

Spire Newsletter



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

Issue no.3 : April 2025



WHAT NEWS OF OUR CURRENT VACANCY?

An update from our Church Wardens:
We advertised widely for the post of our new vicar. There was some interest, but we have not shortlisted at the present time. We have been advised by the Bishop that this situation is not an unusual one. The position has been readvertised, and we hope to interview in May; we will keep you informed of our progress. We ask you all to continue to pray that the person who God is calling will hear and respond to the call. With very best wishes to you all from the Churchwardens.

ON **GOOD FRIDAY** WE WILL BE WELCOMING THE **ARCHBISHOP OF YORK**

who will lead our **REFLECTIONS ON THE CROSS**
in Christ Church from 1.30 to 3.00 pm

Welcome to Spring



Spot the steeplejacks - rather them than



Aspire/ Inspire/ Conspire/ Expire

They're all from the Latin: **spiro** means 'breathe.' When we have an **inspiration**, an idea is 'breathed' into our minds or souls; **perspiration** is when sweat 'breathes' through the pores of our skin; if we hatch a plot together, we 'breathe' (or whisper) together and **conspire**; If we work hard and 'breathe' towards a goal, we **aspire** to reach it; **respiration** requires us always to 'breathe' in and out; if we don't, we will **expire** and our breath will leave us for good.

None of which has *anything* to do with our church **SPIRE**! Or, for that matter, with this Spire Newsletter!

Our 'spire' comes from a (very) Old English word *spir*, meaning a sprout, shoot, or stalk of grass.

Now, isn't that Quite Interesting?

Last year's quinquennial inspection required a survey of our spire. Later sending up a drone revealed that a small amount of repointing was needed. So recently these steeplejacks have done a detailed inspection and carried out minor repairs.

(Photos: Robin Harmer, Rodney Wildsmith)



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Have you noticed this new VICARS BOARD on the nave's west wall?

The old one, recording the names of all the priests who have served Christ Church, is still there but is now full.

This new one has been created for us by **Jo Dean** using her impressive calligraphic skills and framed by Robin Harmer.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

"I made you wonderful"

Angela Jaques writes:

Over 40 people attended this year's World Day of Prayer service held at Christ Church and composed by the women of the Cook Islands on the theme of "I made you wonderful".

It was a thoughtful, happy occasion with testimonies, songs, music and quiet prayer times. Items relevant to the Islands' heritage were displayed: seashells, water, plants and colourful pictures. Everyone received a flower to symbolise identity, love, friendship and respect of the Cook Islands' inhabitants (see photo below).

Many thanks to all who helped make it a joyful time, shared by other nations over the world on that same day.



Celia Elliott and Chris Robertson recommend WE TALK TO GOD TOGETHER

We hear prayers in church, and we join in with some familiar ones, but do we really know how to pray once we've left? We probably send up hasty requests throughout the day, asking God to help us with everyday problems as they occur, or may, at times, utter a desperate plea for a loved-one who is suffering, but do we really have regular conversations with God that keep us focused on his presence?

Unless we are supremely self-controlled (and we, at least, are not) prayer can be something we don't always fit into our schedules. It can become haphazard and a bit repetitive. Would you like the 'Prayer for Dummies' solution? **Choose a prayer partner!** A prayer partner is someone you can talk to easily, someone you can trust with your innermost thoughts, and know they won't be repeated to others.

The two of us have been prayer partners for just a few months, and we can highly recommend it. We'd been attending Geoff Jaques' Wednesday afternoon discipleship sessions for some time, when he suggested to the group that we may like to start a new prayer group or choose a prayer partner. There are already one or two small groups which have been meeting for years, but we decided to become partners and now meet once a fortnight in one another's homes.

There are no rules about how to conduct these meetings, and you can please yourselves how you arrange them. We are still learning how to make best use of our meetings, but tea or coffee helps us to relax at the start, and we usually share our latest worries and concerns as well as our recent moments of joy. Saying these things out loud to one another seems to make sense of our sometimes jumbled thoughts, and highlights areas in need of prayer. Once we both have a sense of our emotional and spiritual wellbeing, we agree on the things we each want to focus on and offer our spoken prayers to God in what feels like a 3-way conversation. We often come across a prayer we like and read that too. This has led to further discussion sometimes.

We're only a phone call or a WhatsApp message away from each other whenever we need to ask for prayers for something specific, and this has been a huge comfort on several occasions.

Don't just take our word for it though. Mention it to God next time you're talking to him, and perhaps he can suggest a prayer partner for you too.

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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 - but
Tuesday May 6th)
Tuesday 9.45am Little Fishes (not during school holidays)
Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion (BCP) or Morning Prayer

St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry

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

SPECIAL SERVICES

FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday 13th April

Commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem

8 am Holy Communion Christ Church

9:15 am Parish Communion Christ Church

Monday 7.30pm

Holy Communion Christ Church

Tuesday 7.30pm

Holy Communion Christ Church

Wednesday 7.30pm

Holy Communion St Oswald's

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm

Holy Communion Christ Church

Good Friday 1.30 – 3.00pm

Reflections around the Cross Christ Church
with the Archbishop of York

Easter Day 20th April

8am Holy Communion Christ Church

9.15am Parish Communion Christ Church

11am Holy Communion St Oswald's

4pm Churches Together Songs of Praise Christ Church



Little Fishes

Rosie Lovell writes:

Our fabulous toddler group meets on Tuesdays at 9.45am for a short service and play with drinks and snacks. We have over 20 families attending and an army of helpers to ensure everyone has a wonderful time.

I am stepping down as leader, after four fabulous years. We are looking for people who want to ensure that **Little Fishes** continues as the fabulous group it is. There are jobs, little and big, ranging from hoovering and putting the chairs away to leading the songs and prayers. If you are interested, please speak to Geoff or myself (07539229069) for more information.

Angrove Singers and VOX

present

Sacred Music for Good Friday

Friday 18 April 2025 7.30 pm
Christ Church, Great Ayton, TS96AA



Musical Director:
Jeremy Harbottle

Accompanist:
Jenny Hesford

Vivaldi Magnificat
Allegri Miserere
Mendelssohn Hear my
Prayer
Negro Spirituals
Motets

Tickets: £10 (Adult) £5 (U18/Student)
From Thompson's Hardware, choir members, ring
01642 941 732, or on the door (cash or cheque)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

– re-opening soon

Robin Hazell, the custodian of the church, writes:

All Saints Church will be reopening to the public over the Easter weekend, commencing Friday 18th April. Normal opening times are from Tuesday to Sunday between 1.00p.m. and 4.00p.m. until the end of October, depending on the availability of guides.

2024 was a very good year for the church with visitor numbers over 1000 nearing pre-covid levels including significant numbers of overseas visitors and fundraising meaning that we can undertake some essential remedial work, including the restoration of the 18th century sundial. **A big thank you** to all who responded to the Gift Day Appeal. In **2025** look out for another classical concert in July as well as some of the usual events such as Taize services and the Summer Songs of Praise at the end of August.

There is always something new to find out about the oldest and only Grade 1 listed building in Great Ayton, so come down and talk to one of our friendly guides.



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Ben Lambert
Group Lead Volunteer
of the 1st Great Ayton
Scout Group writes:

As **Scouting in Great Ayton** moves into spring, we can look back and see the exciting activities we have done so far this year. From watching the stars to hiking under them. Creating explosions with coke and mentos, and then making hot air balloons and planting cress for the **Beavers** experiment badge. Learning communication, teamwork and team leadership in Cubs. Cooking meals in **Scouts** healthy masterchef.

We continue to have three healthy units, with plenty of young people in each. There are spaces still though.

We also have an amazingly strong leadership team for each unit, although **Beavers** could still do with an extra leader, and we are looking for leaders with early years' experience so we can start a **Squirrels** section (4 and 5 year olds). If you know anyone who might make a good leader, encourage them to contact our Group Lead Volunteer:
(glv@1stgreataytonscoutgroup.org).

As we move into Easter, Ben is retiring from the role of Group Lead, which he has held for five years. We welcome **Danielle**, our Scout team leader, into the role.

As we head towards summer, with camps planned for each unit and an expedition planned for Scouts, we look forward to the rest of the year in Scouting.



Rebecca Storey, District
Commissioner for our
district writes:

Girlguiding in Great Ayton continues to be popular, with just over 100 young members attending our six units. This term has seen Chinese New Year celebrated, along with Valentine's day crafts, eating pancakes and a host of games and fun learning towards badges.

Some units have spaces, sign up your daughter today!

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

We are looking forward to our fundraising **ladies fashion show** in April to help support the running of the district and upcoming trips. Some units are attending the Girlguiding Northeast England **Railway 200** event at Hopetown in March. The Rainbows are going to Cannon Hall Farm, Brownies are off to Beamish in June and the Guides a Monopoly run around York in September - alongside unit residentials to Holme House, Northallerton and Ripon.

SPRING CLEANING AT CHRIST CHURCH

The Church shines brightly now. A very big **THANK YOU** for an excellent turnout, including **Brownies** and **Scouts**.



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Dorothy Walton, Headteacher of MARWOOD Church of England Infant School, has kindly sent us School News from this term

Daily worship time continues to be our very heartbeat here at Marwood. Our children look forward to gathering each day and asking big questions about the world. With the help of our Year 2 worship leaders, each teacher takes a turn to deliver worship during the week; welcoming our children, posing searching questions, sharing stories and giving time for reflection and to make connections with our core school values of Love, Forgiveness and Friendship. Our worship schedule is carefully structured with a focus on our vision and values, the Christian calendar, world events, special cultural celebrations, commemoration days and current affairs at an appropriate level for our infant minds.

Since Rev Peverell's retirement, we are delighted to retain a strong connection with Christ Church. **Bishop Barry** led a service for school in Church on 27th March and we have received continued worship support from a number of Church members. Celia and Iain Wilson have led several worships for us with stories, big questions and prayers on a range of themes, Rev Jon Dean has led collective worship in Church, Sue Grey has led worship in school, and **we are looking forward to our Easter service being led by Rev Geoff Jaques on 4th April; you are all welcome to attend.** We look forward to continuing our close working with extended church members over the next month.

Marwood got off to a fun start in March with our annual **pancake races** on High Green. Thanks to Heather Bone and her team of helpers; our children experience this long-standing Gt Ayton tradition with smiles on their faces and sporting cheers from all their Marwood friends.

Following Shrove Tuesday, it was great to see all our **World Book Day** costumes in school. We had a wonderful visit to the Discovery Centre to hear some stories and colour bookmarks and we also enjoyed lots of story and book related activities in school.



Many thanks to the **Discovery Centre** and to those parents who walked with the classes to make this day so special and nurture our love of reading here at Marwood.

As if that wasn't exciting enough, **British Science Week** was full of investigating, experimenting and many wow moments. Our super scientists at Marwood experienced pond dipping and classifying the living things in our school pond, using identification keys and making observations. We also had a fascinating visit from a hand surgeon and enjoyed using microscopes and exploring chromatography. We really do appreciate the support from our parents and friends of the school to enrich our curriculum and inspire us in our learning. *And that's only the Spring term!*

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OUR RETIRING CHURCH WARDEN

At the recent Annual Church Meeting **Dr Helen Land** retired as churchwarden at Christ Church and was presented by a lovely bouquet by chairman **Robin Harmer** who said:

"On behalf of the Parochial Church Council can I thank you for being our Church Warden for the last seven years; that's some undertaking for which we are all truly grateful....You have always carried out your duties as Church Warden with care and consideration, with sublime calmness and with a broad smile; nothing ever seems to worry you, though even you, Helen, might have got a little worried if you'd had to follow the steeplejacks you sent up the spire the other day!"

Robin went on to emphasise the gratitude many people will feel for the many extra things Helen has done and the extra roles she has taken on. Happily for us, Helen does intend to continue serving on the PCC and as a member of its Fabric Committee.



Robin Harmar presents Helen with a gift to mark her service

OUR NEW CHURCH WARDEN

We are very pleased to report that **Alison Collins** has been elected as our new Church Warden. We invited her to tell us a little about herself....



"I have been a member of Christ Church since moving to the village in 2007. I previously taught at Roseberry Primary for 15 years

and helped run the Sunday School when my children were young.

I love to sing and currently teach curriculum music in Middlesbrough schools three days a week and also work as Wedding Registrar for North Yorkshire Council."

These photos thanks to Rodney Wildsmith

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 on Facebook for parents and carers of pre-school children; you can request to join it.

CONTACT DETAILS: During the vacancy, please contact

For Funerals and Weddings:

Rev'd Jon Dean 07388010574

jon@christchurchgreatayton.onmicrosoft.com

For Baptisms:

Rev'd Geoff Jaques 01642 722979

For Safeguarding issues:

Mary Mason 01642 724316

For all other matters, to the Churchwardens:

Alison Collins 07876 152022

Christine Stinson 07768 535606

Rosemary Wheway 07979 312152

Steve Fellowes 07888 762324

Church Office: 01642 722665

gapo1876@outlook.com

Many thanks to our photographers and to all who contributed these articles, especially Rev'd Geoff Jaques, who encouraged so many of you; our newsletter is gradually getting longer and, hopefully, more interesting! The fourth issue of this *Spire Newsletter* is planned for the end of May - prior to Whitsun.

If you would like to submit an article, news or details of events likely to interest our readers or merely offer suggestions for future possible issues, you are welcome to send them to the interim editor, Stephen Whitehead, at: stephen.whitehead1948@gmail.com.