

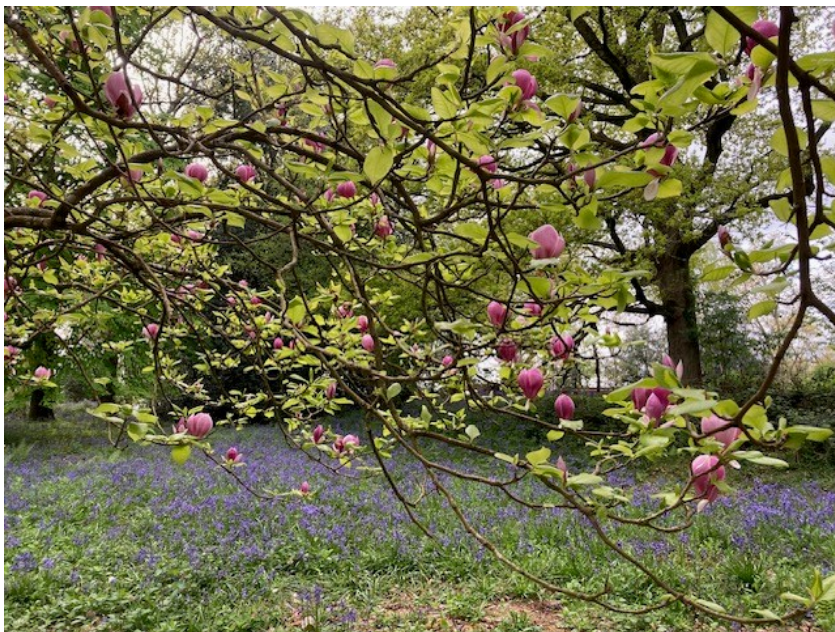
St. George's
Jesmond



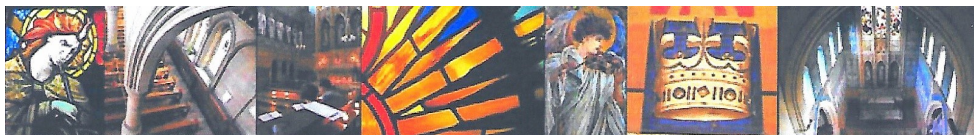
A worshipping community: inclusive, nurturing, engaged

THE LANCE

MAY 2024



www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk



In The Lance this month:

(ctrl-click to follow a link)

Editorial	3
St George's Book Group	3
Letter from the Clergy	4
St George's Cycle Club	5
Canon Clare	6
Impressions from a Childhood in the land of the White Rajahs	9
Letters to the Editor	21
Why Does the Anglican Church Apologise for being Christian?	22
I Was There..... (at Durham Cathedral)	25
A Fond Farewell to Ollie	26
St George's Cycle Club - Where Did They Get To in April?	28
Alnmouth Church Walk	29
My Secret Passion	31
Caption Competition!	32
Tales from a Verger	33
12-18 May 2024 Christian Aid Week	35
A Summer Night with Elvis	36
Good News	37
Recycling	37
Working with Children North East Box 13	38
A Special Birthday!	39
Clergy Gifts	40
Liturgical Calendar	41
Who is Who at St George's and how to contact them	42
The Back Page	44

Editorial

People never cease to surprise me.

Talking to a fellow parishioner about travel on the London tube, I discovered that he has just returned from cycling half the length of the river Danube through central Europe!

This edition contains lots of surprises, from childhoods in Sarawak, to secret passions practiced at a national standard, to the Church of England seeming to apologise for being Christian.

We also say goodbye and thank you to two members of the clergy who have been significant figures in the church, one for quite a period of time. They are both moving to other roles within the church, away from Jesmond, and will have challenges of their own. We, meanwhile, continue the search for a new Vicar.

It is Spring and there is an almost reflex feeling of hope and a sense of renewal in the air, even if the news tells us that times are very hard for many and the weather is pretty terrible too. However, the church continues its quiet and important work, partly funded by Christian Aid, whose fund-raising week is 12-18 May. There is always much good news if we look, and surprises too.

Margaret Vane

[return to contents](#)

St George's Book Group

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22 May at 7.30pm in the
Winskill Room

The book chosen is: 'Old Filth' by Jane Gardam
[The Ed's favourite book!!]

Anne Clarke

Letter from the Clergy

Easter Greetings everyone!

So....what has been occupying my thoughts this month? Let me tell you.....



Suddenly there was nothing! No strength, no feeling, no movement..... nothing!! My little miniature Daschund's hind legs had completely gone, as had his ability to wag his tail! A visit to the vets suggested some kind of spinal damage. There followed a referral to a small animal hospital near Stockton which specialised in spinal neurological injuries.



Enter Fabio, consultant surgeon, whom I later discovered to be a recognised European veterinary neurology specialist..... Barnie was going to be in good hands!!

One MRI scan later and Fabio had identified the problem (too complicated for me to explain..... and frankly to understand) and I had agreed to surgery which was carried out within an hour.

It felt like 'Friday'.



Lots of cuddles and nursing care later, and 'Friday' began to pass. Barnie could wag his tail again and movement returned to one leg..... then the other, though he was not able to walk without support. We were able to bring him home after 5 days of hospitalisation, though..... 6-8 weeks of crate rest was prescribed!! I will certainly earn my veterinary nurse badge as I care for him!!

But..... Friday had passed..... Sunday was dawning!!

It occurred to me that it was like that for the disciples..... those around the cross and those who were hiding away, out of sight. Suddenly there was nothing! No strength, no feeling, no movement.....nothing! The person they had put their hope in hung lifeless on the cross. Jesus was dead.

It was Friday!

Had they been foolish to follow Him? No, they hadn't..... they just hadn't understood. Jesus had told them; He had prepared them.... Sunday was coming!! But they hadn't heard!!

But Friday DID pass and Sunday DID come..... the miracle had happened..... Jesus was alive!!

It seems to me that there is a bit of a 'Friday' feel here at St. George's just now. We have no incumbent, no curate..... and we are waiting! But let's wait in hope; let's keep on keeping on; and let's remember.....

'It's Friday..... but Sunday is coming!!'

Wishing you all the blessings of Easter,
Joan.

(I acknowledge Beth Wolfe for the 'It's Friday..... but Sunday...' reflection.)



[return to contents](#)

St George's Cycle Club

Saturday May 8th

9.30am meet outside the church hall

Where to..... Ah, that is a secret

Be there to find out!

Canon Clare

Clare, you joined us only six months ago but it's truly hard to do justice to all that you have achieved since the autumn. I speak for everyone here and I say how grateful we are for everything that you have done for the life of St George's. Many people have commented on the joy and uplift that we have felt as a congregation. You have opened the eyes of the PCC to what we should be looking for in a new incumbent.



We are particularly grateful that despite becoming Provost of Sunderland Minster you chose to honour your commitment here until Easter Day.

As an interim minister, it would have been very easy simply to keep a steady hand on the tiller, but instead you have developed and enriched our worship. We have seen new faces and once familiar faces in the pews.

Behind the scenes, you have been a faithful visitor to those unable to join church worship.

I watched recently your address to the National Cathedrals' conference in 2022. You said all cathedrals aimed for dignity, beauty and excellence in worship.

You've brought dignity beauty and excellence right here to St George's. Your preaching has been varied, memorable, thought-provoking. A rare combination of engagement and erudition. I'm sure everyone here will have different best bits. Many will never view Jane Austen's picnic in *Emma* in quite the same way.

It takes a particularly brave heart to work with children and animals. You have renewed our greater engagement with children and young people and led us with Honey the donkey in the Living Nativity. You have donned full regalia as the queen in our pantomime.

You have entertained us magnificently with Burns airs and a matchless Address to the Haggis. Above all, you have shown an impressive capacity for sheer hard work.

Rolling your sleeves up, and getting on with things. Not just to delegate but to participate and to lead by example.

Here at St George's, we shall always be thankful for all that you have brought us and wish you the very best in your challenging new chapter.

[Clare was presented principally with a voucher for the Biscuit Factory, along with an SAFC scarf and items to enjoy over Easter Monday. Peter and Vera Rodgers presented Clare with one of Peter's beautiful pictures of St George's]

Janet Wilson

Church Warden

Here are some photos from Canon Clare's Installation as the new Provost at Sunderland Minster held on Sunday 14th April in a service led by the acting Bishop of Durham, Rt Rev. Sarah Clark.

'God has exciting plans for the future of the Minster. I am delighted to be here, and at my installation service there was a great feeling of hope and joy for the future ' she said.

Sunderland Minster has been through a period of transition and Clare will now head a team which includes associate priests, Chris Howson and Jacqui



Tyson. They will build on the current missional work, both within the Minster and in the city of Sunderland. In addition, the Minster will receive a share of funding allocated to the Durham Diocese to enable transformation and growth. Two specialist mission enablers will be employed to focus on reaching out in service and growing new congregations. The Minster will also look to generate income via concerts and events. An operations manager will be appointed to develop a business plan, as well as a part time administrator.

[return to contents](#)



**We clean your oven.....
so you don't have to.**



**Call today to have your
oven, hob, extractor or
Aga professionally cleaned**

**Colin MacMillan contact details
Tel. 0191 906 6692 Mob. 07888 169798
E mail colinmacmillan@ovenwizards.com
www.ovenwizards.com**

FRIDAY CAFÉ.

**IN THE WINSKELL ROOM
EACH FRIDAY FROM 10-
12NOON.
FRIDAY SINGING STARTS
AT 11:00**

WELCOME TO EVERYONE.

**IF YOU ARE LOOKING
FOR SOMEWHERE TO EN-
JOY TEA/COFFEE/
CAKE/BISCUITS IN THE
COMPANY OF OTHERS
AND IN A WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT, WHY NOT
MAKE FRIDAY CAFÉ
WHAT YOU DO?**

**Articles etc. for The
Lance to be received
no later than the 15th of
each month**

Send to:

mmvane31@gmail.com

Thank you, Margaret.

Impressions from a Childhood in the land of the White Rajahs

Mike Ranson, our treasurer, spent some of his childhood living in Sarawak where his father was a Colonial Officer during the 1950s and 1960s.

Sarawak (pronounced Saraaarwak) was a country on the north-west of the tropical Island of Borneo and its capital, Kuching, lies just 1° north of the Equator. A high mountain range in the south of the country is the border with Kalimantan, part of Indonesia, and to the north-east is Sabah, another former British colony. Between Sarawak and Sabah lies Brunei, a very small but immensely wealthy independent sultanate, its wealth being based on oil.

Sarawak was an unusual British colony, as it was only ceded to the British Crown in 1946, after four years under cruel Japanese occupation. It became independent in 1963, when it became part of the Federation of Malaysia, so it was a colony for only about eighteen years. Prior to being seized by the Japanese, Sarawak had been a kingdom

ruled by three White Rajahs. The first, James Brooke, was given the country in 1841 by the Sultan of Brunei, as James had successfully quelled pirates who had terrorised the coastline villages. James was an adventurer who had used an inheritance to purchase a schooner, The Royalist, eventually arriving in that part of the South China Sea. The country expanded under James who was succeeded by two other Rajahs, Charles and Vyner, although neither were his direct descendants, being cousins. The Brookes were benevolent but firm rulers, establishing a fair administration, codifying laws, fighting piracy and suppressing headhunting amongst the indigenous population, the Dyaks. They ruled the area for 105 years.



James Brooke

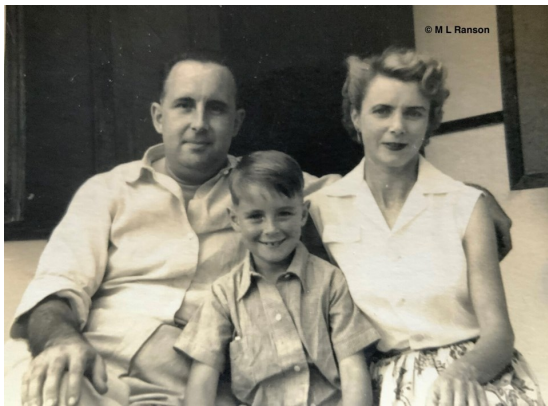
The capital city (really a small town) is Kuching where I lived for three years and then visited from England during the school summer holidays until the 1960s. The only realistic way to travel to the far east in the 1950s was by sea. My father went ahead in early 1954 on the RMS Carthage, followed by my mother and me on the RMS Canton, both P&O Liners plying the seaways to Singapore and beyond. For a seven-year-old from Purley in south London, this was very exciting. In those days, the ship called into each port for two or more days so there were opportunities to go ashore and visit the sights of Suez, Aden, Bombay and Colombo. After arriving in Singapore, my mum and I took our first ever flight, in a Douglas Dakota, to Kuching. More excitement! Being met by Dad at the airport, we were taken to our first car, a Ford Popular, and driven through the jungle to Kuching. Our first home was in what were called 'temporary quarters'. These were bungalows built from billian (iron wood) and asbestos, with an attap (palm leaf) roof. There was no hot running water and the bathroom contained a 'tong', or bath built like a barrel constructed from wood staves. Fresh water was piped several miles from a reservoir at Matang mountain, and it was not unusual for a little fish to come through the tap. As a result, drinking water had to be boiled and bath nights were fairly infrequent.

After a few months in temporary quarters we moved to a large bungalow 'across river', called San Roc. This

house had been built in the early 1900s for one of the Rajah's administrative officers (colloquially know as Rajah's boys) and was close to the Astana, the Rajah's Palace which, by then, was occupied by the Governor. Being across river meant that every day we had to cross the very wide and fast flowing river by Sampan to get into town for work or school. Our car was kept on the town side as the only crossing was at a place



Temporary quarters (above) - with Mum and Dad (below)



called Satok, a few miles from the centre, across a very narrow and rickety suspension bridge built in 1923; to be avoided, if possible. Crossing by Sampan was in itself a daily adventure; almost all sampans are propelled by oars, usually wielded by wiry locals, but in the Government Sampan we had the luxury of an outboard motor. Nevertheless, the journey across was an exercise in precise navigation by the boatman, depending on the strength of the current.

San Roc was a magnificent bungalow with airy rooms; there was no glass in the windows, only shutters, so no protection from unwelcome visitors like snakes, large centipedes and various insects. They did not seem to bother us – the main problem was the mosquitos from which the only relief was at night when we slept in mosquito-proof wire cages, which were much better than mosquito nets. Fortunately, there was no malaria. The bungalow's other inhabitants were 'chi chaks' or small geckos that ran all over the walls and ceilings at night, feeding on insects. It was said that a house that did not have chi chaks



San Roc bungalow



The Astana, River and Sampans



**The River crossing and Sampans
(Government Sampan with Blue Ensign)**



The Sarawak Museum



was unlucky. We had a dog called Scruffy, who had adopted us as an emaciated stray, and several Siamese cats, all distinguished by a kink in their tails. Banana trees and pineapple plants grew in the garden.

During the war, the bungalow had been occupied by Japanese officers who, reputedly, had done all sorts of unspeakable things, with the result that the building was supposed to be haunted by some of their victims. My mother was convinced she had seen some ghosts and heard horrible noises but I did not. That was just as well as we were very remote and surrounded by jungle! After a while living there, we moved to a brand-new bungalow that had been built for government officers and, in latter years, my mum and dad moved to an apartment in a beautiful position overlooking the famous Sarawak Museum and the Museum Gardens. The Sarawak Museum had been founded by a famous adventurer and anthropologist, Tom Harrisson, and is one of the most renowned museums in the Far East, containing unique artifacts and a magnificent collection of fauna, including spectacular butterflies and moths.

Schooling was at an English primary school run by the wives of the officers. It was situated in the Freemasons' Hall and it was remarkable how accomplished the teachers were in this remote corner of Empire. Even at school, all was not safe. On one occasion the children disturbed an aggressive King Cobra in the playground and we all beat a hasty retreat indoors while the fire brigade were called to remove it.

Secondary education was available at local schools, mostly Christian foundations, to teach the local Malay and Chinese youngsters. In those days it was not 'the thing' for

expat children to go to local schools and that would have meant an ability to speak Malay or Chinese, which I could not. So, at 10 years old I was sent to boarding school in England. The journey back to the UK in 1957 was on an Italian liner, the MV Victoria, and we were one of the first passenger vessels allowed through the Suez Canal after the Suez crisis. The canal was still partially obstructed by sunken ships from the war and, as British, we and were discouraged from going on deck as we passed through and were not allowed to go ashore at Port Said. The voyage ended in Genoa, so we took trains across Europe to Calais and then a choppy ferry crossing to a chilly Dover, which was a rude awakening.

During the time I was at school, I visited Kuching most summer holidays, flying alone to Singapore mostly on BOAC de Havilland Comets. There were many other children doing the same thing and the press labelled the flights 'Lollypop Specials' and we all had great fun. Flights took nearly 24 hours, a great improvement on the earlier prop-driven Bristol Britannias or Lockheed Constellations, which took about 36 hours. On the way we had to land for refuelling every 3 hours or so and were required to disembark for drinks or meals. Over the years, I visited the airports of Rome, Zurich, Beirut, Cairo, Bahrain, Kuwait, Calcutta and many more. After overnight stops in Singapore staying with friends of my parents or at the Raffles Hotel, flights to Kuching took about three hours. Then, every September, the same in reverse!

In Kuching food was in plentiful supply, with fish, meat and fruit & vegetable markets in the centre of town near the waterfront. The Europeans tended to prefer food imported from Australia, available from a local emporium called Joo Chan and always referred to as the Deep Freeze. Nevertheless, my father would regularly visit the fish market and return with lovely fresh fish, including magnificent prawns that we would enjoy in Nasi Goreng for Saturday lunch. Curry in grand style was reserved for Sundays, followed by fresh sago with nipa palm sugar syrup and coconut milk. Many locally grown fruits were



available, much from the wild, and often bought from piles by the roadside. These included pineapples, bananas, papaya, rambutans and durian. I learnt the easy way of telling if a pineapple is fresh, and we often enjoyed pineapple and papaya for breakfast. Durian is

described as the king of fruits and it was always possible to tell from a distance where it was on sale, because of the dreadful smell; the custardy flesh of the durian is described as 'smelling like hell, tasting like heaven'. There were several restaurants, many in a place called the Open Market where the food was cooked over charcoal and we ate en plain air.



The Treasury – 1950s

My father worked in The Treasury, in a building dating back to the late 19th century, when the Rajah built a government complex, including administrative offices, a court and assembly room for the local legislature or 'Council Negri', the members of which included local tribal and community leaders. Also part of this complex was a two storey later building constructed in the 1940s by prisoners of war and internees, enslaved by the Japanese. Every day, these prisoners had been marched, barefoot, several miles from their camp at Batu Lintang to be forced to work in the humidity and under the heat of the overhead sun and marched back again, surviving on only meagre rations of a daily bowl of rice. About one third of the 2,000 prisoners died. Batu Lintang became a college that I used to visit for lessons and these buildings in Kuching, including my father's old office, remain and have become a beautiful heritage site.



Dyaks in their finery

The demographics of Sarawak are unusual in that there are three main ethnic groups, the Dyaks, the Malays and Chinese. Historically, the Dyaks are the indigenous people mainly living remotely in long-houses near rivers in the jungle

(the Ulu); the immigrant Malays settled in towns and villages or Kampongs and the Chinese often ran businesses in the larger towns. These racial groups live happily side by side and one of the great achievements of the Rajahs was to create a society and legal system that recognised equality of the different cultures and religions. Consequently, after the deprivations caused by the Japanese occupation, colonialism by the British which reinstated the cultural traditions created by the Rajahs was welcomed by the various ethnic communities. In Sarawak, the Brookes are still revered by most of the people and the short British rule launched a period of prosperity for the country and continued the harmonious relations within the society.

Religion played an important part in people's lives. The largest community was Malay Moslem with their large timber mosque and there were several Chinese temples to worship various Chinese deities, all with brightly adorned altars and bas-reliefs of dragons

and figures of the deities. These reflect the diversity of Chinese immigration in the 17th and 18th centuries, arriving from all parts of China, long before James Brooke. There were large Christian communities, mainly comprising congregations of Chinese and some Dyaks who had converted to Christianity.



Kuching Mosque

The first protestant Cathedral, dedicated to St. Thomas, had been built from timber with a wooden spire at the behest of the Rajah and was consecrated in 1851. That stood for a century and was replaced by a modern Cathedral, consecrated in 1956, which dominates the hill on which it is built, overlooking the city and the Central Padang which is Kuching's equivalent to Horse



St. Thomas Cathedral, War Memorial and Central Padang

Guards Parade. The new cathedral was built while I lived in Kuching and I well remember the old and new churches standing side-by-side before the timber building was dismantled, piece by piece, to be rebuilt elsewhere. The Roman Catholics worshiped at St. Joseph's where there was also a monastery and school. My mother had decided that my Latin needed improvement so, during some holidays, I was enrolled for private tuition from one of the Fathers. In the tropical afternoon heat 'creeping like snail unwillingly to school' was an understatement.

Part of my father's duties involved going 'on tour', which meant going into the Ulu to visit the remote communities, primarily the Dyak long-houses. The trips would involve many hours and days on the rivers in an open canoe, with only his clerk/interpreter and the boatman for company. His arrival at a longhouse was a matter of great celebration as he was representing the British Crown which was held in great esteem by the Dyak people. That went back to the days of the Rajahs and is indicative of the way in which their regime and, latterly, the British Monarchy was so highly regarded by these people. Often Dad would be the first white man they had seen since the last visit, a year or two be-



My father in a canoe 'on tour'



Communal living on the veranda in a longhouse



Red Cross at the Hospital

fore. The festivities included feasting and dancing and the Dyaks would be magnificently dressed in clothing adorned with bird of paradise feathers, intricate beading and silver coins dating from the Rajah's days. I have photographs that my father took during his visits. As guest of honour my father was invited to spear the festive piglet and inspect the entrails, to ensure that the omens were favourable – a task he enjoyed least of all.

The wives of Government officers, the 'Mems', enjoyed a relaxed lifestyle and contributed to society by working with the Red Cross if they were not enjoying playing bridge, mahjong or other social activities. My mother found this a little boring and for a while worked for the British Council in Kuching. She decided to be more adventurous and persuaded the management of Elizabeth Arden in London that Kuching needed a Beauty Salon, so on long leave in England, she trained at Elizabeth Arden's school and salon in Bond Street and returned to establish the first ever beauty salon in Sarawak, in the new Aurora Hotel. All the cosmetics had to be imported from England and all the furniture and equipment for the salon was created by local craftsmen, copied from photographs and drawings. This innovation was a huge success and attracted not only European ladies but also local, mainly Chinese, ladies who were keen to enjoy the status of this aspect of western culture.

Social life in the 1950s & '60s revolved



Above: Fancy Dress.

Mike is Davy Crockett

Below : Santa on a bullock cart
Bottom: Fancy Dress at the Club at Christmas. Mike is the traffic light!



around The Club. Like so much else, it was founded by the Rajah in 1876 and was intended to cater for the entertainment and recreational needs of his officers. The Sarawak Club is situated atop one of the highest points in the heart of Kuching, which has been its home since 1927. The main hall was the centrepiece and part of the original clubhouse and it was there where much focused. Parties were held and there were many activities for the children, including fancy dress and Christmas festivities; Santa arrived resplendent in long white beard and red cloak, on a bullock cart! For the dads and mums, anything provided a suitable occasion for celebration. In true expat tradition, dinner dances celebrated St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick, as well as usual Christmas and New Year festivities and the whole community turned out. Despite the heat, black tie was de rigueur, so fancy dress offered welcome relief.

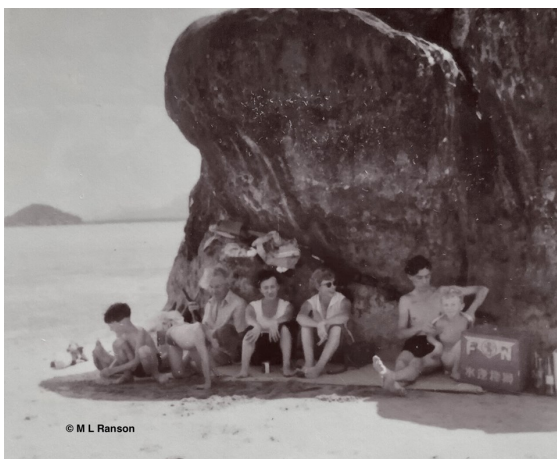
Other facilities included a 9 hole golf course and a huge bowling alley (not ten pin, but a more ancient variety, with enormous bowls requiring two-handed propulsion). It was here that I learned to play golf and, on one occasion, won the youngsters' driving competition. In later years a swimming pool was built and that became the focus of many activities for the children; spending the school holidays from England



St George's dinner at The Club



Summer holiday - The children by the pool at The Club



At Santubong - Mad Dogs and Englishmen



swimming under the tropical sun every day is a wonderful enduring memory. Also, I became a pretty good swimmer, gaining my 'colours' in the school team back in England.



Every so often there would be a trip to the seaside. There were no roads outside Kuching, so the only way to travel was by boat, down river. We were allowed to use the Governor's launch and it took several hours to navigate the wide and winding waters of the Sarawak River, eventually arriving at Santubong which is in the estuary, dominated by the colossal Santubong mountain, visible from miles around. Like many towns and villages in the country, a 'rest house' had been built for the use of the colonial officers and their families and it would be there that we would stay for a week or two with friends and families. Every morning and evening the Union Jack and Sarawak Flag would be raised and lowered and many a happy day was spent playing on the sandy beach or sheltering under huge boulders from the blazing sun, immediately overhead. A mile or so offshore there were the Turtle Islands and, as a special treat, we would be taken

with Dad & Mum at Santubong



to the islands. They were a delightful sanctuary for turtles; the beaches were of pure white sand where the turtles laid their eggs and we would swim in the crystal clear waters surrounded by the turtles and colourful fish. It was wonderful. Further along the coast there were other bays and beaches to visit, all bordering the jungle that came right down to the sea. Santubong was quite silty from the river but, being away from the river, these beaches were completely pristine and virtually untouched by human activity. Nowadays, roads have been built and these places have been turned into resorts.

All this came to an end with Independence in 1963. In common with several other families leaving Sarawak for the last time, my mother and I took one last passage by sea in SS Chusan, with opportunities to visit the Peak in Panang, Viharamahadevi Park in Colombo, The Gateway of India, be entertained by the Gully Gully man in Port Said and see the sights of Naples, before arriving at Tilbury on a very cold and damp day. My father completed his contract and returned to England later that year.

I have returned to Sarawak on several occasions and, whilst there have been many developments, the country and its people remain as delightful as ever. On my last visit, my son and I visited the bungalow where we had lived for a year or two before my father completed his first 'tour', to find that it was still there, occupied by a local family who were fascinated to know that I had lived there as a child and made us very welcome. I found that it had changed very little and still contained some of the furniture that had been there over sixty years before!

Mike Ranson

[return to contents](#)

Thomas N. Miller Auctioneers & Valuers
celebrating 120 years 1902 - 2022
Algernon Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 2UN



Weekly Antiques & Collectors Auction.
From full house clearances to single items sold.
Probate valuations. Storage facilities.

www.millersauctioneers.co.uk
0191 265 8080
info@millersauctioneers.co.uk



To: St George's Jesmond

"Letters
Column"



We are writing to express our gratitude for your donation, on behalf of St. George's Church for £200 to Newcastle West End Foodbank. Our charity strives to provide food for people who are unable to afford food for themselves or their families. The increased cost of living has resulted in more people using our services. We have responded by opening additional centres across the city. We now have distribution centres in Heaton, Byker, Benwell, Lemington, Newbiggin Hall and The Bede Church on the West Road. Financial and physical donations enable the Foodbank to provide food parcels and support to those in need every week, with nearly half of the people to benefit from our food parcels being children, living in low-income households who would otherwise go hungry. Our work is made possible by the generosity of people who provide us with the donations that help us to sustain our services. We supplement our food distribution support with welfare services through our Pathways Team, who are trained to help clients with a range of issues including debt, housing, fuel and benefits. We are truly grateful for your support.

Emily Blunt

West End Food Bank



Kingswalk dental implant practice

**Lesley K Cave,
BDS, DGD, RCS (Eng)
& Associates**

Teeth for Life

**Kingswalk Dental Practice
50 Leazes Park Road
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4PG**

**Telephone: 0191 2220725
www.kingswalkdental.co.uk**

BOLDON FARM- HOUSE PANTRY

Creative and imaginative catering, a truly personal service and team work is our recipe for success with all the practicalities taken care of! All our menus are freshly prepared and your food will either be delivered to the venue or prepared in situ. We will ensure your event is both memorable and enjoyable.

Find us at:
Westray, 26 Akenside Terrace,
Jesmond. Tel 281 6025

Why Does the Anglican Church Apologise for being Christian?

In 2023, the Church Commissioners announced the setting up of the Oversight Group, a council who will advise the Church Commissioners's Board on how it will establish a new impact investment fund and grant funding programme in response to research findings of historical links to the slave trade. Members include investment specialists, academics, journalists and activists.

One of its first published findings was to establish a fund worth £100 million which would fund a programme of 'impact investments, grants and further research.' It also entreated the Commissioners to 'think big' and set a target of over a £1 billion for the total resource.

The Group is chaired by the Right Reverend Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, along with Tara Sabre Collier, director of Impact Investing and sustainable Finance at Chemonics UK.

The Group has now reported and declared that the Church should say sorry publicly not just for profiting from the evils of slavery [through investment in the South Sea Company] but also for 'seeking to destroy diverse religious belief systems'. And having apologized, it recommends that the Church 'reach beyond theological institutions' and 'enable all Africans to discover the varied belief systems and spiritual practices of their forebears and their efficacy.'

Is this the Church of England by implication apologizing for being Christian and undermining the reason for its very existence? Were there not 'African belief systems' which were right to eradicate, from idolatry, to witchcraft, twin infanticide, cannibalism, and human sacrifice? Most missionaries opposed slavery and by the 20th century, most missionaries were also African. In 1906, the Church Mission had nearly 9,000 missionaries of which fewer than 1,000 were Europeans. The rest were 'native elements' who often suffered horribly for their faith. In the 1880s, 22 Catholic and 23 Anglican converts became Ugandan martyrs when they were executed for their faith by King Mwanga II. A few editions ago, we reprinted the dialogue between the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury as they flew out of Africa. Both leaders were there to support Christian communities which had experienced rape,

murder and the burning down of their churches and houses. 90% of Christians killed for their faith today are from Africa.

The pages of the Lance have been filled for some years now with the childhood memories of congregational members whose parents and relatives had gone as educators, nurses and doctors to Africa, driven by their Christian faith and wish to serve humanity. Their postings were often isolated, unsupported and near overwhelming and their service in setting up churches, schools and hospitals often lives on in the communities they worked in. Apologising for this could be an insult to their memory. Michael Nazir-Ali, the former Bishop of Rochester, is critical of the report. 'The way to do it would have been to say we applaud all the good that was done and is being done today, while acknowledging that there were mistakes which need to be put right. But by comparison to the good that was done, the mistakes are minor.' He cites the use of drums in worship as an example of an African practice which it was wrong for missionaries to eradicate. 'We can now see it's possible to use drums without those pagan associations. But many other very concerning elements of African traditional religions kept people in bondage. No one should apologise for eradicating any of that.' Mr Nazir-Ali converted to Catholicism three years ago because of the Church of England's obsession with 'jumping on every faddish bandwagon about identity politics, and mea culpas about Britain's colonial past'.

As William Moore writes in the Spectator magazine, 'There appears to be a collapse in confidence in Anglicanism in the Church of England, embarrassed by its own existence and by the imperative of spiritual leadership'. One retired bishop was told that it was 'too elitist' when he asked about encouraging priestly vocation. And yet there is so much good work in Africa carried out by Christians, through their service in churches, schools and hospitals and in the wider African community. This is the legacy of the brave and stoical missionaries, mostly African, who brought the word of God and Jesus to that continent, a message the Church of England claims to proselytize and celebrate. The Oversight Group needs to re-assess and re-balance its conclusions before it appears to claim that Christian faith is optional.

Margaret Vane

[return to contents](#)



W.S. HARRISON

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS



Funeral Directors • Memorial Consultants

We're here for you anytime. Whatever your wishes or budget,
we can provide a funeral to suit you.

157 Salters Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4HJ
0191 2858376 | newcastle@wsharrison.co.uk

wsharrison.co.uk

I Was There.....

Yes, at Durham Cathedral, on Monday 8th April at 5.30pm, to witness the invited performance of our choir at the Festal Eucharist Service, for the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A special service indeed, 75 minutes in a 22-page service booklet, led by 3 impressive priests, with Drew conducting our very well-attended choir. A good showing of our groupies were in support.

The choir performed Gloria in Excelsis, beautifully. For those who wished, Communion was offered, while the choir sang Agnus Dei. At one stage in the prayers, there were 5 exhortations of 'Lord graciously hear us', but I wasn't sure whether He did.

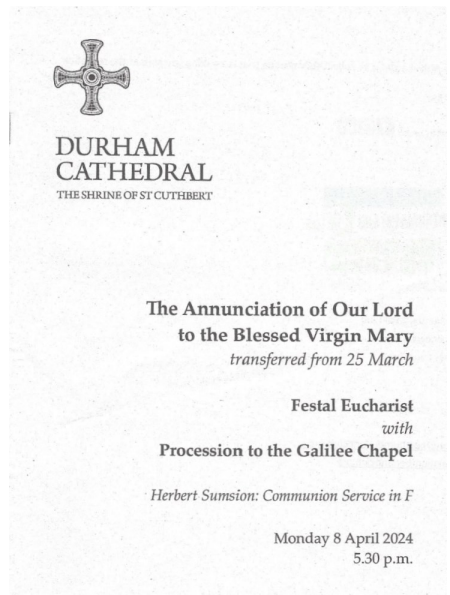
As the service moved to the end, the clergy and the choir processed to the confined Galilee chapel where the choir magnificently sang the anthem 'Ave Maris Stella' in Latin.

Hilary Pitkethly, Richard Baron and I immediately said the choir had done themselves proud. A very fine performance. Congratulations, and an honour to have been invited.

The final wording on page 22 of the service sheet stated in strong black italics:
We are grateful to the Choir of St. George's Church, Jesmond, for singing at this service.

Christopher
E. & O.E.

(The anthem can be heard here, starting at 2 minutes 50 seconds: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/gjSWRvj32kAnrgjj/?mibextid=WC7FNe>)



A Fond Farewell to Ollie

We always knew the day would come –but there is no getting away from it – we are all going to miss you, Ollie! We shall miss your smile and good nature. Your patience. Your pastoral commitment to those who are ill. We shall miss the special reflective services you have led. And above all we shall miss your calm determination to do the right thing. Even when the rest of us are perhaps not behaving as well as we might.



Ollie has been with us so long – from his student days onwards, and therefore it seemed right to include the memories of others like Graham who worked alongside Ollie as churchwarden, and some of the clergy team.

Joan said: My reflection on Ollie’s ministry has been his willingness to engage with care home ministry and the work of Anna Chaplaincy. He accompanied me on several occasions in to Cestria House and immediately met the needs of Freddie, one of the residents. Freddie spent most of his life bedbound and struggled with why God had allowed this to happen to him. He frequently brought up his anger with God with me, and then with Ollie, on one particular visit.

I recall Ollie listening and then honestly, but gently correcting some of Freddie’s assumptions about God and why God ‘did’ things. I know that Freddie was grateful for the time Ollie spent with him and as Freddie’s condition rapidly deteriorated, it was appropriate that Ollie sat with me as we visited Freddie in hospital, as it turned out, on the day before his death.

I personally appreciate the fact that Ollie has highlighted the Anna Chaplain ministry in his involvement in the Deanery Development Plan, particularly championing its value and the work done at St. George’s. Would that there were more such champions!!

Closer to home, today would have been Frederick Peacock’s 85th birthday. Barbara wrote: Ollie is a totally committed parish priest. He recently received Frederick into St George’s, the evening before his funeral. He suggested that the organ shutters should

be raised so that the instrument could be seen and that was appropriate for Frederick after his 58 years at the helm. How many people would have thought of doing that? We were so moved by his thoughtfulness.

The Hatts also remarked on this thoughtfulness of others - as a family, we really appreciated Ollie's thoughtfulness and care in preparing Elle and Shaun for confirmation and in supporting Shaun as serving returned after Covid. We also appreciated his willingness to be involved in activities such as the living nativity and the Panto.

Malcolm offered: Ollie has been a joy to work with, in his love of Church order. It's been a delight to collaborate with him, as I've seen his comfort and confidence grow to match his maturity, to see the developmental journey of his Anglican spirituality flourish, and the deepening of that holistic care for the breadth of Christ's Church. I will miss him and wish him well with all my heart, and will watch his continued pilgrim's progress with great interest! Ollie has coped admirably with my forever mentioning that he used to be an Air Cadet at 324 South Shields Squadron. Today I pass on the blessings and best wishes of 324's current Padre Ken Smith,

Bryan offered gratitude for arranging a very moving Easter Eve service this year. He quoted a random conversation with a funeral director who drove me home after a funeral - "You're losing Ollie - he's lovely". Funeral directors have a wide experience of clergy and don't always say that!

Although in many ways Ollie wrote his own valediction in his tremendous final St George's sermon, here the last word is Joan's: I think it is more than fitting that Ollie is launching out to minister in his own parish from St. George's because I recall him sitting

in the pews, quite a few years ago now, when the calling to an ordained ministry was beginning to stir within him, looking towards the altar where the Eucharist had just been celebrated, and saying, 'I hope to do that one day!'

Well, he did! And he goes from strength to strength. God Bless you Ollie.

Janet Wilson

[return to contents](#)



St George's Cycle Club - Where Did They Get To in April?



Meeting at the hall, the intrepid cyclists chatted nervously while they waited to set off. Where would Graham be taking them this time? Would it be the same old same old from last year, or would he have found yet another secret way of avoiding the traffic whilst seeing the sights of Newcastle and the nearby countryside?

Off they set, and boy was it a circuitous and devious route! Doubling back on themselves so many times until they were dizzy, they surely needed that coffee in Forest Hall. Tarmac, Gravel and Puddles they named the route. Well, where wasn't under puddles in April 2024? However, of traffic there was very little, of curious sights there were many, and it has to be said that the coffee was rather good, although it is doubtful if they could actually show you where they had been. Later they received the following report:



Trip Advisor report- St George's Cycle Club first outing of 2024

Score 9.5/10

Great ride.

Great route.

Great company.

Great coffee.

Almost great weather

Thank you so much Graham.

Alison



Here's hoping the next ride rates so highly! See you on 8th May!!

Alnmouth Church Walk

It was a bit of a “will we, won’t we?” weather situation. The elements had been doing their best to thwart us all week and threatened to make it a Boot Camp Mud Plodge! Well, we did it, and it was worth it!

Alnmouth has taken a beating of late due to biblical storms and the detritus on the beach was awesome. We walked alongside the estuary where the river had decidedly done strange things over the last weeks and seemed to have changed course. There were sliding sand dunes and unearthed tank traps, but it was wild and beautiful, nevertheless.



We walked across to Lesbury, passing idyllic scenes of gardeners doing clever things with trellis work. They seemed happy to pass the time of day with this random group of nosy strangers, cheery “Good Mornings!” were exchanged and Miss Marple would have loved it!

The fun began when the path neared the river. Mud Glorious Squelching Mud! Yes, Monica, we had been forewarned! A five-bar gate seemed to be the answer, sadly locked but nothing daunted, Monica, with her PE expertise was first over, so if she could do it there was no excuse for the rest of us! Fortuitously, Graham cleverly found a low gap in the fence which we could climb through, with ease? Would that I’d been able to record the tactics employed. Paul did a magnificent forward roll to much applause. I tried to sort of limbo, and one way or another, we all made it! Well not quite all! A member of our group



whose identity we will protect, was missing! Time for a pow wow! Logically minded members knew that this "Lone Ranger" would be alright. Those of us of a more nervous disposition, (a lot of teachers with long memories) were not so sure. Visions of said rambler drowning in mud, with broken limb and being abandoned would not make for good headlines! Suffice to say, a gallant rescue party volunteered to retrace steps and the rest of us carried on.

The next bit was a long pull up an 'incline', definitely NOT, a hill according to Monica! There was a splendid view from the top where you could see the River Aln doing a classic 'meander' which I dimly recall from dreaded Miss Crawford's Geography lessons. Final challenge to the breathless, a stile to climb. Step forward once more, the intrepid Graham, who calmly unbolted the adjacent five bar gate!

The next stage was happily downhill, passing the most desirable residences which are often to be found near golf clubs.

Coffee stop was at Foxton Hall Golf Club. Sunshine, attractive grounds and outside tables enabled us to sit outside which was just as well, as the "Welcome to Visitors" was somewhat optimistic. I will be kind and say they were short staffed! However, no excuse for sign outside the Ladies which was "Out of Bounds" to Non-Members who were advised to use the Disabled Toilet! I am hardly rebellious, but I happily broke that rule!

The final stretch was along the top path through the golf course with splendid views of the sea despite a sharp April shower. Then back to the car park to find the rescue party and our missing member!

A good day out and "All were safely gathered in!"

Maggie Paczek



[return to contents](#)

My Secret Passion

I have been a competitive swimmer for most of my life. As a youngster, I swam for my club, my county and my university - and once for England! Then in my late 20s, I gave up when the pressures of work meant my training and my performances declined. I then took up golf and squash - but I have never been any good at sports that require coordination of hand and eye, so that petered out. In my early 40s we were living



in Switzerland and I realised that I was getting very unfit and putting on too much weight. I thought 'there used to be a sport I was good at'. So, I picked up the phone to the Geneva swimming club and was answered by the coach - who happened to be a swimmer from London that I used to compete with all the time, years before. That was the start of my masters swimming career.

Masters is age-group swimming for people over 25. Competitions are organised into 5-year age groups: 25-29, 30-34... etc, so you are only really competing against people your own age. The events are exactly the same as at the Olympics - freestyle, breast stroke, butterfly, backstroke - 50m, 100m ... up to 1500m. I usually swim freestyle, from 50m up to 800m. There are regional, national and international competitions. Just as for the younger swimmers, Aquatics GB keeps a database of rankings, records and everybody's competition times. Swimming is the most measurable sport, so it is really suitable for setting a personal goal and working towards it.

The photo is from the British Masters championships in Swansea, 19-21 April this year. This is the most important competition in the domestic calendar. I won 4 bronze medals in my age-group, for 100, 200, 400 and 800 freestyle - my best result since 2016. This was something of a 'come-back' for me, since (like many others) I had declined when the pools were closed during the pandemic and I was discouraged for a long time after that. I now have a clear goal: '60 under 60': I want to break 60 seconds again for 100 freestyle by next year, when I turn 60. (I last managed this in 2019). So far, my best swim this year was a 61.1, so I need to keep training hard to achieve this.


Swimming is a really healthy way to get exercise, whether you are going to compete or not. For me it has been a key way to keep fit and avoid gaining weight. I swim with Newcastle Swim Team - there is a thriving masters' section. There are also many other groups in and around Newcastle who organise training for adult swimmers. Let me know if you are interested and I can put you in touch.

Julian Plumley

Caption Competition!

Printable answers to the editor by 25th May please.

[return to contents](#)



doorstep vet

Introducing a new mobile vet practice that travels to your home offering high quality, bespoke veterinary care for your pets' everyday health needs.

Covering **Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne Valley, Morpeth, and Ponteland** areas

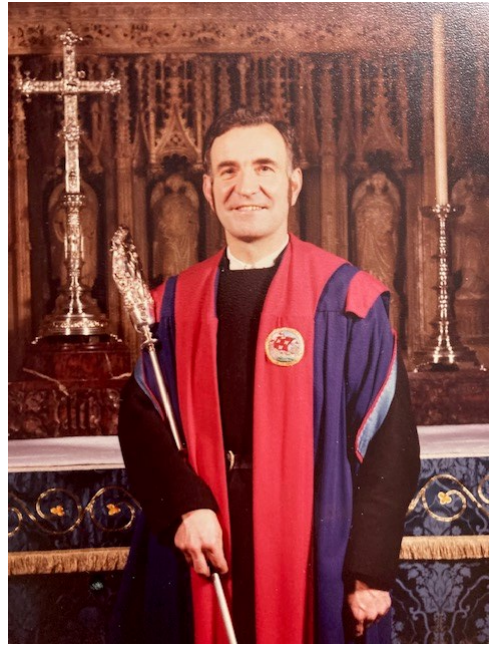
Get in touch at hello@doorstep.vet or call **07939 932903**

For more information please visit www.doorstep.vet



Tales from a Verger

A verger in the Church of England is tasked with assisting in the ordering of religious services and in a welcome to the church. In archaic English the word is 'virger' so called after the staff of his or her office, or even 'wandsman' in British English. The verger is often a layperson, seen in a cassock, moving about the church preparing it for worship. They respond to any enquiry concerning the upcoming service, church facilities or the current programme offerings. Security of the building is a responsibility as is the cleaning and maintenance of the church buildings. In respect to events, the verger is, amongst other things, tasked with setting out staging for concerts and school visits.



David Cheeseman, a member of our congregation, has served as a verger for many years, at a number of churches. He has had to meet the public in all its variety; from the happy, and the spiritual, to the angry and the homeless. He began his duties at St Mary's Hunton, near Maidstone, a Grade 1 listed building begun in the 11th or 12th century. From there, he moved with his family to work at St Mary's, Stansted, Mountfitchet, Essex from 1967 – 1971. Here, David researched the history of the church and gave talks to interested visitors, an extra verger duty!

In 1971, David moved to St James and St Basil's Church, Fenham, Newcastle and was the verger and caretaker there for 5 years. This is a busy church and the grounds are very large and took a lot of time to care for. David would bell ring here in addition to his verger duties. Again, the link with Sir James Knott and his family meant that many people were interested in the church and so David gave tours and explained the history and significance of items in the church in addition to his duties.

David's next job was at St Nicholas's Cathedral, Newcastle where he stayed for 10 years. St Nicholas has had a long-term policy of helping the homeless in a practical

way. Showers were built in the crypt and homeless people encouraged to sleep inside the church on cold nights. This raised a number of issues outside the normal verger duties. Some of the men were ex-prisoners. One day, an ex-prisoner approached David and asked about accommodation as he was homeless. David had a connection with the Salvation Army and phoned through and got him a place in a hostel. The man came back later on to thank David as he had been given a flat and was now 'happy'. Many was the time that David had to liaise with the clergy and together support folk coming to the church. He distributed food parcels on many occasions and the Provost used to give help with money if he thought it necessary. Care of the church, its buildings and congregation enrich Christian life and the congregation was thankful for David's diligence. Christmas was marked with cards and presents.



The next 14 years were served as Verger Sacristan at Wells Cathedral. As a Cathedral, there were many formal services to prepare for. And mental illness was always a factor when dealing with the public as the church was often seen as a sanctuary. On one occasion, a young man came into the cathedral completely naked. He had had a breakdown and needed help which the church found him. Life as a verger was always full of surprises!! On another occasion, a man head-butted David and nearly knocked him out. The Police had to be called and David eventually received some compensation but was deeply affected by the attack. But Wells Cathedral also offered great opportunities. David would give talks about the authors of hymns, something he was very interested in, and these talks would be advertised in the Wells Town Hall. There were many memorable concerts, services and events and the beauty of the building meant that tourists, too, were a factor in looking after the church.

David's last posting was as Warden of the Arms Houses in Wells where the family stayed for a further 4 years before finally returning to the North East. This was a peaceful and enjoyable period after the challenges and excitements of former years.

David Cheeseman

[return to contents](#)

12–18 May 2024

Christian Aid Week

Will you help someone push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week? Click here to: [Get involved](#) or [Donate](#)

7 days, so many ways

With your help, we can work towards a world where families can escape the trap of poverty and fulfil their ambitions. Seven days, so many ways to fund lasting change.

This Christian Aid Week, what will you do?

Fundraise with us

From community events to individual challenges, Christian Aid Week is seven days of fundraising fun – your way, to fund lasting change.

Take part and fundraise as part of our new 70K in May challenge, or choose your own event. However you fundraise, together we can beat extreme poverty.

[Start fundraising](#)



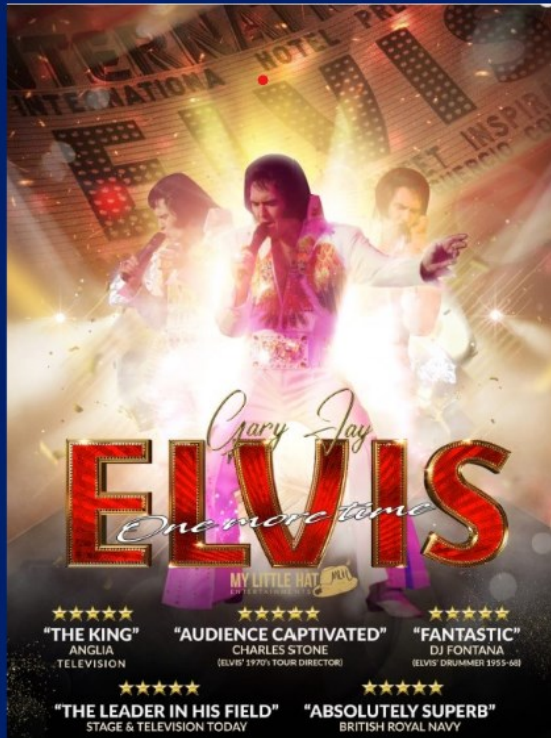
Your Christian Aid Week gift

Push back against the inhumanity of poverty this Christian Aid Week. Donate today.



St. George's Church

A Summer Night with Elvis



Friday 24 May, 7.30-9.30 pm

Doors open 6.30 pm: refreshments available

8.15 pm: 30 minutes' interval

Tickets £10 via Q-code or <https://bit.ly/3Vf20X7>



Good News

Thanks to Jim Lowe, a new grass cutter has been purchased.

It should make an enormous difference for the older Old Wrinkles on the rota.

It does everything but talk.

Press button start, bigger collection box, wider cut, 4 adj. heights,
4 speed box (max speed 15mph)

Unfortunately, it is such high spec, it will be necessary for all operators to undergo, at least 2 instructional lessons, followed by a short, written examination. (see Jim Lowe). It should be noted that going over the speed limit, could incur 3 driving points on your license, and a fine, payable to the Diocese.

Happy grass cutting.

NB

It should no longer be considered a chore. BUT, an honour to be allowed to use this equipment.

The Captain [Brent Swinburne]

Recycling

Inspired by the example of St James' URC, we have recently extended our recycling efforts: On the back table, you will find boxes for:

-Used/Unwanted Print Cartridges, in aid of RSPB.

-Used Medicine/Vitamin Blister Packages, in aid of Marie Curie.

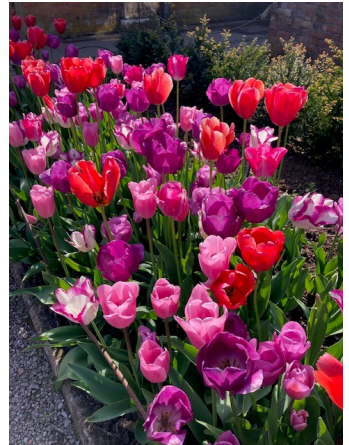
-Used Stamps, in aid of St Oswald's Hospice.

Old coins/notes can also be left, bagged up, in the Parish Office, in aid of St Oswald's Hospice. Please do not leave these in the Church.

Thankyou Everyone!

Enid Pearson

[return to contents](#)



Working with Children North East Box 13



During Lent, Box 13 filled up gradually. At the 9.30 Service on Sunday, April 14th, the Third Sunday of Easter, the contents were placed on the chancel steps. Along with 6 large bags full of nappies, toiletries, baby formula and baby food from another charity, these gifts were blessed at the Offertory. The next day, everything was delivered to CNE Cowgate Centre where they were received with much gratitude




Knitting:

12 blankets; 7 large beans hats; 3 baby beanie hats; 2 children's jumpers/cardigans; 2 baby cardigans ; 1 pair bootees; 4 teddies.

Clothing:

6 school pinafore dresses; 5 pairs school trousers; 6 T shirts; 1 hooded warm baby jacket ; 2 packs underwear; 1 pack socks; 1 pack tights; 7 school cardigans/sweaters; 1 school skirt; 2 pairs joggers; 4 tops; 1 hat&mittens set; 3 sun hats; 2 pairs trainers.



Thank you so much to everyone whose generosity helped to fill Box 13. Thank you too to the anonymous donor of £20.00. Your gift was used to buy clothing - I had great fun spending it in the sale AND THEN getting a further 20% off the total. (the original cost of the items would have been £52.50! and I have the receipt, should anyone like to see how their money was spent!)

The empty Box 14 is by the North Door..... Let's try and fill it by Pentecost. (Wish list available in church and on the website.)

Elizabeth Rhodes

"What you do for the least of my brothers and sisters"

A Special Birthday!



Congratulations to Pat Wilson whose 90th birthday was on Saturday, March 16th. She celebrated this very special occasion with her daughters, Helen and Emma Jane, and son-in-law, Stuart and had a wonderful day. There was an extra surprise the next morning when the family joined the 9.30am service via the live stream (as they do every



week) to see and hear Canon Clare wish Pat a very happy birthday with love from everyone at St George's! Before Covid, Pat and her family were regular attenders at the 11.30am service. Although no longer able to get to church, she and her family are still very much part of St George's and regularly receive Communion at home. The live streaming of services has made such a difference to Pat's Sunday mornings and she loves 'being' there with us. Long may that continue, Pat.

[return to contents](#)

Clergy Gifts

Thank you to everyone for their recent generous contributions towards farewell gifts for our clergy. In total, you gave well in excess of £1200 towards:

- Waterstones, Oxfam (Womens' Health) and Indian restaurant tokens for **Pauline Pearson**, to mark her retirement as Area Dean.
- Biscuit Factory voucher towards artwork for the Sunderland vicarage for **Canon Clare MacLaren**, as well as a Sunderland scarf and a few other souvenirs!
- Book token and a voucher for Westgate Road Arts Centre, for pottery and artwork for **Ollie Dempsey**, for the vicarage in Haydon Bridge. Also, sundry Northumberland souvenirs and consumables!

Thank You Everyone!

Enid Pearson

[return to contents](#)

EVANS OF JESMOND OPTICIANS

WILLIAM R. MCCALL BSC HONS
GOC 01-15082

28 ACORN ROAD, JESMOND
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE2 2DJ
TELEPHONE: 0191 281 4145

Church of England Calendar

May 2024

1	Philip and James, Apostles
2	Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373
4	English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era
8	Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417
12	<i>Gregory Dix, Priest, Monk, Scholar, 1952</i>
14	Matthias the Apostle
16	<i>Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877</i>
19	Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988
20	Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804
21	<i>Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330</i>
24	John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788
25	The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735 <i>Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709</i>
26	Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605 <i>John Calvin, Reformer, 1564</i> <i>Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians, Spiritual Guide, 1595</i>
28	<i>Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089</i>
30	Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906 <i>Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431</i> <i>Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa, 1933</i>
31	The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Understanding the Calendar:

'Principal Feasts' and other 'Principal Holy Days' are printed in **Red Bold** type.

'Festivals' are printed in **Red** typeface; other Sundays & 'Lesser Festivals' in ordinary Black. 'Commemorations' are printed in *italics*.

The Diocese of Newcastle upon Tyne

Parish of St George, Jesmond

We are a Church of England (Anglican) church in the Diocese of Newcastle with an inclusive, catholic tradition of Christian worship. We welcome all in Christ's name.

Vicar

Interregnum

Reader and Anna Chaplain

Mrs Joan Grenfell

grenfelljoan@yahoo.com

Reader & Air Cadet Chaplain

Dr Malcolm Toft

depchap.dnl@rafac.mod.gov.uk

Churchwardens

Enid Pearson 285 0958

enid@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Janet Wilson 07766 297359

janet@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Dr Sue Vernon 281 3861 / 07411099690

suejvernon@icloud.com

Director of Music

Drew Cantrill-Fenwick

music@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Bell Tower Captain

Geoff White 285 1405

bells@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Publicity

Margaret Vane and Hazel Jones-Lee

publicity@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Community Hub

communityhub@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Parish Secretary

Jonathan Richards 281 1659

office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

PASTORAL CARE

Any pastoral concerns or commendations should be made to Joan Grenfell or a member of the clergy.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING BAPTISMS MARRIAGES FUNERALS

Initial enquiries should be directed to the Parish Office, which is open Monday to Friday, 9.45 am to 12.45 pm.

address: St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF

tel: 0191 281 1659

email: office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Website: www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Facebook: St-Georges-Church-Jesmond

Twitter: @stgeorgejesmond

Livestreaming of services

Please note that we livestream the 9.30 communion service. You can watch the service [here](#) while it is being broadcast live. If you'd like to watch the recording after the service has finished, please go to our [YouTube channel](#) (it may take a couple of hours after the stream has finished for the video to appear).

<https://stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk/sunday-worship/>

**Ornate cross, Tyntesfield,
Somerset**



Welcome to St. George's Church Jesmond

We are a Church of England (Anglican) church, part of Jesmond life since 1888, with a congregation from the locality, the city and the region. We aim to be friendly, diverse and to welcome all in Christ's name. Our worship is inclusive and in the catholic tradition, with high quality music. If you are new to this area, or would like to find out more, please get in touch. www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Facebook: St-Georges-Church-Jesmond

Twitter: @stgeorgejesmond **email:** office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

[return to contents](#)

SUNDAY SERVICES

08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 PARISH COMMUNION with
Sunday School / Smarties (age 4-16)
Children's corner available in church
11.30 Holy Communion (1st Sunday of month)
18.00 Taize (2nd Sunday of month)
18.00 Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

08.45 Daily: Morning Prayer
09.30 Thursday: Holy Communion
Saints' Days as announced

Livestreaming of services. You can watch the 09:30 service live [here](#), or later on our [YouTube channel](#)



To arrange a subscription to THE LANCE, please ring the Parish Office on 2811659

Articles for publication to: mmvane31@gmail.com
by 15th of every month

