

# Spire Newsletter

FREE



NEWS FROM THE PARISHES OF  
GREAT AYTON WITH EASBY &  
NEWTON UNDER ROSEBERRY

Issue no.5 :

July 2025



## Special Summer Supplement

**GOOD NEWS** We are delighted to report that our new Vicar has been named:  
**Reverend SARAH CLIFF**

*Her formal welcome into our parishes (collation) will take place at a service led by Barry,  
Bishop Of Whitby, on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 pm.*



We invited Sarah (above with her husband in a most appropriate road in Morecambe) to introduce herself. She writes:

*Dear Everyone,*

*You are probably curious about who is coming to be your new vicar? As Rev Pev had such a long and fruitful time many of you won't remember having any other vicar. So here is a little about me; and in time I hope to catch up with as many of you as possible in person.*

*I was born and brought up in Darlington, leaving school at 16 to start work. I have had a varied career as a dental nurse and later in credit control, working mainly in engineering and transport sectors.*

*My last role before full time ministerial training was as a credit manager for a PLC. Following my ordination in Durham Cathedral in 2019 I was curate in Barnard Castle in Teesdale. Living and ministering in that place I loved being part of the supportive community surrounded by God's amazing creation, as seen in the landscape and wildlife of that area. For just over the last two years I have been a vicar in Morecambe, with daily views over the ever-changing Morecambe Bay with the Lake District Hills as a backdrop.*

*I am married to Garry, who is from Middlesbrough and we both know Great Ayton well. He fondly remembers sunny days as a child with his family, eating a picnic and playing in the river. We are both looking forward to enjoying all the local area and the fantastic local businesses have to offer. You are most likely to spot me, if not in church, out and about, so please stop me and say hello. As well as Garry I will be sharing the vicarage with our two rescue cats Solomon (who is not as wise as his namesake) and Lola who is frightened of everything apart from Solomon, who she adores. I have an adult daughter and three grandchildren, ranging in age from 7 to 20 and they all live in Darlington.*

*Leisure for me is reading, gardening or out exploring near and far. Both Garry and I are keen followers of Formula 1 and we enjoy a real ale or two. I keep trying to learn the ukulele and crochet – not at the same time; they are both very much work in progress. Music has always been important to me, I enjoy Motown, disco, eighties and anything I can sing or dance along to. For worship I have a number of real favourite belt out hymns, "Thine be the glory" and 'Guide me thou O great redeemer". What I lack in singing talent I make up for in enthusiasm and volume. I am definitely not a morning person, so it takes me a while to throw off the covers, but music is most certainly key to my wake up. Once up, and after a cup of Yorkshire Tea, I am raring to go for the day with whatever the day holds.* [contd...]

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*Around the age of 11 I was aware of God's presence and took myself off to my nearest church to find out more. I found myself in my local parish church and there I was nurtured and grown in faith. God's call on me came later in life; first to Reader/Lay ministry and then to ordained ministry. As Christians we are all called to some form of ministry, whether that is flower arranging, running the playgroup or visiting the housebound; my hope is that together with both congregations is to show that Jesus is the way the truth and the life to people who do not yet know the fullness of Him.*



*Please do hold us in your prayers over the next few weeks as I prepare to say goodbye to the parish here and Garry leaves his job. We are looking forward to meeting you all when we head back over the hills. I too will be praying for the people of both parishes as I prepare to join in with you bringing the Good News of Christ's redeeming love to all.*

*Blessings Sarah*



The rear of our new vicarage, now completed, at 118 Newton Road – by the roundabout – almost exactly halfway between our two churches.

**Saturday 12th July 7pm**

**All Saints Church**

**Violin Concert by  
Benjamin Baker**

*'Exploration'*

*– inspired by the spirit of James Cook*



Star New Zealand violinist Benjamin Baker, a regular performer at the North York Moors Chamber Music Festival, presents an exciting and imaginative programme which pays tribute to Great Ayton's most famous son. Bach's unparalleled music for solo violin is blended with music by living composers, inspired by Maori storytelling, in a thrilling concert which, following in the footsteps of Cook, celebrates the coming together of the Old World and the New.

#### Tickets available from:

The Discovery Centre

Ken Taylor: [ekrecess133@gmail.com](mailto:ekrecess133@gmail.com)

Frank Harrison: [frankharrison83@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frankharrison83@hotmail.co.uk)

- ❖ No interval
- ❖ Music by: Bach, Perkinson, Winkelman, Margetic, Farr
- ❖ Refreshments served after the concert
- ❖ Ticket Price £12.50 (in aid of All Saints Funds)

## Ken Taylor, our treasurer at Christ Church, invites us to reflect on "GIVING SUNDAY"

*Back in May Jon, Geoff and Nick treated us to mini-sermons on the subject of Christian Giving.*

**Jon reminded us of this parable from Luke 13 6-9:** Jesus told the parable of the "barren fig tree". This particular fig tree has been fruitless for years and the man who owns the vineyard where it is planted has lost patience with it. "Cut it down," he says. "Why should it be wasting the soil!" But the Gardener pleads to give it another chance. "Sir," he says, "let it alone for one more year. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down."

The story of the barren fig tree contains both a message of reassurance and a warning. It's all about the vital necessity of "bearing fruit". There are of course, many ways to bear fruit for God, but we are kidding ourselves if we pretend that what we do with our money, our possessions, is not an essential part.

The promise, the reassurance in the parable, is that God gives us a second chance; the Gardener - Jesus - pleads on our behalf: the warning is that ultimately we shall be judged by the fruit we bear. Ultimately, we shall all stand before God and be required to account for how we have used the gifts He has given us. Will we have borne fruit? "

**Nick added that in 2 Corinthians 9, Paul gives us a profound message about giving.**

Giving is not just our opportunity to work in partnership with God to meet human need but is also for our own spiritual benefit. When we sow generously, we reap generously, not necessarily materially – this is not a prosperity theology where we give to build our own bank balance. But rather, the more we choose to give, then the more we become like our generous God.

God loves a cheerful giver because God is a cheerful giver. Paul says we are enriched in every way so that we can be generous on every occasion.

*These, says Ken, were two of the key messages we received on Giving Sunday. Not only do we need to give to God, but we also need to give to sustain our church. Many of us have not increased our giving for many years - surely now is the time to address this with our new Vicar joining us very soon? Much of what we give goes to pay the Vicar's stipend - and this is very belatedly due to rise by 11.7% this year. Then there are our own church costs; energy, insurance, maintenance all have risen by inflation or more! So PLEASE consider what you give to the church NOW. I know that we are all affected by the rising cost of living but surely the church is a key part of that; if we all gave the church the extra cost of a cup of coffee per week, I'm sure we could do without that extra cup!!*

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