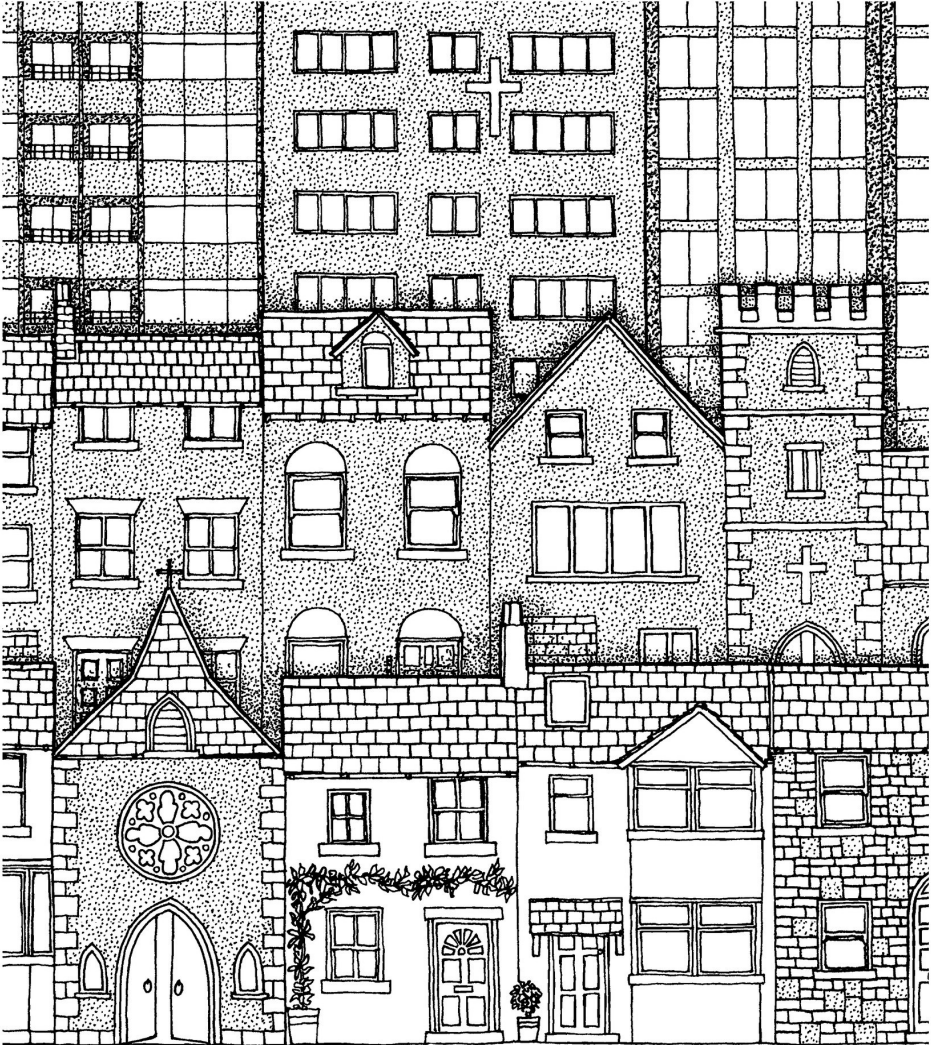




NEWBURN
St Michael's
&
St Mary's
PARISH

May
2025



Church in the community Matt 5:14-16, Acts 2:44-47, Phil 2:3-5

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PARISH WEBSITE: www.newburnparish.org



FACEBOOK: @NewburnParish

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HELP NEEDED.

**Two volunteers are needed to write/
compile/collate prayers for the
September and December magazine.
Please get in touch with Helen to
volunteer.**

**Prayers can be sourced from books and
websites (as long as sources are provided)
and do not have to be written from scratch.**

Letter from Rev Malcolm:

Dear Friends,

We have said “Farewell” to Allison, our vicar for the past eight and a half years, and to Jamie, her husband, at a lovely service on 27 April, followed by a lunch to which many people came.



There were some generous speeches to thank Allison for her faithful ministry, and Jamie for his ever present smile of encouragement. We have loved them and thank God for them. We will continue to pray, as they move on to Ashington, where Allison will engage in a new ministry to encourage new congregations in that part of Northumberland.

Allison has united our two congregations so that they now work together as one, co-operating and sharing in all the tasks of a modern parish. The work of a parish priest was never easy. It has got more difficult as the years go by. Over almost 60 years of my own ministry, I have seen many changes. I don't think I could cope with the pressures of modern ministry now. The number of fulltime priests has decreased by half compared to the 1960s, while the need to reach out to more individuals has increased significantly.

Allison has also shown herself to be a faithful pastor, caring for the sick, visiting them, supporting many people who needed encouragement and support, and been there for those who needed a compassionate ministry whenever and wherever there was a need.

I once knew and worked alongside the first worker-priest in this diocese. His name was the Reverend Frank Bartley. The word “worker-priest” is a French title and has never been used in Newcastle. The idea was that some men (at that time we only ordained men!) kept their everyday jobs, and worked as a priest in their spare time, without pay.

Frank worked for the Co-op. He served in the store in Burradon all his working life. Everyone knew and trusted him. A faithful member

of the Church of the Good Shepherd in that mining village, one day he felt God was calling him into some kind of ministry. He was ordained but kept his job at the store, till he retired. He served several years as Vicar in Burradon, which was part of Killingworth parish, where I served as Priest-in-Charge.

I could never call Frank to tell him anything: he always knew. If I wanted to inform him that Mrs. Cannybody was poorly, he would just reply, "Well, I'll go round and see her".

He never asked for the address because he knew everyone in the entire community. Frank worked faithfully until he sustained a nasty accident. Otherwise, he would have worked on to his dying day. I conducted Frank's funeral, and he was greatly missed.

If you called Allison in a similar situation, she had probably already been. She cared for everyone she knew to be sick or in difficulties. She was a true pastor, in the way Jesus meant when He told us to care for one another and bear each other's burdens.

Since Frank passed away, Burradon has always had caring clergy. In fact, most clergy in this diocese are conscientious ministers of the Gospel.

Now we must carry on the life of the local Church without the support of a good pastoral minister, until a new one can be appointed. So, we will pray faithfully to God to give us such a person. Meanwhile we will co-operate to keep our Church family together, and worship will continue as before. Visiting priests will care for us Sunday by Sunday, and you will sometimes see one of our own three retired priests helping: John, Margaret, and myself.

The congregation is capable of managing the essential operations required to maintain the Church, and we anticipate that the Bishop will soon appoint another dedicated priest to provide pastoral care for us, as previous priests have done.

I believe firmly that God will provide all that we need if we trust Him. And this means that we will frequently ask Him to do so.

I was reviewing my own life recently. Since I realized, at the age of 15, that Jesus had given His life for me, and so I asked Him to come into my life and use me any way He could make use of me, I

could not count the many times He had shown me the way forward, given me all that I needed, stopped me when I was about to go wrong, and encouraged me when I was downhearted about something.

I could write a book about how often God has provided me with what I needed just as I was about to give up. "All that I needed Thy hand has provided", as the hymn says. So, we will trust Him for a new Vicar, when the right time comes. So: keep smiling, keep praying, keep believing. Keep trusting. And, if you haven't been to Church for a while, why not pop along one Sunday? You will be sure of a warm welcome both in Throckley and Newburn.

God love you,

Malcolm

Sunday Service Information

9.30am St Michael's

11am St Mary's

6pm (4th Sunday) St Mary's

Thursday 10am The Vicarage

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

FAREWELL ALLISON:



ECO CHURCH FOCUS

Eco Top Tips!

May – In the utility room

- When using a washing machine ensure there is a full load and turn down the temperature. Heating the water to higher temperatures uses more energy.
- Electric tumble dryers use energy. If it's a nice day dry your clothes outside. In the winter most drying is done by the wind, so check the forecast for wind days and nights as you can hang washing overnight (as there is no dew in the winter).
- Irons use a lot of electricity to get hot – only iron clothes that really need it.
- Cut up old clothes or sheets that you were going to throw out, to use as cloths for cleaning jobs rather than buying new cleaning cloths.

May	
<i>No Mow May & Meat Free May</i>	
4 – 10	International Compost Week
11-17	Christian Aid Week
16	Endangered Species Day
20	World Bee Day
20 – 26	Water Saving Week
22	International Day of Biological Diversity

Mental Health Awareness Week - 12th – 18th May 2025

In May we observe Mental Health Week, at a time when sadly many of us, as a nation, are struggling. Roughly one in four of us now experience a mental health problem every year.

According to the Health Foundation, for young people aged 10–24 a staggering 45% are experiencing mental health disorders.

While the medical profession is helping with medication and medical care, many Christians are also deeply concerned.

As one theologian, Professor John Swinton, has said: “Mental-health professions play a significant part in the healing process for people. Most people, however, are not acutely unwell... they live in ordinary communities, and work out their lives amid family, friends, society and church. It is there that the Church can offer important gifts and insights.

There is plenty of emotional and mental pain in the Bible: just read the Psalms of lament, which express sorrow and desolation. (They include Psalms 3, 6, 13, 22, 28, 42, 44, 56, 57, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 120, 130, 137, 142.) Here you will find desolation and sorrow – but also hope and assurance that at the end of all things, God is still there for those who turn to Him.

The Bible reminds us that we should not be surprised by deeply painful times in our lives, as these are not outside the experiences of people who know God. However, it assures us that He will draw close to us (James 4:8) and that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28).

Nature is an important need for many and vital in keeping us emotionally, psychologically and physically healthy.

Regarding mental health benefits, nature has a very wide definition. It can mean green spaces like parks, woodland or forests and blue spaces like rivers, wetlands, beaches or canals.

It also includes trees on an urban street, private gardens, verges and even indoor plants or window boxes. Surprisingly, even watching nature documentaries is good for our mental health.

This is great news as it means the mental health benefits of nature can be made available to nearly every one of us, no matter where we live.

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show – world’s greatest flower show

20th – 24th May brings us the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The most prestigious gardening show in the world, it attracts about 168,000 visitors a year. Its cutting-edge garden designs have been called the ‘haute couture’ or ‘World Cup’ of gardening. Here are 12 interesting facts about the Show:

1. The RHS Chelsea Flower Show is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.
2. The Show began in 1913, with about 250 exhibitors in a large single tent. Today the Show covers more than 23 acres with more than 550 exhibitors and gardens, not to mention the Great Pavillion.
3. The Great Pavillion is HUGE – it covers 2.90 acres, with enough room to park 500 London buses.
4. The Show has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London every year since 1913, excepts for gaps during the two World Wars and Covid.
5. It takes just under three weeks to build a Show Garden, and five days to take it down.
6. In 1927 there was a campaign to get the RHS to ban foreign exhibits, to reduce competition. The RHS refused, saying 'horticulture knows nothing of nationality'.
7. The late Queen Elizabeth II attended RHS Chelsea more than 50 times.
8. It takes 14 judges and two moderators 25 hours to judge and assess all gardens at the show. It takes 50 judges and four moderators three hours to judge all the exhibits in the Great Pavillion.
9. Garden gnomes have always been banned, except in 2013, the show's centenary year. That year, well-known supporters, including Elton John, Dame Helen Mirren, Joanna Lumley, and Mary Berry – painted gnomes to sell for charity.
10. 2020 brought the first ever virtual RHS Chelsea, during the Covid pandemic.
11. It is not Britian’s largest flower show, that is now the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival.
12. One very wet year the show was nicknamed the ‘The Chelsea Shower Flow.’



Remembering VE Day – 80 years on

80 years ago, on 8th May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4th May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7th May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

Tim Lenton

For information on what is going on in our parish to celebrate the anniversary of VE Day, please look on page 18.

Prayers for Ma

Lord God, we lift to you our world in turmoil and the millions of people affected by conflict, earthquakes and financial instability. We think of those enduring life in refugee camps and pray that you will sustain them in their suffering, bringing a swift end to such difficult conditions. We pray for a generosity of giving from both governments and individuals. May we take inspiration from the actions of the early believers as recounted in Acts 2 v45 who gave to anyone who had need. Amen.

Almighty God, as we celebrate VE day we remember with sorrow all those who were killed and whose lives were changed forever. We give thanks for all who played their part in achieving victory in the Second World War, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. As we honour their courage and cherish their memories, may we put our faith in your future. We pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the promise of your name. Amen.

Father God, as the exam season begins, we pray for the children and young people we know who are studying hard over the next few weeks. May they have strength and perseverance to see their studies

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

y by Gill Reed

through. Help them to stay focused and motivated, even when facing challenges. May they trust in your guidance and support, remembering that you have a plan for their future. Amen.

Lord, we pray for your healing touch for those who are sick. Grant them strength, comfort and peace. May your grace be upon them and bring them back to health. We give thanks for the work done by doctors, nurses and caregivers and pray that they will be guided by your wisdom and compassion. We remember in particular King Charles who is still receiving treatment, and the Princess of Wales. May they receive courage and resilience in their times of need. Bring them back to health and wholeness. Amen.

Lord God, as Allison embarks on her new chapter, we thank you for the opportunity you have provided her and the guidance you offer. May her heart be open to whatever you are calling her to do in this different role. We pray that she will quickly settle into this new community, knowing a purpose and sense of belonging as she develops her ministry further. Amen.

en 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: Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings (*'mishle'*) that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32). The purpose of these oracles is *'for attaining wisdom and discipline'* (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand *'the sayings and riddles of the wise.'* (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.'* (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples:

- ◆ Knowing God: *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding'* (9:10).
- ◆ Guarding Our Speech: *'A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver'* (25:11).
- ◆ Marital faithfulness: *'May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth'* (5:15-20).
- ◆ Our Work: *'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!'* (6:6-11).
- ◆ Dangers of Strong Drink: *'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise'* (20:1).
- ◆ Justice and Honesty: *'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight'* (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, *'For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all his paths'* (5:21); providence, *'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails'* (19:21) and goodness, *'The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous'* (15:29).

Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today. *'Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves'* (Eugene Peterson).

Canon Paul Hardingham

T P Y G E T P N Y N Y Y E B N
 S N E N S G P I G H G D E Y S
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Athanasius
 Nicene
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 Theologian
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 Council
 Bishop
 Debate
 Christ
 Person

Worship
 Divine
 Eternal
 Begotten
 God
 From
 Light
 True
 One
 Substance

Devotion
 Scholarship
 Church
 State
 Exiled
 Flight
 Hiding
 Triumph
 Christology
 Alexandria

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



In a statement published by the Vatican early on Monday, Cardinal Kevin Farrell said the pope had "returned to the home of the Father". A statement continued: "He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalised." The Pope's death follows a period of ill-health that saw him spend five weeks in hospital with double pneumonia.

Pope Francis wrote this in the Hospital.

"The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches... They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports... It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor. A privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar... In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist... A police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care... A wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor... It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design. And in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone, we are nothing. The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss. A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence. This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people. Do not criticize your body too much. Do not complain excessively. Do not lose sleep over bills. Make sure to hug your loved ones. Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless. Material goods must be earned by each person—do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance. You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when love arrives, when everything is perfect... Listen, perfection does not exist. A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here. Here, we are given an opportunity to learn. So, make the most of this trial of life—and do it now. Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path, and let go of the path others have chosen for you. Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere. Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely! And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator.

Pope Francis



VE DAY ©

80TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 M A Y 2 0 2 5

On 8th May St Mary's church will be open from 2pm for anyone who would like to spend some time in quiet reflection or prayer as our nation commemorates the end of war in Europe. There will be a continuous screen display of photos of local people who served in the forces and the medals that were awarded to them. There will also be personal memories of the war and VE Day to read.

Between 1-2pm the bells of St Michael's will be rung to celebrate this day.

At 6.30pm St Mary's bell will be rung. This will be followed by a short service at 6.45pm to give thanks and remember all who served.

If any further details are required please contact. Rev Margaret Ledger

tel: 01912672953

e-mail: margaret.p.ledger@btinternet.com

Reflecting Faith: where to hold a Baptism

For the last couple of months we've been thinking about baptism, its place within church life and what it means to each of us on a personal level. This month, let's look at the actual font where baptisms usually take place.

Over the years Christians have used a wide variety of 'fonts': the sea accessed from the beach, a swimming pool (hired for the occasion), an especially built permanent baptistry, many varied stone fonts, a stainless steel portable font and even the beach in Philippi, Greece where Paul is said to have baptised Lydia and her household. Imagine the sunshine, warmth, flowing clean water and a gathering of your family and friends from your local church who have all travelled there together to celebrate this special moment, and themselves renewed their baptismal vows!



Baptism is not only a personal acceptance of Christ, but a huge celebration for Christian family and friends. Think back to a time of success in your life such as passing an exam or getting a new job. Didn't everyone around you also celebrate? So it is when a new person wants to follow Jesus.

Baptism for older children and adults have always followed a period of instruction. People as far back as the 3rd century weren't just grabbed off the street and immediately baptised and able to join in all the services. Rather, they were carefully taught about Jesus and what being a Christian means.

Baptism symbolised their public acceptance of the Christian faith, and it was quite literally their first step in their life as a member of the church, as the actual baptism was carried out in a special building, outside but attached to the main church building. Baptisms were done by the Bishop on a certain day or days each year.

This month: Where were you baptised? Do you have any photos of that day? This month have a look at the fonts in some local churches and see what shapes they are and any decoration they may have.

The Revd Dr Jo White

Christian Aid Week 11th to 17th May



For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has been working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

This annual week invites Christians in the UK to help fundraise for the work by holding community events and taking on individual challenges. It has been called 'seven days of fundraising fun – your way'.

This year you might like to consider taking on the '70k in May Challenge'. It is simple to do: just travel 70k during the month of May, in whatever way you want. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you.



Poet's Corner

Artificial Opponents?

Wordles and Quordles and Octordles too,
Who can be bored with so much to do?
Puzzles online, and less now in print
Is it surprising that I'm starting to squint?

Crosswords and lost words in a grid you must find
Sudoku, Kakuro for the numerate mind,
Backgammon or chess, if that is your sport
And card games of every conceivable sort!

Deep in my cupboard is a box full of games
And a beautiful chess set, abandoned – a shame!
But do you remember (long ago as it seems),
When we played games with people, and not these
machines?

By Nigel Beeton

Prove it

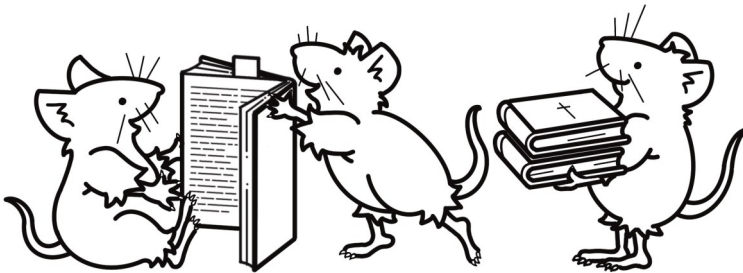
'Prove it!' they cried, 'that You're the Messiah
Wouldn't He come as a conquering king?
Not as a poor man riding a donkey
How do you think we'd believe such a thing?'

Wherever He went large crowds would follow,
He calmed the storm and turned water to wine,
The lame could walk and the deaf made to hear,
Fully a man and yet also divine.

His teaching had never been heard before,
He fed the five thousand with fish and bread
Gave sight to the blind and lepers were healed,
He cast out demons and raised the dead.

He died on a cross to take away sin
Rose up from the grave, what more could He do?
To prove of His love for all of mankind
Believe it or not, it's all up to you.

By Megan Carter



Throckley Community Hall

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NEWBURN PARISH IS CURRENTLY IN INTERREGNUM.

IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF OUR CHURCH WARDENS WHO WILL BE PLEASED TO HELP YOU.

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.