

The Newsletter of St.Giles', Newcastle, with St.Thomas', Butterson.  
Price 50p. or a voluntary donation

February 2023

# Parish News

**Events  
For All!  
Pages  
4 & 5**



# Feast

then  
**Fast**



**What's On  
& Gone**

**Important  
Diary Dates**

**Beetle  
Drive**

**Newcastle  
News**

## Clergy

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Revd Peter Nisbeck      Revd Ann Taylor

Revd Dr. David Beedon

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Mob: 07591 055287

Dennis Brammer available on:

Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

Gillian Elks available on:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.

Parish Administrator: Mrs. P. Richards

Email: office.stgilesnewcastle@gmail.com or phone: 07592 035386

## Rev Ann Taylor writes.....



As we approach February and maybe the signs of spring will soon be around us. In the Christian year we see 2nd February, Candlemas the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which is the very end of 40 days of the Christmas season and on 22nd February, we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with its 40 days of penitence and prayer. I hope that, if you haven't already, you will look to doing something special for God during these forty days of Lent, a Lent book, or may be the Lent course starting on Thursday 2nd March or the Enquirers course 2nd 9th 16th March at 6 pm to prepare for our journey through Lent.

February can be a raw and cold month but there is always the promise of spring. I love to walk around Westport Lake and at this time of year it is a cacophony of noise with the various bird sounds, quacks and hoots as the birds try to find the best places to build their nests. I love to watch them, the swans with the nest of many years ago, it just gets higher, the coots who build platforms on branches in the water, adding to the height with stick after stick and sometimes their nest getting washed away but always they rebuild, always they need to have a safe spot to lay eggs, brood their clutch and rear their young. Often you are not aware of a nest until proud mum brings her babies on the water. Endless enjoyment and a cup of coffee at the end. A favourite Lent prayer asks that God will send a springtime in our lives at Lent. And as we see the nesting birds, the new life, let us begin again, with our new experiences and new journeys with God.

How can we open ourselves to God, well these weeks of Christian growth in the Sunday's before Lent and in Lent itself give us a great opportunity to see your faith in a new way. There are plenty of Lent books about and many are a great encouragement to growing our faith and we if we can there is a very good book out by Timothy Keller, called "Forgive' Why should I? and How can I?", sounds interesting doesn't it. We are intending to give out a booklet a couple of weeks before Ash Wednesday which will encourage us to read a regular section of St Mark's gospel every day, with prayer and self-examination.

I would encourage you as a year long discipline to re-read our readings, they are printed on our memo. See where you can see God leading you, did you agree with the preacher in their explanation of the text?. Do you take your memo home? Please do, pray the collect, its printed on the front, pray for the situations and the people who are named in the memo. Let us each have a springtime in our lives and in our faith this coming Lent and now is the time to plan your response to the pilgrim journey of Lent and let it not be just giving up biscuits and sweets. Let it be a real rebuilding of your faith, a real walk with Jesus through the difficult forty days.

Give yourself a little time to plan your Lenten campaign, may you find yourselves in a very exciting place as you see and hear what God wants you to do. Look deep into the scriptures, enjoy your Lent book (although, if it's really good you'll finish in a week and if it isn't you may have to get another). Like those feathered friends building and rebuilding their nests, we too sometimes need to get back to rebuilding the basics of our Christian faith and grow and sometime go back to the beginning and rebuild and see where God is leading us. So February, when we begin with Candlemas and see Simeon and Anna in the temple with the infant Jesus and hear their great words of faith, to Ash Wednesday, when we begin to walk with Jesus on the way to the cross so that, following our Lenten journey, we will grow as Christians and follow him where ever he may lead us, and do what he calls us to do. Our Lent should open our eyes to what the Lord God has done for us and what we can do for him.

As the days lengthen and the earth spends longer in the light of day. May we spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord. May the seeds of your word which have been long buried within us, grow like everything around us, into love for you and love for other people, a visible declaration of your lordship in our lives. Grant Lord that there may be a springtime in our lives this Lent. Amen

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*FRONT COVER: Purple (or violet), symbolises repentance and penance during Lent. Feast on Shrove Tuesday, (traditionally pancakes), ready for fasting during the 40 days of Lent, (forego that tasty piece of cake or chocolate).*

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## Inside This issue ...

	Page
Rev Ann Taylor writes .....	2
Bits & Pieces .....	3
A Thought For The Month .....	3
From The Editor .....	3
What's On: February / March .....	4
What's On: March .....	5
What's Gone: December 2022 .....	6
What's Gone: Café Carols .....	7
Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday .....	8
Lent .....	9
Fellowship Group .....	9
Mission 2021 Statistics .....	10
The unlikely Patron Saint .....	10
Academy Activities .....	11
Take-a-Break .....	12
Keep Them In Your Prayers .....	12
Newcastle News .....	13
More Newcastle News .....	14
Newcastle News continued .....	15
Regular Activities .....	15
Take-A-Break Answers .....	16
Next Issue Closing Date .....	16
February Calendars .....	16

### From the Editor....

Welcome to our February issue, an issue which features events and Services taking place at both of our churches. As usual they would greatly value your support and our 'What's On' pages, (4 & 5) give details of dates and times etc.

It's a busy month ahead including Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and the first days of Lent, all of which are featured in this issue.

For those readers who are missing our 'The Good Shepherd' series, it is hoped to continue it again next month.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this issue and please remember that articles and photo's are always welcome.

Michael Pitstow

### A thought for the Month

There is nothing round the corner which is beyond God's view. - J Charles Stern.

## Bits & Pieces

### Friday Coffee Shop

The St.Giles Friday Community Project is now the Friday Coffee Shop. It runs from 9am to 3pm every week but there will continue to be different teams for the morning coffee shop and the lunchtime coffee shop. Hot drinks, toast, teacakes and possibly cake are available to purchase in the morning, and a free light lunch.

Gill Elks and Chris Taylor would like to hear from you if you feel able or if you know someone who is looking to volunteer their time and might be willing to help with the lunchtime activity please. The more helpers we have the better it will be for everyone.

◆ It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of congregation member Maureen Basford at the age of 84. Maureen went to school in the 'old' St.Giles & St George's building near Nelson Place and helped *Parish News* to produce a series of articles to mark its move to its new site on Orme Road. God rest her soul.

◆ Just a reminder from our Parish Administrator, Penny Richards, that her new working hours are -

Monday 9am to 1pm Tuesday 9am to 12pm  
Wednesday 1pm to 4pm



Visit our website:-

<http://www.stgilesnewcastle.org.uk/>

for links to -

Parish News (on-line edition)

Youtube (Service videos)

Facebook

Facebook Families page

For those with no internet access, a number of printed copies of *Parish News* are available. Please contact our Parish Administrator.

# What's On: February / March



*St Thomas' Church, Butterson*

## *QUIZ with PIE supper*

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

7.00pm

*At St Giles' Church*

**£10**

Tea /coffee provided, bring own drinks

Admission by ticket only available

from Sue Taylor (07980150281).

Teams of 6 maximum

Numbers limited so please purchase early.



## **A day in the Life of an Optician**

By Andrew Brammer

**Wednesday  
February 1st  
2.00pm**

**Admission £1**

**ALL WELCOME!**

**See page 9**

# **Mega Mini-Market Sale**

Don't miss our  
Mini-Market  
MEGA Spring Sale

**Saturday March 4th  
11am-2pm**

**In St.Giles Church hall.**

**Sale of existing stock  
many bargains!**

**Refreshments available.**

## **Shrove Tuesday (Feb 21st.) 6.30pm Beetle Drive**

**in St.Giles Church Hall**

**Bring your own light  
refreshments for the  
interval**

**Tea and coffee available**

**Financial contributions  
towards Church expenses**

**will be gratefully received on the night.**

**Please let Revd Peter know if you are coming.**



## **St Thomas' Open Mornings**

10am -12 noon on the 2nd & 4th Saturday

Enjoy the peace of Butterson & light refreshments





# What's On: March



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am**

**St Giles' Church**

## **Auction of goods and promises**

All proceeds in aid of St Thomas and St Giles churches

Viewing Friday 6.00-7.30pm and

morning of sale from 9.00am

**Drinks and refreshments on sale**

To donate contact Chris on 07517637272

Items can also be received during the Friday viewing

## **Auction of goods and promises**

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March the churches of St Giles and St Thomas are holding an auction in St Giles Church Hall to raise money for the ongoing costs of running the 2 buildings. We are looking for donated items (nothing very heavy!) and/or promises to make something (eg. a bird box/ a cake or maybe offer a service for someone eg. cutting the grass for 2 sessions.)

Items can be brought into St Giles before the event or on the viewing evening on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 6.00-7.30. The auction will start at 10.30 on the Saturday and viewing is also available on the morning of the sale from 9.00..

Refreshments will be available on the morning of the sale.

Items to be donated can be entered on forms at the back of the churches.

For enquiries please contact Chris Taylor on 07517637272 or e-mail: [chris\\_5959@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris_5959@hotmail.co.uk)

## **March Diary Dates**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Enquirers Course 6pm**

(Not 2nd Feb!! as put in the Jan mag)

(1st of 3 (9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March))

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Lent Course 7.30pm**

1<sup>st</sup> of 5 (9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>)

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March: Mini-Market Mega sale 11am to 2pm**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 3pm:**

Burgesses Civic Service for the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March: Bible Study** also on 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March: 10.30am Auction** - See above.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March: 10.00am**

Christian Aid Walk (Tittesworth) - See right.

### **2023 Christian Aid Sponsored Walk. Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>.**

The walk will be at Tittesworth Reservoir, starting at 10.00am.

Please put this date in your diary and consider coming along to enjoy a lovely walk in the beautiful countryside. Dogs are very welcome.

Sponsor forms and more details will be available soon.

If you would like to be involved in any way, or have any suggestions for making the walk better, or want more information please contact Janet Iwanicki 01782 630069.

Now more than ever Christian Aid needs your help and support.

# What's Gone: December 2022



## **Newcastle MP Aaron Bell visits the Coffee Shop**

*Above & left:* On Friday December 16th, 2022, our local MP, Aaron Bell, visited our Friday Coffee Shop. He met with the Rector and organisers, and also visited the stalls.

Aaron has recently been re-adopted by Newcastle Conservatives as their candidate for the next General Election.



## **The Light of Christ**

*Below:* Our Civic carol service on December 18th was well attended. Our thanks to Rev Peter Nisbeck and the choir for all their hard work and to all those who helped with the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.





# What's Gone: Café Carols



The Rector and members of the St. Giles choir raised £244.72 for the Alice charity over the two day event, singing carols in various Newcastle establishments just before Christmas.

Thank you to all those who took part including Gordon the Town Crier and Alex for their musical contribution.

*Thanks to Dennis Brammer for the pictures and details. - Ed.*



# Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

21st Feb: Shrove Tuesday,  
Pancake Day

**E**ver wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

22nd Feb: Ash Wednesday,  
mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in

sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

## The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

Items from the *Parish Pump*



Lent begins on Wednesday, 22 February and ends on Thursday, 6 April. Parish Pump writer, The Ven John Barton, considers what you need to remember when you pray during Lent.

## Some hints about prayer this Lent

Prayer is instinctive for human beings, even those who don't regard themselves as religious. You are standing at a bus stop in the wind and the rain, thinking 'I do hope the bus will come soon'. It's an inner yearning. It defies logic: either the bus is coming, or it isn't. But we all do it. It's instinctive and it's the raw material of prayer. Hoping for something better is basic. Like all instincts, it needs to be trained.

To whom do we pray? What you pray, and the way you do it will be shaped by your view of God. Christian prayers are fashioned by what we know of Jesus and what He taught about prayer.

We pray by invitation. Again and again, Jesus encouraged His companions to pray. A couple of His parables on the subject have been misinterpreted as instructions to persuade a resistant God to do what we want. Have a look at Luke 18, verses 1-8, about a widow whose perseverance finally persuaded an unwilling judge to rule in her favour. The lesson is that God is not like that! Similarly, an unwelcome neighbour who persistently calls for help in the middle of the night gets what he wants (Luke 11:5-13). The lesson? If tenacious lobbying can overcome human unwillingness, how much more our gracious God will heed His children's cry.

Pushing at an open door. Jesus is already praying for us. So, when we start to pray, we step on to an already moving staircase. Sometimes prayer seems tougher than it need be. Jesus invited us to be linked to Him, in the way an inexperienced bullock is yoked to a mature ox. Have a look at Matthew 11:28-29, which concludes "for my yoke is easy and my burden is light". When Marion Bartoli unexpectedly won the 2013 Women's Wimbledon final, she said "I believe if you put all your heart and effort into everything you are doing, then God is there to help you."

Is your prayer on the right lines? Try adding "for Christ's sake" at the end. "Please let my marrow win the Gardening Club competition"? No. "Not my will but yours" is the key. So when praying, don't give God instructions, just report for duty.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

We had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, with lots of delicious food and good company.

It's time now for new beginnings - I don't make New Year resolutions as they would be broken before the end of the month!! Not a good time to step on the scales either, but it's now time to get back to sensible eating and look forward to the new year ahead.

Our first Fellowship group meeting of 2023 is on Wednesday 1st February at 2.00pm in the Church hall. Our Speaker is Andrew Brammer and his talk is entitled, "A day in the life of an optician".

All are very welcome and admission is only £1 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards.

We look forward to welcoming you to hear this interesting talk.

Wendy Burke

## Lent

*The monk, within his monastery,  
The ploughman and the lord;  
Would keep the Lent time patiently  
And keep a simple board.*

*Rich food nor meat could touch their lip  
Just plain and simple fare;  
Dried bread in sauce they could not dip –  
Or face the Parson's glare!*

*Today, such things don't tend to be  
We've left them in the past!  
Just those within that monastery  
Who keep the Lenten fast.*

*But all should come to love anew  
The treasured time of Lent  
And spend more time with Father, who  
Rewards such time well spent!*

## Statistics for Mission 2021 published

Attendance at Church of England parishes rose sharply in 2021, compared to 2020, but continued to be affected by Covid measures, new statistics from the Church of England show.

Average weekly attendance, which includes Sundays and midweek attendance, grew to 605,000 in 2021 compared to 345,000 in 2020. But it was lower than in 2019, when average weekly attendance stood at 854,000 people. The number of baptisms and weddings grew in 2021 compared to 2020, with 26,500 marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage and 55,200 baptisms or thanksgiving services for a child.

Many churches continued to provide 'church at home' services in 2021, offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means amid a range of Covid restrictions.

It comes as separate figures show the number of people praying online has continued to grow sharply over the past year with downloads of the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio at 3.2 million so far in 2022 – 62% higher than 2021 when it was launched. Total downloads now stand at 5.2 million.

Daily Prayer audio – across the Daily Prayer podcast and app – has now reached more than 1.1 million unique listeners.

Meanwhile, figures from the Church of England's digital channels show that social media content – prayers, Bible verses, reflection content, good news stories and encouragement – have been seen more than 65 million times this year so far.

This amounts to approximately 1.3 million impressions per week, with content seen roughly 190,000 times a day.

And the Church of England's national online service averages around 150,000 views a week, with an average of 300 written comments a week from regular online worshipping communities.

The summary adds: "The pandemic continued to have an impact on the life of the Church of England, with some churches being closed for worship for parts of 2021 and some members of congregations continuing not to attend in-person services. This report indicates the extent to which things have 'bounced back,' but notes that further bouncing back is expected."

## The unlikely patron saint of television



It was 65 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1958, that St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) was declared the patron saint of television by Pope Pius XII – on the basis that she had been too ill to attend Mass, but had still been able to see and hear it miraculously on the wall of her room.

St Clare was born Chiara Offreduccio in Assisi and was one of the first followers of St Francis of Assisi. Both her parents were from wealthy families, and her mother Ortolana was both generous and devout, eventually joining her daughter's monastery – as did two of Clare's sisters: one of them, Catarina, eventually became St Agnes of Assisi.

After hearing St Francis preach, Clare became devoted to poverty, humility and love, and founded the Order of Poor Ladies, which eventually became known as the Poor Clares. She became quite ill towards the end of her life and was unable to attend church, but apparently the images and sounds of the Mass appeared in full on the wall of her room. She is also the patron saint of computer screens, sore eyes and embroidery.

Clare wrote the first monastic Rule of Life known to have been written by a woman and in 1216 became abbess of San Damiano. The life of the sisters there consisted of manual labour and prayer. Reportedly they "went barefoot, slept on the ground, ate no meat and observed almost complete silence".

Many places have been named after St Clare: Mission Santa Clara, founded in 1777 in northern California, gave its name to the valley where it is situated – now better known as Silicon Valley, home of computer technology.

Items from the *Parish Pump*

# Academy Activities

## St Giles' and St George's C of E Academy

As God's children we aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best we can be

Tel: 01782 91764 [www.stgilesstgeorgesacademy.co.uk](http://www.stgilesstgeorgesacademy.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs C Pointon BSc PGCE (Oxon)

### EYFS and KS1 nativities

The children really enjoyed performing for their parents and we are very proud of them!



### Year 1 Christmas cards

Year 1 delivered Christmas cards to the residents around our school. The children were full of joy and Christmas spirit which brought a smile to all the residents that we visited.



### Dougie Mac Choir

The children had a fantastic afternoon listening and joining in with the Dougie Mac Choir. Some of the children even joined them for lunch.



### Year 2 Christingle

Year 2 had a fantastic time celebrating Christingle. With the help of Reverend Peter, they found out all about the meaning of a Christingle, made their own and took part in a Christingle service.





# Take-a-Break



**Mouse Makes**

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?  
-----  
Matthew 26:18

What did Jesus take, bless and break?  
-----  
Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?  
His -----  
Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?  
-----  
Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?  
His -----  
Matthew 26:27-28

Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in ----- of me."  
-----  
1 Corinthians 11:24-25



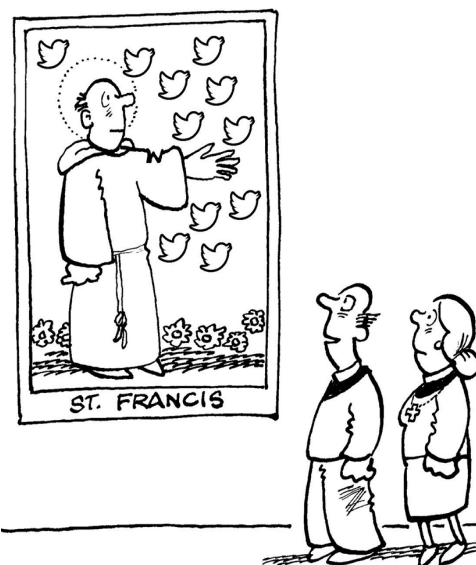
SUPPER  
LAMB • LORD  
DISCIPLES  
TOGETHER  
EVENING  
ROOM • JAR  
WATER • TWELVE  
JESUS • CHRIST  
NIGHT • TOOK  
THANKS  
BLESSING  
BROKE • GIVEN  
COVENANT  
DRINK • EAT  
FORGIVENESS  
SINS • HOLY  
COMMUNION  
EUCARIST

O	R	F	B	R	O	K	E	J	H	O	L	Y	C
R	O	O	M	B	C	U	P	T	O	O	K	E	H
L	O	R	D	R	U	B	A	W	G	D	J	A	R
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L	C	V	C	D	E	C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T
B	H	E	O	C	I	N	V	E	N	K	B	I	B
L	A	N	M	W	A	T	E	R	I	L	L	G	O
O	R	E	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	C	E	H	D
O	I	S	U	P	P	E	R	I	G	O	S	T	Y
D	S	S	N	M	U	G	I	V	E	N	S	H	D
E	T	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	I	N	S
B	S	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	W	N	A	
T	H	A	N	K	S	K	L	A	M	B	G		

Find the words from the questions too!

Feb23© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

## Smile-A-While



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!

## Medium Sudoku

Solution on page 16

							7	2
					9	5		3
6	7			3	2	9		
9				1				
4	1	6				7	9	5
				6				1
		3	1	8			4	6
2		7	4					
8	4							

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## Smile Lines

### Giving up for Lent

At the end of the pre-Lent sermon, the vicar suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church!," she replied firmly.



- † All those who are unable to leave their homes.
- † All those who are worried about paying for food and fuel.
- † All those working in hospitals, Food Banks and Care Homes.

- † All those suffering from war and unrest in their country.
- † All those who have recently lost loved ones.
- † All those waiting for medical treatment and operations.
- † All those who feel un-loved and lonely.



# Newcastle News

Castle House tel: 01782 717717

[www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news](http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news)

## Ryecroft Car Park



*An artists impression of the new Ryecroft car park*

**B**uilding work on a new 450-space multi-storey car park in Newcastle could begin in spring to pave the way for wider development.

The car park development – to replace the ageing Midway which will be demolished to make way for homes – would underpin a £30 million regeneration of the Ryecroft area, with the blueprint for expansion including the building of a 100-bed hotel, 90 homes for over-55s and the headquarters of Aspire Housing.

It's expected that up to 200 jobs could be created by the whole regeneration scheme, with another 319 indirect jobs supported in the supply chain.

And, in a nod to the town's heritage as it approaches the 850th anniversary of its first Charter, the building will be named Castle Car Park.

Simon Tagg, Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, said: "Castle Car Park will be the cornerstone of the wider Ryecroft redevelopment, which is a key part of our Future High Streets Fund plan and will ensure we have a vibrant town centre in Newcastle.

"A bright, safe, clean car park will encourage visitors to boost our local economy and paves the way for the hotel and residential units, which will follow over the next two years."

Designs have already been drawn up by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's contractor and, should the planning application be approved, wider infrastructure works across the whole Ryecroft masterplan site would begin.

Continued...

In 2020 Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council secured £11 million from the Government's Future High Street Fund for the Ryecroft development blueprint, with £3.5 million allocated to the car park development.

The planning application is due to be submitted in January and, if approved, it is anticipated that the car park would be completed in March 2024, complete with 40 electric vehicle charging points and 11 disability spaces. Access and exit will be via Liverpool Road.

Stephen Sweeney, Deputy Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Cabinet member for finance, town centres and growth, said: "By successfully applying for this funding we have been able to kick-start development on site, which will lead to millions of pounds' worth of additional private sector investment and the creation of up to 200 jobs.

"In turn that should lead to greater footfall in the town centre, supporting our businesses and community.

"We look forward to seeing work begin at Castle Car Park in late spring subject to its planning approval."

## York Place rebuild



*An artists impression of the new York Place*

**P**lans to regenerate a key part of Newcastle town centre are moving forward.

Proposals for York Place could see two four-storey shop and office developments, with public open space, between Ironmarket and Merrial Street.

The project ties in with the blueprint for the £30 million regeneration of the nearby Ryecroft area, with the building of a 100-bed hotel, 90 homes for over-55s and the headquarters of Aspire Housing, as well as a 450 space multi-storey car park – this will replace the ageing

Continued on the next page....

## More Newcastle News ....

Midway which will be demolished to make way for homes.

Now a new report says it's hoped demolition work of existing buildings in York Place can begin in summer 2023.

Simon Tagg, Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, said: "York Place is an area that has an important position between the soon-to-be developed Ryecroft site and the wider town centre.

"We've been working closely with the developer and the proposals have been designed to fit in with the character of the town centre.

"Once this is completed, it will make a real difference to the area."

The authority is working with remaining tenants in the current buildings to find them alternative premises nearby.

Once complete, the new buildings' ground floors would be earmarked for food and drink outlets, or retail use, with office units above.

More than £3 million has been allocated for the purchase of the shopping centre, demolition work and to help move the affected businesses, after the Council successfully bid to the Department of Levelling up and Housing Communities' Future High Street Fund.

The Council acquired the site in March 2021 and appointed Willmott Dixon as the contractor. An application for planning permission has now been submitted with a decision expected by spring.

Stephen Sweeney, Deputy Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Cabinet member for finance, town centres and growth, said: "This is all part of our wider work to regenerate the town centre and position it at the heart of economic, social and community life in the borough.

"Once approved, these two flexible, contemporary buildings and a new public space will add to the mix of the town centre and help create greater footfall in what is currently an underused part of town."

## Council Tax Rise

Council tax charged by Newcastle Borough Council will go up by 1.99 per cent from April when budget plans are approved by elected members in February. The rise is below the three per cent maximum which lower tier councils can increase council tax by, which Conservative council leaders says honours a pledge to keep hikes below two per cent each year.

Bosses say the increase will cost 10p per week or less for 95 per cent of households within the borough, equating to around £5 per year. The borough council is only part of residents' overall tax bill - with the rest comprised of payments for county council services, parish councils as well as police and fire services.

## Madeley Manor

A manor house dating back more than 200 years is being saved from dereliction. Grade-II listed Madeley Manor dates back to 1820 and was used as a care home until 2015.

But it has since been left unoccupied and fallen into disrepair. Now Newcastle Borough Council has backed Gerald Emery's plan to transform the property into 12 apartments - with the Mews House and an orangery turned into two two-bedroom homes. An existing boiler house will be demolished.

## GO Outdoors

Retail giant GO Outdoors is opening its second Stoke-on-Trent store. The retailer is moving into the Trentham Shopping Village unit currently occupied by Millets.

It is expected that GO Outdoors will open in the grounds of the Trentham Estate early in 2023. The new shop will supplement the giant GO Outdoors store on Festival Park which has just expanded. The surprise switch comes as Millets is currently staging a 'closing down sale', but a Millets spokesman said: "Millets will be closing down and will turn into a GO Outdoors Express store. We will follow up with a press release as soon as we have confirmation on dates." The future of the Newcastle Millets store is uncertain.

## Museum Celebration

The Brampton Museum celebrated it's 80th birthday in January. The first museum was opened by Mayor James Kelly on January 23rd, 1943, which was just a single room in the Lancaster Buildings. It expanded on to two floors before moving to its current site in 1956. Today it has a collection of around 30,000 objects, photographs and archives protected for future generations.

Continued on the next page....



◆**New Headteacher** - Edenhurst preparatory school in Westlands Avenue has welcomed a new Headteacher. Emma Mosley has most recently worked as Deputy Head of Pastoral and Well-being at Reston Al Barsha in Dubai since 2013. Emma has also taught at St. John's Beaumont Preparatory School in Windsor and Yorktown Lodge School in Knutsford.

Her appointment makes her the first female Headteacher at the school since it opened in 1961.

*Including items from the Newcastle Borough web-site.*

◆**High Street Closures** - The sad demise of Newcastle High street continues with the closure of WH Smith due to their lease expiring, and also the closure of Select Fashions close to it.

◆**Castle Artisan Market** - This Market has returned with over 55 local traders, featuring unique art, crafts and jewellery, cards, gifts, sweet and savoury food products and hot drinks, a bar and street food. It is being staged on 'The Stones' in Newcastle on Sunday, February 19th and other dates throughout the year.

## St.Giles Church, Church Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs. ST5 1QS

### Regular Activities (in St.Giles' unless otherwise specified)

All our regular activities are open to newcomers - either telephone the leaders or just turn up on the day and make yourself known.

Please could people be mindful of these activities and plan any work in taking care of our church and it's grounds so as not to clash with them. All activities are subject to the current Covid regulations. Please contact Penny Richards (07592 035386) for further booking details.

Day	Time	Event / Meeting	Termtime only	Information / Contact
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>St.Giles/St.Thomas's Services are listed on the back page of this issue</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	10.30am	Junior activities - Shine/Lighthouse		Jean Buckley 0799 9542229
<b>Monday</b>	6.00pm - 9.00pm	Rainbows & Guides	✓	Trudy Reale (01782) 631904
<b>Monday</b>	Bi-Monthly 7.30pm	Church Council		Church hall Rev Josh (01782) 620322
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00am	Bible Study in Church		1st & 3rd weeks - Check Memo - Open to All
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.15am -11.30am	SSLA meeting		(4th week only)
<b>Tuesday</b>	12.30pm - 1.45pm	Staffs Comm. Daytime Choir		Tracy Mellor 0754 4511312
<b>Tuesday</b>	6.00pm - 7.45pm	Brownies	✓	Trudy Reale (01782) 631904
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00am - 11.00am	Rainbow Mother & Toddler group	✓	Penny Richards (01782) 711631.
<b>Wednesday</b>	1.10pm - 1.45pm	Oasis Communion Service		Rev. Ann Taylor (01782) 660174
<b>Wednesday</b>	2.00pm. First Wednesday of each month	St.Giles Fellowship Group Everyone welcome		Wendy Burke (01782) 621430
<b>Wednesday</b>	7.30pm	Church Choir		Rev. Peter Nisbeck (01782) 662379
<b>Thursday</b>	10.00am - 12pm	Keep Fit Class		Elaine Millward (01782) 749984
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.00am - 3.00pm</b>	Open Church		Rev Josh Penduck (01782) 617498
<b>Friday</b>	Mini-Market Fortnightly only	St.Giles Coffee Shop		Gillian Elkes 07591 055287 / Chris Taylor
<b>Friday</b>		Mini Market		Pat Lovatt
<b>Friday</b>	7.15pm - 8.30pm	Staffs Community Choir		Tracy Mellor 0754 4511312
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00am - 12 Noon	St.Thomas' refreshments		2nd & 4th Saturdays only
<b>Friday Sunday</b>	8.00pm & 10.30am	Bell-Ringing St.Giles/St.Margaret's Wolstanton		John Maddison (01782) 853169 David Powell (01782) 714060
<b>Any Saturday/Extra events and services are listed on the back page of this issue.</b>				

# February Calendars

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion  
2.00 pm Fellowship. Talk by Andrew Brammer

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Candlemas 6.00 pm Enquirers Course  
7.00 pm Butterson Quiz and Pie Supper  
(at St Giles) £10 - Contact Sue Taylor.

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 11.00 am Service at Mill Rise  
9.00 am to 3.30 pm Coffee Shop and Mini Market

5<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT  
10.30 am Holy Communion  
Shine in the Hall for children

7<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2.15 pm Service at Hempstalls Hall

8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion

9<sup>th</sup> Thursday 6.00 pm Enquirers Course

10<sup>th</sup> Friday 9.00 am to 3.00 pm Coffee Shop

12<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT  
8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am All Age Worship

14<sup>th</sup> Tuesday CLOSING DATE for Parish News items.

15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion  
2.00 pm St Giles and St George School GLOW

16<sup>th</sup> Thursday 6.00 pm Enquirers Course

17<sup>th</sup> Friday 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Coffee Shop & Mini Market

19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT  
10.30 am Holy Communion  
Shine for children in the Hall

21<sup>st</sup> SHROVE TUESDAY - 6.30pm **Beetle Drive**  
Book with Rev. Peter - Bring interval refreshments.

22<sup>nd</sup> ASH WEDNESDAY  
1.10 pm Oasis Holy Communion  
7.30 pm Holy Communion

24<sup>th</sup> Friday 9.00 am to 3.30 pm Coffee Shop  
2.15 pm Service at Rowan Court

26<sup>th</sup> FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Holy Communion  
Lighthouse for Children in the Hall.

## St. Thomas' Butterson



### 5<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10.30 am Holy Communion

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Candlemas

7.00 pm Butterson Quiz and Pie Supper £10

NOTE: to be held in St Giles Hall.

St Thomas' Open Mornings

10am -12 noon

on the 2nd & 4th Saturday

**BORED? See our  
What's  
On  
pages:  
4 & 5**



Take-a-Break Answers

3	5	9	6	4	1	8	7	2
1	2	4	8	7	9	5	6	3
6	7	8	5	3	2	9	1	4
9	3	5	7	1	4	6	2	8
4	1	6	3	2	8	7	9	5
7	8	2	9	6	5	4	3	1
5	9	3	1	8	7	2	4	6
2	6	7	4	5	3	1	8	9
8	4	1	2	9	6	3	5	7

**March Issue  
Closing Date:-**

Tuesday, February 14th.

All items to:- [pitstowm@aol.com](mailto:pitstowm@aol.com)