

St. George's  
Jesmond



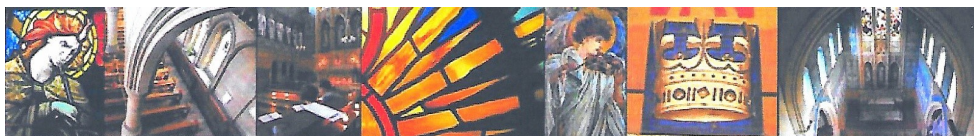
*A worshipping community: inclusive, nurturing, engaged*

# THE LANCE

JANUARY 2025



[www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk)



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## Good Advice:

As the old year has come to an end, I urge The older members of St Georges to take more care of themselves and try to avoid accidents. Because spare parts for older models, are no longer in stock! Keep smiling. **Brent**

# Editorial

It is the New Year and our Clergy Letter asks us to consider our spiritual renewal through praying the Examen as developed by Saint Ignatius. We look over the festivities and events in the Christmas period and celebrate their variety and joyfulness.

With prisons being in the news, the Reith Lectures, given by Broadmoor Psychiatrist, Qwen Adshead, addressed many questions that arise from treating violent men in her care. Is violence normal; does evil exist; is there a relationship between trauma and violence and; is it possible to change violent minds? Adshead is a Christian and says that we all have a capacity for violence alongside our capacity for good. There is good news in the opening of a new youth offender centre. Oasis Restore, headed by a Baptist priest, places therapy, trust and love at the centre of the way it works in rehabilitating young offenders. Hopefully, in the next edition we will have an article from a Prison Chaplain.

Fund-raising has always gone on in our church. In the 1930s, a call to furnish the Lady Chapel led to 400 envelopes and a heavy bag being taken to Lloyds Bank made up of pennies for every year you were alive!

After many requests, we celebrate the life of Dr Lionel Crawford both in science and in wood turning [hence the cover photo]. His beautiful wooden objects were the star of the Christmas Market.

A Happy New Year

**Margaret, Graham and Jonathan**

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## Letter from the Clergy

Dear Friends,

**Happy New Year!**



As if from nowhere, 2025 has well and truly arrived. It's got nothing to do with perfect vision, although wouldn't it be fascinating to see the year ahead in all it's technicolour glory. Again, I have to say, "Where did 2024 go?". It feels like I blinked in March and then found myself preparing for Christmas and then trying to find a New

Year's resolution, that I hadn't previously attempted and failed at.

Maybe, you are the determined type, and after all the indulging at Christmas, named your New Year's resolution and took yourself off to the gym, or joined the 'Couch to 5K' running program, or joined a slimming group. Maybe, you bought healthy eating cookbooks, studied them to become an ex-overeater, and dragged your family along as, 'it will be good for them'! Perhaps you will stop smoking, cut down on how much you drink, eat less meat, use less single use plastic, drive less and walk more, watch less telly and talk more, have a physical conversation rather than an emoji conversation on the internet. The resolution list is endless, and would you believe, there are even Apps to help you achieve them.

We choose to take up a New Year's resolution because it will benefit us, they are positive steps in improving our life in one way or another, physically or mentally. But when in our looking ahead to the new and improved us do we consider our spirituality? That part of us that constantly searches for the meaning in life, the purpose for our existence, the 'more and beyond' than the present world can offer us, that connection with God...creator of the physical world we experience.

Advent may be behind us but we should try to hang onto the periods of stillness and quiet that we tried to create in our waiting. Moments of pausing and reflecting on where we have seen God throughout the day, learning to recognise God's actions in ourselves and others as well as how we are being blessed.

Spirituality is beyond our physical or material needs, it is a lifestyle that feeds our connectedness with God. A simple and effective way of engaging our spirituality is by praying the Daily Examen. Saint Ignatius of Loyola developed the practice of stopping and reflecting on the day, noticing where God has been, praising God and look forward to tomorrow. He believed that this was a gift from God that everyone should experience. If you would like to unwrap this gift post-Christmas, here is a brief guide...

Find a quiet place and sit comfortably.

**'1. Become aware of God's presence.** Look back on the events of the day. The day may seem confusing to you—a blur, a jumble, a muddle. Ask God to bring clarity and understanding.



**2. Review the day with gratitude.** Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Focus on the day's gifts. Look at the work you did, the people you interacted with. What did you receive from these people? What did you give them? Pay attention to small things—God is in the details.

**3. Pay attention to your emotions.** One of St. Ignatius's great insights was that we detect the presence of the Spirit of God in the movements of our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings?

**4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.** Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart—whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.

**5. Look toward tomorrow.** Ask God to give you light for tomorrow's challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance. Ask God for help and understanding. Pray for hope.

St. Ignatius encouraged people to talk to Jesus like a friend. End the Daily Examen with a conversation with Jesus. Ask forgiveness for your sins. Ask for his protection and help. Ask for his wisdom about the questions you have and the problems you face. Do all this in the spirit of gratitude. Your life is a gift, and it is adorned with gifts from God.' [www.ignatianspirituality.com](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com)

Don't be shy, if you need help just ask. Equally, let me know your experiences of praying the Examen. If you prefer to be guided through the Daily Examen then there are several Apps available to download.

Yours in Christ

**Debbie**

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**It certainly felt a lot like Christmas. Thank you to everyone who made this and so much more happen. You are amazing. Bless you.**



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# Oasis Restore: A New Model for Youth Offenders

OASIS RESTORE, which opened in October 2024, provides a new model of care for up to 49 young people aged from 12 to 18 in youth custody. [This would be a replacement for youth jail.]

The Ministry of Justice appointed OASIS to establish England's first secure academy trust with the aim of improving the outcomes for these children, 69% of whom presently will go on to re-offend within one year of release. The new facility, situated outside Rochester, Kent, will care for about 10% of young people in custody in this country, many convicted of serious crimes of violence and who often have complex needs.



What is extraordinary is that the Ministry of Justice appointed the OASIS CHARITABLE TRUST to oversee the running of the school. This Trust, set up and run by Rev. Steve Chalke, a Baptist Minister in 1985, initially was involved in housing and healthcare projects. It was also already deeply involved in education and runs a number

of schools. Three quarters of the 54 Oasis academies operate in deprived areas and most were rated by Ofsted as failing at the time they were taken over. Oasis turned them round so that 80% now are rated either good or outstanding.

The OASIS RESTORE building is not a new-build but has been adapted, costing £41.8 million. While there are cameras, locked doors and high walls, the picture is very different on the inside. Windows



are not barred. There are teachers rather than guards. They do not wear uniform, not do they carry jangly bunches of keys, instead wearing discreet arm bands to open the many doors.



'We are trying to create as homely an environment for them to live in as possible' said

Rev. Chalke.' The overall vision for every part of the Oasis Trust is for community. A place where everyone is included, contributing and reaching their God-given potential. The only way to win people's trust is through love and through being there, and through time. This place, at its heart, is about relationships that build trust.'

The aim is to provide a therapeutic and integrated care which will give the children access to healthcare, education, belonging and hope. Overall, the ratio of staff to students will be 2:1.

Class sizes are small. There is a gym, library, workshops, music studios, a culinary studio and more. A timetable of intensive therapy and a meticulously planned curriculum will give the children 14 hours of meaningful activity every day. Living quarters are not dissimilar to student accommodation, although everything is risk assessed. There are no sharp edges and tables and chairs are filled with sand to weigh them down. Each bedroom has a computer equipped with TV, music, telephone calls and a screen but no internet. Families are encouraged to maintain regular contact and visit. Rev. Chalke said 'Our aim is relentless love. Love means you sit down and talk to the child and you know that when they will spit at you and reject you but you are demonstrating 'I'm here' and they are testing out whether you really are there for them. They are not one of the 49, they are not a case. Every child that comes here, in my language, is holy, sacred, and that's what they need to discover because only that ever sets anyone free.'

**Margaret Vane**



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# BURNS SUPPER



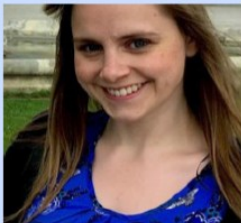
**The Immortal Memory**  
**Rev. Emma Duff**



**Address to the Haggis**  
**Dr. Chris Goulding**



**Pianist: Dr. Emily Frier**



**Piper: Derek Corbett**



Two course Haggis supper, coffee and tablet

Prize Quiz

Raffle

**Saturday 25 January, 7.00 for 7.30pm**  
**St. George's Church Hall, NE2 2TF**

Tickets: £25    [office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk](mailto:office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk)    0191 281 1659

Bring your own drink!

# A Spotlight on Scripture

## Even Though.....Yet still I will.... (Habakkuk 3v 17-19)

A very short, and therefore, easily missed book of the Bible, is the book of the Prophet Habakkuk. Habakkuk was a very troubled man. Two issues troubled him.

Issue number 1..... all the violence and conflict he saw everywhere in Judah, where he lived, and the fact that everyone was getting away with it because there was no justice coming from the courts.

Issue number 2..... Why was God allowing all this? He didn't seem to be bothered. Why was he content to see justice so undermined?

Habakkuk, like the psalmists held nothing back. We know from the first verse where he is coming from.....

'O Lord, how long must I call for help before You listen, before You save us from violence?

Why do You make me see such trouble? How long can You endure to look on such wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are all round me, and there is fighting and quarrelling everywhere.

The law is weak and useless, and justice is never done.

Evil men get the better of the righteous, and so justice is perverted.' (Hab.ch.1 v1-4.)

The reader is left in no doubt how he is feeling!

Much of this book is like listening to a private conversation with God, not unlike the private conversations we might have from time to time when things in our lives threaten to overwhelm us..... 'You are my God. Why don't You do something about this? Don't You care?'

However, in spite of his anger towards God, his disappointment even, Habakkuk is able to hold onto his faith and belief in all that God has done, and can still do. He





expresses this unwavering faith in two memorable verses at the end of chapter 3... the end of his book. These are the 'Even though....' verses. They are verses which spoke joy to me the very first time I read them, and which still do now, every time I read them.

'Even though the fig-trees have no fruit and no grapes grow on the vines,  
Even though the olive-crop fails and the fields produce no corn,  
Even though the sheep all die and the cattle-stalls are empty,  
Yet still, I will rejoice because the Lord God is my Saviour.  
The Lord God gives me strength.  
He makes me sure-footed as a deer, and keeps me safe on the mountains.' (Hab.3v17-19).

'Even though.....Yet still I will...' This is a thought that we might want to hold in our memory to use when needed.

**Joan Grenfell.**

## **St George's Christmas Caption Competition Answer 1**

How did we possibly get lost in a public park? I blame you.  
**Geoff W**



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### **More Re-cycling News**

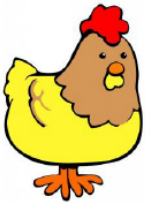
The recent collection of half a box of used print cartridges raised £8 for the RSPB, and contributed to keeping 396,511 kg of ink cartridges out of landfill sites.

**Enid Pearson**

**Rutt/Laidler/Tan/Cappleman Productions Are Pleased to  
Announce The Event of the Year 2025, and the Thirty-  
Third Annual Production:**

# *The Really Tunning Pantomime*

*Also known as The True Story of*



*Chicken Licken +*

*Henny Penny*



**When:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 pm, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 3 pm and 7.30 pm.

**Where:** St George's Church Hall, St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2TF

**Tickets:** priced £5:00 from the Office, any cast member or on the door. Tel: 0191 281 1659 or 07422693727. Includes interval refreshments.

**Patrons are warned** that it is a condition of entry that they whoop, inter-ject, laugh immoderately, and ENJOY THEMSELVES whether they like it or not.

# The St George's Christmas Market



Around December, the BBC weather forecast bureau need only check the date of our Christmas Market and know that there will be trouble!! Last year, a howling gale and snow descended on St George's as we covered in the Hall. This year, a named storm, Storm Darragh, erupted on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, and rain and high winds swept all before them. But no matter. Vests on, collars up, and we carried on and certainly pulled it off! The photos tell the story.



From old stalwarts like our cake stall



To the plant stall..



To the delicious sweetmeats of mince pies, drinks and turkey sandwiches..



Or the delights of mulled wine and home-made mince pies

To the children's section of Mother Christmas and her elves



And entreaties to children to draw and to decorate a Christmas biscuit [and then eat it]

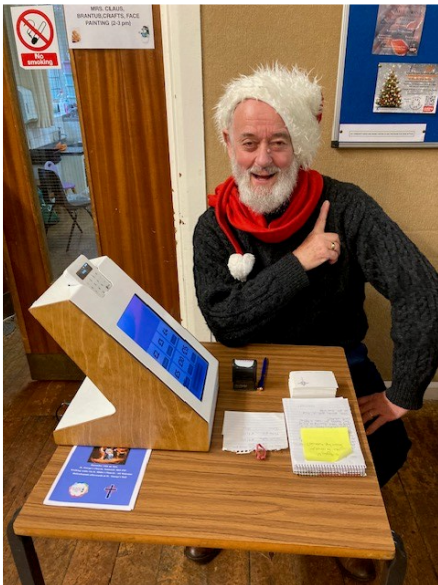


There were grown-up folk who kept the commercial side ticking over..

And a cheeky PA Point operator in charge of the music and announcements



As for credit card transactions, we had an elf..



Friends of St George's fielded a stand



There were tombolas to win





The ever popular Children's Toys

A groaning stall for Make Me an Offer....



And the ever popular Bottle Stall trying not to sell alcohol to children..



We had a jewelry stall..





From the community, the Jesmond Community Orchard brought apples

And the STAR was the wood-turning gifts from Lucy and her family



But the big daddy fund-raiser of the all, as ever, was the marvellous RAFFLE

There were also beautiful Christmas wreaths and homemade chocolates.

Thank you all for such sterling efforts. Over £4,500 was raised towards church funds.

**M.Vane**







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 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 15<sup>th</sup> of  
 each month**

**Send to:**

[mmvane31@gmail.com](mailto:mmvane31@gmail.com)

**Thank you, Margaret.**

# Lighting the Tree

On a rainy evening in December, Percy Hedley School came together at St George's to take part in, what is becoming, their annual Carol Service, and to light the Christmas lights on the Christmas Tree on the Green, thanks to the Watson Family Trust.

Over time, this happy occasion has expanded. Small trees draped in twinkling lights are mounted on the facades of the Acorn Road shops. There are mince pies and hot drinks and carol singers were promised. But for the rain, it was a wonderful evening.



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# Jesmond Jolly January Jaunt

Being sensible sorts, we all know that there's no such thing as the wrong weather, it's wrong clothing! And so, despite frost, ice and temperatures of -5 degrees, 16 hardy souls plus little William turned up at 9.30am on Saturday morning ready for a brisk walk. Clad appropriately in many layers, and equipped with walking poles and urban crampons, we set off through the streets of Jesmond towards the delights of the Dene. And the Dene was, indeed, beautiful, gleaming in the frost with sun light glittering through the trees. (Would that I was a rustic poet, alas I'm more Pam Ayres!) As it happened much of our time was spent heads down avoiding ice and hanging onto railings on slippery slopes. That's what getting older means, being "careful" so as not to cause bother to the NHS. No more the lethal playground slides in the school yards of yesteryear where no one ever got injured and the caretaker's shovel of boiler ash was directed elsewhere as no one had the time or inclination to "sue".

We paused on a picturesque bridge for the obligatory photo shoot and then continued uphill towards Armstrong Bridge. I have to admit, the next bit through Armstrong Park and Heaton Park did not register as I was so busy chatting. It is good to share everyday "stuff" as well as glean information from knowledgeable fellow trudgers. (I expect that you all know that Jesmond Towers was bought and occupied around 1870 by Lord Armstrong's partner Charles Mitchell? I'm sure that this has been noted in Barbara's comprehensive history displays. I tend but to look at the photos and not the words.)

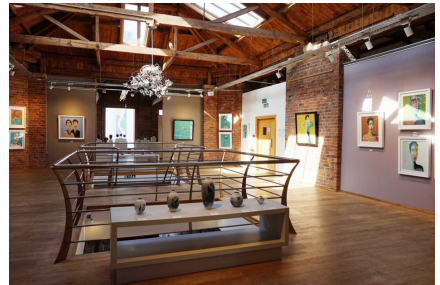


As we walked through the gates of Heaton Park, I was reminded of my mum's sister, the redoubtable, Aunty Hilda. She is worthy of a quick digress! One of Newcastle's first female headteachers "Miss Miller" spent all her life in a tiny two up, two down terrace house, next to Heaton Park. Most days, she sat at the park gates, in her wheelchair, people watching and chatting. She usually found "a nice young student" to push her up Warwick Street, but would gleefully wheel herself down the hill, door key on dubious piece of string swinging round her neck, reminiscent in all too many ways of Alan Bennet's "Lady in the van". In poor weather, she would take refuge in Heaton Library which was next to the gates. The staff knew her well and provided

her with tea and pretended not to notice her nodding off and then hiding her current reading in the shelves ready for the next day! As the area became popular with University lecturers and the like, her new neighbours, to her delight, invited her to partake of curries, Chinese and Mexican fare. She died aged 100 and her home remained, a Beamish Museum piece!

The terraced houses down through Heaton gave way to bold new buildings, student accommodation and thriving shops and cafes. As we approached the Biscuit Factory, we were hailed by a group of Chinese students inviting us into The True Jesus Church, an impressively large building. We thanked them and explained that we were from St George's, which seemed to let us off the hook. I have looked them up. Apparently, The True Jesus Church is a non-denominational Christian Church set up in Beijing in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the largest independent churches in the world.

And so to The Biscuit Factory, for a welcome coffee in beautiful surroundings. A former Victorian Warehouse built in 1870, it later became home to the Newcastle upon Tyne Biscuit Manufacturers. After undergoing extensive renovations, it was opened in 2002 as a commercial art, craft and design studio. We had a quick peep at some of the exhibits. I was very taken with a colourful cushion, priced at £115, maybe not! Debbie had her eye on an amazing star instillation which would add a certain something to the Living Nativity. The Factory Kitchen is situated on a top floor with splendid views over Byker Bridge, the Byker Wall, and the River Tyne in the distance. We occupied a long table by the window which meant that, for once, we could all sit together. Then, a lovely surprise. Jackie and Ian joined us for coffee, and it was so good to see them again.



We prised ourselves out from the warmth and comfort and made our way back through the streets of up-and-coming Sandyford, which now has a buzz to it, with trendy restaurants and cafes. The Old Jesmond Cemetery took us back in time. Monica was able to show us where her parents were buried, which was very poignant, and we also found the resting place a former St George's worshipper, Joan Silcox, fondly remembered.

Jesmond Road, with four lanes of traffic, was busy as ever. Some daredevils made a run for it, no names mentioned, the rest waited for a gap in the traffic, and only one of our flock sensibly used the crossing!

The final stretch was through All Saints Cemetery, from where we meandered back to St George's. It was a great walk and thank you to Alison and Peter for organising it. I must mention how great it was to have Debbie and Alan with us. They are obviously intrepid walkers, and they are steadily working their way through Northumberland! Onwards and Upwards whatever the weather!



**Maggie Paczek**

*Photos: All Saints Cemetery gates from 'Photographs of Newcastle' with thanks  
The Biscuit Factory image from the Biscuit Factory with thanks*

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# EVANS OF JESMOND OPTICIANS

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# Fundraising: Some Things Never Change

Extract from the St George's magazine dated December 1934

The Revd John Walker Woodhouse was the Vicar of St George's from 1934 - 1942 and he was seized with a wonderful way to raise funds for St George's.

... "My Birthday. There is nothing special about my birthday. I have had so many now that I am almost ashamed to have another, but I want to celebrate it this year in a very special way.

You know that the Church Council has resolved that we should furnish the side chapel (Lady Chapel as it now is), that plans have been drawn up and approved and a faculty applied for. I am glad to say that the faculty has now been granted and we can go forward with the work. The cost will be about £195 (certainly not the amount it would be today, but money values have certainly changed) and I want it as a birthday



present!! This sounds rather greedy. 'Those who ask won't get' I used to be told, but also 'those who don't ask don't want' (I don't think I have heard the last bit), and I do want to see that little chapel beautifully furnished. The Church itself was a wonderful gift from one generous donor. We want this chapel to be a gift shared by everyone young and old, and the plan is this: I invite everyone in the Parish and Congregation to bring me an envelope with their age in pennies in it, on that day. If you are 80 years old I would like 6 shillings and 8 pence. If you are 50 I would like 4 shillings and 2 pence; if you are sweet seventeen I would like 1 shilling and 5 pence and if you are 8 I would like 8 pence. Do you see the plan? Of course you need not give anything if you don't want to, but I hope you will! You need not put your age on the envelope. We will trust you.

I do not think this scheme could possibly reach the whole total required, unless a few 'Methuselahs' (he was allegedly 969 when he died) join in, but it will break the back of it, and it will be interesting to see what it brings in. I am also giving a list of the

special parts of the chapel furnishings with their prices - in case any should care as an alternative to give any special part of it themselves, which will of course reduce the cost. 'But Vicar' you will say 'when is your birthday?' I was going to tell you. It is on Monday January 28th and on that day I shall sit in the little unfurnished chapel ready to welcome you and show you the drawings for the chapel as it is to be. I shall be there from 11 to 1, 2 to 4 and 5 to 9. And I shall look out for you and be glad to receive your gift.

So what was the result I hear you ask? STOP PRESS NEWS

9am: A beautiful morning freezing and white with snow. Some good souls brought their gifts to the early service. The psalms this morning were very appropriate. Psalm 132: 'I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eye-lids to slumber: neither the temples of my head to take any rest. Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord: an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.' Twenty-five envelopes have already come in; one very generous person has sent a cheque for the altar and hangings and another for the frontal, so a good start has been made.

1pm: It has been a most inspiring morning. One hundred and twenty-two people have been in bringing envelopes. Two dear people came and gave a cheque for the credence table (that will be one of the credence tables we still use today I suspect).

4pm: In spite of a cold afternoon people have been coming all the time with their gifts; one has sent the money for the altar book rest and another for the fair linen cloth; about 195 people have now been in.

8pm: The evening is wearing on. It has been delightful to receive the gifts of the children; most of them came after school. A mother of a delightful family has brought the money for the veil and burse (I wonder where they have gone); a former curate's wife has promised to work the linen to go with it. Three hundred and fifty people have now made their gifts.



9pm: Over 400 envelopes are now in the 'golden bowl.' Quite a lot of men have been



in after their work this evening. Three girls arrived just now as we were leaving the church and made their offerings in the snow.

10.30pm: With the aid of light refreshments the last hour has been the best of all. We have been 'counting the dibs'; George Foster has been opening the envelopes; K and I have been emptying them out. Mr Dunn and Col Martin have been counting the money, and Mr Henderson putting it in neat little bags. The total including donations for special gifts came to £205. This does not include the promise of a special gift of cross and candlesticks which Canon Boot (second vicar of St George's) and his son and daughter are making in memory of Mrs Boot (that is the silver cross which stands on the High Altar every Sunday).

Well done all and thank you for a very happy birthday. I am off to bed.

P.S. Tuesday January 29th: a letter from my old churchwarden in London (God bless him) enclosing a shilling for each of his 68 years.

10am: TO LLOYDS BANK CARRYING A HEAVY BAG.

Well there's a success story for you. One wonders if it would still work today. Revd John certainly had a plan - and it certainly worked.

**Barbara Peacock**

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# St George's Christmas Caption Competition Answer 2

I hear they are short of photos to go in the magazine.

Whoever next .....

**Richard Pickersgill**



MARMALADE AWARDS COLLECTION POINT



MARMALADE AWARDS COLLECTION POINT

*the North East collection point is the Church Office until 24 January*

# St Hilda's Festival of Decorated Christmas Trees 2024

The people came in spite of the weather to vote for their favourite trees. The overall winner and also winner of the Individual category was Tree House. In second place of the same category and most talked about was Donald Trunk. They couldn't have been more different, but both won many votes by the voting community on the day and for completely different reasons.

Other categories were Schools, Business and Groups. Winners of the Groups were Jesmond WI and St Hilda's Ballet. Business winners were Hays Travel and Jesmond Pool. and the School winners were West Jesmond School and Percy Hedley Northern Counties School.

The voting was all done on the day by the community. Everyone was given a voting slip on entry and asked to vote for three trees. There were 37 trees in total and very difficult to choose just 3, many folk went round 3 or 4 times deciding on their final 3.

Many Thanks to all who braved the storm and came along on the day to vote and also to all those who entered a tree... Everyone was a winner, different and amazing.

**Lesley Dinning**



Galaxy M32



Galaxy M32



Galaxy M32

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# Friends of St George's: Dates for Your Diary



Friends of St George's  
JESMOND

**Wednesday 15th January** at 7.30 pm in St George's Church

Hall: Polar Bound in the North West Passage: a fascinating talk by David Cowper and Susannah Broome of their sailing adventure through the North West Passage. What a feat! Tickets £5 on the door.

**Saturday 1st February** at 3pm in St George's Church hall: the much anticipated return of the Darling Dollies with their songs of the 40s, 50s and even 60s followed by an amazing tea - and all for £10 per ticket (can be bought from the Parish office or from Barbara Peacock).

**Saturday 22nd February** at 7pm in the Church Hall the very famous and intellectually stimulating Sophie/Simon/ and Jenny QUIZ with a pie and pea supper - and you know how good that is - and just v£10 per head.

**Saturday 8th March** at 2pm in St George's Church Hall: a talk by Christopher Wardale (a stained glass expert) on the stained glass of St George's (Grade 1 listed). Tickets £5 can be bought at the church door.

**Wednesday 23rd April** at 6pm in St George's Church: AGM of the friends of St George's - always worth attending to keep up with goings on. A short formal meeting (always a blessing) followed by a glass of vino and the chance to chat and look around the church and hear about new community focussed developments.

**Saturday 10th May** at 3pm in church: The Singers (well known by us for their Christmas Concert) return to give a Spring Concert as part of the Jesmond festival.

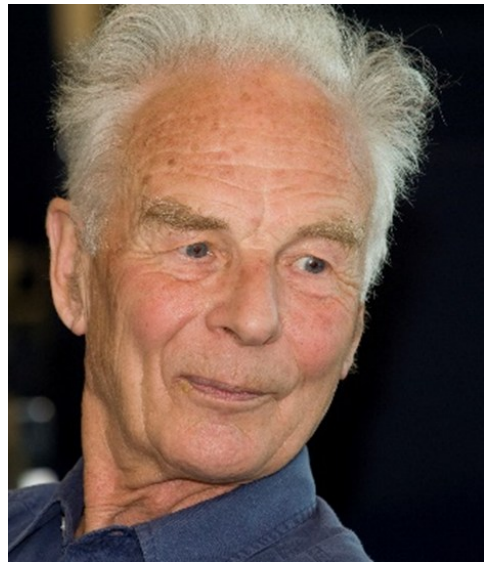
**Friday 8th June** at 7pm in the Church Hall: the Friends Annual Dinner, a much acclaimed social event.

**Sunday 20th, 27th July and 3rd, 10th, 17th August** we are repeating tea and cake (and maybe Pimms) on the Church Green from 2.30 - 4.30 - a chance for congregation and community to meet together.

THERE WILL BE MORE TO COME!

# In Memory of Dr Lionel Crawford 1932 - 2024

Lionel was born in Hull in 1932, but his parents moved to Gloucestershire soon after, where his potential was spotted by a master at Corse School, who successfully put him forward for a Scholarship at Rendcomb College, Cirencester, which he then attended as a boarder from the age of 9.



He decided to complete his National Service before University, a decision he later regretted as it ceased to be compulsory soon after. He didn't enjoy the army and was involved in a serious bike accident at this time damaging his left forearm badly. He was left-handed, so taught himself to write with his right hand and was thereafter more or less ambidextrous although his left arm was never the same.

He received a state scholarship to study Natural Sciences at Emmanuel College Cambridge, and was awarded an Emmanuel College Senior Scholarship on Tripos Part 1. He graduated with a double first and started his studentship in the Department of Chemical Microbiology, Cambridge University where he met his wife, Elizabeth who was working as a laboratory technician. They married in 1957.

He was awarded his PhD in 1958 from Cambridge University, title, "Deoxyribose nucleic acid synthesis in bacteria."

Thereafter, he and Elizabeth continued their research in America, having secured a Rockefeller Foundation Travel Fellowship, working at the University of California, Berkeley, and California Institute of Technology, Pasadena before moving to the Institute of Virology in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1968 he became the Head of the Department of Molecular Virology, and later Group Chairman at Imperial Cancer Research Fund – ICRF (now Cancer Research UK), London. They spent summers in Harvard University and Cold Spring Harbour

Laboratory as a visiting research fellow, and a sabbatical year at Stanford University Medical School. His daughter Lucy was born in 1969.

During his career, he made significant discoveries in the study of viruses that can cause cancer. He was the first to extract RNA from a virus known as Rous sarcoma virus and was a leader in early research on the DNA of the polyoma virus. Working with his team in ICRF on the fifth floor, he was the first to successfully cause cells to become cancerous using DNA from a virus. He also discovered a new virus in mice, called MVM, and found that it had a single-stranded DNA structure.

In collaboration with Professor Sir David Lane, Lionel helped uncover the role of a protein called p53, which is linked to many types of cancer. This protein was later found to play a key role in controlling how DNA is copied, how cells respond to DNA damage, and how cells die, both in normal processes and in cancer.

Later in his career, Lionel's research focused on papillomaviruses. His work, particularly with Dr Jian Zhou, was crucial in developing methods to produce virus proteins in the lab. This research eventually led to the creation of vaccines to prevent cervical cancer. In 2021 the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was shown to dramatically reduce cervical cancer rates by almost 90% in women in their 20s who were offered it at ages 12 to 13. Estimates suggest that the HPV vaccination programme could prevent over 64,000 cervical cancers and nearly 50,000 non-cervical cancers by 2058 in the UK alone.

In 1988 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society and was awarded the Gabor Medal in 2005 in recognition of his work on small DNA tumour viruses.

After retiring, he and Elizabeth enjoyed a rural life in Suffolk before moving to Gosforth, Newcastle in 2004 to be closer to his daughter and her family. Whilst in Newcastle, he revived an interest in wood turning he had enjoyed at school and volunteered as a practice patient for trainee medical students.

Since his death, many people with whom he worked and who started their own scientific careers in his lab have expressed gratitude for the impact he had on them. He had a knack for spotting talent and creating a space that enabled people to do some of their best work. He was known for his unselfish and constructive leadership, professionalism, organisational ability, and generosity towards younger colleagues.

Together with Elizabeth, they made people feel welcome in the lab and often at their



house. I think I have met at least seven Nobel prize winners including James (Jim) Watson and Sir Paul Nurse, and my parents worked with several more.

Described by one of his colleagues as one of the unsung heroes of British biochemistry and molecular biology, Lionel was very clear that he wanted no funeral or ceremony of any kind and donated his body to medical research at Newcastle University, so he could continue to be useful.

### **Dr Lucy Hatt**

10<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### **In Addition...**

Dr Crawford was also a talented wood worker. His works were made with grace and precision. Generously, Lucy offered for sale some of his pieces at the Christmas Market with all proceeds going to the church. Many of us will now have the pleasure of owning wooden items such as snowmen, twinkling mice, apples and pears, and bowls made by Dr Crawford, a physical reminder of one of his many talents.



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# Music at St George's in 2025: a Taster



While a detailed leaflet is imminent, the Lance thought that it would whet your appetite by listing below a few of the highlights which Drew Cantrill-Fenwick, our Music Director, has put together for the congregation and the people of Newcastle in 2025:

- ◆ From 16<sup>th</sup> May until 18<sup>th</sup> July on Fridays: Lunchtime Music Recitals [13.00 – 13.45] in the church
  - ◆ Palm Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April: Faure's Requiem in Hexham Abbey
  - ◆ Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March: Communion with Brass
  - ◆ 28<sup>th</sup> May: Kid's Organ Prom
  - ◆ 5<sup>th</sup> October: Silent Movie with organ accompaniment [Nosferatu]
  - ◆ 8<sup>th</sup> November: Come and Sing, Jenkins, The Armed Man
- And much more....and good news on the fund-raising front.....

Organ Fundraising Success: we are delighted to have been awarded £163,000 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund towards Stage 1 of the St George's and Jesmond URC Organ Restoration Project. These funds will make it possible to establish a permanent heritage trail between the two churches and to work towards the full restoration of both instruments. More news to follow very soon.

**DCF**

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## Christmas Quiz 2024 Answers!

	Questions	Answers
1	Who wrote 'How the Grinch stole Christmas?'	Dr Seuss
2	'Pray you, dutifully prime, you matin chime, ye ringers' are lines from which Carol?	Ding Dong Merrily on High
3	Who wrote the music for the film The Snowman?	Howard Blake
4	Which Supermarket Christmas advert in 2024 feature gnomes?	Asda

5	In 'Frozen' Anna is princess of which Kingdom	Arendelle
6	Who plays Buddy in the 2003 film 'Elf'?	Will Ferrall
7	True or False? Only male reindeer grow antlers	False
8	Who wrote the lyrics to 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'?	Charles Wesley
9	What is the name of Mary's Cousin who will give birth to John the Baptist?	Elizabeth
10	Which is the only gospel to feature the Magi?	St. Matthew
11	What is the name of the baddie in the film 'A Nightmare before Christmas'?	Oogie Boogie
12	In Home Alone where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?	Paris
13	What colour of Christmas will Elvis have?	Blue
14	How wrote the following line: 'For a journey, such a long journey: the ways deep and the weather sharp, the very dead of winter.'?	T.S. Elliot
15	Who played Idle Jack in the 2002 panto Dick Whittington at the New Wimbledon Theatre, filmed by ITV?	Lee Mack
16	Joy to the World is based on which Psalm?	98
17	What is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> tallest mountain in the UK?	Ben MacDui
18	Who created Rudolph?	Robert L. May
19	The only free-ranging herd of reindeer in the UK is split between the Cairngorm mountains and which other site?	Glenlivet Estate
20	How many years have Danny Adams and Clive Webb done the Theatre Royal Panto for?	19 years



1<sup>st</sup> place: Isabel Hill

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Barbara Peacock



# Living Nativity

It was an honour to be asked to represent Mary and Joseph in the Living Nativity, especially having been overlooked for these roles in our school nativities in the past (!)

Honey the donkey was extremely well behaved and we all had a really won-



derful time sharing the meaning of Christmas with the Jesmond community, in particular the residents of Cestria House Care Home. It was great to see so many people joining us on the walk around Acorn Road and Jesmond, and singing along to the carols. Many people wanted to take photographs of the event and stroke the donkey.

We hope that this brought cheer to the community, and helped to spread the Christian message of Christmas.

**Sophie and Samuel**

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## St George's Book Group

The next meeting of the church book group is on Wednesday 22 January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Winskill room.

It will be Eric's famous QUIZ.

Refreshments will be available.

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## Church of England Calendar

1	<b>The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</b>
2	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389 <i>Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833</i> <i>Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945</i>
6	<b>The Epiphany</b>
10	<i>William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645</i>
11	<i>Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915</i>
12	Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167 <i>Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689</i>
13	Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367 <i>Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603</i> <i>George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691</i>



17	Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356 <i>Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932</i>
18-25	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>
18	<i>Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951</i>
19	Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095
20	<i>Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349</i>
21	Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304
22	<i>Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304</i>
24	Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622
25	<b>The Conversion of Paul</b>
26	Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul
28	Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274
30	Charles, King and Martyr, 1649
31	<i>John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888</i>

### **Understanding the Calendar:**

**Principal Feasts and other Principal Holy Days.**

**Festivals.**

Other Sundays & Lesser Festivals.

*Commemorations*

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Stevenrobson1964@yahoo.com

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# 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**

Rev. Debbie Loughran 07776 922580

[Rev\\_debbie@hotmail.com](mailto:Rev_debbie@hotmail.com)

### **Reader and Anna Chaplain**

Mrs Joan Grenfell

[grenfelljoan@yahoo.com](mailto:grenfelljoan@yahoo.com)

### **Reader & Air Cadet Chaplain**

Dr Malcolm Toft

[depchap.dnl@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:depchap.dnl@rafac.mod.gov.uk)

### **Churchwardens**

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[enid@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk](mailto:enid@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk)

Janet Wilson 07766 297359

[janet@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk](mailto:janet@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk)

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Dr Sue Vernon 07411099690

[suejvernon@icloud.com](mailto:suejvernon@icloud.com)

### **Director of Music**

Drew Cantrill-Fenwick

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### **Bell Tower Captain**

John Markham

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### **Publicity**

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### **Community Hub**

[communityhub@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk](mailto:communityhub@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk)

### **Parish Secretary**

Jonathan Richards 281 1659

[office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk](mailto: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 Rev. Debbie Loughran.

The Parish Office is open weekdays except Wednesday, 9.45am-12.45pm  
address: St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF  
tel: 0191 281 1659

email: [Rev\\_debbie@hotmail.com](mailto:Rev_debbie@hotmail.com)

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

**Website:** [www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk)

**Facebook:** St-Georges-Church-Jesmond

## 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/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCuPrChpepxs6Jo-PfLvwJw/featured>

# St George's Christmas Caption Competition Answer 3

Lost again.

It very much looks like Messers D. and N. Alias The Dangerous Brothers.

Looking for The Loch Ness Monster!



**Brent**

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# 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](http://www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk)

**Facebook:** St-Georges-Church-Jesmond

**Twitter:** @stgeorgejesmond **email:** [office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk](mailto:office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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## WEEKDAY SERVICES

08.45 Thursday: 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](#)



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**Articles for publication to:**  
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