St Andrew’s and St Ninian’s Newsletter February /March 2024

**Church Services February / March 2024**

**St Andrew’s**

Sundays February 4th 18th March 3rd 17th @ 10am Holy Communion.

Wednesdays @ 10.45am Holy Communion with short Bible study.

Ash Wednesday February 14th @ 10.45am Holy Communion including imposition of ashes.  Palm Sunday 24th March , church, and time to be confirmed

Mon 25th March, Tues 26thMarch, Wed 27th March @ 6pm reflections for Holy Week.  Good Friday, March 29th @ 2pm. Meditation on the cross in words and music.  Easter Day, Sunday 31st March @ 11am Easter day Eucharist.

**St Ninian’s**

Sundays February 11th 25th March 10th @ 10am Holy Communion.

Ash Wednesday February 14th @ 6pm Holy Communion including imposition of ashes.  Palm Sunday 24th March, church and time to be confirmed.

Maundy Thursday 28th March @ 6pm Celebration of the Last Supper.

Easter Day, Sunday 31st March @ 9.30am Easter Day Eucharist.

**Glorifying God’s Creation.**

**Psalm 34: 17. When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.**

It has been very stormy lately and at times we face storms in our own lives*.* At these times we  tend focus on our problems and cannot see the blessings in our lives. We are worried and  fearful. Yet, this is exactly when we need to focus our hearts and minds and souls on praising  God. The storms do not go away immediately, but when we fix our eyes on God, the problems of  this world begin to fade away and joy begins to fill our hearts.

**Save The Date**

**Dominoes Night** St Andrew’s Church Hall Lamesley. Saturday 17th February 2024 @ 6.30pm.  Tickets £ 5. Come and join us for a night of skill and fun, there will be a raffle and a light supper  will be provided at half time.

**Merchant Navy Talk** Given by Mr Paul Pearson at St Andrew’s Church Hall Lamesley,  Wednesday 17th April 2024 @ 6.00pm. Tickets £3 light refreshments provided.

For more information and to book tickets please contact Susan, mobile 07757415863. Everyone  is welcome to join us, these events have been very popular in the past, book early to avoid  disappointment. Hope to see you there.

**Litter Picking Dates**

There will be no litter picking on  Thursday the 8th February.

The next two dates will be  Thursday 14th March and  Thursday 11th April.

If you would like to join us, we  meet in the car park outside St  Andrew’s church at 10.15am.  Equipment can be provided,  just turn up on the day. Our  team have collected 551 bags  of litter to date.

**Easter Eggs**

The tradition of making and giving decorated eggs did not  begin with Easter. In fact, the practice of decorating eggs  dates back nearly 60,000 years. The ancient Egyptians would  decorate ostrich eggs in gold and silver as a way of honouring their loved ones, who were buried with these intricate gifts.

**Postage Stamps**

If you are recycling postage stamps, please remember to cut  them from the envelope leaving 1cm of the envelope  surrounding the stamp. Unfortunately stamps collected  without the required border will be destroyed.

**Recycling**

If you are passionate about recycling you will be pleased to hear that we can recycle used candles  and tea lights. There will be a box in the back of church and the church hall to collect them. If you  would like to know more or want to purchase candles made from recycled wax please visit;  therecycledcandlecompany.co.uk. 

**Climate Change Pledge.**

Thank you to everyone who completed the  climate change pledge. If you would like to  complete the questionnaire, please go to  www.gateshead.gov.uk/climatepledge before the cut-off date, 28th February 2024.

**Gardening Group**

The gardening group will be returning to work in the  graveyard in March. If you are interested in joining us  and would like more information, please contact Joan  Alexanders mobile 07957871375. Equipment will be  provided, please bring your own gardening gloves. 

**Opening and closing excerpts from Bishop Paul’s sermon at his Farewell Service  Durham Cathedral Saturday 27th February 2024**

Ten years ago, I stood in this pulpit and preached my inaugural sermon as the 79th Bishop of  Durham. I serve in this line that began with 25 Bishops of Lindisfarne, Aidan, Cuthbert and finally  Aldhun who became the first Bishop of Durham. Standing outside the Feretory reading the long  list of bishops is deeply humbling. I am after all nothing more than a frail ‘clay jar.’ But so too were  all my predecessors. But the God they served, and whom we serve, is amazing. He is the God of  mercy and glory. The God who speaks and creates. The God who has made himself known in  Jesus Christ.

I simply want to remind you that God is faithful. He is the rock; the one under whose wings we can  take refuge. We are often faithless, but God who can never deny himself remains faithful. God is  faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us all from all unrighteousness.