



October 2020



St Michael's, Alnwick
The magazine for the people of the Church and the Town



WEEKLY WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT ST MICHAEL'S

8.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION (said)

A quiet early morning service (CW*) with a sermon. On the third Sunday of the month we use BCP

9.30 am

THE PARISH EUCHARIST

Sung Eucharist (CW) with Junior Church for children, a robed choir and the largest congregation of the day. On the first Sunday of the month a 'First's Eucharist' is especially welcoming to children.

11.15 am

LATE MORNING WORSAUS

A more flexible and varied service, which includes Holy Communion about once a month. The music includes traditional hydrons as well as contemporary Christian songs. A small and welcoming congregation with some provision for children.

6.00 pm

A traditional service of Evering (BCP) with sermon, choir, hymns and Anglican chant for Psalms and Q

WEDNESDAYS AT

10.15

HOLY COMMUNION

A said serve of Holy Communion (CW) followed by coffee and the opportunity for fellowship. Once a month we are joined by a class from St Michael's Church School and once a term the service takes place in the school.

DENWICK VILLAGE CHAPEL

A small chapel-of-ease built by the Duke of Northumberland in 1872

11.15 am on the Second Sunday of the month.

MATINS OR HOLY COMMUNION

*CW – Common Worship, BCP – Book of Common Prayer (1662)

For more information on St Michael's please visit our website at www.alnwickanglican.com

From the Vicar

St. Michael's Vicarage Alnwick

Dear People of Alnwick,

As I write this letter the news is not good.

Northumberland, along with the rest of the North East, is now under a scheme of restrictions in a bid to halt further transmission of Coronavirus. Other areas in a similar situation include parts of the North West, West Yorkshire and the Midlands and today (20th September) the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, has said that, if people do not comply with the restrictions, then a tougher regime will be introduced.

The thinking behind the restrictions is fourfold:

- To control the spread of the virus
- To prevent the most vulnerable from becoming infected
- To protect the National Health Service
- To save lives.

The possibility of a national two-week mini lockdown to act as a "circuit breaker" is already being considered — just as people seem to be beginning to recover from the previous lockdown which began in March and didn't end until July.

We are seeing a wide variety of reactions and every possible opinion is being aired. Many of the opinions are coming from well-informed professionals and academics (though they don't always agree) whilst most of the more extreme reactions appear to be less well researched.

The truth of the matter is that the world — relying heavily on the best advice available — continues to try and deal rationally with a situation it has never experienced before. People continue to be very seriously ill and Covid-related deaths are still taking place each day.

So what might we do as we go about our restricted daily lives here in Alnwick.

Continued on page 5

Principal Readings for this month

Date Sunday Principal Service

(Holy Communion, or a Service of The Word)

4th October Deuteronomy 8:7-18 or 28:1-14

Harvest 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Thanksgiving Matthew 21: 33-46

11th October Isaiah 25:1-9 18th Sunday Philippians 4:1-9 after Trinity Matthew 22:1-14

18th October Isaiah 35:3-6 or Acts 16:6-12a

Luke 2 Timothy 4:5-17
The Evangelist Luke 10:1-9

Transferred from Monday 19th

25th October Leviticus 19:1-2 &15-18 Last Sunday 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 after Trinity Matthew 22: 34-46

Family of God

Funerals May the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory

18th September Joan Kerr

Well, firstly, we must try to honour the restrictions – however difficult and frustrating that may be.

Secondly we must remember that our God is the God who created order out of chaos, light out of darkness and continue to trust in his love for us as he walks with us through unknown and, at times, frightening days.

Perhaps our daily prayer might be:

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, lead thou me on; the night is dark, and I am far from home; lead thou me on.

Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see

The distant scene; one step enough for me.

(John Henry Newman 1801-1890)

With every blessing,

Paul.

More Streamed Worship from St Michael's

Occasional worship will be offered to complement what's already happening on Sunday mornings. It will be varied in form and use the gifts of lots of different people and material from different traditions.

The first one is planned to stream via Youtube on Sunday 25th October, at 4pm, followed by an optional Zoom conversation.

Details of both will be on the Church Website (www.alnwickanglican.com)

Please contact Sue Allen on 07724 079885 if you would like more information.

Thought for the Month

AFTER I had been accepted for Ordination, I had to find a theological college who would train me. As part of this process, I had to write about what I hoped to achieve during training. Though I cannot remember most of what I wrote about, I do remember this: I wanted to get my head around the Holy Trinity, whilst understanding and being able to relate to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit separately,

I wanted to see how to hold all together, God as Holy Trinity. This had come to be particularly prescient, as in speaking with a Muslim, talking about how Judaism, Islam and Christianity believed in the same One God, he had challenged me by saying "but Christians do not. You believe in three Gods: God. Jesus, Holy Spirit". This is a stumbling block for many people, whatever their background. I certainly reached a deeper understanding at college, the Holy Trinity became alive and real for me in a way I had never experienced before, but the Holy Trinity still remains something that can be very elusive to hold on to for all of us and hard to explain to others.

'...the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us', the incarnation, the sacred at the very centre of the secular is at the heart of our faith. My Grandfather was Russian and Leem to have in my DNA a feeling for Russian Orthodox spirituality, where the incarnation is powerfully central. Therefore when my home parish asked what they could buy for me as an ordination present, I asked for a painted icon of 'The Hospitality of Abraham' by Andrei Rubley. This icon of the Holy Trinity (approx. 1425 A.D.) is seen as the crown of Russian Orthodox spirituality. probably the most famous icon of all. It became a helpful and scary focus for meditation/prayer for me during training, as in this particular icon,



Icon: The Hospitality of Abraham by Andrei Rublev

each of us, a child of God, is invited to step forward into the space left for us in the front of the circle, to be enfolded in the never ending circle of love of the Holy Trinity.

An icon is not a picture. What a western mind and eye understands by picture, and what the eastern Orthodox Christian understands by icon are totally different. In Russian Orthodox spirituality God is revealed, not only by words to the ears, but by images to the eyes as well. Christ is not only 'the Word (Logos) of God', but also 'the image (eikon) of the unseen God'.

When the icon painter sits down to work, he or she is bound to follow strict rules, and with skill and paints, intends to open a window for us to the Divine. The most important preparation for painting an icon is prayer; every stroke of the paint-brush is prayed onto canvas, sometimes with a particular recipient in mind. The copy of the icon painted for me was painted in Poland. It is a very precious gift, and remains a significant way into prayer for me.

How does this icon, portraying Abraham entertaining three strangers (Genesis 18: v's 1-15), represent the Holy Trinity? I will explain more about this icon in the next Gateway, but for the moment, see this as an invitation to step into the circle, into the loving space specially prepared for you.

Natasha Schemanoff

Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia

Ordinary Christians (continued)

Do I have to read the Bible?

Of course you do! If you received a letter from the Queen I bet you'd open it and read it avidly. You wouldn't leave it unopened in its envelope and put it away in a bookcase in case you ever did feel like reading it.

So if you have a (rather long) message from the King of the Universe you should at least read some of it. People have given their lives so that we could have the Bible freely available in our own language.

Of course in former times few people could read. Early Bibles in English were put in church on stands called lecterns, so that someone who was literate could read aloud to other people. We still have lecterns in most churches bearing open Bibles, usually big ones. They had to be large so that people could read them easily without glasses and in dim light.

Isn't it difficult to understand?

Some of it is. The writer G K Chesterton, who was a Roman Catholic, was once asked "Are you worried by the parts of the bible you can't understand?" and replied, "I am more worried by the parts I can understand!" There is plenty in the Bible which is perfectly clear: enough to be going on with, and there are books called "Commentaries" which help with difficult parts.

What should I read?

It is probably best not to try to read straight through it at first, although I know people who have done so. Start off with one of the four Gospels which tell the story of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John). Mark is the shortest and can be read through at one sitting if you wish, but it is probably better to take it more slowly. They say there are two ways to read the Bible: in small sips, like drinking fine wine, or in large gulps, like drinking beer. It is actually good to use both methods, sometimes reading just a verse or two, and thinking deeply about it, and sometimes reading a longer passage where it is telling a connected story.

Why are there different versions?

The Bible was written in ancient languages, mainly Hebrew and Greek, and it has been translated into hundreds of modern languages. Because what we have in English is a translation, it gets out of date. Shakespeare's plays

were written in what was up-to-date English at the time, and now they seem old-fashioned, but we accept them as they are because we know they are meant to be like that. But the Bible was not originally written in old-fashioned English and there is no need to keep to the Authorised Version, for example, which was produced in 1611, when there are many later translations, or versions, which are clearer, and which have the advantage of greater knowledge about the originals.

If you are buying yourself a new Bible, have a look at the recent versions in any decent book shop. Some are deliberately made easy to read and understand, like the Good News Bible, although that may mean that some accuracy has had to be sacrificed. Others, like the New Revised Standard Version, which is what we use in church, manage to combine sufficient modern clarity with good scholarship. This version, and other recent ones, are in what is called 'inclusive language', so that they refer to 'people' instead of just 'men', and 'brothers and sisters' instead of 'brethren' as in older versions. If this appeals to you make sure you get one of these later versions.

The Bible

Find the Contents page near the front and look at the list of Books. There are 66 in all, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The books are of different kinds, written by many different people over hundreds of years. The Old Testament is the Bible of the Jewish people and the New Testament is the part written since the birth of Jesus. Since early times the Bible has been divided into chapters and verses. (Five books are so short they are not divided into chapters.) References to a particular verse are normally given as Book; chapter; verse, so that John 3.16 means "the sixteenth verse of the third chapter of the Gospel of St John." As a refinement, if a verse has more than one sentence in it a letter "a" or "b" may be added to the reference to indicate the first or second part of the verse.

Bible reading plans

There are a number of Bible reading plans which you can look at in a Christian book shop or find on the internet. Typically they are produced as booklets covering three months or so, which suggest a reading for each day, with some helpful notes and guidance. They are a valuable aid, so long as you actually read the Bible passage, and not just the notes! It is helpful to have a plan of what to read, as well as explanations to aid understanding.

To be continued Colin Perkins

have a friend who is an avid 'twitcher'. When she goes birdwatching, she takes 5 balaclavas (or should it be balaclavae??) with her — one for her neck, one for her head, two to sit on and a spare. She kindly gave me this pattern — old-fashioned, I know, but very warm to wear and might help to keep you safe.

elp to Joan D.

Balaclava To fit an adult . If you are clever, you may be able to adapt this for a child

Double knitting yarn (washable because of Health & Safety for COVID19) Size 8 needles

Cast on 80 sts. Loosely

Rib 35-40 rows

Work 8 rows (garter st or stocking st)

Leave 6 sts at each end of the row on a safety pin or stitch-holder.

On the remaining 68 sts, work 48 rows.

Next row: work 48 sts, turn.

Next row: work 27 sts, knit 2 tog, turn

Repeat the last row until all side stitches are worked in. (28 stitches)

Leave these on a stitch-holder, break yarn.

Starting at one end, knit one set of retained 6 stitches, pick up and knit approx. 40 stitches up one side, knit across the 28 on stitch-holder, pick up and knit approx 40 from the other side, then knit the remaining 6 set of stitches. (approx 120 stitches).

NOTE: it is important for comfort NOT to skimp on the number picked up.

Rib 8-12 rows. Cast off loosely rib-wise.

Join the short sides

After all these years

POR A change folks -just a glimmer of good news.

To anyone who remembers, or has read about St Michael's choirboys (The Reivers Boys Club) working very hard in the late 1960s to dig up parts of a crashed Flying Fortress and then erect a memorial to the crew — so they made a plinth on West Hill, and put in a bent propeller blade, with the bent part pointing towards the site of the crash.

Sadly after a couple of weeks when they returned - the plinth had been wrecked and the propeller blade stolen by a person or persons unknown.

It was never recovered - until this year (maybe)...

St Michael's received an email in June of this year, from a Police Staff Investigator (based in Harrogate), asking if any of St Michael's parishioners could recall the Reivers erecting the memorial, or could give any help with the details. It seems that they (the Police) have recovered, from a house in Yorkshire a large quantity of items from WWII crash sites around the country and a Flying Fortress propeller was one of the items.

I replied via email and then telephone identifying myself as the widow of the Reivers leader (the late Billy Dunn) and suggested that they contact Kelvin Taylor because he was there, helping with the recovery and erecting of the propeller.

The case is still ongoing, but two policemen have been to see Kelvin and will keep him informed. Eventually the blade will be returned. So, for anyone who remembers or was there at the time, and much saddened by what happened -it's such good news after all these years!



Joan Dunn



HospiceCare North Northumberland is delighted to confirm that their charity shops in Amble, Wooler and Berwick are now open for business and are back to generating much-needed funds for their clinical services, which are delivered free at the point of need to people living in North Northumberland, who wish to die at home rather than in a hospital setting.

Kelly Burton, Central Support Manager said "We would like to reassure our customers that our shops are a safe place to visit, and that we have followed all Government guidelines to make the shopping experience as safe and enjoyable as possible. We currently have slightly reduced opening hours to allow the shop to be sanitised at the end of each day. We also have a limit on the number of customers in our shop at any one time and ask customers to pay by card where possible please. Donations are being accepted at all shops and need to be dropped off at the back door."

Julie Frost, Marketing & Communications Officer said "Our shops are a vital source of income that contributes directly towards the delivery of our specialist Hospice at



Home and Family/Bereavement Support services to people living in North Northumberland. Our nursing team continue to receive daily referrals from the local District Nurses, social services and Macmillan and continue to work every day on the frontline to ensure that our communities get the care and support they need, particularly at the end of their life. We know from the lovely feedback we have received from local families, that we have been able to make a real difference in our communities. It's vital that we have the funds to be able to continue to deliver our specialist care and support and our shops are an integral part of that income for us.

"We have always felt blessed by the support given from people in our communities and have seen that support as a partnership. It's that continued partnership that that will get us through the next few months and beyond. Please support our shops, we have missed you and very much look forward to welcoming you back."

Full details of shop opening hours can be found on www.hospicecare-nn.org.uk or email: enquiries@hospicecare-nn.org.uk.

Julie Frost Marketing & Communications Officer T. 01665 606515 M. 07810 803329

ANSWERS Thank you to all of you who took part in this quiz which I did for a bit of fun and to raise money for **Angel Tree** — a way in in which Prison Fellowship gives prisoners the opportunity to send a Christmas gift to their children including a personal message written by the prisoner which makes the gift extra special.

The winner of a donated £10 M&S gift voucher was Mrs. Joanne Couchman. We have raised £725 so far which is wonderful. If anyone else would like to contribute, I can still send money in to PRISON FELLOWSHIP (who you make the payment out to on a cheque) or cash. Thank you all for your support in any way.

Rachel Robinson.

PLACES IN NORTHUMBERLAND AND TYNE & WEAR

 Gloved crossing (7) 	MITFORD
Queen's jersey source (6)	WOOLER
3. Field entrances' boss (9)	GATESHEAD
4. " and multiply!"	(8) GOSFORTH
5. Cattle crossing (6)	OXFORD
6. Dig-in anger (8)	ROTHBURY
7. Cycling grind (6,4)	RIDING MILL
8. Saintly Isle (11)	LINDISFARNE
9. Tidy your hair with this (5)	ACOMB
10.Badger weir (8)	BROCKDAM
11.George's surname? (10)	WASHINGTON
12.Blind man's stick (5,4)	GUIDE POST
13. Fishing for a worm? Look out! (ref: Geordie folk-song)	LAMBTON
14.Centre weight. (9)	MIDDLETON
15.Trip Erica! ((7)	FELLING
16.Cooling pork (11)	CHILLINGHAM
17.Steeper road (7)	MORPETH
18.Ref stops play (11)	HALTWHISTLE
19.Cattle's grazing place. (11)	STOCKSFIELD
20.March boxer's wish (8)	HAREHOPE
21.No gate! (8)	WIDE OPEN
22.Grain tor (8)	CORNHILL
23.Margaret's trees (8)	PEGSWOOD
24.Deer on fire (8)	HARTBURN
25.North German - canal port & the (7) KIELDER	

It's important to me...

HERE AM I; send me" (Hebrew hinneni Isaiah 6:8). For most of my professional life I have been engaged with the study of the Old Testament and how it has been understood and influenced those who have read it and reflected upon the verses over the years. I have had a particular interest in the Book of Isaiah — known since ancient times by Christians as The Fifth Gospel — and this focus has led me down some inspiring paths and to many life-enhancing encounters.

From early on in my life, even though I followed in my father's and grandfather's footsteps by becoming ordained. I had started to realize that where I should "be sent" was probably not going to be a traditional parish. After some time studying at home and a pastoral role for the Church of Scotland in Jerusalem, I began academic life first in Glasgow, and then Newcastle University. In this role and especially in these geographical places I was able to be involved in Interfaith relations and develop friendships and respectful explorations of difference especially with Jews in Newcastle and also representatives of Islam. Over the years I have explored these verses with many students and have learned to listen to the meanings behind the words.

For instance I find it particularly interesting that later in Isaiah it is "the Lord our God, king of the universe" that repeats these words "Here am I" three times (52:6; 58:9; 65:1) suggesting that, even if we initially ignore him and turn our backs on him, and pretend we haven't heard him and even put our hands over our ears and try to keep him out, he will persist and ensure we eventually get the message "Look I'm over here, I am at your disposal if you need me. I will do anything for you."

The third divine *Hinneni* "here I am" is even more striking as it is accompanied by what one commentary calls an "extraordinary gesture", like someone waving to a friend. Christian commentators have compared this image to that of the father in the parable, opening his arms to welcome the prodigal son home, while others interpret the words as spoken by Jesus, his hands stretched out on the Cross

Once our Christian journey starts, when we initially hear and respond to that call, we don't know where it will lead, the challenges and temptations we will face as we move forward, and there will be times we are weary and just want to sit down and rest — and we need to remember that no-one else can make our journey for us and we will receive the grace to carry on.

John Sawyer

Growing old without growing up

Something funny happened to me last month, but at the time it wasn't funny.

I have to wear reading specs these days, and all of a sudden mine became useless—I was very worried and was on the point of making an urgent appointment to have my eyes re-tested. Then one evening, I saw a pair of specs on the floor under my computer chair at home Picked them up and put them on—and suddenly my eyesight was back to what it had been. Yes, you have probably guessed—I had been trying to work with an old pair. Oh dear—next time I will make sure that my newest specs are a different colour!

Just one more example, I suppose of encroaching years. I hope, that as I get older, I can stay like my dear old Mam: one Christmas morning (at about 3am) we were kept awake by giggling, rumbling noises and squeak-squeak squeak! There, in the room where the presents were, she couldn't wait for the morning, had got up and opened her gift from us and, in her nightie but without her hearing aid, was pushing the wooden wheelbarrow up and down the floor!

I am printing out part of a prayer/poem by David Kossoff*, in which he talks about old age.

The first two lines are I have been giving thought, Lord—you have a minute? - to getting old

And the last verse is

So, Lord, please, keep me young in the mind. Let me enjoy, Lord, let me enjoy.

If creaky I must be, and many spectacled, and morning stiff and food-careful, If trembly-handed and slow moving, and breath-short and head-noddy, I won't complain. Not a word.

If, with your help, dear Friend, there will dwell in this ancient monument, A Young Mind. Please, Lord.

*'You have a minute, Lord?' A sort of a prayer book by David Kossoff

JDD



OCTOBER HAS only two Red-letter days but a number of other observances significant to our part of the world.

On 18th is St Luke's day, He wrote the Gospel and also the book of Acts of the Apostles, and may have been the only non-Jewish writer in the Bible. He is described by Paul as 'the Physician' and accordingly is the patron saint of doctors, and also of artists, as he is reputed to have visited Mary in her old age and painted her portrait, showing her in a blue gown.

Simon and Jude, Apostles, are celebrated on 28th. They are linked by the apocryphal 'Passion of Simon and Jude which tells of their preaching and martyrdom in Persia.

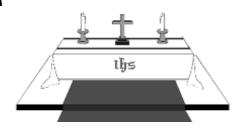
Paulinus was sent to England by Pope Gregory to reinforce the mission of Augustine of Canterbury, and carried out his mission largely in Northumbria. He was the first Bishop of York.

Wilfrid was educated at the monastery on Lindisfarne but adopted the Roman system instead of the Celtic church's ways, prevailing in this respect at the Synod of Whitby in 644.

And two kings: Alfred the Great, king of the West Saxons when Northumbria was under Danish rule, on 26th, and Edward the Confessor, king of England, who began Westminster Abbey and died in 1066.

Colin Perkins





A Pedant's Rant

WHAT HAS happened to some of our words? The word **persuaded** seems to be replaced by **convinced** – 'he convinced me to do something'.

Sitting by sat: 'He was sat on a chair'.

What has happened to **proved**? It seems to have become **Proven** which I thought was only used in the Scottish verdict of not proven.

And why do so many speakers on the radio start every reply with **So** ... or sometimes, **I mean** ...?

Colin Perkins

Smile Good news from around the world

Billie McCurrie was twelve years old when his father was shot and killed by the IRA. At sixteen, full of bitterness and hatred, he joined a loyalist paramilitary organisation and went on to kill one of its members who was believed to be an informer. At seventeen he began a life sentence in the Maze prison for the murder. All the while that he was in prison the daughter of the women who was engaged to the man he had shot prayed for him. Other prisoners, as well as prison guards, were Christians and their influence, along with that of one particular prison visitor, brought about a complete transformation in his life one Christmas Eve.

On leaving prison after 10 years he trained to become a Christian minister.

If you are interested in hearing Mr McCurrie's story first hand, please search 'Billie McCurrie testimony' where you will find many You Tube interviews and websites about him.

Sue Wiltshire

Calendar of Events

Wednesdays 10.15 am Holy Communion in Church,

with social distancing

Please note that you must wear a mask or face-covering

Sat 10th October 'Prayer for Alnwick' by zoom meeting

Please note that all other events have had to be postponed because of Government restrictions. Hopefully these will restart when the pandemic is under control.

Tuesdays 3.00 pm Julian Group for Contemplative Prayer in

St Catherine's Chapel

Thursdays 1.00 pm 'Places of Welcome' at the Community

Centre

Thursdays during term time

9.30 am Mini Michaels in church

7.00 pm Rock Solid Youth Group at Alnwick

Methodist Chapel

2nd Wednesday of each month

2.00 pm Mothers' Union in church

Saturday -once a month

11.00 am Messy Church in St Michael's

Wednesday once a month

7.30 pm Baptism Preparation in Church

Parish Information

VICAR

The Rev'd Canon Paul Scott 01665 603078 St Michael's Vicarage

St Michael's Vicarage

Howling Lane, Alnwick, NE66 1DH Email: paulscott1957@bfinternet.com

The Vicar's day off is Friday and Gerard's day off is Monday. They would be glad to be spared all but the most urgent matters on these days

CURATE

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CLERGY WITH PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

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The Rev'd Gilly Maude 01665 603460
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The Rev'd Martin Roff 01665 602207
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Vacant

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or joan.d.dunn@btinternet.com

MOTHERS' UNION

Meets in church at 2.00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month from March to

December Branch Leader

Val. Hawker 01665 602348

(Mobile) 07732431056

BAPTISMS

Currently not available Until further notice COMMUNION

for the SICK and HOUSEBOUND

can be arranged by contacting The Vicar 01665 603078

Or

Pat Taylor 01665 603811

For more information on St Michael's, please visit our website at www.alnwickanglican.com

To hire the PARISH HALL
Phone Mariana on 075624188837 or email bookstmichael@gmail.com





Staying Connected during this pandemic

At the Cathedral

https://www.newcastle.anglican.org/coronavirus/ live_streaming/

Newcastle Cathedral ministry team

https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleCathedral/Facebook live stream of morning prayer led from home by one of the ministry team daily Monday to Friday at 8.30 am

https://tinyurl.com/NclCathedral

Subscribe to their channel on YouTube for notifications of the Daily Reflections (also Monday to Friday)

At St Michael's Alnwick

Thanks to the easing of some CoronaVirus restrictions, St Michael's Church is now open for private prayer (with social distancing and hygiene measures in place) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10.00 am-12.00 pm, and Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 2.00 pm-4.00 pm. Please come by to spend some time in prayer in our beloved building.

From 10.00 am on Sundays, There is now a Worship Service in church, which is streamed at the same time so that those who are unable to be in church, can watch at home at the same time, , or can watch later. as online worship which is available on the website, and on our YouTube channel. This will allow us to maintain our communal Christian life without compromising health and wellbeing. Social distancing and hygiene measure are in place. This may be a said Holy Communion service, or a Service of The Word.

Following the service, at 10:30 am, we enjoy a virtual get together over coffee, via Zoom. If you would like to join us for this, please email Andrew Duff on duffandrew@btinternet.com for the meeting ID, password, or for any questions about using Zoom.

In addition to this, we also have some groups meeting for fellowship and to pray Compline together on weekday evenings via Zoom — if you would like to know more about these or join in, please contact our Curate, the Rev'd Gerard Rundell (rev.g.rundell@gmail.com).

Copies of 'The Gateway' can usually be obtained in St Michael's Church or ordered for delivery in this version or large print

The Parish Office 602797 (Thursdays, or leave a message)

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Church of England nor of the editorial committee

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