations

Revd Alice Ward, Interim Minister of Newcastle St Luke, has resigned with effect from 31 October 2021

CONTACT US

The Link, Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields. NE29 6HS.
Tel: (0191) 270 4100. Email: communications@newcastle.anglican.org
Facebook: [m.me/ncldiocese](https://www.facebook.com/m.me/ncldiocese) **Twitter:** [@ncldiocese](https://twitter.com/ncldiocese) **Instagram:** [@NclDiocese](https://www.instagram.com/ncldiocese)



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Farewell Bishop Christine

HUNDREDS of well-wishers gathered in person and online to witness Bishop Christine symbolically lay down her crozier – marking the end of her time as the Bishop of Newcastle.

Bishop Christine delivered her final sermon during a moving service filled with poignant tributes, during which she spoke of how touched she and Roger have been by the 'warmth and kindness' from the people of our Diocese and how 'richly blessed' she feels.

To mark her significant contribution to Newcastle and beyond, Bishop Christine was also presented with the Freedom of the City by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Habib Rahman, supported by City Council Leader, Councillor Nick Forbes.

This is the first time a serving faith leader has been bestowed with this top civic honour.

The service was attended by civic dignitaries, clergy, lay people, leaders of other faiths and denominations, and representatives of some of the organisations Bishop Christine and Roger have worked with over their six years in the North East.

The Bishop of Møre, the Right Revd Ingeborg Middtømme from our Norwegian link diocese, blessed Bishop Christine, and a farewell tribute was read out on behalf of the Right Revd Metlha Beleme, Bishop of Botswana, from our African link diocese.

Farewell tributes were also given by Sue Winfield OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear; Bishop Ingeborg; Pam Walker MBE and Revd Fiona Sample, on behalf of the Oswin Project of which Roger is a trustee; and Bishop Mark, who presented Bishop Christine with a parting gift from the people of Newcastle Diocese.

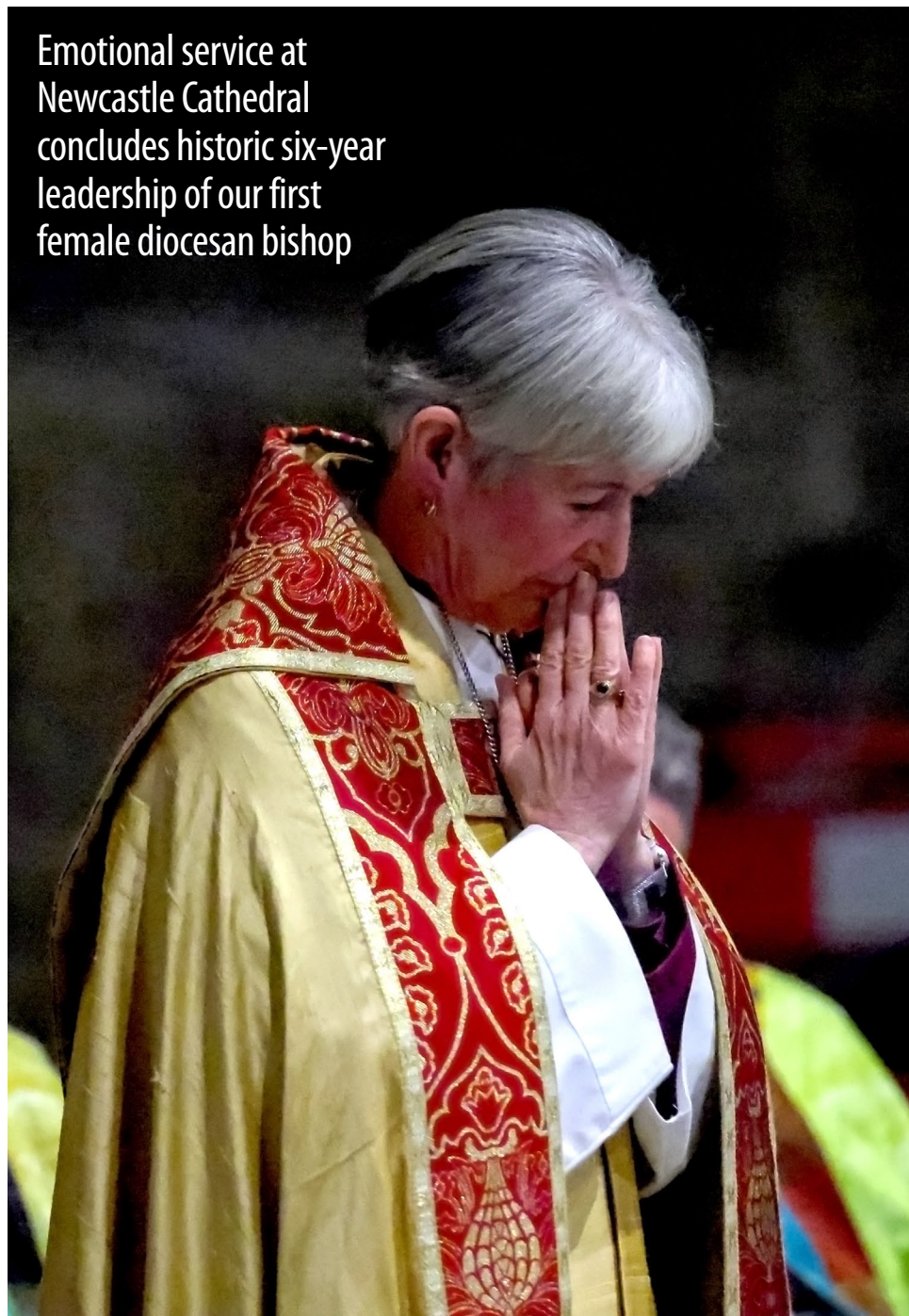
Before laying down her crozier – crafted for the first Bishop of Newcastle, Ernest Wilberforce, in the late 1800s – on the cathedral's High Alter, Bishop Christine entrusted Bishop Mark with the episcopal ministry of the Diocese during the Vacancy in See process.

The Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell was aptly held on Sunday 21 November, on the Feast of Christ the King, the last day of the Christian liturgical calendar – almost six years to the day of Bishop Christine's first sermon as Bishop of Newcastle, during Advent, which marks the beginning of the liturgical calendar.

Bishop Christine officially retires on Tuesday 30 November.

More pictures from the service on page 4

Emotional service at Newcastle Cathedral concludes historic six-year leadership of our first female diocesan bishop



▶ Watch the Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell here ◀

General Synod farewell



► Bishop Christine enjoys her final General Synod before retirement – pictured here with Diocese of Newcastle representatives Revd Robert Lawrence of St Francis High Heaton, Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth, Revd Claire Robson and Nic Denyer

THE Archbishop of York bid Bishop Christine an emotional goodbye as she attended her last General Synod as Bishop of Newcastle.

The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell delivered his farewell speech to Bishop Christine on 17 November during the first group of sessions of the 2021-2026 General Synod.

In it, he said: "After nearly 40 years of ministry, Christine has not just been an asset, but an absolutely remarkable presence in the life of the Church and to God's mission."

Read Archbishop Stephen's complete speech [here](#)

Bishop's goodbye to the House of Lords

BISHOP Christine has given her valedictory speech to the House of Lords.

During a debate on the Budget on 3 November, Bishop Christine spoke in Parliament for the final time as a Lord Spiritual.

She said: "These last six years during which I have served as Bishop of Newcastle and as a member of Your Lordships' House have, in a good way, been the most extraordinary years of my life.

"After a lifetime of living in the South, these six years in the North East have helped me to see things from a different and much richer perspective."



Bishop Christine cited the rise in National Living Wage to £9.50 an hour and the £1.7billion levelling up fund – which is to be invested across the UK – as positive outcomes from the

Budget.

However, she raised concerns about the cut in foreign aid and spending, and the removal of the £20 a week Universal Credit uplift which, she said, 'hurts the most vulnerable, including many families with children'.

She also called for an increase of funding for the education sector to help drive the 'future flourishing of our country'.

Bishop Christine was the second female Church of England bishop in the House of Lords, taking her seat in January 2016. She gave her maiden speech on 25 May 2016 and has spoken on a range of issues in the Lords over the last five years.

▶ Watch Bishop Christine's valedictory speech in full here ◀





NEWCASTLE
CATHEDRAL

View
from the
Lantern

with the Very Revd Geoff Miller,
Dean of Newcastle

IT'S been a busy few months at the cathedral – isn't it always! A tired but excited volunteer and staff team thought it would be lovely just to breathe out a bit and take a moment as the capital works finished. They were late completing the works – blasted Covid – but on 12 August the great west door promptly opened wide and without even a hesitation the roller coaster journey gathered a new speed. We have realised that nothing stops for anyone.

Of course, there are snags, fortunately the contractors are with us for the next year. However, I have been overwhelmed with the positive responses: 'Wow' is the most used word. Though I know that there are those who lament the pews so many more have described the space as awe inspiring, elegant, light and welcoming. We have had thousands of visitors: We have welcomed between 300 and 500 people every day and events like Northumbria University graduations brought 17,000 guests. There have been activities punctuating each week – concerts, tours, exhibitions, visiting groups and lots of family activities. I've talked to grandparents who 'just called in' yet stayed for hours, making hats and doing trails. Visitors who have found some solace and a place to pray and more and more people asking for directions to the café 'with the magnificent choice of cakes!'. Conversations abound and it has been wonderful to see our volunteers in action day in and day out.

All this has meant little rest for staff and volunteers. To add to the pressure, we had a visit from our 'Peer Reviewers' who spent a few days with us gaining an impression of how we work and who will write a report on all they observed and left with a spring in their step. I remain grateful for the work of so many taking the courageous steps that have got us to this point.

Not everything has gone to plan. With the 'Friends' we commissioned some new liturgical furniture: an altar, ambo and choir stalls. A small design team from the Ouseburn Valley (RASKL) was appointed, to undertake the commission and the designs agreed by Chapter and the Cathedrals Commission for England. The designer Dan has been working hard with his team but sadly Covid has caused a series of delays that means we have decided to defer the dedication and celebration of the furniture until early in the New Year. We hope we will be able to make a real occasion to invite folk to join us for a celebration.

Meanwhile there are some other more imminent exciting things to look forward to. Advent and Christmas looms large in our planning with hopes that this year will have a full array of carol services and concerts to come and share. Full details of the programme so far agreed are available on the website. This year we will celebrate our Patronal Festival on Saturday 11 December. We will welcome the Archbishop of York to Preside and Preach at our Patronal Eucharist at 11am that day. Archbishop Stephen will then spend the rest of the day with us meeting staff and volunteers and offering a public lecture in the early evening. Please join us and bring your friends.

So, we will end the year on a real high – but no time to pause.

May we never forget it is the great God of love who calls us, leads us and energises us. It is His kingdom we seek to add our modest contribution and we remain forever thankful that He wants us to share the journey and work.

**Turn to page 13 for more about
Christmas at Newcastle Cathedral**

HUNDREDS of pupils from Archbishop Runcie CE First School surprised Bishop Christine with a farewell gift after she paid them one last visit to officially open their new foyer.

Bishop Christine joined staff, pupils and governors at the Gosforth school in early November to unveil the brand-new entrance which has received a much-needed makeover thanks to funding from the Diocese's Locally Coordinated Voluntary-Aided Programme.

And Bishop Christine was delighted to be presented with a card - signed by all the staff and youngsters - and a bouquet of flowers as she carried out her last engagement at the school before her retirement.

More than 170 pupils gathered with Bishop Christine outside while she discussed the importance of the entrance. Bishop Christine said: "It could have a damaged door. It could have no glass. That would be one message, but that wouldn't be a good message, would it?"

After the school children responded 'no', Bishop Christine replied: "Look at the message of this wonderful new entrance. It says 'Welcome. This is a beautiful place, and you are most welcome to come here'."

"It says, I think, 'You're going to find the most amazing people inside this building'. That's you!"

Bishop Christine also blessed a new plaque next to the school reception to commemorate the opening.

Headteacher Kate Massey has praised the transformation of the new entrance, describing the previous reception as "a dark, dingy small foyer, which often misguided visitors".

Afterwards members of the school council, representing each year group, met with Bishop Christine and Labour MP Catherine McKinnell as they hosted a question and answer session, educating the students on their roles.

All smiles at Newcastle church school



> This was one of Bishop Christine's last school visits before her retirement at the end of the month



> Bishop Christine cuts the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the new foyer



> Bishop Christine was over the moon with her hand-signed card and bouquet of flowers

2021 Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Bishop Mark has launched our 2021 Bishop's Christmas Appeal in aid of West End Refugee Service and Walking With.

OVER the last year we have heard about the evolving situation in Afghanistan where British troops worked alongside local people for two decades. Now many of these Afghans have become refugees and have come seeking asylum and sanctuary. We will also have seen stories of refugees from war-torn countries making dangerous journeys to try and reach the safety of our land.

Eight years ago, the city of Newcastle became a 'City of Sanctuary' and is committed to 'doing what we can to welcome those seeking sanctuary and to help rebuild lives.' Both universities in our city have made similar commitments, offering scholarships to 'enable students from asylum-seeker and refugee backgrounds' to access learning.

As Christians we are familiar with the concepts involved in sanctuary, both as a physical space in our places of worship and

the longstanding tradition of seeking a place of safety within our church.

There are many projects that offer help to support asylum seekers and refugees in our Diocese, such as West End Refugee Service (WERS) and Walking With.

They provide food and basic essentials to those on a very limited income and who are not permitted to work, as well as providing initiatives and activities which promote health and wellbeing.

Since the beginning of the pandemic there has been a substantial increase in the volume of clients needing support. If an asylum claim is refused, people are often sent eviction notices to leave their properties within 28 days. Many become homeless as they have no access to public funds. Projects like these try to



> Bishop Mark packs festive care packages during a visit to WERS, pictured with Hannah Barnes, WERS Director, and volunteer Sadia Sikandar

help those who are destitute by giving them a small amount of money from their Hardship Fund. The Hardship Fund relies entirely on donations.

I am making an appeal to you to give a gift to help WERS and Walking With carry on helping those asylum seekers and refugees. Can we help to support their seeking of sanctuary here?

+Mark

Donations can be made through the diocesan giving page for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal which can be found by clicking here, or cheques made out to 'Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance' can be posted to FAO Lesley Hillary, Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields, NE29 6HS. Please write "Bishop's Christmas Appeal" on the back of the cheque.

“It is men who need to change”

By Jane Pikett, Church Warden at Hexham Abbey

THE Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has chosen his inaugural sermon at Hexham Abbey to deliver a powerful challenge to the ‘macho’ attitudes in society which, he said, can ‘ferment’ into violence against women.

He cited various passages in the Bible, the effect of which, he said, “can be to condone and even promote the idea that male violence against women is acceptable,” adding that Jesus presents a positive role model for male behaviour which is highly relevant in today’s world.

Addressing a service to honour the survivors and victims of domestic violence, he continued: “We men need to be liberated from the conditioning, the ‘dis-ease’ and the insecurities that ferment into violence. Christ shows us the way.”

The Archbishop, who took up his post in July 2020, said of some passages in the Bible: “In recent years, critique of these [biblical] texts has enabled us to see how they reflect the cultural conditions of patriarchal societies where violence against women was the norm. And tragically, that norm continues to this day.”

But of Jesus, he said: “Jesus models for us a very different attitude to women. The way he treated women and responded to them was radically different to the prevailing culture of his day and deeply shocking to many who encountered him.”

Archbishop Stephen said it is up to men today to call out inappropriate behaviour and



➤ The Archbishop of York gave a moving and powerful sermon, his first at Hexham Abbey since he took up his post in July 2020

follow Jesus’s example: “It is men who need to change. It is men who need to repent. It is men who need to lead the way.”

The Archbishop was addressing the congregation at a special ‘White Ribbon’ service on Sunday November 7 to remember victims of domestic homicide and honour all those affected by domestic abuse.

Female survivors spoke movingly during the service, which was organised by **White Ribbon UK**, a charity which engages communities nationwide in its mission to end violence against women on our streets and in the nation’s homes.

A question and answer session after the ser-

Archbishop delivers powerful sermon on violence against women

vice was addressed by Frank Mullane MBE, whose sister Julia Pemberton was terrorised for many months by her husband before he shot her and their 17-year-old son William dead in 2003.

He said: “The prevalence of domestic violence, and the gendered nature of domestic abuse, is profound. I salute the Archbishop, who talked about men being able to express their emotions and show compassion; qualities that men are sometimes afraid to show because of a prevalent toxic masculinity. This is about men standing up against violence against women.”

■ For more on the service and the Archbishop’s sermon, [click here](#).

Selecting the next Bishop of Newcastle

By Canon Shane Waddle, Diocesan Secretary

THE process for discerning the next Bishop of Newcastle begins in the Diocese with the bringing together of the Vacancy in See Committee.

The committee is made up of lay people and clergy from across the Diocese, and its membership is included below.

The committee is tasked to produce a ‘Statement of Need’ which sets out what it believes the Diocese is looking for in its next bishop. This statement could be compared to a parish profile document and the committee will consult widely as it draws together and agrees the ‘Statement of Need’.

However, because of the variety of roles which diocesan bishops have - not only within the Church of England but also locally and nationally - the appointment is not made by representatives of the Diocese alone.

Therefore, the committee is also tasked with electing six of its members to work alongside representatives of the Church of England as a whole and the Archbishops. Together they form the Crown Nominations Commission, which is the body responsible for the nomination of a diocesan bishop.

To help the Crown Nominations Commission with its task the commission will use the Statement of Needs produced by our Vacancy in See Committee together with the conclusions of the Archbishops’ Appointments Secretary and the Prime Minister’s Appointments Secretary who will have consulted a wide range of Church and civic representatives from across the region. These consultations will include a public meeting which we expect will be hosted as a Zoom webinar.

The commission will use these resources to agree a role profile for the next Bishop of Newcastle and will interview candidates.

Timetable

There are some key dates to share with you now:

■ 17 January 2022: The Archbishops’ Appointments Secretary and the Prime Minister’s Appointments Secretary expect to undertake their consultations starting this week.

■ 24 February 2022: The Vacancy in See Committee has been asked to produce the Statement of Needs and to elect six of its representatives by this date.

■ Early June 2022 and late July 2022: The Crown Nominations Commission is expected to meet.

■ Autumn 2022: It is therefore hoped that the name of the next Bishop of Newcastle will be known by this time.

Please pray that the work of the Vacancy in See committee may be guided throughout by the Holy Spirit.

You can contact the committee by e-mail on vis@newcastle.anglican.org

Committee membership

Elected members: Sir Philip Mawer (Chair); Prof Richard Allsop; Revd Tom Birch; Revd Elizabeth Brown; Lynne Craggs; Revd Canon Ian Flintoft; Chris Hudson; Liz Kerry; Bill Lomas; John Marshall; Sally Milner; the Ven Rachel Wood.

Nominated members: Revd Gill Alexander; Revd Yvette Daniel; Canon Simon Harper; and Shirley Morgan.

Ex-Officio members: Revd Canon Brian Hurst; Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth; The Very Revd Geoff Miller; Ven Dr Catherine Sourbut Groves; The Right Revd Mark Wroe

Secretary: Canon Shane Waddle

growing church bringing hope ‘Next Steps’ update

By Bishop Mark

‘Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.’

Isaiah 43.18-19

GOD is always calling us to himself as his beloved people and sending us out to witness to his love in our praying and working for his Kingdom.

This dual calling and sending requires our continual listening, discerning and renewing in the Holy Spirit as we step out in faith.

In May 2019, Bishop Christine helped us recognise a Kairos Moment in our mission and ministry believing that God is ‘doing a new thing’ (Isaiah 43.19) in us and through us.

For the last two years, in the midst of the Covid pandemic, we have been listening and discerning our ‘Next Steps’ as a ‘growing church bringing hope’ in Newcastle Diocese: seeking together God’s guidance and renewing.

This journey has included much prayer and reflection, discussions in person and over Zoom, consultations and theological reflection.

The journey has been supported by the National Church’s Strategy Unit to help us develop a programme for strategic transformation to realise the ‘new thing’ God is calling us into and to attract national funding to support this. Prayers, discussions, consultations and reflections from across the Diocese discerned a vision for six themes:

■ Turning outwards in mission in every place

■ Energised and equipped missional leaders, ordained and lay

■ New Christian Communities and new Christians

■ Making disciples who build up the Church for mission

■ More children, young people and mission with schools

■ Financial flourishing: giving generously, planning strategically, building sustainably

These themes support our ‘Next Steps’ for strategic transformation, a programme that puts God’s renewing of our people and our culture at the heart of change.

Our submission and presentation to the National Church’s Strategic Investment Board (SIB) was considered on 21 October in the hope we would be invited to develop a final application to SIB for significant funding to implement the plan.

Unfortunately, our application has not

won the confidence of the national Church and the SIB has decided not to invite us to continue to develop and refine our ‘Next Steps’ transformation programme for the final stage of the submission process. We are deeply disappointed with this outcome.

However, it is important for us to recognise ‘Next Steps’ is not a plan that depends solely on a decision or funding from the national Church.

We are determined to continue the journey God is calling us on but now need to consider afresh how we take our ‘Next Steps’ on the way.

As ever, we are being called to have more faith and more trust that God ‘will make a way’ as we navigate a different course to the one we had hoped for. We continue to pray for a flourishing Diocese in all our contexts so that we might be, in the words of the first Bishop of Newcastle, ‘a centre of life, of prayer, of work for the Master, in fuller measure than ever before...’ (from the inaugural sermon of Bishop Ernest Wilberforce, 1882).

Thank you for your prayers, wisdom, enthusiasm and support so far. Let’s keep rejoicing in all that God has given and is doing and renewing among us as we journey together: ‘since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.’ (2 Corinthians 4.1)

North Tyneside's Covid hero!

A MEMBER of St Peter's Monkseaton has been honoured for her incredible efforts to keep people connected during the pandemic.

Pamela Hood, 73, was named as the North Tyneside winner of the 'Covid Acts of Kindness Community Award' by regional public health campaign BeatCovidNE.

Deanery Synod and PCC member Pamela created a Covid comms hub for her church group, sending out daily emails covering the latest local news, Covid updates and community events. Today her Covid hub mailing list includes over 120 members and counting.

Determined to continue helping people however she could, Pamela also set up a mobile bookshop, turning her whole house into a warehouse of books.

Anyone could request a book in exchange for a small donation which was passed onto the local church. She made around 50 house calls per week whilst being the carer for her husband.

Pamela has been described as "a kind and

inspirational woman who has touched the lives of many within her local community".

She said: "Being nominated and finding out I was a winner of a Covid Acts of Kindness Award was a total shock. It has blown me away quite frankly.

"I felt passionate about trying to keep our church family connected, and if my contribution has helped to do this then mission accomplished."

The 'Covid Acts of Kindness Community Award' was launched in September to celebrate outstanding individuals in local communities across the region and is backed by seven North East local authorities (LA7).

Commenting on behalf of LA7, chair of the Association of Directors of Public Health North East and Director of Public Health for County Durham, Amanda Healy, said: "We were overwhelmed by the number of inspiring acts of Covid kindness we received from right across the region.

"The fact that all of our winners are continuing to support their local communities is a reminder that Covid is still circulating in our communities. The most important thing we



> Pamela Hood created a Covid comms hub for her church

can all do to slow the spread of Covid is to take up all recommended doses of the vaccine and get the flu jab, at the earliest opportunity.

"It's important we also remember that simple acts of kindness - such as wearing face coverings in crowded places, socially distancing when out and about, meeting outdoors when possible, self-testing regularly and isolating if we test positive - help to protect each other and those at risk."

COVID ACTS OF KINDNESS COMMUNITY AWARD

Newcastle Diocesan Synod Recap

A MEETING of the Diocesan Synod was hosted using Zoom on Saturday 13 November. The synod was delighted and honoured to have Metlha Beleme, Bishop of Botswana and Prof James Amanze, Lead for the Botswana Link present at the start of the meeting.

Bishop Christine and Bishop Metlha signed a new Botswana - Newcastle companion agreement and Bishop Metlha then addressed the synod.

Members of the synod asked how they could support the Bishop of Botswana's Mission Relief Fund. Donations can be made through Church House using the Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance Bank Account:

Sort code: 20 60 03
Account: 40 64 40 56
Reference: Botswana Mission Relief

Other items of business conducted at the synod included:

- The Instrument of Delegation to the Right Revd Christopher Lowson as Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Newcastle
- Approval of a Scheme for the Newcastle Diocesan Education Board
- An update on the Vacancy in See Committee, its tasks and timetable
- Approval of the Budget for 2022
- Work to agree questions for the Bishop's Council in relation to our work on transformation, Next Steps

You can watch the signing of the agreement, Bishop Metlha's address and other events from the synod [here](#).

"We cannot be complacent": Bishop Christine on racism in the North East

THE Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Habib Rahman met with Bishop Christine and other significant figures in October to honour Show Racism the Red Card's 'Wear Red Day'.

The mayor, who is the first black, Asian or minority ethnic person to take on Newcastle's highest ceremonial post, pleaded with the people of Newcastle to put an end to racism. As reported in The Chronicle, he said: "People like me have suffered far too much. Racism is the biggest act of terrorism."

Bishop Christine added that the North East can take "proper pride" in the way it has combated racism, but emphasised that "we cannot be complacent".

They were joined outside Newcastle Civic Centre by former Newcastle United players, Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness and other mayors from around the North East.

Show Racism the Red Card was established in Newcastle in 1996 after Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop was subjected to racist abuse at a petrol station. After the abusers discovered who he was, they immediately asked for an autograph.

The charity continues to use football and football players to help tackle racism in society, using their status to deliver workshops to young people and adults.



> Bishop Christine and the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Habib Rahman, during Wear Red Day outside Newcastle Civic Centre Picture: Steve Brock

How can you be generous in the build up to Christmas?

By Leanne Conway-Wilcox

I'M coming up to nearly two months in my role as Generous Giving Advisor in Newcastle, and it has been a wonderful, eye-opening experience.

I joined the team just as we embarked on **Newcastle Diocese Generosity Week**, which gave me the opportunity to speak to a great number of parishes from Alnwick to Westerhope, Corbridge to Tyne-mouth and all in between.

Each parish shared their struggles and their successes – it hasn't been an easy 18 months but it has been an inspiring one. Hearing how churches and congregations are embracing online giving, contactless technology, running quizzes through social media and of course offering opportunities for prayer and worship online.

We have seen monumental shifts in lifestyles, but being able to keep our love of God and our mission as Christians to share what we have - at the heart of what we did and continue to do - is clearly very important to us all.

Generosity comes in many forms, skills, times, and money – all of which are key to helping us in our mission to grow our church and bring hope. It is important we find the time to thank those who give so generously, and to help those who want to give in new ways to give more, or to simply start.

It has been exciting to hear of the different ways we teach about building generous church; through sermons and prayers, fundraising events, coffee mornings, community get-togethers, toilet twining and more.



► Leanne Conway-Wilcox

Helping people to give what they can, in the easiest way, is supporting generosity in our churches. Everything we do as people of God gives us an opportunity to talk about generosity and share how others can get involved.

As we near Advent and look forward to one of the most generous gifts of all, the birth of Jesus, we should take the time to firstly look at how we can be generous to God - through worship and prayer.

We should take time to really connect with God and what it means to live generously. Then pray about how we can be generous to our churches to enable them to share this amazing gift with as many people as possible.

Let us lead by example - with generous hearts and minds - sharing our time, talents, love, and resources with our communities.

Remembrance 2021



► These handmade poppies were proudly displayed on a cross at Holy Saviour, Sugley



► The beautiful poppy arrangement in the sanctuary of St Mary's Monkseaton, alongside a Union Jack and Book of Remembrance



► Bishop Christine with Revd Capt Katie Watson at the Newcastle city centre service
Picture: Nigel Goodfellow

CHURCHES across the Diocese held commemorative events this year to mark Armistice Day.

People gathered on Remembrance Sunday to pay their respects to those who have, and continue to, sacrifice so much for the safety of our country.

Bishop Christine led a Service of Remembrance alongside representatives of the Jewish and Muslim faiths on Remembrance Sunday in Newcastle city centre.

Holy Saviour, Sugley remembered the fallen with a poppy display attached to a cross on church grounds. Just short of 200 poppies were crocheted by Maria Lunn during lockdown, which were then wired onto the netted display by ladies in the congregation.

St Mary's Monkseaton had a beautiful poppy arrangement in its sanctuary, shared on social media alongside John 15:12-13: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for their friends." It remained there throughout all of the church's Remembrance services.

Many other churches across our Diocese engaged with Remembrance Day activities and services.



► The homemade knitted hearts will spread warmth and love through the Denton and Lemington communities

Can you find the 'Heart of Christmas' in Denton and Sugley, Lemington?

By Jac Atkinson, Children and Families Missioner

'AT the Heart of Christmas' is the Church of England's invitation to discover - or rediscover - the good news of God's saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus.

Here in Denton and Lemington our super knitters have been very busy knitting hearts, lots of them!

We will be tying knitted hearts all around our communities with a message of love, peace and hope, and we are encouraging the residents to take a heart home. This is to remind them that as the angels and shepherds welcomed Jesus, we too can welcome him into our hearts this Christmas and always.

So, if you are in Denton or Lemington, look for the heart in your community.

Angel wings have taken their final flutter



> Left to right, Deb Gibbs, community fundraiser at GNAAS; Revd Canon David Glover, Hexham Abbey Rector; Cath Newson, Hexham Abbey fundraising manager and Tynedale Hospice at Home's Cathy Bates



> The angel rainbow – a symbol of the pandemic



> Lilian, a member of the abbey, helps with the task of de-rigging the installation

HEXHAM Abbey's stunning 'On Angel Wings' installation has raised more than £6,000 for charity.

Thousands of hand-made paper angels were suspended in the abbey from the end of June until mid-October, attracting visitors from all over the UK and beyond.

The installation was erected in response to the Covid pandemic, honouring those who have served relentlessly throughout, those who have lost their lives, and those whose lives have been impacted.

Donations totalling £6,350 have been split equally between the 'On Angel Wings' partner charities Tynedale Hospice at Home and Great North Air Ambulance, with cheques presented to both organisations in October.

By the end of the installation, almost 6000 origami angels – each dedicated to a loved one – gracefully floated 45 feet above the abbey's chancel, while a colourful exhibit of rainbow angels on the ground greeted visitors.

People from far and wide made the journey to the abbey, including many first-time visitors, to witness the spectacular sight – with footfall up by 17 per cent in August alone compared to

the same period in 2019.

In total, almost 53,000 people stepped foot in the abbey from July to October, with footfall jumping by eight per cent in comparison to 2019 – a remarkable feat considering the impact of Covid on cultural and heritage sites over the last 20 months.

Cath Newson, Hexham Abbey's fundraising manager, said: "We were delighted with the way in which the community engaged with this installation. It encouraged many first-time visitors to the abbey and the rainbow board made prayer more accessible to many. It has been a source of comfort to many people who lost loved ones or were separated from friends and family during the pandemic.

"The generous response from visitors to our appeal for funds for Tynedale Hospice at Home and Great North Air Ambulance has been wonderful and we have been delighted to support their work. Huge thanks must go to all the staff and volunteers who enabled this project to be so successful."

Engagement from the public was overwhelmingly positive with many people writing poignant and moving messages in support of the installation, including:

"The angels drew me to Hexham Abbey... very beautiful and calming in a world full of fear."

"This is the most beautiful tribute I have seen. I lost my Dad to Covid. Thank you for doing this installation. Hexham is truly a bereavement friendly community. Bless you all."

"So beautiful, thank you for sharing, from South Africa."

Ten of the dedicated angels have been sent to the Science Museum in London to join a collection of artefacts acting as a **permanent record** of the response to the Covid pandemic and its impact on our society.

Many of the blank angels have been collected by Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall which is running a similar installation during Advent.

The abbey's Conservation Team has kept a selection of dedicated angels for its archive and the rest have been composted.

■ Hexham Abbey's Shop is selling 'On Angel Wings'-themed gifts including jigsaw puzzles (£22), postcards (65p) and greetings cards (£2.80).

Church hosts Harvest Festival celebrations!



> One dog gave thanks to its friend with an attempted paw-five! Picture: Berwick Parish Church

By Revd Tracey Usher, Assistant Curate for Berwick-upon-Tweed

HARVEST is a time of thanksgiving. Where, in the church, we thank God for all that has been provided for us, as well as our gifts, talents and uniqueness. Here at Berwick Parish Church, we had a lot to be thankful for!

On Friday 8 October we welcomed Holy Trinity First School back into church for its Harvest Festival, where Revd Dennis Handley, alongside Revd Tom Sample, told the story of the creation. The children sang some wonderful harvest songs thanking God, and giving thanks for all those who work so hard to bring food to our table. The children were extremely generous and brought gifts of food, which was donated to Berwick Food Bank to help our community.

On Saturday 9 October, we held a Harvest Coffee Morning with a 'bring and buy' of fruit and vegetables, with some very tasty homemade cakes – truly something to be thankful for! We didn't forget the animals either, as on Saturday evening we gave thanks for all the creatures of the earth, at a blessing of pets' service, organised by Revd Tom Sample. Everyone behaved themselves, and no accidents were reported!

On Sunday 10 October, the church was beautifully decorated as we celebrated our Harvest Festival at the Parish Eucharist. As we prepared for COP26 in Glasgow, we handed out wildflower seeds as part of the **BillionSeedChallenge**, started by an organisation called **Together**.

We too are now ready to enter into a new season, slowly but surely, just as we watch the crops grow throughout the season, first being sown into the darkness of the soil, preparing to grow through towards the light. We are coming out of the darkness of the pandemic, into the lightness of a world where our gifts and talents can be shared once more together.

The end of an era for church clock

ST Andrew's Corbridge has called time on its manually-wound clock.

The church has now added mains-powered electric automatic winders to the historic timepiece which was fitted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Until now, the clock has been wound manually two times a week by a team of volunteers.

Last year it was agreed that the clock would be updated, and after receiving generous funding from Corbridge Parish Council,

Corbridge WI, Corbridge Village Trust, the Allchurches Trust, Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust and the Ecclesiastical Trust, the £7,000 mechanism has been installed.

The volunteers, who are the last to manually wind the clock in a time spanning 125 years, said they were "proud to be a part of history."

Prior to having this new mechanism, their work, which involved climbing up the tower and using a heavy crank handle to turn three separate winders, provided many safety hazards.



> Left to right, Mike Collins, Michael Rae and Paul Morris. Picture: Ian Wylie

Rural Churches for Everyone



► Philippa Carter

Welcome to Philippa Carter who joined the Diocese in October as our Project Manager for the Rural Churches for Everyone project. Here she gives us a little insight into what her role involves and her past experience in project management.

HELLO, I'm Philippa and I have recently taken over as Project Manager on the Rural Churches for Everyone project. The project is funded by the National Lottery and involves four clusters of rural churches across Northumberland, providing support for them to collectively plan a sustainable future for their church buildings.

The pandemic has delayed the project, so I'm really excited to be able to get out and work with clergy, congregations and local communities who are keen to get stuck in. In my previous roles at the Heritage Lottery Fund and as a consultant I have worked with cathedrals and churches of all sizes to develop and deliver successful projects, so I'm happy to be able to bring that experience to this project.

I have spent my first few weeks getting to know the individual church buildings and clusters and I hope to be able to share some of the progress and successes of the four clusters over the next few months.

TOWARDS A SAFER CHURCH

www.newcastle.anglican.org/safeguarding

By Donna Brown, Safeguarding Operation Officer

BY now most church leaders in the Diocese should be familiar with the Safeguarding Parish Dashboard.

The purpose of the dashboard is to track the safeguarding activities within your parish - it's a useful tool to see which activities still need to be completed and what your parish is doing well.

Many parishes are already using the dashboard and we are incredibly grateful for all of the work that people are putting in to ensure that our churches are a safe place for everyone.

Those who are actively using the dashboard (which is currently 127 parishes of the 173 dashboards in the Diocese) are giving us fantastic feedback on its helpfulness and are generally finding it incredibly simple to use and informative.

We thought that now was a good time to give you a quick visual update as to where we are as a Diocese. As you may recall, we were hoping to have all parishes to Level 3 by January 2022. This was always an ambitious target, and we have made fantastic steps towards it.

We still believe that together we can be the first Diocese in the country to reach this target, and we will give a further update in the New Year to let you know if we have achieved it!

Safeguarding Parish Dashboards: Can you help us reach our goal?

Here's what our archdeacons have to say about the dashboard and its benefits:

The Venerable Dr Catherine Sourbut Groves, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne said: "Several incumbents and PSOs have commented to me how the dashboard takes the anxiety out of safeguarding as it is so easy to see what needs attention and what is up to date. So a huge thank you to the Safeguarding Team and to all of you who have made this such a helpful tool already. Please get in touch if you need help, and let's work together to make our churches safe for everyone."

The Venerable Rachel Wood, Archdeacon of Northumberland said: "Thank you so much to everyone who has worked hard to get us this far. The dashboard system is a great way of building confidence and accountability in our safeguarding systems. I'm excited to think that Newcastle Diocese can be a trailblazer in the national Church as we work to make our churches places of welcome that are safer for everyone but particularly the most vulnerable."

Here's how we are doing so far. We really need to get the 'No Owner' and 'Level 0' number to zero as soon as possible.

Diocese of Newcastle

	No Owner	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Total	18	28	33	75	19	173

It's important for all parishes to know that we are not expecting you to do this alone. The diocesan Safeguarding Team is offering support to everyone who needs it. We have already provided a number of training sessions, drop in sessions, and one-to-one walkthroughs, but continue to be aware that this is new to everyone and we will support you in whatever way you need - please get in touch with me at d.brown@newcastle.anglican.org to discuss the support we can give.

Together we can be safeguarding trailblazers, leading the way in keeping everyone in our churches safe.

■ Click [here](#) for figures showing Parish Dashboard uptake and engagement across each deanery

Church unveils new plaque to commemorate pit disaster



► MP Mary Glindon with the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside, Norma Redfearn CBE

Picture: Michael Johnson

ON the 200th anniversary of the Wallsend pit disaster, a new plaque has been unveiled to honour the 52 men and boys who lost their lives.

St Peter's, Wallsend welcomed the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside, Norma Redfearn CBE and MP Mary Glindon to unveil the plaque, alongside Revd Michael Vine, Wallsend historian Ken Hutchinson and local councillors.

St Peter's Church is especially significant, given that 46 of the 52 victims of the pit disaster are buried in its grounds.

The plaque reads: "In memory of the 52 men and boys aged five to 77 years who lost their lives in the Wallsend Colliery Disaster, 23rd October 1821. Erected by North Tyneside Council and St Peter's Church 23rd October 2021, to commemorate the 200th anniversary."

The plaque sits alongside another which was unveiled in 1994, commemorating another pit disaster. This one reads: "18 June 1835. In memory of the 102 men and boys (eight to 76 years) who lost their lives in the Wallsend Colliery Disaster."

Rag'n'Bone Man uses Northumberland church for new music video

EXCITEMENT was in the air at St Paul's Seaton Sluice as the seaside church starred in BRIT award-winning artist Rag'n'Bone Man's upcoming music video.

Although not present, due to his tour across the UK, a wave of film crew staff, make-up artists and location managers took to St Paul's in October to produce the video on behalf of the RnB/Blues singer-songwriter.

The outskirts of the church were used to film a shot of a woman arriving for her wedding, while the inside of the church

served as a 'base' for the crew, who later recorded at a nearby beach.

One member of the crew spoke of the wonderful experience, saying: "The red cross on the church is amazing and the location is fantastic. Visually it's artistically interesting. What a location!"

"And the people who have volunteered and helped us at the church are absolutely wonderful."

The song, 'Fall in love again', is the third single from Rag'n'Bone Man's latest album *Life by Misadventure*.



► Rag'n'Bone man



► St Paul's, Seaton Sluice was the perfect setting for the music video



► The church car park was full of staff members, working extremely hard to get the perfect shot

Starting our Eco Church journey



SINCE its opening in the suburban estate of Kingston Park in 1991, St John's Church has always felt a keen responsibility for environmental issues. Efforts were taken to ensure the building was well insulated, lights have been changed to be LED and a commitment was made to using Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar.

Newcastle Diocese's commitment to becoming an Eco Diocese and the Eco Church initiative have become a catalyst for us at St John's to take this further and to make our own commitments to becoming a greener, more sustainable, more purposeful and organised church.

Setting up a St John's Eco Team in September this year was the first step, followed by considering the many resources put forward by the Church of England and other sources to compile an appropriate environmental plan.

Writing our church's environment plan

The amount of environmental information available on the internet and the number of webinars and training courses available can feel somewhat overwhelming for a small team starting out! So, to make things more manageable we focused things down to prioritise two main objectives: becoming a carbon-neutral church and becoming an Eco Church.

To achieve these, we identified **five main target areas**, which have helped it to feel realistic. Having a plan to work towards have allowed us to start making some practical and achievable aims. Three of our aims and the actions we have taken so far include:

Cutting our energy and carbon footprint

We organised **Green Journey, a green energy scheme tailored to churches**, to carry out an Energy Audit of all aspects of our church building and energy use and will use the resulting report as a basis for improvements and upgrades.

Cutting waste and water use

We first compiled a comprehensive list of all local re-using and recycling opportunities within our community, including all the



MANY of the churches and church buildings in our Diocese are working hard to achieve Eco Church status. We currently have 55 registered eco churches, with a further 12 achieving bronze status. Three of our churches - St Mary's Ovingham, St Francis Heaton, St Paul's North Sunderland - have gained a silver award, and very recently our diocesan office, Church House has also achieved a silver Eco Church award. In this edition of Link, John Gardener, Parish Environment Champion, St John's in Kingston Park, shares his church's journey towards becoming net zero carbon and an Eco Church.

supermarkets, fast food and coffee outlets. This is informing us in ways we can improve and increase our recycling within the church building, for all the clubs and classes that use the building as well as our own church services and events.

The information obtained is also being made available to the wider community of Kingston Park through social media and community events we will put on, to help raise awareness and promote greater recycling for all.

Caring for Wildlife and Ecology

We have created and planted a new bee-friendly garden area, with signage to explain to visitors the problems that bees are having, the need to help them and tips on plants they

could use to help too.

We have also planned a new wildflower area for the spring and have arranged for a conservationist from Northumberland Wildlife Trust to visit the church grounds to assess its potential for further opportunities and wildlife habitat areas we could create.

As an Eco Team we are still at a very early stage compared to others, but having a plan that feels manageable and realistic has helped us to feel that each step is achievable and that we will be able to keep making some informed and significant differences towards our goals of becoming a carbon neutral church and an Eco Church. If you would like to follow us on our journey we have a **website** and a **Facebook page**, @StJohnsKingstonParkEcoTeam.

To find out more about **Eco Church** or working towards your **church becoming carbon net zero** take a look at the **Diocesan Environment webpages**, where there are lots of resources available, or get in touch with Bethany in the Environment team **b.hume@newcastle.anglican.org**

Net zero carbon webinars

TRAINING webinars about reducing the carbon emissions of church buildings are being run by the national Church.

Finding the Balance: Assessing Embodied Carbon in Retrofit projects on Church Buildings

Tuesday 30 November, 12-1pm
When considering strategies to reduce emissions in operation, there is a danger that the measures themselves could cause more emissions in the manufacture and installation than they would save in practice. It is thus necessary to be able to compare 'embodied' and 'operational' carbon. This webinar will provide participants with the basic information required to understand the subject, and a framework for making decisions which take



embodied carbon into account.

Speakers: Nigel Griffiths, Policy Adviser for the Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance and Douglas Kent, Technical and Research Director, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

Conservation Pitfalls and How to Avoid them, En Route to Net Zero Carbon

Tuesday 7 December, 12-1pm

This webinar will cover: some of the conservation pitfalls that projects often encounter, when trying to make environmental changes to historic buildings, and how to avoid them; questions people can ask themselves at the very beginning of a project, which will help get projects on the right track; examples of changes which can be made that are good environmentally and good for the conservation of historic buildings / interiors.

Speaker: Tobit Curteis, Architectural Conservator at Tobit Curteis Associates LLP.

■ **To find out more information and to register click here and scroll down to 'Webinars on moving your buildings towards net zero'**

NHS chaplain tackles climate change

ULTRA-RUNNING chaplain Revd Captain Katie Watson swapped pounding the pavements for pedal power to support NHS colleagues undertaking an epic bike ride in their campaign against climate change.



➤ **Revd Captain Katie Watson cycles to raise awareness of the climate emergency**

Katie, Head of Chaplaincy for the Newcastle Upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust, volunteered to support NHS cyclists as they passed through Newcastle on their journey from London to Glasgow, the host city for COP26, to raise awareness of the impact of climate change and air pollution.

Katie said: "We all have a part in tackling climate change, and the implications for social justice and poverty that it brings."

As part of the 'Ride For Their Lives' cycle campaign which passed through Newcastle on 28 October, Katie cycled 34.56km in an hour - averaging just over 21.5 mph - on a static bike at the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Three of her Newcastle NHS colleagues also joined the 'Ride For Their Lives' cyclists for the Newcastle leg of their journey to raise awareness of air pollution in the UK which causes 28,000 to 36,000 premature deaths a year.

The group also raised funds for the **Newcastle Hospitals Charity**, with the hopes of making Newcastle Hospitals sustainable.

You can learn more about how Newcastle Hospitals are responding to COP 26 **here**.

COP26: Success or failure?

By Revd Mark Nash-Williams, Bishop's Adviser on the Environment

DID COP26 'keep 1.5° alive'? Maybe just barely: the agreements reached in Glasgow were nowhere near adequate. But there were glimmers of hope.

Some positives and negatives:

- 1) Reducing coal was mentioned - the first time fossil fuels have been named - but not phased out entirely
- 2) Fossil fuel subsidies will be reduced - but not eliminated
- 3) Deforestation is to end - but not until 2030
- 4) More funding to vulnerable countries was promised - but promises made for 2020 still haven't been honoured and funding for 'Loss and Damage' was blocked
- 5) The role of indigenous people, women and young people in tackling climate collapse was acknowledged

And there were other positives:

- Over 40 countries have joined a Beyond Oil And Gas Alliance
- National emission reduction targets are to be ratcheted up by 2023 - not 2027

We're not yet where we need to be: we're still on course for a catastrophic 2.7° rise. So what happens between now and COP27 next year is critical. Government needs to hear that we won't tolerate more stalling - no more coal mines or oil fields. Banks and pension funds need to hear us demanding they divest from fossil fuels. And we need to work towards zero carbon at ground level, where the will is often stronger - with local authorities, schools, employers, churches.

Whether or not 1.5° is still alive, it's never too late to make a difference. We can still imagine and work for a better future, trusting that God can do more with our efforts than we can possibly imagine.

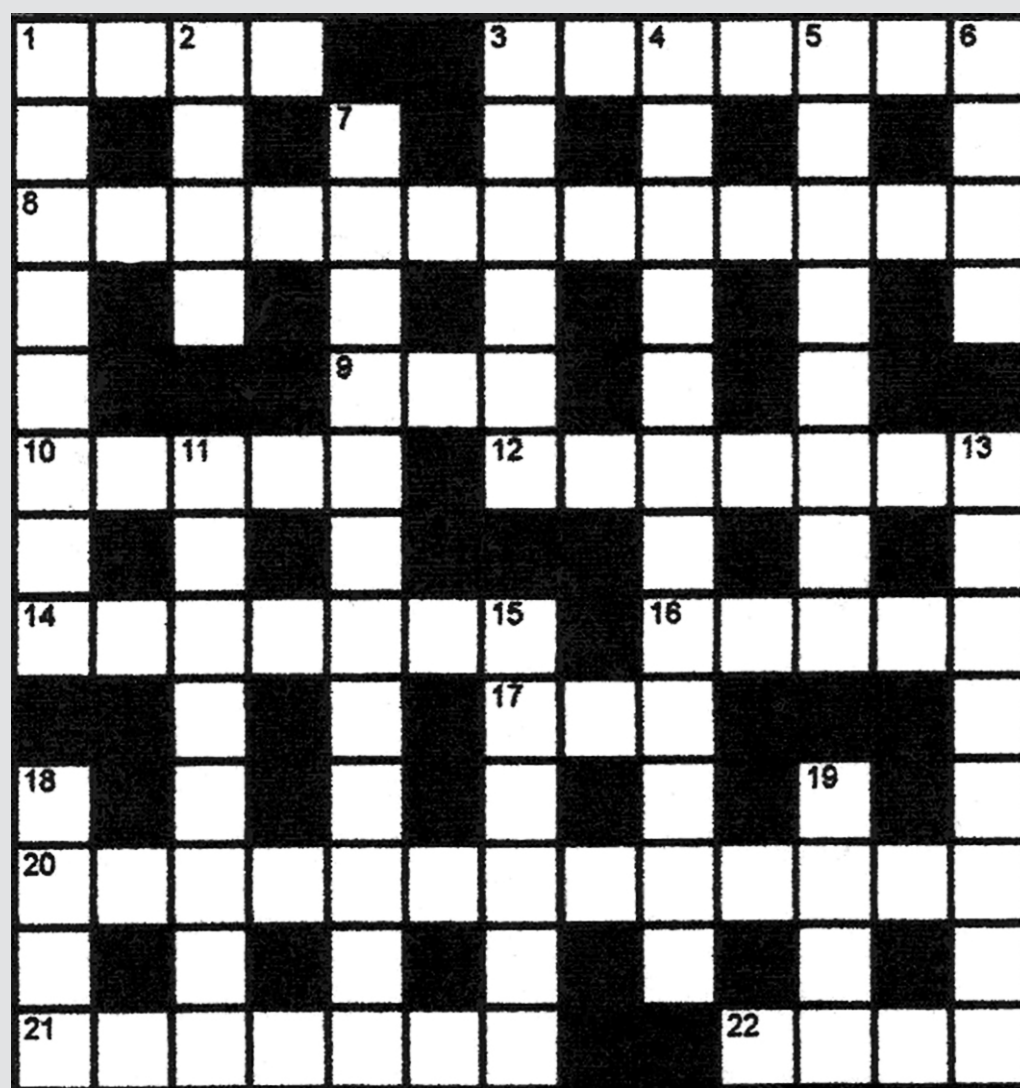
HAVE YOUR SAY

Anything catch your eye in this month's LINK?
Something on your mind?
Or in your prayers?
Send an e-mail, message or letter to LINK and we'll publish the best of them:

Have your say. LINK, Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields NE29 6HS. Email us: communications@newcastle.anglican.org



Link Crossword 178 *Compiled by Mary Sutton*



ACROSS

1. Some bride answering cathedral administrator (4)
3. Strange cured man having made less (7)
8. Man taking time with mother's vehicle initially delivering seasonal correspondence (9,4)
9. Victory for first to work at home (3)
10. Protective cloth found with French book of scriptures (5)
12. Rescuer from South Africa with six of us (7)
14. Feels bitter about gifts, but not at first (7)
16. Material included by funny Londoners (5)
17. Child's drink (3)
20. Relation with £1,000 hated rug being moved (13)
21. Strange lady Dee held up (7)
22. Police officer getting hold of right produce (4)

DOWN

1. Edward turned up cold with glowing coal in this month (8)
2. Account about area of land (4)
3. Italians refurbishing manors (6)
4. Drawback of woman's commercial vehicle initially taking time (12)
5. Cleaner with company man supplying type of fuel (8)
6. Bird needed for two parties (4)
7. Eccentric she'd send away for the first day of Lent (3,9)
11. Game involving singer heard before dance (8)
13. Person coming second with narrow carpet at university (6-2)
15. Maroon thread (6)
18. Old silver given to man (4)
19. Celebrity followed by wise men? (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 177

ACROSS: 1. Illumination
8. Amber 9. Learner
10. Eli 11. Monastery
13. Slang 14. Recur
16. Thesaurus 17. Alb
19. Earnest 21. Icily
22. Impersonator

DOWN: 1. Image
2. Lubricate 3. Mary
Magdalene 4. Nylons
5. Transgression 6. Own
7. Prayer 12. Eucharist
13. Settee 15. Brutes
18. Buyer 20. Rum

DELICIOUS AUTUMN AND RESTFUL WINTER

AUTUMN is a delicious season. I feel blessed to live in a part of the world where we experience the fullness and variety of four seasons!

I have been enjoying the colours of broad swathes of beech trees that follow the lines and curves of the A1. Red berries and small yellowing leaves of the hawthorn, and clusters of bright red, elongated rose hips held on prickly branches are decorating the hedgerows around my home. The wild grasses in the verges are dying back now and distributing their grains and seeds.

The odd chilly day is giving notice that winter is on its way, but it's not here yet. There are still colours and berries and seeds to be enjoyed.

The changing seasons are often used as a metaphor for the stages of human life. It's a popular metaphor, probably because it shows us such a lot about ourselves.

The magical possibilities of spring burst onto the world as buds bring colour and swell, and nature wakes after resting and regenerating over winter. The excitement of a child wondering 'who am I and what do I want to do when I grow up?'

The exuberant growth of summer as

Wellbeing

by **Patty Everitt,**
Lead for the Counselling Service



sunshine and warmth are used to generate energy which is stored in preparation for autumn. The young adult acting in the world, finding out and expressing who they are and deciding how they will be known.

The manifestation, though the fruits of autumn, of the potential that spring held, and that summer made possible. The full expression of the adult in the world through the choices they make and the actions they take. This is how the world sees and knows them.

Then it's the season of winter. It's not far off now.

For me, winter is not a dormant time or a dead time. It is a time when growing things rest and recover and slowly and gently 'gird their loins' so they can fulfil their potential again in the coming year.

Winter holds within it the essence of

spring, summer, and autumn and all the potential of the next year and new life. In this season of life, older adults have generative wisdom and their life-experience to offer should they care to. Held within that wisdom and experience is potential for the next generation to harness, should they care to hear it.

Now we spin our way from autumn into winter, and the days continue to shorten and it is dark for more and more of our waking hours.

In the darkness of winter days, particularly in the Northern Hemisphere, we celebrate light. We light candles, put up strings of lights in our houses and gardens and display Christmas lights in our towns. Our homes and shops are lit for longer and our streetlights light up earlier and earlier each day. In the darkness we become more aware of the light of the moon and the stars. It's as if winter is giving us the chance to slow down and pay more attention to our surroundings.

In the darkness of winter, we enter the season of Advent. We wait and prepare for the coming of the Light. And when the light arrives and we celebrate Christmas, it brings us hope, 'tidings of great joy' and holds the promise of growth and fruit for the next year.

I wish you a glorious autumn and restfully restorative winter in whichever chapter of life you are living.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Christmas and New Year at Newcastle Cathedral

By Lindy Gilliland,
Project Manager

CHRISTMAS starts early at Newcastle Cathedral and this year will be extra special as we dress the Christmas tree and welcome congregations and visitors to the remodelled nave where there will be plenty of space for the wide array of carol services, concerts, and events as well as some new seasonal interventions.

A visit from the Archbishop of York on Saturday 11 December will include our last public talk of the year, when the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell will be in conversation with the Dean of Newcastle about the issues found in his recently published book 'Dear England: Finding hope, taking heart, and changing the world'.

We're looking forward to the traditional 'Walking Nativity' on Friday 17 December and the Newcastle Cathedral Choir's 'Christmas Extravaganza' on Saturday 18 December. Visitors will also be able to witness starlight on earth over this weekend with 'The Stars Come Out at Night', a beautiful sound and light artwork which has previously appeared at Lumiere Festival in Durham and will be revolving in the cathedral.

We're also holding 'Cake, Craft and Carols' for families on Saturday 18 December throughout the day – the event is free but please book your place via our website. As part of your visit, you might like to contribute



► Newcastle Cathedral will host the 'Stars Come Out at Night' in December
Picture: Steve Evans

something creative to our 'Decorate and Celebrate' exhibition.

Looking ahead to 2022, we're delighted to confirm the display of two very different exhibitions.

The first, running from 8 January – 4 February, stems from 'The Faithful Judgements' research project by Newcastle and Durham Universities. This study explored the experiences of people of faith in their encounters with new reproductive and genetic technologies, such as in vitro fertilisation, and the religious, spiritual, and moral dimension of decision making. During the project, the lack of written material available to support people in prayer and discernment during their experiences became increasingly clear. To fill this gap a 'Chapbook' of prayers has been created through collaboration with Canon Rachel Mann, who wrote the prayers, and artist Marianne Wilde.

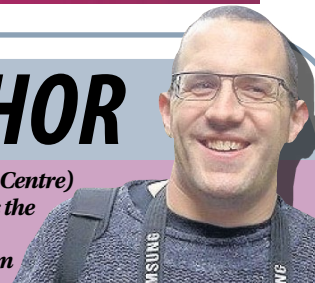
This exhibition showcases the artistic collaboration.

In February, 'A Century of Wedding Gowns', an exhibition of over 40 bridal dresses from the last 100 years, including some copies of royal gowns, will be displayed by collector and costume maker, Kevin Thornhill, from Sunderland. Once part of the team who helped make Princess Diana's wedding gown, Kevin will give guided tours of his collection in February and early March so please enquire in the New Year for further details of how to book on to a tour or bring a group to visit. We'll also have details of how you can book on to the cathedral's 'Valentine's Night Dinner' and related wedding dress fashion show.

■ For more details of Newcastle Cathedral's Christmas and Winter family programme, please visit the [website](https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/events).

LIKE A METAPHOR

Tim Hardy (formerly of the Religious Resources Centre) writes at www.timbo-baggins.co.uk and spends the rest of his time working in a library, raising his daughter and riding a bike around Birmingham



LIVING WITH THE SPARKLE

OUR new house sparkles and glistens. This, sadly, has very little to do with any ability we may have to keep it in pristine condition. The wallpaper – and I can hardly bear to type this – in pretty much every major room is textured with laminated metallic glitter. There is an awful lot of gold. There is pink. There is dark blue. And it all sparkles and shimmers in the light.

One room isn't festooned in glitter-paper, this one has foot-wide prints of tigers' heads covering every wall. It's very much not to our taste, and when I think seriously about it – rather than revelling in the sheer gaudy nonsense of it all – I realise that it all has to go, every last strip.

Circumstances prevented us redecorating before we moved in, and the combination of needing to have an operational house for living and working in whilst both Ros and I work more or less full time has made it difficult to begin. It's impossible to strip wallpaper behind a loaded wardrobe, although the very furniture that gets in the way of progress does reduce the impact of the very wallpaper it protects.

So, why did we buy this gaily decorated monstrosity?

For a number of reasons; we needed somewhere to live, it was a good size with lots of rooms, there was a downstairs shower (which is important for less-mobile guests who would struggle with stairs), the kitchen is amazing and it fit

our budget. Underneath all the horribleness the structure of the place was exactly what we needed, the walls were sound and everything was ship-shape and Bristol fashion.

We love our home and count ourselves extremely fortunate to live here.

It's just that every wall is a trifle flashier than we would choose and the decoration becomes the first thing we have to talk to people about when they visit. This doesn't change the fact that we have a lovely house, being used for hospitality, rest, relaxation, fun and all the things we think a home should be.

The disciples said to Jesus: "Where else would we go? You have the words of eternal life," and I think this is a good starting point for considering our own faith. We have a faith that deserves to be shared; in a God who cares for us and wants us to have life in all its fullness, in a God who loved the world so much he sent his only son to save it, in a God who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but rejoices when we turn from our evil ways and return to him. Our faith is good news and should be attractive to anybody who encounters it – why would we even want to believe anything else?

It's just that we may often feel that the walls of our faith, as we have to live it, are papered with gaudy, off-putting glittery stuff we wouldn't choose ourselves, and that we have very little chance to redecorate. Even more so – with Christmas fast approaching – let us take care not to ignore the baby for the trimmings.

RRC Christmas Closure



THE Resources Centre will be closed for the Christmas break from 5.30pm on Wednesday 15 December and will reopen at 10am on Tuesday 4 January

There will be no access to the Resources Centre and resources cannot be returned during this time.

Noticeboard

Saturday 27 November, 10am-3pm. St Andrew's Church, Newcastle. Day of Prayer for the Mission of the Church.

A day of prayer is to be held at St Andrew's Church in Newcastle on Saturday 27 November. Every parish will be prayed for, and we would like to invite each parish in the Diocese to send at least one representative. The day is an opportunity for us to gather and pray for the mission of the church in each place. We will celebrate the Eucharist together, at which Bishop Mark will preside. Lunch will be provided. For further details and to book your place, please contact Father Adrian Hughes revajh@virginmedia.com

Wednesday 1 December, 6pm. The Parish Church of St Andrew, Newgate

Street. Advent Compline by Candlelight.

St Andrew's will host a late service of prayer during Advent, preceded by an address from significant people within the church. For this session, they will be joined by The Right Revd Stephen Platten, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Newcastle and Warden of Readers.

Saturday 4 December, 6.30pm. St Gabriel's Church, Heaton. Advent Carol Service.

A service of readings, prayers and music with St Gabriel's Choir. Directed by Tim Burke. All are most welcome.

Wednesday 8 December, 6pm. The Parish Church of St Andrew, Newgate Street. Advent Compline by Candlelight.

St Andrew's will host a late service

of prayer during Advent, preceded by an address from significant people within the church. For this session, they will be joined by Canon Richard Hill (SSF).

Friday 10 December, 4.30pm and 8pm. Hexham Abbey. Christmas movie screenings.

As we enter the festive season Hexham Abbey is delighted to host two very special Christmas screenings via Forum Cinema! Seats will be unallocated so please arrive in good time if you have a specific place you would like to sit. You can click the following links to book tickets for [The Polar Express](#) or [It's A Wonderful Life](#).

Saturday 11 December, 11am. Newcastle Cathedral. Patronal Festival of St Nicholas.

The Most Revd Lord Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, will

attend Newcastle Cathedral for a service of Holy Communion. Join him to celebrate the cathedral's patron saint, with music from the Newcastle Cathedral Choir. The event is free to attend, and no booking is required.

Wednesday 15 December, 6pm. The Parish Church of St Andrew, Newgate Street. Advent Compline by Candlelight.

St Andrew's will host a late service of prayer during Advent, preceded by an address from significant people within the church. For this session, they will be joined by Canon Clare MacLaren, Canon for Music and Liturgy at Newcastle Cathedral.

Wednesday 22 December, 6pm. The Parish Church of St Andrew, Newgate

Street. Advent Compline by Candlelight.

St Andrew's will host a late service of prayer during Advent, preceded by an address from significant people within the church. For this session, they will be joined by Revd Annie Gray, Chaplain for Newcastle University.

Friday 28 January, 2pm - Monday 31 January, 2pm. Holy Rood House. Hope in Darkness Retreat - inspired by Richard Rohr's writings. With Revd Ian Spencer, Dorothy Littlewood & Urs Mattmann.

You'll be exploring what Rohr sees as the most pressing issue of our age, a "crises of meaning ... so many people have lost heart today feeling both confused and powerless – many have lost any over-arching meaning [to life]". If you're looking at the world and

feeling powerless to help heal it – or just feel hopeless – this retreat will put a spring in your step once again. Click [here](#) for more information.

Thursday 3 February. Ramada Solihull, Birmingham. Simpler, Humbler, Bolder: Life Events in the Mixed Ecology.

Rooted and grounded in real lives and real faith, this conference will consider how doing things together has a real impact. You'll think about how Life Events are a key part of parish life and reflect on being humbler in your approach, simpler in your message and bolder to share the good news with others. Tickets are £55 (early bird £45 until 30 November 2021) and lunch/ refreshments will be served. Click [here](#) for more information.

Visit www.newcastle.anglican.org/events for events taking place across the Diocese

Christian Aid: COP26 Recap

By Helen Cunningham, Church Engagement & Fundraising Officer (North East & Cumbria) **christian aid**

THE year 2021 has felt very significant. Despite starting with another lockdown, for many there has been a sense of returning to some form of normality as more church buildings have reopened for services and many events postponed from 2020 have been able to take place: not least the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics! And more recently the delayed COP26 Climate Conference was hosted by the UK in November.

Congregations around the North East engaged with COP26 and Creativity in creative ways this year, showing that, as Christians, our faith drives us to act on the single biggest issue of our day: the climate crisis. Churches across the Diocese took part in the Climate Sunday service initiative, hosted walkers from pilgrimages such as the YCCN's 'Rise To The Moment' relay, showed the film 'Thank You For The Rain', and created prayer spaces during the COP26 conference itself.

Many prayer spaces have encouraged and enabled people to pray for climate justice, some using Christian Aid's versatile 'River of Prayer' resource, which can be used for prayers of intercession or adapted to suit your church's physical space. Hexham Abbey created a 'River of Prayer' in its cloister walk for the Hexham churches' shared climate vigil on Saturday 6 November. Children took part in activities including making origami prayer boats to place in the river.

Assistant Curate of Hexham Abbey, Revd Elaine Ryder said: "It has been

appreciated by people as they have entered and left the abbey, some of whom have paused to pray the prayers."

At St Aidan's, Brunton Park, Sarah Troughton and Margaret Urquhart created a 'River of Prayer' that flowed down from the altar. Revd Gerard Rundle explains the reason they made it: "We wanted to encourage members of the congregation to be praying during COP26. It was a pivotal moment in the world's response to climate change and we felt that as Christians our primary response needed to be in prayer, particularly for all those who were gathered in Glasgow."

"Christian Aid's 'River of Prayer' inspired us to create some stations themed on the River of Life from Revelation 22. It allowed us to look with hope at the course of our prayers, seeing the journey ahead and praying for strength, to pray for hearts of stone to be transformed into hearts of flesh, and to pray for the healing of the nations, writing our prayers on the leaves of our Tree of Life."

"We also wanted to pray by name for the leaders attending COP26 and set up a station for that, as well as challenge people to make a commitment to change something, so a final station asked people to write one prayer of gratitude, one prayer of confession, and one commitment to change our engagement with care for creation."

"We found that people responded really positively to the experience, lots of people used the stations (more than I'd expected!), and many commented on how beautiful it looked. In fact,

while we'd planned to have it up for one week... we decided to leave it up until Saturday 13 November to allow people to pray during the whole of COP26."

Engaging families and tourists during half-term, as well as regular visitors and worshippers over three weeks, Newcastle Cathedral created a thoughtful and interactive textile 'River of Prayer', rising from the newly refurbished 'Living Water' font and flowing into the nave, encouraging prayer and contemplation. Visitors were invited to pause at several prayer stations along the river's length to reflect on how small, positive actions can make a big difference, and to place a stone in the fabric waters as a sign of response.

Christian Aid's 'River of Prayer' resource can be used all year round and is available to download [here](#).

Following on from COP26, we invite you to include Prime Minister Boris Johnson MP, in your Christmas card list. Send him a personal Christmas card by 16 December asking that he continue to work for climate justice. Click [here](#) for more information and suggested wording for your card.

As we step into a new year, praying and acting for climate justice is more important than ever before. Join us as we stand together with communities across the world! Show the film 'Thank You For The Rain' in your church or small group before the end of January, create your own 'River of Prayer', or sign up (from January) for our Changemakers online supporter conference 20-25 February 2022 [here](#)!



► Interactive textile River of Prayer at Newcastle Cathedral. Picture: Revd Canon Clare MacLaren

Newcastle Diocese representatives visit Møre Diocese in Norway

DID you know that the Diocese of Newcastle is paired with the Lutheran Diocese of Møre, in Norway?

During September, five representatives from Newcastle Diocese travelled to Norway to join the Møre Diocese Clergy Conference. It was held at the Union Hotel, Geiranger, in the west of Norway. A more beautiful fiord setting would be hard to imagine and below are some of our memories and reflections from the trip.

Izzy McDonald-Booth, Chair of the House of Laity for Diocese of Newcastle, said: "Our visit was fascinating and luckily also really good fun! The area of the Diocese of Møre is breathtakingly beautiful and extremely rural. Although the Church in Norway uses a different financial model – the vast majority of lay people are paid (e.g. Church Wardens) – they still have many similar challenges to us."

"It's so easy to assume that everything is easier with money, but after talking to people I quickly realised that our preoccupation with

growth for mission is a challenge for them as well. Having lots of money does not equate to more disciples and attenders. We have much to learn together and the trip was very fruitful."

Roger Styring, Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, said: "My overriding memory of Norway was the hospitality and generosity shown to us by our hosts. In particular, the conference that we attended was easily understood as our hosts had provided interpreters so that we could follow the proceedings."

"The second most outstanding memory was the funding arrangements of the Norwegian Church. Clergy are paid a salary by the Norwegian state. Other members of the Church – including administrators, catechists and grave diggers – are all employed by the municipality. Even better, the church buildings themselves are owned and maintained by the municipality."

Helen Wright, Reader at Newcastle Cathedral, said: "After the conference was over, I visited



► Cathrine Grutle, Roger Styring, Suzanne Cooke, Rachel Wood, Izzy McDonald-Booth, Helen Wright and Sigurd Andreas Widvey Hauge

a Food Bank run by the Salvation Army in Oslo, and founded in 1891. The centre's main focus is on the distribution of food parcels, though it also offers a 'Norwegian café' for migrants, personal assistance by way of two full-time social workers, and legal advice given by law students.

"It also organises days out for families, and distributes an 'activity booklet' aimed at children aged three to 18 accompanied by an adult. This contains a number of coupons which can be used at local venues (e.g. cinema, mini-golf), the cost being met by sponsoring organisations."

The group were blessed to be very well looked after by Revd Cathrine Grutle, Møre link coordinator, who worked so hard to make our trip run smoothly. She said: "The best part of the visit was when I picked up my new friends at the airport. I was so happy to see Rachel, Izzy, Helen, Suzanne and Roger in real life, and I'm looking forward to meeting them again."

Revd Suzanne Cooke and Archdeacon Rachel Wood were the two ordained members of the group and were excited, if not a little nervous, to be asked to make a presentation on 'Messy Church' to the conference. This kind of 'fresh expression' would be unusual in Norway, so Rachel and Suzanne were asked lots of challenging questions by both the laity and clergy in the audience.

Overall our trip was a wonderful success. We are all so grateful to both dioceses for the opportunity to attend the conference and very much look forward to our Norwegian friends visiting us again soon.

Award-winning community partnership

By Revd Sue McCormack, Team Rector of the Willington Team and Chair of Trustees of St Paul's Community Partnership

ON 3 November, as Chair of Trustees I attended an awards ceremony, along with youth workers from the YMCA and some of our young people from our Willington Quay Youth Group. It was held at The Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park and was hosted by NE Youth.

The evening celebrates the talents and achievements of young people, staff/volunteers and the key contribution that members make in their communities and with young people.

We were entered into the category 'Partnership of the Year' with stiff competition from Newcastle United Foundation working with Northumbria Police, Gateshead Police cadets and Newcastle Falcons, Red Cross and others.

Against all our expectations we won that category. YMCA has delivered our youth work at St Paul's for many years now and there has been real success in changing life outcomes for the young people. Long may it continue.



> 'Partnership of the Year' winners



> Celebrating the award

NCEAT launch new eco competition



> Students from NCEA Warkworth C of E Primary School and NCEA Thomas Bewick C of E Primary School felt inspired to act now and save our planet

THE Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust (NCEAT) recently launched a competition to gather ideas on how to make its schools sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint.

Open to students who attend an NCEA

Trust school, every pupil had the opportunity to submit their ideas on how to improve the environment and tackle climate change within school.

Ideas were judged on five different criteria: creativity, feasibility, impact, cost and rationale.



The winning project from each school, yet to be announced, will receive support from a local business, in order to help get the project off the ground. Winners will also receive the brand-new 'CEO's Pupil Leadership Award'.

The future of our church buildings



EARLY November saw a debate, ran by the National Churches Trust, discuss the future of the UK's church buildings, highlighting the community, economic, heritage and spiritual benefits of churches.

With a large number of UK churches and chapels facing closure, this is a chance for us to learn how we can protect our local church buildings. To learn more, please click [here](#).

Could your church magazine win an award?



THE Association for Church Editors is opening nominations for its 2022 awards, to celebrate and recognise the work of church magazine editors and their editorial teams.

Gold, silver and bronze awards are available for the following categories: cover design, overall layout and structure, headlines, use of graphics, clarity of the Christian message and intended readership appeal.

Gold award winners will also receive the John King Trophy for one year.

To submit your church magazine for an award, please follow the [information available here](#), and subsequently fill out the [entry form](#).

More information is available [here](#).

MONTHLY E-BULLETIN



HAVE you signed up to our monthly Diocesan e-Bulletin? Delivered straight to your inbox on the last Friday of each month, the e-Bulletin features the latest news, information, upcoming events and resources for the Diocese as well as our monthly Prayer Diary.

You can sign-up at www.bit.ly/ebulletin-resub or via our Facebook page [@nddiocese](#)