

St Andrew's Church

Chilton Moor



Parish Magazine May 2025



50p



Welcome from St Andrew's

Dear friends,

As we turn the page and look ahead to what lies before us, we're reminded of the heart of our church, a place of faith, friendship, and reaching out in love.

Here at St Andrew's, we're not just a building or a Sunday gathering, we're a growing community of people learning to follow Jesus, to care for one another, and to make His love known.

Our mission is to serve Jesus in Fence Houses and Chilton Moor, and to grow so that St Andrew's shines as a beacon of hope in the community.

Whether that's through a kind word to a neighbour, a moment of prayer, or lending a helping hand, we believe God uses the ordinary to do something extraordinary.

In these pages, you'll find reflections to encourage you, stories that celebrate the life of the church, and ways you can get involved in helping our community flourish. Whether you've been part of St Andrew's for many years or are just beginning to explore faith, you are truly welcome, just as you are.

Together, we hope to be a people who love deeply, serve faithfully, and shine brightly for Christ in the everyday places we live and work. Let us continue to walk this journey of faith side by side, trusting in God's guidance, grace, and goodness.

With every blessing,
The Magazine Team
St Andrew's Church

Vicar's Letter May 2025

Rev John



I'm writing this in the week after Easter Sunday. And it was a wonderful day. I had the privilege of being at the Cathedral for a service at 5am to support two of our confirmation candidates from West Rainton. And it was early, it was odd driving into Durham while it was still dark there were no cars anywhere, and plenty of parking spaces. It reminded me of my first ever working day, that day started at 3am, on the dockside to go out and take up the nets protecting shellfish in Poole harbour. At least this Easter Sunday I didn't have to get wet, or muddy. The service was so early so that we could experience dawn as we gathered together in the cloisters

with only a fire to provide light, as we then came into the Cathedral the choir were singing psalms and it seemed a bit like it must have been for the monks who lived there. At this point we were lead only by the one big paschal (Easter) candle. And then as we walked the length of the Cathedral we light our candles and there was light.

Later that day I had the joy taking a baptism myself at St. Andrews. There was a good number of people in the church and a very bright-eyed little girl. And at that service I got to hand her a candle, light from our own paschal candle. And in doing so say you have received the light of Christ, walk in this light all the days of your life. The light we shared in the Cathedral and the light shared with our young candidate is a reminder of why Easter is such a wonderful time to celebrate because light wins. The darkness I knew as I walked into the Cathedral didn't last. Our hope is based on the resurrection, that light wins in the end.

And while you'll be reading this weeks after Easter the light still wins because Jesus is risen. Amen

We have lots on offer this month, Especially look out for VE Day's 80 Anniversary – how Europe celebrated. The Nicene Creed's 1700th birthday – marking a critical foundation of Christianity worldwide.

Christian Aid Week – how you can help the world's poor.

Deaf Awareness Lots of us will have been singing the hymn 'Alleluia Alleluia Give Thanks to the Risen Lord' – do you know the story behind that hymn? May we wish you a peaceful and productive month!

With all warm wishes The Magazine Team

Rev John

His Holiness Pope Francis

A prayer following the death of His Holiness Pope Francis, giving thanks for his life of ministry.

Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and
trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them
and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for your servant
Francis
and for all that you did through him.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and
thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,



we commend your servant Francis.
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own
fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Enfold him in the arms of your mercy,
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace
and in the glorious company of the saints in
light.
Amen.

Miscellaneous Observations on life in the 21st century

Life's evening will take its character from the day that has preceded it. – *Anon*

Life is a journey that no one makes alone. The more people you touch along the way, the more meaningful and rewarding your time. – *Anon*

Inflation: instead of not having the money you haven't got, you have twice as much, but it's worth only half of what you haven't got. – *Anon*

Tact: the ability to shut your mouth before someone else wants to. – *Anon*

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for? – *Anon*

My inferiority complex is not as good as yours. – *Anon*

I'm only about three pounds from Google Maps listing me as a roundabout. – *Anon*

'I owe it all to': an expression commonly used in connection with one's wife, landlord, or pawnbroker. – *Anon*

Middle age: that difficult period between juvenile delinquency and old age, when you have to take care of yourself. – *Anon*

Mental Health Awareness Week

12th – 18th May

In May we observe Mental Health Week, at a time when sadly many of us, as a nation, are struggling.

Roughly one in four of us now experience a mental health problem every year.

According to the Health Foundation, for young people aged 10–24 a staggering 45% are experiencing mental health disorders.

While the medical profession is helping with medication and medical care, many Christians are also deeply concerned.

As one theologian, Professor John Swinton, has said: “Mental-health professions play a significant part in the healing process for people. Most people, however, are not acutely unwell... they live in ordinary communities, and work out their lives amid family, friends, society and church. It is there that the Church can offer important gifts and insights.

“The central intention of the Gospels is to enable people to come to know God, and to live with God for ever. Within this perspective, mental health is not the absence of symptoms or distress, it is assurance of the presence of a loving God who cares.”

There is plenty of emotional and mental pain in the Bible: just read the Psalms of lament, which express sorrow and desolation. (They include Psalms 3, 6, 13, 22, 28, 42, 44, 56, 57, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 120, 130, 137, 142.) Here you will find desolation and sorrow – but also hope and assurance that at the end of all things, God is still there for those who turn to Him.

The Bible assures us that God will “never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). As Jesus told His followers: “I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you” (John 14:18)

The Bible reminds us that we should not be surprised by deeply painful times in our lives, as these are not outside the experiences of people who know God. However, it assures us that He will draw close to us (James 4:8) and that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28).



VE Day – 80 years on

80 years ago, on 8th May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after



German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4th May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7th May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

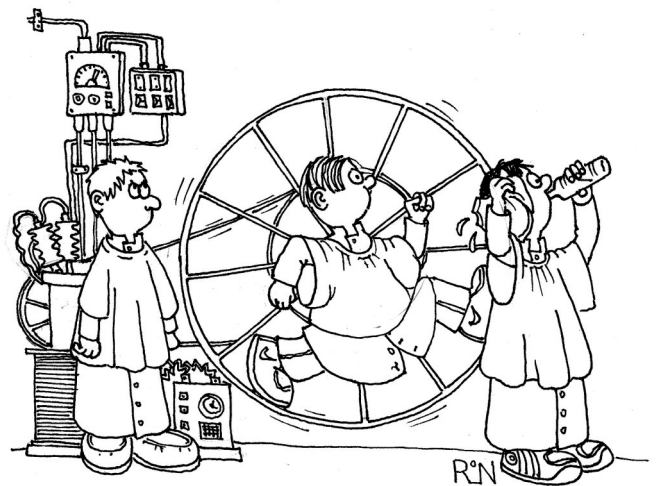
St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

Of course, the end of a war could never be neat. In Europe the last known shots on the Eastern Front were actually fired on 11th May, and on 25th May the battle of Odžak ended in a Yugoslav Partisan victory. Tragically, in French Algeria, Muslims celebrating the end of the war (some also peacefully protesting for independence) were "inexcusably" massacred by colonial authorities and militias – leading eventually to the Algerian War nine years later.



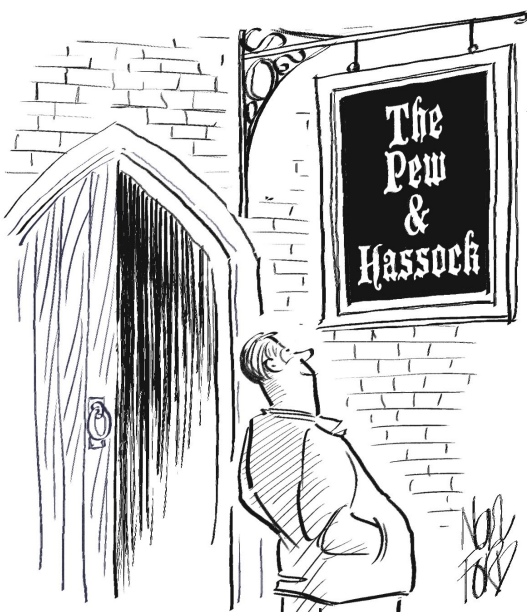
...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...



When the solar panels weren't working, there was Plan B

Real responses to school science exam questions:

- Genetics explains why you look like your father, and if you don't, why you should
- The cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of the things people forget to put the top on.
- Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.
- Mushrooms always grow in damp places, which is why they look like umbrellas.
- Momentum is something you give a person when they go away.
- A monsoon is a French gentleman.
- The word 'trousers' is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.
- To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.
- When planets run around and around in circles, we say they are orbiting. When people do it, we say they are crazy.
- For asphyxiation, apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.
- Thunder is a rich source of loudness.



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

Christian Aid Week – 11th to 17th May

For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has been working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

This annual week invites Christians in the UK to help fundraise for the work by holding community events and taking on individual challenges. It has been called 'seven days of fundraising fun – your way'.

This year you might like to consider taking on the '70k in May Challenge'. It is

simple to do: just travel 70k during the month of May, in whatever way you want. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you. More info at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>



The story behind the hymn: 'Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord'

Not many university students are able to write Christian songs which become worldwide hits, but Don Emry Fishel managed it with his Alleluia No. 1. Nearly 50 years on, it is loved and sung by millions of Christians worldwide.

Fishel wrote it in 1971, while he was a student at the University of Michigan and also music leader of a Roman Catholic charismatic community based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. These were the days of folk songs and guitars, and Alleluia No. 1 fitted the prevailing mood perfectly. Written in E Major, it is ideal for guitar accompaniment.

Mr Fishel became a freelance flutist, flute instructor and composer. He was publications editor for the Word of God and Servant Music for a number of years and then worked in computers for 25 years. In 2008 he moved to Nashville and returned to music, teaching the flute.

Alleluia No 1 was Fishel's first song, written "rather quickly, in about an hour." It had four verses to begin with, but a fifth verse (which became the third verse) was added later, as he prepared for baptism. As Fishel explained, he wanted the line 'We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever' "to be the centre of the song."

Alleluia No. 1 was first published in the UK in Sound of Living Waters, in 1974.

"If You Could Dine with Five"

In each issue, we're inviting a member of our church community to answer this thought-provoking question:

"If you could invite any five people—past or present—to join you for dinner, who would you choose, and why?"

These could be historical figures, saints, authors, family members, historical icons, loved ones, or anyone who inspires you, or anyone who's made an impact on your faith, your life, or the world. We'd love to hear who *you* would choose and what you might talk about around the table. What a dinner that would be—filled with deep questions, heartfelt stories, and the kind of laughter that lingers. Who knows—you may inspire someone else in the congregation with your answers!

Feel free to share a few lines about each person—just a little explanation to help us understand why they've earned a seat at your table.

This month . . . Rev John.

I'm presuming I'm not allowed to say Jesus, as he's a bit obvious but he would be my first choice. I also think it would be a really odd meal to share as these people don't have much in common but I'd be interested to meet them all, and spend a bit of time with them.

Sarah Millican, she's just so funny and always seems like such a nice and genuine person I think she would help everyone get to know each other.

Joe Marler, recently retired England Rugby player. He's a really funny guy, but he's also been open and honest about his personal struggles with mental health and he's also I think a really positive role model for masculinity, something which I think there are a lot of questions about at the moment. He's a really good and involved dad, he's spoken out very publicly against homophobia from certain rugby players, and he's also built like a tank.

I think if I could pick two people from the Bible one would be John the Baptist, he might enjoy a proper meal too, rather than locusts and honey. My nickname when I played rugby was John the Baptist so I've always felt an affinity for him, but I always found his role of preparing the way for someone greater really intriguing and I think that's a large part of the churches job to point to Jesus rather than ourselves.

Another from the Bible would be Phoebe who doesn't get much of a mention but she seems really important to the early church, she's described as a deacon so I think it would be great to hear her story and get a bit more detail out there about her.

Rowan Williams, I wrote one of my essays about him at college I think he's a really deep and interesting thinker, but he's also one I've struggled to understand at times, so having a bit of time with him to try and understand what he's been saying would be great. There would also be so many questions about his time as Archbishop of Canterbury as well.

Thank you John, that is very interesting. It would be a great dinner party.

The Venerable Bede – the father of English history

1 300 years ago, on 26th May 725, the Venerable Bede died. This English Benedictine monk, historian, linguist and teacher is known as “the father of English history.” He helped to popularise the idea of dating years from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini – AD).

Bede was certainly born into a well-to-do family, but we have no details except that he was sent to a monastery – Monkwearmouth in Northumbria – at the age of seven. He later moved on to Jarrow under the tutelage of Abbot Ceolfrith, both of them surviving the devastating plague of 686.

He was never a great traveller, preferring to spend most of his life studying and writing in Northumbria, except for visits to Lindisfarne and York. He completed about 60 books, most of which have survived. Not surprisingly, he was considered the most learned man of his time.

Bede was ordained a deacon at the early age of 19 and became a priest when he was 30. He was known for his devotion to prayer, for studying the Scriptures and for his faithful observation of the monastic discipline. His most famous work is the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (*Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*), which is widely relied on as historical source material.

He was particularly interested in the academic discipline of computus – the science of calculating calendar dates, particularly,



and controversially, the date of Easter. The word ‘computer’ stems from this work. Bede was also a skilled translator, and he made the writings of the early Church Fathers accessible to the English people.

Bede died at the age of 61 or 62 at Jarrow and was buried there, but his remains were later moved to Durham Cathedral. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1899.

29th May – Ascension Day, 40 Days with the Risen Christ

4 0 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and to have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.



An unexpected way to cut violent crime

How to get children to behave better? Feed them better. It seems that providing children with healthy diets and regular nutritional supplements can help reduce anti-social behaviour.

The charity Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) puts it this way: improving the nutritional diets of a child is 'low cost', but 'likely to have a high impact on violent crime.' A violence-reducing diet would include more fish, green vegetables and nuts, and fewer processed foods. Recent government-backed research has even found this may reduce violence in children by as much as 50 per cent. Just two examples: Iron, found in shellfish, red meat, liver, beans, broccoli and green leafy vegetables, improves cognition, memory and mood. Zinc, found in shellfish, legumes, meat and nuts, helps grow the brain. Regular nutritional supplements are also very helpful. Perhaps the old saying is true in a new way: when it comes to behaviour, 'you are what you eat'.

Deaf Awareness Week 5th to 11th May

Deafness is more common than you might think.

According to the Royal National Institute for Deaf people (RNID), one in three adults in the UK are in some way deaf. That means

that more than 18 million adults in the UK have some degree of hearing loss or tinnitus.

And it gets worse. Over half the population aged 55 have hearing loss. 80% of people over the age of 70 have hearing loss. An estimated 1.2 million adults in the UK cannot even hear most conversational speech without hearing aids.

How does this work out in local churches? Statistically, it means that in every congregation of 100 members, there will be 14 people with hearing difficulties.

As this month brings Deaf Awareness Week, why not ask the people with hearing loss in our church how they can be helped to hear better in church. This might include:

- Installing a loop system, or making sure the one already installed is still working well.
- That there is clear visual access to the pulpit and lectern, so that people can lip-read. (Move the flowers and candles?)
- Make sure that the speakers do not walk away from the microphones while speaking.
- Use some printed and visual media as well as just audio in church communications.

The following website may be useful in learning more:

RNID www.rnid.org.uk

Deaf church www.deafchurch.co.uk

Signs of God www.signsofgod.org.uk





Beetle

The Beetle Drive is on the second Thursday of the month in Churchill Square Community Centre from 2-4pm for an afternoon of fun and games. New members are more than welcome to come along and join in.

Jean Campbell

Mother's Union St Andrew's

We meet at 2pm on the third Thursday of the month. We welcome new members.



Group Bible Reflection

2nd Tuesday of each month,
6.30pm—7.45pm
with Compline

A Prayer for Outreach in Our Community

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of our church and the community we serve.

We lift before You the people of Chilton Moor and Fence Houses,
asking that Your love would be known in every home and every heart.

Help us, Lord, to be a church that reaches out — not just in words, but in action.

Open our eyes to the needs around us,
and fill us with compassion for the lonely, the struggling, and the searching.

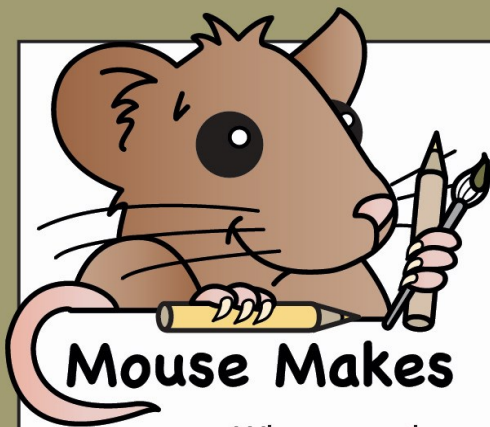
Give us boldness to step beyond our comfort,
and grace to meet each person with kindness.

May every conversation carry hope,
every act of service reflect Your love,
and every outreach be led by Your Spirit.

Bless our streets, our neighbours, and all who work to bring light into the darkness.
Let our lives be a living invitation to know You more.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

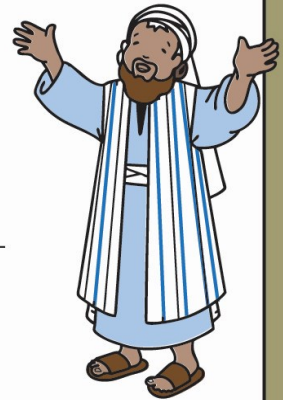




MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the

Acts 9:36-42

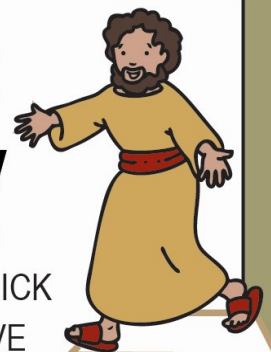


"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

E L P R A I S I N G M H
B E A U T I F U L M I T
S A R W S A P P H I R A
A P A C R I P P L E A B
N I L W O N D E R S C I
A N Y P W D I R A I L T
N G S R A A E R L C E H
I H E A L E D O I K S A
A K D Y K N F O V I L L
S K P E T E R M E D E B
L I E D L A M E I G H T
G S I G N S S H A D O W

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.
**See the book
of ACTS**

PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE



Find the words from the questions too!

May25© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Happy 1700th Birthday, Nicene Creed!

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that it is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

It runs:

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of
the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God
from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the
Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

He came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

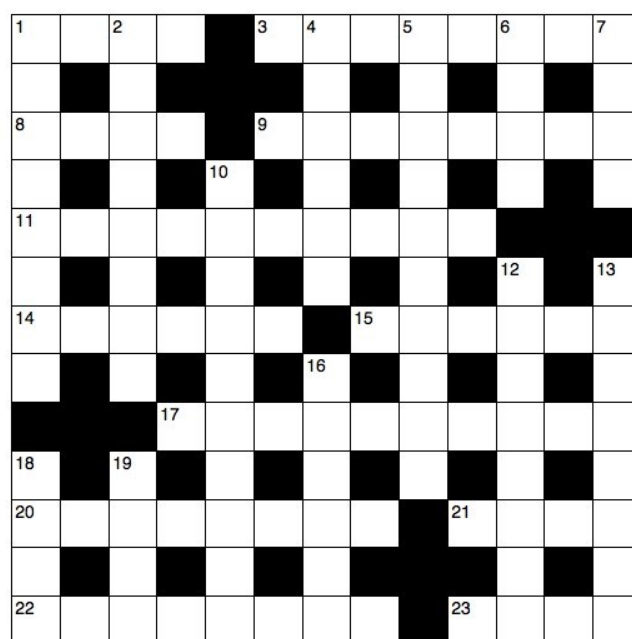
May Crossword

Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
 15 Ministers of religion (6)
 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)



- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

Prayer for Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father, Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.



Lord, in these strange, topsy- turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus *every* knee shall ultimately bow – and we pray, thankfully in His name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Church Finances

I set out below the income and expenditure of the church during March.

MARCH			
(to the nearest £)			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Regular giving	£601	Parish share	£1,000
Donations to church funds	£539	Cleaner	£132
Collections	£83	Magazine printing etc	£54
Hire of hall	£140	Gas/Electricity bills	£62
Book sales	£12	Service sheets/wafers/wine	£16
Magazine sales/subs/adv fees	£225		
MARCH TOTAL	£1,600		£1,264

Michael Baxter, Treasurer

Which are the possible Leamside Line stations?

Maps have shown where potential train stations of a disused rail line could be if the route is restored.

The Leamside Line, which runs from Pelaw in Gateshead to Tursdale in County Durham, closed in the 1960s.

A map published in North East mayor Kim McGuinness's Local Growth Plan shows possible stations at Penshaw, Fencehouses, West Rainton, Belmont, and one to serve Shincliffe and Bowburn, before connecting to Ferryhill.

The plan estimates restoring the full length of the line could provide new train links to 100,000 people and unlock the potential to build 10,000 homes.

The North East Combined Authority said it was an "exciting" project and all maps were currently "illustrative". The plan states a reopened Leamside Line would try to replicate the success of the Scottish Borders Railway connecting Edinburgh and Tweedbank. The first stage of reopening would use the northern section of the line to create a new Washington Loop of the Tyne and Wear Metro.

It could include two Metro stations in Washington and another to serve Follingsby.

According to the map, trains could also run through communities on the southern section of the route if that is restored.

This includes potential stations at Penshaw, Fencehouses, West Rainton, a Durham Parkway station at Belmont, and one to serve Shincliffe and Bowburn, before connecting to Ferryhill.

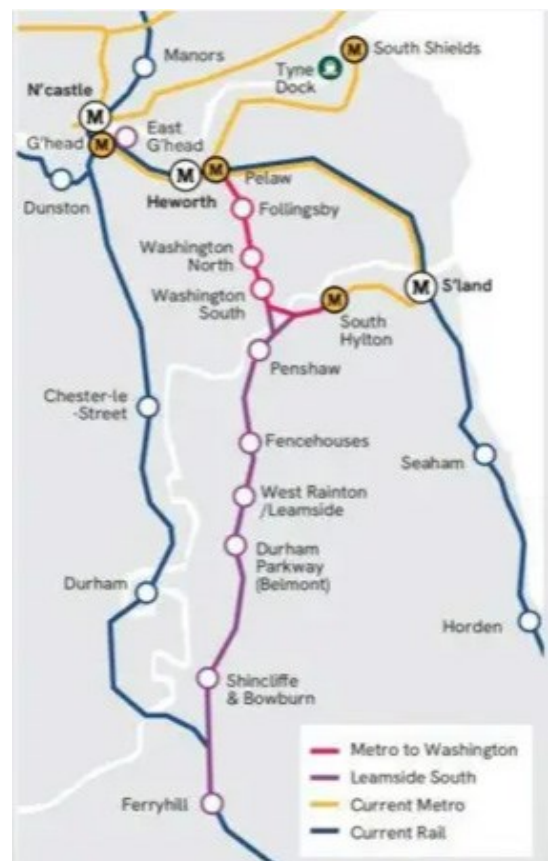
The mayor committed £8m last year to develop a more detailed business case for taking the Metro to Washington. There had also been government funding to support earlier-stage planning for Leamside South.

BBC North East

21 April 2025



The Leamside Line closed in the 1960s



The line could help connect 100,000 train passengers to Newcastle and Sunderland

The Alexandrina. Known locally as “The Letch” (Continued)

By John Harvey

The entire ‘Rainton Royalty’ was owned by the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral and leased to Frances Anne. At the time that she inherited the Rainton complex incorporated six main pits and many small ones covering an area of some 9 square miles. The main pits were the Nicholson’s, Rainton Meadows, the Plain Pit, Woodside, Hunter’s House and Resolution. The smaller pits, some of which were worked directly by Frances Anne and the others leased out to independent operators, included the Quarry Pit, Annabelle, the North Pit, The Knott, Old Engine and Pontop Pit. The Rainton and Penshaw collieries were complemented by workshops at Chilton Moor. The coal was pulled by horses from the Rainton pits on a waggon way (which had probably existed since the opening of Rainton Colliery) to the staiths at Penshaw (via Colliery Row, Junction Row and Shiny Row), from which point the Wear was navigable. There it was loaded on to small vessels and taken to Warmouth where it was transferred to larger vessels for the onward sea voyage. Wages for this and the local port tax of six shillings chaldrons amounted to £10,000 per year. A port at nearby Seaham, linked to Rainton by a waggon way, would have enabled Frances Anne to save paying this and gain an edge on her competitors.

On July 25 1831 the first coals ran down the new railway line from the Rainton pits to be loaded onto the new brig the ‘Lord Seaham’. The Rainton & Seaham railway was initially 5 miles long, from Seaham Harbour to Rainton Meadows pit but later additions created a network of over 18 miles of railway track. Fixed steam engines hauled the coal from the Rainton collieries to the top of the Copt Hill. At a point just opposite to the public house the new line passed under the Seaham to Houghton road in a short tunnel. The Hetton Colliery Railway at this point crossed the road by means of an overhead bridge. Thereafter the going to Seaham was comparatively easy and more fixed engines and an inclined plane took over to bring the load across the fields of Warden Law and Slingley, skirting to the south of Seaton village. From Seaton Bank Top another inclined plane and then a final fixed engine brought the coal to the top of the Mill Inn Bank, where one day Seaham Colliery would be sited.

The last leg from there to the new harbour was downhill and also utilized a selfacting incline system. According to Tom McNee from 1831, on Saturdays only, a specially constructed coach brought people from the Raintons to Seaham Harbour to shop. The journey must have been a tortuous one, involving up to four changes of haulage machinery, but doubtless it beat walking.

There is not much now to find now about the old pit, But in my childhood



1940.1960. We went there often to play. The shaft itself was still there as a sort of tower, with a concrete cap on top, and an open inspection hatch, that had been broken off. We used to throw stones down and hear them bounce off the sides before splashing unto the water. I nearly fell down playing silly games of "Dare" to jump over the open hatch.

Just below the round shaft tower, was a sort of arched building, made of bricks that once had been the mine entrance to the shaft, the arch was still there open at the front, but at the back it was bricked up where it once went into the shaft. (See photo) In the 1980,s the shaft was backfilled, but not very well as you can see from photos, it had never been capped, and the filling was sinking down the shaft.

The Letch Alexandria pit closed and its building demolished in 1895. This mine was situated between Robin Lane, the road leading from West Rainton to Hetton and Low Moorsley. The coal mined at Alexandrina colliery was transposed by wagon rail: the railway crossed the West Rainton to Hetton road and on to the Sunderland and Durham road, crossing this main road at Bendridge Bank at the east end of the village. Pans of the old wagon way are still visible.

The wagon way continued on past the old Meadows Pit to the Fence Houses Marshalling Sidings, then on to the Lambton Drops at Sunderland, where the coal was shipped to various pans.



25th May – Rogation Sunday (Sunday before Ascension)

In the Anglican Church, Rogation is celebrated on the fifth Sunday after Easter. Rogation means an asking of God – for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

In about 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little



party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route – at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At some point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds.' It was still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly, parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)



CHRIST CHURCH
LUMLEY

PLANT SALE

Saturday 17th &
Sunday 18th May



From 10.00am in the Church grounds. As usual our plants are supplied by Leamside Nursery.



Hundreds of plants to choose from - fill up your hanging baskets, pots & window boxes. Christ Church will be open both days with tea & coffee available on the Saturday morning. Come along and have a browse - you won't be disappointed!

Christ Church Lumley



Christ Church Knit & Natter Craft Group

Come and join

our Knit & Natter Craft Group.

**Bring your knitting, crochet or sewing,
or come and learn to knit or how to do
English Paper Piece Quilting.**

We meet fortnightly from

1.30pm to 3.30pm at Christ Church

The dates for May are the 14th & 28th

Everyone is welcome



CHRIST CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 10th May

10.00am - 11.30am

Refreshments & Home Baked Cakes, Scones etc.

**Please come along and
support your Parish Church**

We look forward to seeing you





@ Burnmoor CC

*Fabulous food
Bringing back
Sunday Lunch*

Appetiser
Maincourse
Desert
Beverages

**OPENING
TIMES**



**FRIDAY 4PM – 8PM
SATURDAY 12PM – 8PM**

*LAST FOOD ORDERS BY 8PM

**SUNDAY
12PM – 4PM**

*LAST SITTING 3.30PM



**THE MIDDLE
STUMP @ BCC**

Village Ground
Chester Road
Burnmoor, Houghton-Le-Spring
County Durham | DH4 6EX
0191 3852746

www.burnmoorcc.org.uk

GLORIA HAIR STYLIST

For All Your
Hairdressing Needs

Unisex

11 North View
Chilton Moor
Houghton-le_spring
Tyne & Wear
DH4 5NN

Tel: 0191 385 2346

Pensioner Specials
Tues & Wed



Marie Mastaglio
Bsc Dip. Pod. M



Foot Health Care
Home Visiting Practice
For An Appointment



0191 3902122
0796 9633823

GIBSON & WOOD

Funeral Directors

Private Chapel Of Rest
Family Funeral Directors
All Areas Covered
24 Hour Service

Exchange Building
Railway Street
Hetton-Le-Hole
Tyne & Wear
DH6 9HY

Telephone: 0191 517 2221

Peace Of Mind In Your Time Of Need

MAXIM

• BREWERY •

The Taste of the North Since 1901



1 Gadwall Road, Rainton Bridge, Houghton le Spring, DH4 5NL
Phone: +44 (0)191 584 8844 Email: info@maximbrewery.co.uk
Web: maximbrewery.co.uk



Gloss On Decorating Professional Touch

nigelkennerly66@hotmail.co.uk

17 Lambton Street
Chester-le-Street
DH3 3NH

0191 4523453
07980029258





Andrew Grey

Local Funeral Directors

*“Serving the community
with care and compassion”*

Telephone:

0191 385 7213

9 North View Terrace, Chilton Moor, Houghton, DH4 5NN

0191 526 5800

30 Station Road, Hetton Le Hole, DH5 0AT

0191 526 3499

73 High Street, Easington Lane, DH5 0JR

*Treat us as family...
we will always be there when you need us*

**Pre-Payment Plans Available
24 Hour Service All Area**

W: www.greysfunerals.co.uk E: info@greysfunerals.co.uk



Vicar Reverend John Estall
M: 075254788336
H: 0191 3882228
E: revjohn@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

Vicar Reverend Christine Britcliffe
M: 07761327326
E: revchristine@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

Warden Stephen Forster
M: 07831156120
E: wardenstephen@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

Secretary Barbara Hall
secretary@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

Treasurer Michael Baxter
treasurer@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

Group Bible 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6.30pm—7.45pm
Reflection with Compile

For information concerning Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms,
please contact Reverend John

Web www.standrews-chiltonmoor.church
Facebook @StAndrewsChiltonMoor



St Andrew Parish Magazine
Items for submission can be left at St Andrew or
E: info@standrews-chiltonmoor.church





Please visit our website

www.standrews-chiltonmoor.church

B	A	B	Y		S	T	I	M	U	L	A	S	
E		E				R		U		I		E	
L	I	A	R		F	O	R	S	A	K	E	N	
I		T		A		O		I		E		T	
E	P	I	S	C	O	P	A	C	Y				
V		N		C		S		O		P		D	
E	A	G	L	E	S		C	L	E	R	G	Y	
R		S		P		S		O		O		I	
				S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	E	N
A		B		A		N		Y		I		G	
H	O	L	I	N	E	S	S		O	B	E	D	
A		O		C		E				I		A	
B	E	T	H	E	S	D	A		S	T	A	Y	

We hope that this system will help to meet our visit requests and visiting in general. If you would like a visit or know anyone who would like one, please fill in the slip opposite.

Cut out the slip and hand it into Church or, if you are unable to get to Church give it to someone to bring for you.

Visit Request

Name of person requesting a visit

Address

Telephone number

Request made by