

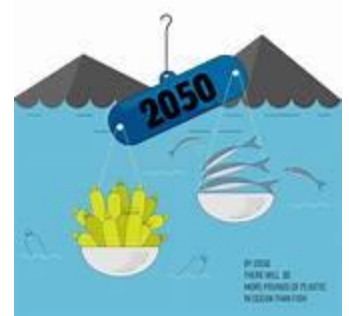
Dear Friends

Summer is on its way and nature is dressing herself in her glorious finery. Luscious green growth on trees and in hedgerows, plants displaying a myriad of colours, shapes and sizes. Sunny days and warmth to stroll or just to sit and appreciate the majesty of creation and the God who designed and fashioned our world. Psalm 19 sums this up –

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.*

Take time to ponder the silent eloquence of nature. Focus on some aspect of God's creation and ask yourself, what does this show me of God's creation, what might he be saying to me? Am I growing as I should, do I need repotted, pruned, dead headed, fed, or even moved to a new location? Am I allowing the master gardener to cultivate me for growth?

But also consider that we need to preserve and cherish creation and the part we can play in saving and protecting our planet. A sobering fact is -by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans. Let us be good stewards of creation, taking practical action and allow nature to heal and restore.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Fund Raising Event – Manzils Restaurant

Monday 20th June 2022 – Manzils Restaurant – 7.30 pm (see later in the Newsletter for further details)

Service of Worship and Fellowship

Thursday 23rd June – Hebron Church – 2.00 pm

This is primarily for our older members of the church family who find it difficult to access an early morning service, but of course all are welcome. The service will be followed by a short time of fellowship.

Visit by Tessa Sayers of WERS

Sunday 3rd July – Mitford Church – 9.30 am – Talk by Tessa Sayers of WERS (see later in the Newsletter for further details)

Visit by Refugees from The Hub

Sunday 4th September – Stable Room - 12 noon until 4.30 pm (see later in the Newsletter for further details)

Bat Talk

Friday 9th September – Stable Room – 6.00 pm – Talk by Tina Malinka of the Bats Society (see later in the Newsletter for further details)



Annual Meetings of Mitford and Hebron were held on 26th May.

The Churchwardens elected for the coming year are:-

Mitford – Sean Fugill, Janet Robinson

Hebron James Roff, Janice Robinson

Further members of the new JPCC are:-

Bev Morris, Carol Thompson, Ann Attwood, Nigel Jobson, Izzy Quinby, Richard Addison, Ian Craigs, Sarah Mills, Dick Quinby

Further members of the church family who have specific gifts and talents may be approached for co-option after the first meeting of the JPCC.

Priest in Charge – Mitford, Hebron and Parishes of Upper Wansbeck

The closing date for applications has now passed and interviews are planned to take place on 28th and 29th of June 2022.

Please pray for the candidates applying and for all who will be involved in the interview process.

In the meantime, the Ministry Team continue to maintain our worship by holding a weekly Sunday morning service at Mitford and 3 services per month at Hebron.

Ukraine Appeal

Following the generous collection in church of £525, the Group topped this up from their funds to £1000 to send to the DEC for the Ukraine Appeal. The group is mindful that further donations may be required in the future.

Refugee Visit

We are planning to welcome back our friends from the HUB on Sunday 4th September. The day will follow the pattern of similar visits, with lunch and tea being provided, as well as entertainment, fun, fellowship, and games.

After a gap of two years, such a visit is well overdue, and we know we can rely on our church family to support this visit by practical donations and their personal presence.

Please make a note in your diary.

Christmas Craft Fair

Apologies for mentioning the C word so early in the year. After an absence of two years, we are planning to hold our Christmas Fair in November, on a date to be confirmed. This fair helps us raise money to top up payments we make to our Mission Partners.

To help make this a successful event and to be able to offer a range of products for sale we are appealing for help from all crafters out there.

Do you knit, crochet, sew, make felt, candles, jewellery or preserves, paint, sketch, do macrame, woodwork, metalwork or tatting, bake or any other activity that will result in saleable items, then we need your help.

Please let Linda Fugill or Sheila Rowley – you can email to news@mitfordchurch.org, if you can help. Please do not be shy, no offer is too small. We have started a small group of sewers who are meeting in the Stable Room, and you are welcome to come along for a chat about how you could help and there is usually cake! Our next meeting is Saturday 11th June from 10 am if you want to pop in for a chat as to how you can contribute.

We hope the event will be full of fun, fellowship and fund raising.

WERS Visit

Tessa Sayers from WERS will be visiting Mitford and will speak at the service on Sunday 3rd July, here she gives us some background information about the work of WERS.

West End Refugee Service – some personal reflections

I'm Tessa Sayers and I've been involved with WERS for over 20 years – first as a volunteer befriender and support worker and then as trustee and chair of trustees. Based on this long association I'd like to offer some reflections on the support that WERS gives to refugees and asylum seekers in Newcastle and the values that motivate and govern what we do.



Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge that we couldn't do anything without the generous help of our supporters, whether they be church congregations like St Mary Magdalene, Mitford, personal donors or grant-making bodies large and small. You at St Mary's have demonstrated a commitment to helping some of the most vulnerable members of our society in your absolutely stalwart support that extends back to the early days of WERS' 22-year history. We are immensely grateful to all the people and organisations that have steadfastly continued their support over many years, while the need for the multi-faceted support WERS provides continues to grow.

The principles on which WERS was founded and continues to operate closely match those found throughout the Old and New Testaments: the importance of giving help and sanctuary to people in need, who come to us from other communities. They reach back to Moses' words in Deuteronomy 10 v19, commanding the Israelites to "love those who are aliens", through Jesus' powerful message about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25 vv. 31-46, underlining the crucial importance of compassion and practical help for those in need – "I was a stranger and you invited me in" – and continuing on to the message of 1 John 3 v.17, that God's love in us motivates us to take pity on a brother or sister in need.

While much of what WERS does to support local asylum seekers and refugees – emergency financial help, advocacy and advice, one-to-one support through the befriending service – goes right back to early days, we continue to develop and to respond to emerging needs through new initiatives, such as the "skillsmatch" project which provides a supported route into volunteering with many different local organisations, allowing people to use their often impressive skills and give something back to the community, and offering a first step into employment once refugee status is granted.

WERS has always listened to the people we work with, but we have recently cemented their voice more firmly into our planning and decision-making by setting up an Advisory Panel consisting of people with lived experience of the UK's asylum system. Theirs is the genuine voice of the people we work with, and we recognise that they are best placed to shape our services so that we are truly responding to what is most needed. An example of this is the recent introduction of the Peer Advocacy Project, whereby the people we work with will be empowered to understand their rights and how to go about claiming them and to spread that knowledge to others in their community.

I'm excited by this determination at WERS to listen more to the voice to those we work with and to recognise that they are "Experts By Experience" with a crucial role to play in informing the ways in which we adapt our services to changing situations.

Last week, WERS staff and trustees embarked on a fascinating and challenging training course about Anti-racism, a cornerstone of WERS' values. Part of our "homework" was to watch an insightful TED talk given by author Chimamanda, Ngozi Adichie, explaining how many people find themselves defined and pigeonholed by just one aspect of their identity. We are in danger of seeing only one aspect of asylum seekers and refugees among us - their difficult situation and need for help – but each is, like us, an individual with their own experiences, hopes, relationships, skills and personality which we at WERS recognise and celebrate, whilst

offering many practical ways to make their current situation more bearable. Treating people with respect and seeing them as individuals, has always been central to the ethos of WERS and I'm constantly impressed with the commitment of staff to supporting, empowering and listening to the people we work with, who have so much to offer.

To see the full picture of what WERS does, please visit our website at wers.org.uk and be inspired! I'm really looking forward to visiting St Mary's in July to tell you a bit more about what WERS is doing and to answer any questions you might have.



Anna Chaplaincy Blog

Anna Chaplaincy News

In this month we celebrate Pentecost on the 5th the blessed Trinity on the 12th, St Barnabas day on the 24th and St Peter's Day on the 29th

It is also the month when we have the summer solstice on the 21st and Midsummer Day on the 24th.

Midsummer's Day which in the ancient calendar was celebrated on 4th July, was for centuries one of the main festivals in the country, and many of the customs traditionally associated with this have now died away, although it is still a very popular date for fairs and summer fetes.



Here is an old recipe for **"Queen Mab's Summer Pudding"** which was always eaten this day.



- 6-8 slices stale white bread with the crusts cut off.
- 675g soft fruits, blackcurrants, strawberries, raspberries.
- 2 tablespoons of water
- 150g sugar.

Line a 1 litre pudding basin with the slices of bread. Cut more if necessary to completely cover the bottom and sides of the basin.

Wash and prepare the fruit and put into a saucepan with the water and sugar. Gently boil until the sugar melts and the juices begin to run but do not allow the fruit to break up.

Spoon the fruit into the prepared dish and make a lid with the remaining bread.

Put a saucer or small plate that fits inside the dish on top and weigh down with a heavy tin or jar. Chill for 8 hours or more.

Remove the weights and plate and turn out the pudding on to a China plate or dish. Serve with whipped cream.

Pentecost or often referred to as Whit Sunday it is the day, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit – it was called Whit Sunday because in the early church, people were prepared for baptism on this day, and they were attired in “white garments” hence Whit.

Pentecost Prayer

“Gracious God, we thank you for those extraordinary moments we occasionally experience which change our lives, giving us joy and fulfillment we never imagined possible.

We thank you especially for the great gift of your Holy Spirit – an experience which transformed the lives of the apostles which has changed the lives of countless believers across the centuries, and which has power to reshape our lives here and now.

Open our hearts, our minds, our eyes, our ears and our souls to your living presence so that we shall know your life-changing power for ourselves. Amen”



Trinity Sunday was ordained by Thomas Becket, who was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury on the Sunday following Pentecost or Whit in the year 1162 and decided that the day of his consecration should become a festival in honour of the Holy Trinity.

This has continued in the Anglican tradition.

Traditionally food consisting of three colours was eaten on this day, but we can't think of any to suggest! Perhaps you can and let us know!

Trinity Prayer



“Mighty God, beyond all space and time, greater than our minds can fully grasp, ruler over all that is and has been and shall be, we worship you.

We worship you as the God made known to us in Christ, a God all good and wholly other, and yet a God who loves us as a father loves his children.

We worship you as the God we experience within us, the God who frees our imagination and sets our hearts aflame through the Spirit of Christ.

Mighty God help us to catch a sense of your greatness, opening our hearts and minds to your presence made known through Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen”

Finally, but not last, please let us know if you would like a visit or home communion.

Love and prayers,

Janice and Mary

PASTORAL CARE

“A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you”

We must indeed care for each other as he commands us.
If you need help, support, advice, or prayer, or know someone who does.

PLEASE know that you can contact the Pastoral Care Team.

Dick Quinby 07960792198

Mary Dowswell 07890269028



Jubilee Celebrations

Hopefully everyone was able to participate in some way, even if it was from the comfort of an armchair in front of the TV.

A service of thanksgiving and celebration was held at Mitford Church, and this was followed by cake (pictured right and made by Ann Lemmer) accompanied by a glass of fizz. Thanks to all who helped make this a special occasion.

We hope that you also celebrated all the special events we as a church family have not been able to celebrate together, all the birthdays, anniversaries, births, new jobs, retirements, new homes, graduations, exam results etc.

So Happy/ Congratulations on etc..... (fill in the blank)



Family News

Weddings

Congratulations to – Daniel and Amy Marr who were married at Mitford Church on Saturday 21st May in a service conducted by Paul Rusby. Sally (mother of the groom) reports that they had a fabulous day, and everything went really well. Daniel was so keen to say 'I will' that he said it straight after Paul's 1st sentence and so they had to start again! It caused great laughter from everyone!!

A happy family occasion.



Baptisms



On the 22nd of May, Mathilda More was baptised at Hebron and welcomed into our church family. She was supported by her siblings along with parents and grandparents as well as extended family and friends. A special family event where all those present showed their support by providing encouraging Bible quotes for Tilly which she took home with her in a box which also contained her certificate, candle, Bible, a cross, and a special letter.

Births

Milo William Alexander Hudspeth- Lane was born to Bryony Lane on Monday 30th May at 13.11. He weighed a healthy 9lbs 5oz!!!! He is a solid and sturdy and a placid little soul. Well done, Bryony.



Perfecting his royal wave

Thank you and goodbye to.....

Peter Else – his funeral will be held at Mitford Church on Tuesday 14th June 11 am. A long life, well lived with humour, integrity, generosity and kindness. A much-respected friend to so many in and around our Mitford community. Condolences to the family.

Ukraine -Remember to pray.....

As the war in Ukraine ceases to be headline news, we still need to remember and pray for Ukraine and Russia and all other area of the world where there is conflict.

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, and all areas of conflict and war for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world that in these times of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. Both by prayer and by action

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen.

A Message from John L

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19a



It's June and a new season is with us. This summer I imagine many of us will be looking forward to doing things we've missed for the last two years. After the difficulties we've been through it would be nice to go "back to normal". However, we find that the world has changed. We have war in Europe for first time in over 75 years; food and fuel prices are rising quickly around the world, and we hear of unrest in many places. Locally too we're facing changes. We are currently searching for a new incumbent, hoping to find the right person. We're also exploring working with the parishes to the West of us who are also in need of a new vicar.

In unsettled times it's tempting to retreat back to what is familiar, to avoid change, to stay in our 'comfort zone'. However, we discover in Isaiah that our unchanging, faithful, dependable God does NEW THINGS (Isa 43:19a). And those new things may not fit into our comfortable former ways. Jesus teaches us that putting new wine in old wine skins cause them to burst (Mk 2:22). Instead, we must put new wine in new skins.

Those in the church called to share the gospel are to proclaim it "afresh in each generation" (from the liturgy for Ordination and Licensing), in other words in relevant, accessible, contemporary ways.

In these times of change we are surely to discern where God is leading us, what new thing he is doing, and then to follow him.

Following John's theme of new ways, here is a different version of the Lord's Prayer from Dallas Willard via Lectio 365:

Dear Father, always near us, may your name be treasured and loved, may your rule be completed in us – may your will be done here on earth in just the way it is done in heaven.

Give us today the things we need today and forgive us our sins and impositions on you as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us.

Please don't put us through trials but deliver us from everything bad.

Because you are the one in charge, and you have all the power, and the glory too is all yours – forever – which is just the way we want it! Whoopee!

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Benefice is planning two entertainment events for this summer, we do hope you will be able to join in the fun.



Fund Raising Event for Decoration of the Stable Room

Monday 20th June 2022 at Manzils Restaurant 7.30 pm

Come and join the fun while raising funds!!!!

- Enjoy a delicious three course meal
- Entertainment
- Games
- Quiz
- Tombola

Cost £20

Tickets available from: Wendy Laverick; Nigel Jobson; Dick Quinby.

Only 50 tickets available – so book early!!!!

Bats

Friday 9th September – Stable Room Mitford – 6.00 pm

Come and learn more about our uninvited guests!

Tina Malinka is an active member of the Bat Society and has kindly agreed to come and talk to us about our bats and answer all our questions. The evening will include:

- A light meal
- A lecture on bats
- A time at dusk to see our bats flying and roosting described by an expert.



More details to follow.



Church of England Children's Society

Is a charity the church family has supported for many years under the direction of the late Wendy Talkes, who worked hard at allocating and collecting donation boxes. We are looking for someone who would be willing to succeed Wendy in this valuable role. Please let Janice know if you feel this is something you could do.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Richard Addison	Stable Room Bookings	rick.addison@aol.co.uk Tel: 07714685446

Sunday Service Pattern

Sunday	Service
Sunday 1	9.30 am Morning Praise and Holy Communion MITFORD
Sunday 2	9.30 am Morning Praise MITFORD 4.00 pm Contemplative Worship HEBRON
Sunday 3	9.30 am Morning Praise MITFORD
Sunday 4	9.30 am Café Church HEBRON* 9.30 am BCP Service MITFORD
Sunday 5	9.30 am Morning Praise MITFORD

*Café Church – Breakfast at 9.15 sharp for worship at 9.30 am. A family friendly informal style of worship.

Service Times in the West

Date	Location	Service	Time
12 th June	Whalton	HC	10.30 am
19 th June	Whalton	Family Service	10.30 am
	Netherwitton	HC	10.30 am
26 th June	Bolam	HC	10.30 am
3 rd July	Hartburn	HC	10.30 am
	Bolam	Family Service	10.30 am
10 th July	Whalton	HC	10.30 am