



The heavens are telling
the glory of God
and the firmament
proclaims his handiwork



Psalm 19: 1

50p

June 2024

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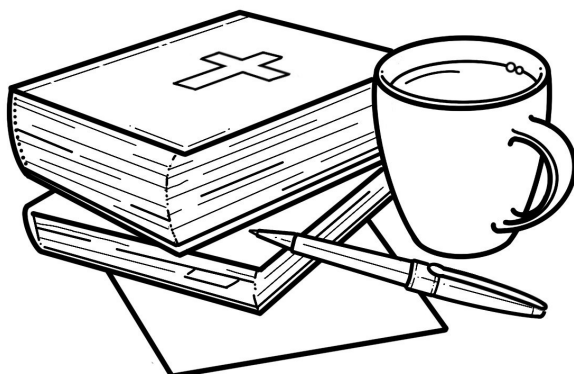
PARISH WEBSITE: www.newburnparish.org



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Letter from Rev Allison:

We have just been remembering the feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' first followers and they began to preach the good news about him. The news became a word-of-mouth sensation – in modern day terms we might say that it 'went viral' – and spread even quicker than the YouTube clip of the woman who was lifted up by the shop's shutters.



One interesting feature of this time was that Jesus' followers did not have a building. When people spoke about 'the church', they meant the group of people who followed Jesus. They met in public places or people's homes but had no place of worship of their own.

Fast forward 2,000 years or so and we find ourselves in Newburn and Throckley where we have two contrasting church buildings. St Mary's is relatively modern, clearly visible from two main roads and situated opposite the beating heart of the community (Sainsbury's). Then we have St Michael's, which is of huge historical interest, in fact so interesting that I am going to put in a quiz here. Which of the following is not true about St Michael's?

1. It is named after Michael Aresi, who saved several children local children from death when the Vikings attacked Newburn
 2. A wooden church on the same site burned down in 1067 AD
 3. A man named Copsi was found murdered at the church door in Norman times
 4. One previous vicar died in a plague of cholera that hit the village of Newburn
- (You can find the answer at <https://www.newburnparish.org/our-history/>)

But St Michael's has the disadvantage that it is not very visible to the world outside. I was disappointed when a couple came

to have their banns of marriage read recently and said that they were not aware that the church was there. What a contrast with the church that we read about in the Acts of the Apostles. They had no building but everyone – friend or foe – had heard of them, while we have a magnificent historic building that some people are unaware of.

So I have been setting my mind to how we can become better known - both our body of believers and the church building - to the world around us. Big national events are often a time when people like to come together: for example we had a great party at St Mary's for the coronation of King Charles last year. Despite all the athletic ability that was shown that day, none of us were picked for the Olympics (maybe it's because the three-legged race has been cruelly left out of the Olympic schedule again). However, we can turn that into a positive by all being there for our Olympic themed Messy Church party, combined with a church open day, at St Michael's on Saturday 27th July 2024 at 2pm – the day after the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics. It's open to adults and children so come and have a look at this beautiful building with its beautiful people.

There will be some of the usual Messy Church craft activities and also lots of games/sports to rival the action in Paris. We will put on tours of the bell tower and parachute jumps for teddies from the top of the tower: these will be supervised by a responsible adult (or Jamie). There will be tea and cake. Bishop Helen-Ann, the Bishop of Newcastle, has agreed to join us.

Hopefully this will all be a lot of fun and will make people more aware of St Michael's and all we have to offer our community. The church is about the people, not the building, but it helps if everyone knows where to find us. So please spread the news and put the date in your diary—see advert on page 7.

“Day after day, in the temple courts, and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.” Acts 5:22

Rev Allison

From the Registers:

Funerals:

Ernie Rice 13th February 2024 86yrs
Margaret Field 20th February 2024 83yrs
Isobel Thompson 23rd February 2024 86yrs
Betty Gray 24th February 2024 96yrs
Dick Crozier 16th March 2024 aged 86yrs
Jean Tulip 25th March 2024 86yrs

With apologies that these have not been included before now. Helen

Sunday Service Information

**9.30am St Michael's
11am St Mary's
6pm (4th Sunday) St Mary's**

Thursday 10am The Parish Hall
Morning Prayer Service

*The following information can be
applied every month:*

1st Sunday: Communion
2nd Sunday: All Age Family Communion
3rd Sunday: Communion
4th Sunday: Morning Praise (am) & Contemporary
Worship (pm)
5th Sunday: JOINT SERVICE 10am



St Michael's Church OPEN DAY

Saturday 27th July

2pm



Kids Crafts

Bell Tower Tours



Teddy Bear Parachute
Competition

Olympic themed
events



Refreshments

Follow us on Facebook to find out more...



ECO CHURCH FOCUS

JUNE:

World Environment Day – 5th June

This world day is held on the same day every year. This United Nations Environment Programme has the main aim of focussing on the only home we all share and how we need to look after it for the next generations to come. If you're looking for some great ways to help children learn about environmental protection and more about the Earth's environment, this is a great [place](#) to start. Let's make a positive impact.

World Oceans Day – 8th June

For a healthy planet, a healthy ocean is vital for ALL life on this planet. As a global event, this year's theme is 'Catalysing Action for Our Ocean & Climate' aimed at campaigning and encouraging our leaders to make the decisions needed to preserve our oceans and make climate action and global warming an urgent priority.

The Great Big Green Week – 8th June–16th June

This is one of the UK's largest celebration of actions taking my local communities to tackle climate change and to protect nature. This can involve anything from litter picking to writing to your MP. Check out their [website](#) to see how you can plan an event in your local area and get your community involved in looking after the only home we have.

National Clean Air Day – 15th June

According to their website 'Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK.' We all have the right to access clean air as pollution causes so many health problems, especially in children. Their [website](#) has a wealth of resources where you can get involved in this important day.

World Refill Day – 16th June

Held annually on the same day, World Refill Day encourages us to ditch our single-use plastic bottles and using refillable bottles where we're out and about. Millions of people get involved around the world. They've created an [app](#) to find out where your local refilling station is. It's time to join the refill revolution.

World Rainforest Day – 22nd June



Photo by Arnie Chou: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/scenic-view-of-rainforest-927414/>

Working with various organisations and indigenous people, their mission is to highlight and celebrate the importance of our rainforests which are at threat due to human activity. This is a global movement with the aim of protecting and restoring the rainforests we have left. Filled with biodiversity and are home to so many species, some of which we may not have even discovered yet.

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar

JUNE Join #30DaysWild. One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge is a great opportunity to engage with nature as an individual, household, or with your church community throughout June. Find some wild ideas at wildlifetrusts.org/30-days/wild



ECO-FAIR 2024

Join us to celebrate and investigate sustainable and environmentally friendly products and ideas. We'll be joined by green organisations and businesses - come and find out more!

SATURDAY

13TH JULY

10AM-2PM

**ST MARY'S CHURCH,
THROCKLEY**

FREE ENTRY

Watching birds is positively good for you

So says a new study out of North Carolina State University. It goes on to say that watching birds is even more beneficial to us than watching other forms of wildlife. The new study found that birdwatchers' recorded 'distress' levels dropped by 13.7 per cent, compared to that of nature-walkers' at 6.9 per cent. The study suggests that the reason may be that birds provide their own narrative and sense of drama, which can be enough to lift someone watching them out of the everyday.

The author and presenter Kate Humble agrees. "There is something reassuring about life continuing and nature just getting on with it, even if it feels like the rest of the world is falling to bits. Birdwatching makes me feel part of a bigger, richer, beautiful picture."

"Birds give me an excuse to explore and find some solitude and calmness away from the bustle of life," says James Lowen, author of *52 Wildlife Weekends*. "It helps put me in my place."

This is a rubbish campaign

Our world has an urgent rubbish problem. But Christians are uniting to take global action. So says the charity Tearfund, as it launches a campaign to highlight the threat of the growing mountains of plastic pollution. "Two billion people have no safe way to dispose of rubbish, and it's people in poverty who are suffering the worst impacts of this rubbish problem," says the charity. "They are forced to live and work among piles of waste, which is making them sick, releasing toxic fumes, flooding communities and causing up to a million deaths each year.

"But Jesus told His followers that even the smallest amount of faith can move mountains. So, we are asking you to put your faith into action and join us in demanding an end to plastic pollution."

And just now there is a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do just that," explains Tearfund.

"During 2023 and now 2024, nearly 150 governments have been meeting to develop the [first-ever global treaty on plastic pollution](#). But it's not a done deal. Please add your voice to demand an end to plastic pollution and its harmful impact on people living in poverty."

If you would like to know more and consider signing the petition, go to: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/rubbish-campaign>

Tearfund is part of the Renew Our World and BreakFreeFromPlastics coalitions.

Prayers for June b

I have read a number of Joyce Hugget's devotional books and she has introduced me to praying the Scriptures. I have found this most helpful and encouraging.

Praying Ps 16 vv5 - 9

Lord you are all that I have
You give me all that I need
My future is in your hands
I am always in your presence
You are near, nothing can shake me
You will never abandon me
You will show me the way that leads to life
Your presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure for ever.

Praying John 15 v 1 - 9

Lord, we rejoice in your comforting nearness.
We live and move and have our being in you.
We seek you today, we listen to you.
You are far more willing to be found than we are to seek you at times.
You never forget us, we are always in your mind and in your heart.
There is nowhere we can go that is outside your love and care.
Circle us today with your love and presence.
We rest in your love, relax in your care.
Knowing your presence will always be there.
O God my Father I want to be honest with you in this quiet time.
More honest than I am with people around me.
I know I cannot hide my thoughts from you.
I know I cannot hide my motives or my weaknesses.
Nor do I want to hide them, for you are my hope.
You knew me before I was born and you have never ceased to love me.

If you would like to join the Annual Magazine Prayer Rota, or even

y Mary Weatherall

You have watched me take my foolish ways, and been there ready with forgiveness when I turn to you.

You have supported me on long and difficult days.

O God let no failure of yesterday hold me back today.

Certain of your forgiveness, let me face life with confidence.

In Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen

Dear Lord,

Here we are in June. Halfway through this year already! How the years fly by and often we are so busy, so taken up with everyday concerns that we forget to take time to be still; to consciously be in your presence; to be aware of the wonders of your world.

June is such a beautiful month, so we take this moment, Lord - and we thank you for your goodness to us and your provision for us.

Especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus who is the only way to you, who is your truth and who offers us eternal life, if we will turn away from our self-centredness and put our trust in Him.

For June and for Jesus, Lord, we praise you and we glorify you. And we move into the rest of the year in hope and trust.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

By *Daphne Kitching*

just do a one off prayer, please get in touch with Helen Dawson.

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Judges

Following Joshua's death, a generation grew up who didn't know God (Judges 2:11) and 'every man did what was right in his own eyes' (17:6, 21:25). The book of Judges is a study in God's response to a permissive society.

The book takes its name from the *deliverers* that God raised up during this time. God empowered both men and women with His Spirit to rule and deliver the people. They included Ehud, Deborah, Gideon and his son Abimelech, Jephthah and Samson. The judges operated in the 350 years (from 1050 BC) between Joshua's death and the monarchy.

We see a recurring cycle of apostasy, oppression, penitence and deliverance played out. When the people fell into sin, God sent an enemy nation to oppress them. As a result, they cried to God for help, and He responded by raising up a deliverer to free them.

The saddest words in Judges are those applied to Samson, *'He did not know that the LORD had left him'* (16:20). Rejecting God in our lives can begin with tolerating those things that are not in harmony with His will for our lives. The people's toleration of the beliefs of their pagan neighbours led to a conformity in life and worship with them. Yet God waited for His people to return to Him, when He responded with grace to deliver them.

Gideon stands out as somebody who was unwilling to compromise with the surrounding culture. Despite his weaknesses, God used him to deliver Israel from the Midianite invaders. We read: *'the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon'*, lit: *'the Spirit clothed Himself with Gideon'* (6:34). God's grace and faithfulness is at work in those who are prepared to trust Him.

Canon Paul Hardingham

Reflecting Faith:

Reflecting Faith: The Church and politics (with a small'p')

When you drive in the English countryside you should be able to see at least one church spire or tower from pretty much anywhere. Just about every village has its own church building. The size and grandeur of these village churches varies greatly, and was usually dependent on who paid for them in the first place!

In the main they were built with money from the local 'Lord of the Manor' – not necessarily a 'Lord' in the titled sense, but the person who owned the majority of the land and properties. Most people would work for him and live in a house provided by him. The two went together. Often, in order to keep their job and home, they were expected to attend 'the Lord's' church.

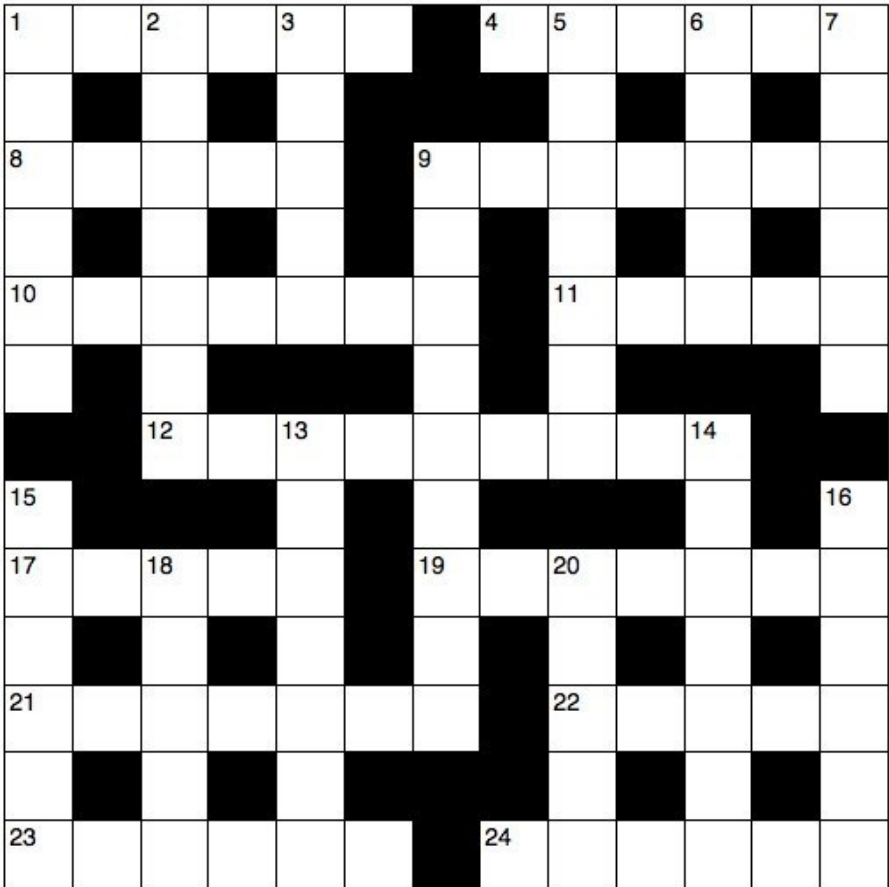
Many such churches were constructed at a time when people assumed that the more money you gave to the church, the greater would be your place in heaven. Hence the ostentatiousness in many a small village church!

By the early 1800s society had begun to change shape rapidly. The Napoleonic Wars which had been raging in Europe for many years were concluded at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. There were new processes being discovered and invented which meant changes in working practices: the 'Industrial Revolution' was well under-way.

'Society' itself began to change with industrialisation bringing working folk into towns and away from the places, people, family members and authority figures to whom they had deferred all their lives. Politicians and Society leaders were becoming concerned that the political unrest still taking place on the continent might catch on here.

This month: Have a look at a town church or a city church this month. See if you can find out anything about its history. Was there any reason for it being built where it is that reflects faith?

The Revd Dr Jo White



Across

1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)

4 Place of learning (6)

8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)

9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)

10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)

- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Bethany - Welcome



BETHANY

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in St Mary's, Throckley at 1pm.

We will be observing some restrictions owing to the continuing Covid situation. As previously we will have a time of worship, an activity or quiz and there will be a cuppa with light refreshments.

ALL ARE WELCOME - we look forward to seeing friends old and new.

There is no charge - voluntary donations to cover expenses can be given.

Please contact Margaret Ledger on 0191 2672953 for more info if required



Noah's Ark Playgroup

Wednesday 10-11.30am
(school term time only)

Newburn Parish Hall

£1.50 per family,
Refreshments provided



The D-Day Normandy Landings

Eighty years ago, on 6th June 1944, the D-Day Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25th August with an Allied victory.

The question of what the *D* stood for has never been absolutely determined: some say it just stood for Day; others maintain it was Disembarkation, because it was an amphibious operation. What is sure is that there was a spiritual dimension. General Eisenhower, the commander of Operation Overlord, urged those taking part to “beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking”, and President Roosevelt broadcast a prayer to the nation – the United States, that is.

Before June 5 – the original date for D-Day, before bad weather forced a rethink – a massive and successful series of deceptions were put in place to make the Nazis think the invasion would come elsewhere. The Germans were certainly confused. Hitler, thinking the attack was a feint, refused to send reinforcements, and their strategy was hampered by the absence of their brilliant Commander Erwin Rommel, who was on leave.

Nevertheless, the Americans suffered over 2,000 casualties at Omaha Beach, which was the most heavily defended. Altogether it was reckoned that over 4000 Allied troops were killed, but about 156,000 successfully stormed the beaches, and many landed behind the lines, including American paratrooper Private John Steele, who descended on to the pinnacle of the church tower in Sainte-Mère-Église, the first village to be liberated by the U S Army. Lit up by searchlights, he survived by pretending to be dead, was captured and then escaped, joining the invading soldiers.

This year handmade silhouettes of almost 1,500 servicemen were transported to Normandy for an art installation, *Standing with Giants*, to mark the anniversary.

by Tim Lenton

Poet's Corner

DEAR MISS FUSSPOT

Dear Miss Fusspot
Thank you for asking me to play
And for sharing with me your own special day
Will you now contact the weather man
To demand bright sunshine as fast as he can?
When I read through your letter I felt quite ill
But I'll do my best to fit the bill
Perhaps you thought you were using great tact
And I'm no Winnie Attwell and that is a fact
You can have Gershwin, Porter and some of the rest
From your well-informed list I will pick out the best
You seem to know what you want and it's so very wise
Not to ask me to play 'Two lovely black eyes'
I could play many old gems but I'd better not risk it
'Until the real things comes along' could be taking the
biscuit
For one request I've had from you
Could you manage to bring me a didgeridoo?
The tune I refer to is Waltzing Matilda
But I think it's high time that somebody Kilda
Or tied her down sport with a bush kangaroo.
I hope this reply to your letter won't cause you to sob
Just BUZZ OFF and let me get on with the job.

Audrey Nelson
2001

A Night in June

The sun has long been set,
The stars are out by twos and threes,
The little birds are piping yet
Among the bushes and the trees;
There's a cuckoo, and one or two thrushes,
And a far-off wind that rushes,
And a sound of water that gushes,
And the cuckoo's sovereign cry
Fills all the hollow of the sky.

By *William Wordsworth*



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Befriending services or help to join in with community activities?



Please contact John Hewitt or Lisa Langford for further details on :
01912673728



Rev Allison Harding (Vicar)

Please contact Allison to arrange Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage. If you know of people who are ill or are in hospital please let us know.

The deadline for any inclusions for the magazine is

Two Sundays before the last Sunday of the month

Please either email or hand to Helen Dawson.
helenrdawson@yahoo.co.uk

If you have any questions or opinions about the magazine content and style, or would like to write an article please get in touch.

All feedback welcome.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a magazine (only £5.00 per annum) please get in touch and we will add their name to the distribution list.