

Fortnightly information round-up

Wednesday, 16 April 2025

Year 6 Leavers' Services at Durham Cathedral

10-12 June

The Growing Younger team warmly invites you to take part in this exciting opportunity to walk alongside Year 6 pupils as they transition to secondary school. They are seeking **church leaders, children's and youth workers, as well as safely-recruited children's/youth team volunteers**, to join them at one or more of the upcoming services. The aim is to:



- Support children from your parish school or church, as well as those from across the Diocese
- Strengthen relationships that continue into Year 7 and beyond
- Connect young people to churches and youth events
- Build or establish school links within your parish

For more information and to find out when your linked school is booked in please email christine.muneza@durham.anglican.org.

Training and development

Join our LLM (Reader) training programme

Feeling called to Licensed Lay Ministry? Applications are now open for September training. Speak with your incumbent first, then complete the application form by the end of May. PCC support and references are required. A selection panel takes place on 5 July, with a sweep-up selection panel on 16 August.

For further information and for application forms contact Pamela Wilson.

Lay Ministry courses

The Diocese offers a range of courses for those who feel called to lay ministry:

Authorised Lay Minister of the Word – an ‘authorised’ ministry

Would you like to lead services of The Word? Find out more.

Lay Pastoral Ministry – an ‘authorised’ ministry

Would you like to be involved in parish visiting and offer care to those in need? Find out more.

Applications for this ministry are accepted throughout the year, but need to be received by the end of June in order for training to begin in September.

Lay Chaplaincy – an ‘authorised’ ministry

Confidence to become an outward-focused lay chaplain. Find out more.

Applications for this ministry are accepted throughout the year, but need to be received by the end of June in order for training to begin in September.

Growing in Prayer course

Starting on Tuesday 6 May, 7-9pm, Cuthbert House, Durham

Do you wish to grow your prayer life? Would you like to prepare for the Thy Kingdom Come Global Prayer Movement? If so, this four-week prayer course explores the topics of:

- Does prayer matter?

- The power of prayer

- Prayer as communion

- Listening in prayer

- Praying with faith for transformation and intercession

Email Linda Ransom, Growing Churches Enabler. If you have any questions, please contact Annwen Stone, Growing Churches Missional Discipleship Enabler..

Life Call Vocations event

Saturday, 10 May, 10am – 4pm, Cuthbert House, Durham, DH1 3RY

God knows us and calls us. He calls every Christian to serve him in different ways

- Are you considering your vocation?

- Is God calling you to explore your sense of call?

- Do you feel a call to ordained ministry?

- Are you interested in licensed lay ministry (reader) training or Authorised Lay Minister of The Word training?

- Have you thought about pastoral ministry or lay chaplaincy?

- What about Authorised Children’s Ministry?

There’ll be a range of speakers through the day who minister in these areas who will have lots of helpful information. There’ll also be time and space to ask questions and to pray!

Come along and find out! Book by emailing

pamela.wilson@durham.anglican.org or telephone 0191 374 6024.



Lindisfarne

COLLEGE of THEOLOGY

Theologies of the majority world

Church House, North Shields

1, 8, 15, 22 May, 5 Jun 2025, 7:00-9:30pm

This 5-week course, starting 1st May, will help you to think about the Christian faith in a global context. It focuses specifically on the beliefs and practices of the church in contemporary India and Sub-Saharan Africa. The course will provide the opportunity to think about how insights from these global contexts may inform your own church and ministry. The course will be co-taught by Revd Mary Yasini and Revd John Jebaseelan, who specialise in theology and ministry in these two areas of the world.

FAO: Parish Safeguarding Officers: Invitation to PSO meetings 2025

PSOs are invited to attend PSO meetings to discuss matters related to their role and gain a better understanding of safeguarding requirements together. The gathering provides an opportunity to support and strengthen our safeguarding culture, discuss relevant topics, and stay informed about local and national developments.

19th June, 18.30-20.30, Cuthbert House

26th September, 12.30-14.30, Haughton le Skerne, St Andrew

15th November, 10.00-12.00, Cuthbert House, Durham

You are welcome to attend one or all meetings.

Please email Wendy Hopkins, Safeguarding Support Officer, to confirm which meeting(s) you would like to attend.

Resources

80th Anniversary of VE Day

Resources to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) on 8th May 2025 can be found on the Church of England website and include prayers and an outline for a service.

You can find out more about the commemorations taking place for both the anniversary of VE Day and also the 80th anniversary of VJ Day on 15 August 2025 on the government's dedicated website.

Nicene Creed resources webinar

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the original development of the Nicene Creed. To celebrate this, a variety of resources have been produced by Church House Publishing for the use of churches, groups and individuals.

There's a webinar on 1 May from 2-3pm to explore the various printed and digital resources and how you can access them. Sign up to attend [here](#). A recording of the webinar will be sent to all who register.

Events

Renew and Rejoice residential retreat

Friday 16th to Sunday 18th May 2025, all-inclusive

From Revd Eileen Harrop, Diocese Honorary Canon for Pilgrimage

Everyone is welcome to join this three-day residential retreat by Lake Buttermere in the Lake District, led by GATHER Church (a pilgrimage church operating from Teesdale). This outdoors oriented retreat offers a distinct opportunity to seek and enjoy the presence of the Lord in the outdoors as well as in social and spiritual fellowship. Find out more here or email: info@gatherchurchteesdale.com.

Intercultural Worship Day

St John's College, Cranmer Hall, Durham
Tuesday, 20th May 2025 |
9:00 AM

Revd Canon Eileen Harrop, UKME Advisor, encourages you to attend the Intercultural Worship Day at Cranmer Hall.

Calling all worship and church leaders! You are warmly invited to the upcoming Intercultural

Worship Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to collaborate and worship together in celebration of our diversity and unity as a Church.

The day will feature training sessions led by a team of worship leaders from Intercultural Churches UK.

Come and join us for:

**INTERCULTURAL
WORSHIP
DAY**

Tuesday 20th May - 9am - 5:30pm

- 9am - 1pm: Training sessions led by a team of intercultural worship leaders from Intercultural Churches UK
- 1pm - 2pm: Lunch - Optional catering.
- 2pm - 3pm: Break out sessions
- 3:30 pm - 4pm - Q&A
- 4:30pm - 5:30pm: College Service

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth". Psalms 96:1

Venue Address: St. John's, College, Durham, DH1 3RJ

CRANMER HALL
DURHAM

2025 National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

Rachael Maskell MP and the Christians in Parliament APPG invite all clergy to the 2025 National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast, which is being held on Tuesday 24 June from 7:30am to 9:00am in Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament. The Breakfast is a great opportunity to pray for our parliament, government and politics, to build your relationship with your MP and to reflect upon the relevance of the Christian faith to our public life.

Clergy are asked to attend with their MP, sample invitations are available.

Tickets cost £25 and must be booked with MP confirmation. Join the waiting list if needed. Bursaries are available..

For information on the programme, please visit the NPPB website.

Challenge Poverty: The Negative Narrative toolkit – pilot session

7 June, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Chester-le-Street Parish Centre

Communities Together Durham has developed a new reflective toolkit for parishes, designed to challenge the stigma and shame experienced by people living in poverty and address the barriers that prevent them from maintaining a good quality of life.

Claire Estall, Community Development Worker at Communities Together Durham, is seeking 20 participants for a pilot session to explore the toolkit, provide feedback and help determine whether it effectively achieves its goals.

Vacancies

Parish Administrator, All Saints, Blackwell, closing date 25 April

Youth Enabler (St Nics Durham), closing date 1 May

Associate (Interim) Minister in the Great Aycliffe Team, closing date 1 May

Archdeacon of Sunderland, closing date 22 April

Chief Executive Officer, Oasis Community Housing, closing date 6 May

News from the Church of England

Church Commissioners for England gives wings to butterfly conservation efforts with fresh lease

Gaza: House of Bishops statement on attack on Al Ahli Hospital

Gaza hospital attack: Statement from Archbishop of York