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Contacts at St Mary's

Priest in charge:

Reverend Tom Birch

Tel: **01661 853254**

Reader: Georgina Harper

Churchwardens: Peter Pescod,

Bill Jordon CBE

PCC--

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Christine Fulton, Georgina Harper.

Robbie Kalbraier, Nathanael Lewis

Organist: Margaret Turnbull

Tel: 832149

Safeguarding Officer:

Caroline Grinsted: 01661844280

csgrinsted@btinternet.com

Magazine ads and Editor:

Martin Davenport

email: stmarysmag@btinternet.com

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- All contributions for the magazine to the

Editor by the **second Sunday** of the month.

A word from the Vicarage



Church buildings are of huge value in furthering the Mission of God. They stand as testimony of faith that has endured through many generations.

They are a focal point and place of gathering for their communities. That they are static and often to various degrees 'old' helps them to be landmarks, both physically and spiritually. But that physical change occurs only slowly can also be a weakness; the churches can sometimes seem to get stuck in their past, unable to engage with the questions of their present and future. The church made of 'living stones', that is the people who gather to be in church and worship together week by week are needed for church buildings to remain church buildings. We all know of churches that are no longer churches; buildings converted for alternative use when the people who used to worship in them drift away over generations. The church is primarily its people however it is very hard to be a church without a church. The people support the building and the building supports the people; neither can be properly 'church' without the other.

Both the people of the church and the space in which we gather are important. As such we will be starting over the coming months a new initiative; *God's Tent*. We have been provided with a 6m bell tent by the diocese. This is to allow us to experiment with being church in

different ways in different environments. It does not replace the existing building or people but hopefully compliments them. This space will go into our school, it will go out and about around Northumberland and when we meet in it we will be church. It is a structure but a mobile one and like our churches of stone and wood a space where we gather to encounter God. We don't fully know yet where our church be it people, buildings or tent will go. But we hope that we will encounter God along the way, and through that encounter be changed.

Tom



Thank You

Firstly may I apologise for my tardiness in giving my thanks to you all. I've been overwhelmed by the kindness and warmth given to me (and Roger before he died) by the St Mary's family and the wider community of Ovingham. It has been a difficult time recently and the knowledge that support is there and available was very comforting. Roger's funeral was a lovely tribute to him and greatly appreciated by the family, especially by his sons Toby and Adam who are not church-goers themselves. Thank you to Tom, Eric and Margaret and everyone who participated and helped. As many of you know, Roger and I found it impossible to attend services in recent years, and it was a sadness for us both, so thank you all for welcoming me back.

Liz

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Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Ovingham Mothers' Union meet

on Wednesday 25th of March at 1.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our Vice President Sylvia Hickey is attending to speak to members on the importance of "How to recognise Domestic Abuse".

All welcome and refreshments served.



Film Club

Friday 27th March - Judy

Friday 24th April - Knives Out

In the reading room at 7.30



Dorothy and the Leeks ?

Dorothy sniffed, her little nose quivering, her long whiskers sensing the air. 'There's a funny smell around here!' Marcus laughed. Busy building a web between the pulpit and the nearest choir stall, he hung on with all eight of his legs because laughing made him wobble dangerously.

'It's leeks,' he said. Leeks? Whatever for? Whoever saw leeks in a church except at Harvest?'

Marcus adopted his most pompous tone. 'Don't you know that March 1st is St. David's day? If we lived in Wales, all the boys would be wearing leeks and all the girls would be wearing daffodils.'

Dorothy was puzzled. 'Why?'

'St. David is the patron saint of Wales.'

"Everybody knows that!" There was a touch of scorn in Dorothy's voice. 'But why leeks and daffodils?'

Marcus gave up on building the web and settled back onto his long silken thread from the rafters. Dorothy's eyes began to glaze over even before he'd started his lecture, but she politely settled down to listen in her patch of sunlight on the church floor.

Marcus took a deep breath. 'Back in the 6th century there was this great battle between the Welsh and the invading Saxons. St. David told the Welsh soldiers to wear leeks in their helmets so they could recognise each other. Of course, with God on their side the Welsh won and ever since then Welsh men and boys have worn leeks on St. David's day.' 'Okay,' Dorothy had listened despite herself. 'So that's

the leeks, but what about the daffodils? Where do they come from?'

'That was much later. Daffodils bloom around March 1st, and prime minister Lloyd George in the early 20th century wore one in his button-hole. He was Welsh, of course. He encouraged other people to do the same, and since daffodils smell considerably better than leeks, the daffodil soon became another national emblem for Wales. So you see, Dorothy, that answers all your questions.'

Except, thought Dorothy, the question of why God chose one side to win rather than the other. Didn't the Bible say 'Thou shalt not kill', or something like that? But perhaps that didn't count when people were defending their land, since there seemed to be other occasions in the bible when God ordered war. Anyway, David was a saint, so must have been in close contact with God. But such difficult thoughts were much too deep for a little elderly mouse, so Dorothy closed her eyes, wrapped her long tail around herself and gently drifted off to sleep.

Janice Scott

March Chat Club

5th March Outing to S. Shields for fish & chips. Coach leaves

White Swan car park at 10.30 with a pick up at Piper Road end.

12th Exercises/ tea/coffee

19th 11.15am Soup & Pud

26th Exercises/ tea/coffee. My first day at (school/ work/other)

Who said that? Inside broad casting house you will find a statue of George Orwell and the inscription beside it: "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." The quote Taken from Animal Farm, mirrors this week in Downing Street. I will leave you to work out who is Snowball, Napoleon and Squealer?

The Ovington Community Group Jumble due to be held on the 7th of March unfortunately has had to be cancelled.

World Day of Prayer 2020

(A women led, global, ecumenical movement.) Friday 6th March 2.00pm St. Mary's, Ovingham.

All welcome. Refreshments served.

We will be joined by friends from Horsley and Wylam.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

Remembering Ann Fenwick

Ann was born in Newcastle in 1936 and went to school at Newcastle Church High. After leaving school she worked as a milliner and then at the Bank of England. She had already met Malcolm at this stage through the Church and they married whilst she was still working in the Bank. Malcolm was ordained and they moved to Whitley Bay where Richard was born and Ann gave up work taking on the traditional role of a vicar's wife – always available to all and sundry and much sought after. Howard was born after moving to Stocksfield and after many parishes, Ann and Malcolm finally retired and settled in Ovingham. Before retirement, Ann became a magistrate and although she never drove a car, she was able to get about on a moped courtesy of a provisional licence which she had for 19 years until the law changed! At this stage she decided to take the test and passed. A keen gardener with a great love of flowers and flower arranging as well as decorating the Church for Easter or Christmas.

A great raconteur – her tales of "Through the vicarage window" were very popular and Ann was very much in demand. Whenever you heard the sound of laughter you could bet that Anne was not far away. She loved people and was a great stalwart of the Mothers Union and joined the W.I. in every place she lived and found many new friends that way.

Ann was very proud of her sons and grandchildren and enjoyed great friendship with her daughters in law.

Although Ann recently spent a lot of time in hospitals, she never complained and her faith was deep and profound. She richly enjoyed belonging to a parish family in both Ovingham and Wylam and will be greatly missed.

God Bless You Ann



Turning urban wastelands into carbon capture gardens.

Brownfield sites – those unloved areas of stony rubbish usually dismissed as wasteland could be a vital new tool in the fight against climate change.

Newcastle University researchers reveal that urban brownfield soils have huge, untapped potential to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Their research shows that carbon capture via a process called carbonation has the potential to remove 1 million tonnes of CO₂ a year. Carbonation involves the combination of calcium – which is abundant in brownfield soils that contain demolition wastes such as concrete dust and lime – with atmospheric CO₂ to form calcium carbonate (calcite). Inorganic carbon in calcite can form very rapidly in brownfield soils, making them useful in cutting atmospheric CO₂.

At Science Central, a partnership between Newcastle University and Newcastle City Council, the team measured soil carbon levels over an 18-month period. The results were striking. They found that one hectare of urban soil can sequester up to 85 tonnes of atmospheric carbon per year. “Scaling that up, appropriate management of less than 12,000 hectares of urban land to maximise calcite formation could remove 1 million tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere each year,” explains Professor David Manning, “The UK has 1.7 million ha of urban land. If only 700,000 ha of this was managed proactively it could meet 10% of the UK's annual CO₂ reduction target.”

The research team also surveyed the

sites' plant and animal life, as well as their potential for recreation, education and food production – and again came up with fascinating findings.

Dr Goddard said: “We encountered a great variety of sites – from a recently demolished hospital comprising little but brick rubble and a few brave, early colonising plants, through to long abandoned ex-industrial sites now supporting a myriad of wildlife, including deer, skylarks, ringed plovers, rare insects and bee orchids. “We found that carbonation is widespread on brownfield soils, and that these soils can also support a diverse range of plants. We recorded more than 180 plant species on the 21 sites.” The project team is now engineering artificial soils to capture as much CO₂ as possible, and conducting experiments to find out which plants are best at channelling carbon from the atmosphere into the soil via photosynthesis

As a “nation of gardeners” the results have important implications for how we develop our gardens – as well as our towns and cities. The UK's 23 million gardens occupy some 433,000 ha. If a carbon capture function was built in to just 1% of this area, they could remove 300,000 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere each year. Dr Goddard adds “we see carbon capture gardens as an exciting opportunity to increase people's awareness of carbon capture and to show them that there is something simple that they can do locally to compensate for climate change. We must take soil and vegetation management much more seriously”

Taken from a press release by **Professor David Manning, and Dr Mark Goddard of Newcastle University**

Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th March 11.00 - 1.00 in the Pavilion

One of our enthusiastic young residents supported by a group of volunteers is organising the coffee morning to raise funds for the Playing Fields. There will be a small stall selling homemade crafts followed by a taster craft making session for young children between 1.00 and 2.00pm. If there is enough interest a young Craft Club will be set up. Please come along and support the event.



Jumble Wanted!

A Jumble Sale is to be held in the Reading Room on Saturday the 16th-May 2020. Donations of unwanted items of clothing, bric-a-brac, toys, books, small items of furniture – etc. will be gratefully received. If you have items which you would like collected then please contact:-

Doreen Jordon on 832431 or dijnjordan@hotmail.co.uk.

Watch this space for more details!



Wine Tasting Evening

St Oswins are holding a wine tasting evening in the church hall on Saturday 30th May 2020 starting at 7pm. Numbers will be limited. If interested let me know now and further details will be sent to you. Proceeds are towards the church hall new room and store extensions.

Michael - wylamst.oswin@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council News

Keith Kirkland has tendered his resignation from Ovingham Parish Council so there is now a vacancy. Please contact myself, or any of the other Councillors for more information.

New play equipment, funded by County Councillor Karen Quinn, is now in place on the playing fields. These consist of a carousel, double somersault bars and a see-saw.

The three interactive units in the village have been checked—the one on Castle View, which has been very intermittent of late, needed a new battery which has been fitted.

It is hoped that the Bridge End Inn will be ready to open before the Goose Fair and I am sure residents will welcome this news. The Councillors will also arrange for the pine tree in the parish gardens opposite 12 Castle View to be pruned—br.

Recent weather has seen some flooding and broken branches are overhanging the footpath. An application has to be submitted to County Council first however. Dangerous tree branches overhanging the allotments will also be removed.

The wHorse Bridge has been repaired. The footpath after leak on the path opposite the Pack will be re-instated as soon as possible.

Next meeting is 19th March at 7.15pm

Margaret Davenport
Clerk to Ovingham Parish Council

Regular Events		
Ovingham Allotment Association contact	2 nd Wed each month 8pm Colin Burt cburtphotography@gmail.com	Pavilion
Folk Club Contact Bill Toy	3rd Wednesday each month Tel 01661 835093 Mob 07939918804	The Dyvels Cor-bridge
“Uplifted” Ladies Choir (Tel Kate Robson 830499)	2 nd & 4 th Weds each month	Church
Energise dance classes	Wed 2 pm to 7.15 (Term time only) Sunday 7 pm to 8 pm Contact Jill 07878 539 237	Reading Room
Ovingham Under 5’s Nursery (Tel 01661 833347)	Mon-Fri 8am-4pm	Ovingham First School Grounds
Women’s Institute (Tel 832368)	2 nd Mon each month 7.30pm	Reading Room
Reading Room Committee	Last Monday each month 7.30pm	Reading Room
Reading Room Toddlers	Each Tuesday 10.00-11.30am (Term Time only)	Reading Room
Yoga (Caroline Grinsted-Tel 844280)	Tuesdays 2-3.30pm (Term Time only)	Reading Room
Ovingham & District Choir	Tuesday at 7.45 pm to 9.30 pm. New members welcome -website: Ovingham and district choir.co.uk	Reading Room
Craft Group (Tel Sandra Rusby 832172)	Wednesdays 7.30pm	Reading Room
Drama Group	Thursday each month 8 - 9.30pm	Reading Room
Parish Council Meeting	3 rd Thursday each month 7.15pm	Reading Room
Thursday Chat Club	10.15–12.15 / 3 rd Thursday 11.15-1.15 is ‘Soup & Pud’ (830304)	Reading Room
Film Club	7.30pm Last Friday of each month	Reading Room
Ovingham Bridge Club	Monday’s at 7pm Tel. Ann Smith 833815	Old School
Mothers Union	1.30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Telephone Anne Cairns 612640.	St Mary’s Church
Ovingham Cub Group 6:30-8pm Thursdays	Contacts-Tina 07745343489 or Steve 07740875890.	Old School Ovingham

March Readings and Rota

15th March

3rd Sunday of Lent

8am Communion

10am Lay Led Service

Sidespeople: C & H Gilfillan

Readings: Exodus 17.1-7

Romans 5.1-11

Gospel: John 4.5-42

Breakfast: P Howie, D Day

22nd March

Mothering Sunday

10am Family Communion

Sidespeople: J Edgoose, W Jordon

Servers: M D’Evelin, S Harper

Readings: Exodus 2. 1-10

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Gospel: Luke 2.33-35

Breakfast: Cubs

29th March

Passion Sunday

Joint Service in Wylam 10am

Readings:: Ezekiel 37.1-14

Romans 8.6-11

Gospel: John 11.1-45

1st March

1st Sunday of Lent

10am Holy Communion

Sidespeople: D Day, P Howie, I Dodds

Servers: J Hamilton, S Rusby

Readings: Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7

Romans 5.12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4.1-11

Breakfast: A Cairns, J Scrowther

8th March

2nd Sunday of Lent

10am Holy Communion

Sidespeople: C Grinsted, G Harper,

P Pescod

Servers: J Laws, M Brown

Readings: Genesis 12.1-4a

Romans 4.1-5,13-17

Gospel: John 3.1-17

Breakfast: P Pescod, J Edgoose



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