

THE PARISH NEWS

The Newsletter of St Andrew's Church, Corbridge, with St Oswald's Halton and Newton Hall

JANUARY 2019 - ISSUE 25

FROM THE VICAR



Happy New Year

A new calendar year is always a time of hopes and dreams. But for many of us, 2019 seems challenging. Our nation is in uncharted waters with so much uncertainty about where we will find our place in relation to Europe, the Commonwealth and the world community. We are rightly concerned about our economy and the outlook for growth, jobs, local services, and social care. The 'high street' and retail and the rural economy are facing massive challenges. We see the rise of violence in our towns and cities, rises in homelessness and increasing mental health issues, especially among the young.

As Christians, we take all these issues very seriously, for we desire a society that reflects the love and compassion of God as we experience it in Jesus our Saviour who came to dwell among us. In many perhaps small and yet significant ways we can seek to make a difference, and of course, we must engage in prayer for all these weighty issues.

The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that we trust in Jesus Christ – 'the same yesterday, today and for ever'. In uncertain times, this is the fundamental certainty. He is the same in his love towards us and the world, the same in his power to transform, the same in his challenge to human beings to seek first the Kingdom of God. And whatever the circumstances, what he is today, he will also be tomorrow. This gives us an amazing inner security and means that we are always people of hope. Hebrews also says that the hope we have in Christ is like an 'anchor to the soul'. There is the old sailors' hymn 'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?' To that question, we give a resounding 'yes', because we are anchored not by our own powers or resources, but by God's. Someone said, 'God + one is always a majority!' We are not one but many. I look forward to what God will do this year here in Corbridge and Halton and Newton Hall, and what God will do through us as we seek to make a difference in this year of our Lord 2019.

Confirmation

The Corbridge Deanery Confirmation service is to be held here at St Andrew's in the middle of the year (date TBC). We are delighted that Bishop Christine will be coming to preside. As we are hosts, it would be great to have a good field of candidates from Corbridge. We hope to run two confirmation courses, one for adults and one for young people aged 11+, beginning in March.

Confirmation has a number of purposes:

- For those who were baptised in infancy and unable to answer for themselves, it is the way of making a personal profession of Christian faith. In that sense, it completes your baptism. It may be that you have never made your own profession of faith, or perhaps simply have never got round to it. Now is a good time to respond!
- For those who wish to explore Christian faith, confirmation is a great opportunity to meet with other people in an enjoyable and engaged way, and really look at what faith in Jesus Christ can offer. For many,

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it's a transformational experience.

- Perhaps you have felt a desire to come to Church or return after a period of absence. The Confirmation course is a great 'way in'.
- It may be that you have never been baptised and so for you confirmation would be part of your baptism preparation.
- You may wish formally to become a member of the Church of England; confirmation is the way of doing that.

Remember, there is no 'correct age' to be baptised or confirmed, and the important thing is to respond to God's call on your life. Being confirmed means that you can receive Holy Communion, and the heart of the service is the prayer to the Holy Spirit that you will be filled with all the love and grace that is the Spirit's gift.

If you are interested, or know members of your family or friends who might be interested, please contact me on 01434 633012 or dkennedy@corbridgechurch.org.uk or have a word with me at one of our Church services. I'd be delighted to talk through what is involved. And if you simply want to explore without obligation, that's just fine. One thing we promise, you will enjoy the journey!

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

David Kennedy

LOOKING BACK TO DECEMBER



Members of Corbridge Camerata joined St Andrew's Choir for a Christmas celebration meal! They also sang with the choir at the Mulled Wine and Mince pies with Carols on 15th December - a very successful and enjoyable morning.

A huge thank you to everyone for their contributions to the Christmas Tree Festival. Particular thanks to the planning committee who spent a great deal of time prior to, and during the event. Over 8,000 people visited specially from places as far away as Dublin, Glasgow, Kent and Cumbria. A grand total of £ 8,800 (gross) was raised. (2016 - £6,700; 2017 - £7,200)

Here are just a few of the 96 trees!...



OUR CHARITY GIVING

Each year St Andrews gives a proportion of its income to charity, and currently we are supporting three organisations, with our Treasurer, Cliff Wright, sending our 2018 contributions from church funds (plus any additional personal donations which have been received) during January.

The three charities were introduced in our last edition, when we featured an article on Nightstop, and this time is the turn of Reaching the Unreached, which works in south India. Max Philbrick is our link (Max is a trustee of the charity) and he introduced the work in the August 2017 Parish News. Here are some highlights of what has happened recently from a newsletter written by Fr Antony Paulsamy, the Director of RTU in India.

Children are at the heart of all RTU does. (The charity cares for almost 1000 young people, from small children to college students.) November, however, is extra special, as Children's Day is celebrated across India to increase awareness of the rights, care and education of children. National

celebrations are on the 14th but at RTU we make it part of all we do throughout the month. Various events showcase the talents of our own children and those in nearby schools. Watching them perform is an amazing experience! **On Children's Day itself, we celebrated with fancy dress and other competitions; solo and group dance entertainments; and an eclectic mix of drawing, song and elocution. Some visiting supporters from the UK were our guests of honour, and presented prizes on what was a joyous day. On 27th November, 565 children and 127 teachers from 58 rural schools in the local districts took part in an RTU-organised festival to celebrate Children's Day. RTU staff praised the children and distributed the prizes.**

Earlier in the month we celebrated Diwali, an important Hindu festival, in all our Children's Villages and Hostels. (Younger children live in family groups with a Foster Mother; teenagers live in nearby boys' and girls' hostels.)



Highlights included new clothes for each RTU child, special food and home-made snacks, and firecrackers. The whole day was great fun with the added joy for those RTU youngsters who were joined by their elder brothers and sisters in the afternoon.

Rajapandi, a 7-year-old handicapped boy from Kombaipatti village (about 12 miles away), has joined the RTU family following a sad (but all too common) series of life-changing events. Rajapandi was born out of marriage, the husband-to-be having absconded. The shame and rejection by villagers caused his mother many difficulties. When she fell sick and died in September, Rajapandi took to living on the streets as his grandfather and uncles were too poor to care for him. A local headmistress told us of his plight, and he is now living in our Miriam Children's Village and studying 2nd standard in our Arul Malar primary school. The goodness and generosity of our benefactors means Rajapandi's future is now assured.



During November, five houses were completed in Kannapatti village. RTU Director, Fr Antony, lit the lamp in each newly occupied house. Every home provides a new start for a poor, rural family. Our supporters can sponsor one of these safe havens, complete with a plaque commemorating the memory of a loved one or, say, a special occasion. Each home is a life-changing blessing for those who move in.

To read more about Reaching the Unreached, do visit their new website at rtu.org.uk.



Church Calendar

JANUARY

Epiphany	6th	9.15am	Holy Communion at Halton (BCP)
		9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP said)
Wednesday	9 th	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Julian Group (at Helga Marshall's)
Saturday	12 th	10.00am	Ecumenical Prayer Group in the Methodist New Room
Baptism of Christ	13th	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
		3.00pm	Messy Church - 'Belonging'
		6.00pm	Three Wonders Epiphany service with Holy Communion
Tuesday	15 th	7.30pm	Standing Committee in the cottage
Wednesday	16 th	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		2.30pm	Communion at Burn Brae Lodge
		7.30pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting
Epiphany 3	20th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30pm	Parish Communion (CW)
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP said)
Wednesday	23 rd	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Julian Group (at the McNamara's)
Epiphany 4	27th	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
Monday	28 th	6.30pm	Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Dinner
Tuesday	29 th	7.30pm	PCC in the cottage

Weekly Groups

Thursday 10.00am, North Transept - Prayer Group
 Thursday 7.30pm, 11 Crofts Ave - Home Group (*not every week; check Bulletin or with Monica and Max Philbrick 632707*)
 Friday 5.30pm, in church - Corbridge Camerata; 7.00pm - St Andrew's Choir

BCP = Book of Common Prayer, **CW** = Common Worship

The February calendar will be made available to Parish News subscribers (by email and in print) at the end of January.



this month is on **Sunday 13th January**
All welcome

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals since our November edition

Baptisms

Arthur Anderson (at Newton)
Phoebe Reay

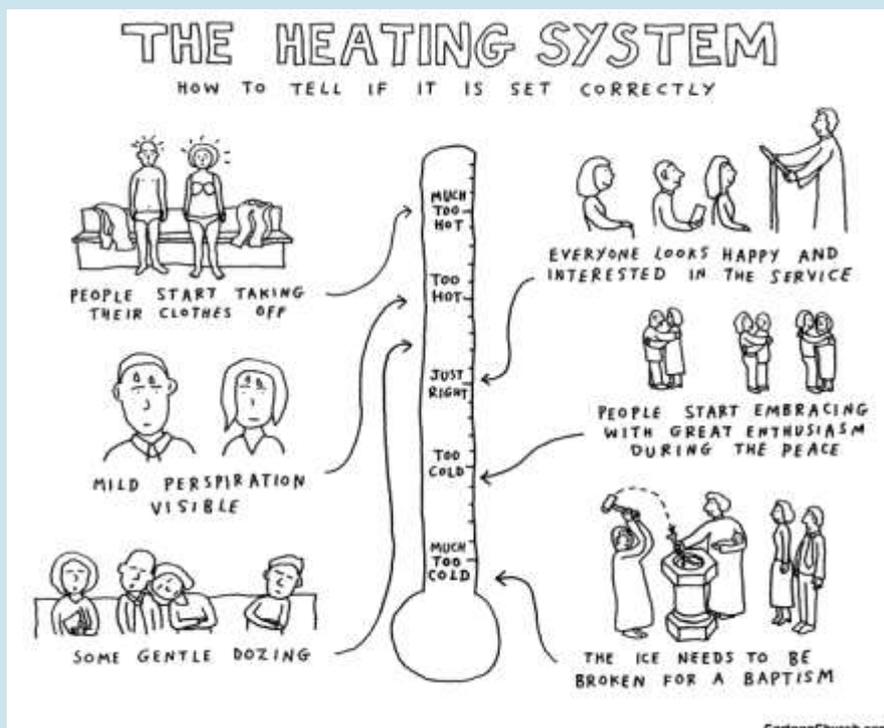
Weddings

Joe Cornforth and Rebecca Little
Edward Ridley and Stefanie Crow

Funerals

Alan Wood
Robert Brewis
Kieran O'Sullivan
Anna Jean Rutherford (at Bywell)

IN CHURCH IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER



This CartoonChurch.com cartoon © Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times.