

# Spire Newsletter *FREE*



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



**Issue no.6 :  
September & October 2025**



**PLEASE JOIN US**  
*to welcome our new vicar*  
**Reverend SARAH CLIFF**  
**on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 pm.**



*Her formal welcome will take place at a service in Christ Church led by  
**Barry Hill, Bishop Of Whitby,**  
followed by informal refreshments in the Church Hall.*

*Sarah's first Sunday service  
leading our worship will be  
on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October,**  
when we will be celebrating  
**HARVEST in Christ Church,**  
then,  
on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October,**  
**HARVEST in St. Oswald's.***

*The service at Christ Church  
will be a non-Eucharistic  
worship of thanks when we  
will be joined, as usual, by  
our younger members from  
our local uniformed groups  
parading their colours.*

*Offerings of money or food  
at this service and during the  
week will be given to  
**Middlesbrough Food Bank.***

*Let us share God's goodness  
to us with those who are less  
fortunate today.*



*"We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;  
Accept the gifts we offer, for all Thy love imparts,  
But what Thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts!  
All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love."*

**Middlesbrough Foodbank** is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area. We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis.

**41% of children in Middlesbrough live below the poverty line.**

In 2024 15,270 people received food: 10,380 adults and 4,890 children

**Sadly, the need is still very acute, so a big thank you to all who regularly contribute food or money.  
If you would like to start giving food, please bring donations to Christ Church on the 3rd Sunday of each month.**

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## OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITY : MIDDLESBROUGH FOODBANK

*We asked Dorothy and Gordon Wood about how they were prompted to start.*

Back in 2012, when they had a trip to the New Forest, they popped into local churches and were surprised by the number of shopping trolleys with signs asking for donations for the local foodbank in what they thought was a wealthy area!



*Dorothy and Gordon Wood in a recent photo*

Being Boro born and bred, they did something about it! With unanimous support from our PCC, early in 2013 the monthly collection began, and soon their heavy carload of donated shopping left Great Ayton every month for one of the distribution centres. Nowadays it's Helen Land who oversees our donations.

It is a sad fact that there are many families in our area who are really struggling and depend on the foodbanks to be able to get through particularly difficult times. The foodbanks are not feeding the same families all the time but are there to help people in crisis and are referred by doctors, health visitors, social workers, citizens advice bureau staff, and welfare officers amongst others. Donations are kept and sorted in local depots so a quick and appropriate response may be given.

Everyone knows that this should not be necessary in a modern affluent Britain but through delayed social security payments, unemployment, rising costs, ill health etc, some families do find themselves unable to afford basic necessities. The thought of young children and adults suffering as a consequence is unbearable.

Milk (UHT or powdered)  
Sugar (500g)  
Fruit juice (carton)  
Soup  
Pasta sauces  
Sponge pudding (tinned)  
Tomatoes (tinned)  
Cereals  
Rice pudding (tinned)  
Tea bags/instant coffee  
Instant mash potato  
Rice/pasta  
Tinned meat/fish  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned fruit  
Jam  
Biscuits or snack bar

**Will YOU donate some of these? P L E A S E ?**

**More recently our donations have noticeably reduced; perhaps *we* are feeling the pinch too? Our contributions will help to overcome this need by a professional, carefully controlled, temporary provision of basic food for three days.**

***Or your gifts of money will help too.***

## St Oswald's Day in Newton

*Steve Fellowes writes:* Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August was our patronal festival. It's our tradition that after the service we gather together to enjoy a sumptuous bring and share picnic lunch. The poor weather meant that the picnic had to be indoors. What a wonderful opportunity to spend time with friends old and new. The raffle raised over £146. Thank you to all who contributed raffle prizes and to the lunch and to everyone for making it a great occasion. Our next lunch will be at Harvest - our first service to be taken by Rev Sarah.





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## OUR CHURCHES IN OUR COMMUNITY : THE DISCOVERY CENTRE

*An anonymous contributor is keen for Spire to share another facet to our life in our parish.*

Thirteen years ago North Yorkshire County Council announced they were planning to close a number of small libraries...and Great Ayton would be among the first to go! The announcement was made to a packed church hall chaired by our then Vicar, Paul Peverell. It was clear that the village was not going to accept this lightly and a committee was quickly formed to prepare an action plan to turn the library into a community-run facility. Two of our church members, John Dickinson and Ken Taylor, agreed to join the committee as trustees; a business plan was produced, funding support was obtained from the Parish Council, and the newly named **Discovery Centre** was opened on 8th May 2012 by local author Philippa Gregory.

Much has happened in the ensuing years. We needed more space - so plans were drawn up to extend up to Stamps Coffee shop- and the project won a "Best Community Project" award with our own Dorothy Moffitt collecting the trophy! This allowed us to incorporate a Tourist Information Centre and expand the second hand bookshop to give us an important extra source of income. We even had Rishi Sunak open the expansion before he became famous! And more recently a major refurbishment of the Centre was carried out.



Many new activities have been created: Arts and Crafts displays and workshops, a Knit and Natter group, Book Reading clubs, Storytime for mothers and toddlers, a chess club. But none of this could have happened without our staff and volunteer helpers. Although we operated with a professional librarian for a while, we now have two wonderful part-time administrators, but much of the work in running the Discovery Centre is carried out by our volunteers. Many of them are also active members of local churches - Anglicans, Methodists, Roman Catholics and

Society of Friends are all represented. So it is great to see that our church members are active in the running of what has become a "real gem" - to quote a recent satisfied visitor!!

## OUR REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

### Christ Church, Great Ayton

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)  
9:15am Parish Communion with choir (every Sunday)  
4:30pm Café Church (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Monday 2.00pm Coffee Lounge Communion (1st Monday)

Tuesday 9.45am Little Fishes (*not during school holidays*)

### All Saints Church, Great Ayton

Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion (BCP) (*continuing into September*)

### St Oswald's Church, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion with hymns (1st & 5th Sundays)  
All Age Service (3rd Sunday each month)



Please **BRING AND SHARE** refreshments after the Welcome to Sarah service on 7 Oct.

### Looking ahead....

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov is All Souls' Day** when we remember those close to us who have left this life. A Memorial Service will be held in Christ Church at 6.00 pm.

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Nov is Remembrance Sunday**, when we remember those who have died for us in past conflicts.

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## Councils, Committees, Commissions and Synods – who runs the Church of England?

**Dr. Nick Land (left) writes:**

*For my sins, which are many and grievous, I sit on almost every level of Church of England Governance, so I have been asked to explain a little about how the leadership of the Church of England works.*

The Church of England is often described as episcopally led but synodically governed. Which means that although much of the leadership comes from Bishops and Clergy, there is the opportunity for lay people to be involved in almost all the decision-making processes of the Church, whether in the Parish, the Diocese or the Church of England as a whole.

The foundation of a somewhat Byzantine governance structure is the **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**. Elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting it is responsible for working with the Vicar to promote the mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social, ecumenical) within the parish. It is responsible for the parish's buildings and finances and is a charity in its own right (so PCC members are trustees). It elects members to the Deanery Synod.

**Deanery Synod** functions are less well defined. They co-ordinate the ministry of parishes across a wider area (in our case Stokesley Deanery) and allow the sharing of good practice. Somewhat unkindly, a Deanery Synod has been described as a group of people waiting to go home. But under its current leadership (including our own John Dickinson as Lay Dean) Stokesley Deanery has become more effective in building relationships and spreading good ideas. Deanery Synods can send motions to Diocesan Synod for debate and Stokesley Deanery recently sent a motion to improve safeguarding which was debated and passed by Diocesan Synod. Importantly the members of Deanery Synods are the electorate for both Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

**Diocesan Synod** oversees diocesan priorities and mission strategy for the whole of the York Diocese. It is made up of Bishops, Clergy and Lay people. It is responsible for approving the diocesan budget and considering how funding is raised from parishes. At our June meeting we discussed safeguarding, finance, audit, human sexuality (LLF), education and the diocesan strategy (Living Christ's Story).

**General Synod** (which met at York University last month) is the Church's national governing body. It passes legislation affecting the entire Church which then goes to parliament for approval. So, it was General Synod that approved the appointment of Women Bishops in 2014. It debates national and international issues; oversees the national budgets and considers changes in doctrine, liturgy and policy. In July we approved a financial framework for the next three years; improved clergy pension provision; set up a redress scheme for survivors of abuse within the Church; considered new liturgy around God as Creator; and made it easier for military Chaplains to work across different diocese.

Through General Synod one can be elected to a range of other committees and commissions. I have served both on the Crown Nomination Commission (which appoints Bishops) and the Church Commissioners (who oversee the Church's historic wealth) – but they are stories for another day!

### CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS: During the vacancy, please contact

*For Funerals and Weddings:* Rev'd Jon Dean 07388010574  
[jon@christchurchgreatayton.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:jon@christchurchgreatayton.onmicrosoft.com)

*For Baptisms:* Rev'd Geoff Jaques 01642 722979

*For Safeguarding issues:* Mary Mason 07788 643930

*For all other matters, the Churchwardens:*

Alison Collins 07876 152022 Rosemary Wheway 07979 312152

Christine Stinson 07768 535606 Steve Fellowes 07888 762324

*Church Office:* 01642 722665 [gapo1876@outlook.com](mailto:gapo1876@outlook.com)

### Our website address:

<https://www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk>

### Our Facebook pages:

Christ Church, Great Ayton;

St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry;

All Saints Church, Great Ayton;

Christ Church Choir, Great Ayton

Little Fishes also has a Private Group for parents and carers of pre-school children; you can request to join it.

**Sincere thanks** to all who have contributed to this issue of our church newsletter and our apologies to those for whom, this time, there wasn't enough space to include articles, which have been retained for the future. Contributions or suggestions for issue 7 of Spire Newsletter (for November) may be sent to the Interim Editor, Stephen Whitehead, at [stephen.whitehead1948@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.whitehead1948@gmail.com)