

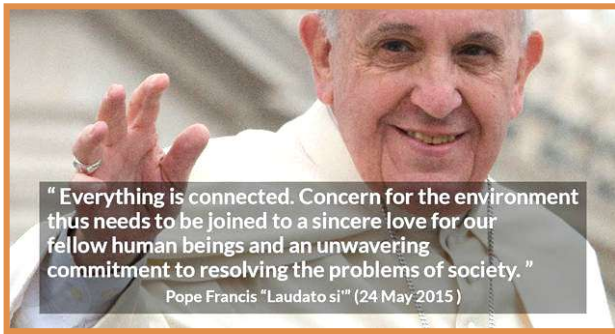
June 2025

60 pence

Faith in the Moor



This month's theme: 'Air'



My Instinct is to Give Thanks

Easter, Pope

Francis, Pope Leo

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a happy a joyous Eastertide!

A wonderful time in living our Christian Faith as we shared in the glory of Christ's Resurrection from the dead and the hope he gives us of Eternal Life with him. After the celebrations in my own parish, I'd planned a couple of quiet days to take-in what Easter is all about. However, my Easter Monday meet up with family was overtaken with the news breaking-in that Pope Francis had died a little earlier that morning.

Though struggling for some time with his frail health, the Holy Father's presence on Easter Sunday gave hope that he remained with us as shepherd. He blessed the crowd wishing everyone Happy Easter! His words to the city and to the world were read and his call for world peace and an end to wars made clear. Pope Francis travelled the rounds of St Peter's Square in the Pope Mobile and had direct contact with those who especially needed his touch and blessing. The next day, it was announced he had left this world for the Father's House. May Pope Francis Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory!

The Parish of St. John Boste celebrated a Requiem Mass for Pope Francis in St. Catherine's Penrith on Easter Thursday. We prayed for the soul of a pope who so many people felt was especially close to them, given his warm humanity and great understanding of the complexities of life.

Pray for Pope Leo handling 'interesting times'

Pope Francis wanted a Church for the poor and he desired that the focus of world leaders should be to build bridges and not walls. He gave emphasis to the Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. His encyclical letter Laudato Si - On Care For Our Common Home has become a



leading document on the environment which God has entrusted to our stewardship, now and for generations to come.

On Maundy Thursday Pope Francis visited a Roman Prison. Unable this year to say Mass for the prisoners and wash their feet, he nevertheless spent quality time with them, encouraging hope and radiating the love and care of Jesus.

The funeral of Pope Francis was essentially the same Requiem Mass that is celebrated for any Catholic but on a much greater scale with many world leaders and dignitaries present. However, it was the ordinary people of Rome that this Pope of the People returned to as his simple coffin travelled through the streets on a converted Pope Mobile to its final resting place. This was to be in the Basilica of St. Mary Major outside the Vatican and in a poor but vibrant district. There he lies in a simply marked tomb which people can visit.

My original intention when setting out to write these words was to include some reflection on the election and first days of the pontificate of Pope Leo the XIV. However, there will be chance to do so again. My instinct is to give thanks for the wonderful service and self-sacrifice of Pope Francis as successor of St. Peter. Then my thoughts turn to pray for the present successor of St. Peter, Pope Leo XIV.

Finally, on behalf of my fellow Catholics, I would like to thank those of you from other Christian Churches, people of other Faiths, and people of good will for your prayers and thoughts on the death of Pope Francis and on the election of Pope Leo XIV.

May God bless us all with his abiding love and peace,
Parish of St. John Boste, Serving: Penrith, Alston, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen.

Fr. John

The Soaring of Eagles

“We human beings are by nature terrestrial, clodhopping creatures. The law of gravity keeps us earth-bound. So we look on the birds with envy. If only we could fly! We sigh longingly with the psalmist: ‘Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would flee far away ...’ (Psalm 55:8). Flight is the symbol of freedom.”



Thus John Stott began his chapter on ‘the Soaring of Eagles’ in his book ‘The Birds Our Teachers’.

Adam Duerr is a Research Wildlife Biologist, who has studied the flight of Golden Eagles. He explains, “These large birds move through the landscape primarily by soaring—a style of flying where they hold their wings outward and rarely flap, saving them considerable energy. Instead of flapping, they rely on rising air currents to gain altitude.

Two types of rising air currents provide most lift for soaring eagles. The first, thermal updrafts, form when energy from the sun heats air at the Earth’s surface and causes it to rise. Eagles circle within these columns of rising air to gain great altitude and then glide out of the thermals to move across the landscape. The second, orographic updrafts, form when winds are deflected upward by structures such as ridges or hills. Eagles can then soar at relatively low altitude above and along these structures.”

In Proverbs 30: 18 - 19 the writer confesses that there are things that astonish him and one of them is “the way of an eagle in the sky.” Isaiah holds out the promise that “those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.” (Isaiah 40:31) C H Spurgeon, the nineteenth century Baptist preacher, encouraged his listeners to learn from the eagles with this reflection: “The air says to the eagle, ‘Trust me; spread thy broad wings; I will bear thee up to the sun. Only trust me. Take thy foot from off yon rock which thou canst feel beneath thee. Get away from it, and be buoyed up by the unseen element.’ My brethren, eaglets of heaven, mount aloft, for God invites you. Mount! You have but to trust him.”

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus told us to be bird-watchers, ‘look at the birds of the air’. Let’s learn to trust God and soar like the eagle whose daring is captured here by Alfred, Lord Tennyson in his poem ‘The Eagle’.

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

ME

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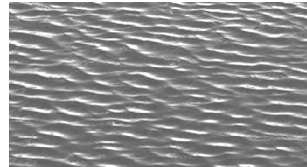
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Help from the Skies

Valuing Our Local Air Ambulances



Back in the late 15th Century Leonardo da Vinci drew his 'Aerial screw' design thought to be an early primitive helicopter design. The helicopters that we know now were designed and continually re-defined in the 20th Century. The first known air ambulance service in the UK began in 1933 in Scotland with a flight from Wideford to Orkney. But it was Cornwall that formed the first Air Ambulance Charity to operate a helicopter in 1987. This was followed by 20 other UK air ambulance charities being formed around the country.

When hearing the sound of a helicopter flying over us in Alston and surrounding villages what are your immediate thoughts? Mine are 'It must be the air ambulance on the way to an emergency; I wonder where it is going?' We accept that they will be coming to help when there is a need, it could be a road traffic accident, a medical emergency or even a case of walkers encountering a cow that tramples someone. Many of us have had some experience of such events. My own son had a cycle collision with an oncoming car on the 'Way of the roses' coast to coast ride some years ago. Thankfully the air ambulance arrived and took him to hospital in Leeds where he was admitted and cared for. Anyone that has been at the receiving of such care by the air ambulance is extremely appreciative, meanwhile many people quietly get on with trying to make funds to support the services. In Alston good people knit and sell goods, have afternoon tea parties, have written a recipe book and I am sure many other activities, but maybe we could do a bit more? The air ambulances receive **no** government funding and are entirely run on the generosity of the public.

We are most fortunate that we have an airbase of the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) at Langwathby as well as Eaglescliffe in the North-East. They cover the North-East, North Yorkshire, Cumbria, Scotland and the Isle of Man. The 'Airdesk' liaises between 999 calls, road crew paramedics, other emergency services and the air ambulances. Langwathby has a hangar on site keeping 'Pride of Cumbria 11' safe and secure.

Similarly, we also have the North-West Air ambulance with heliports at Blackpool and Manchester who cover Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. This overlap of services means that we are well and truly cared for in our hours of need.



Onboard the air ambulances are the pilot, a specialist pre-hospital doctor and a paramedic that support each other. Their joint experience and skills make this a very professional on-board team. Whilst they also need the essential link with the airdesk paramedic for the ongoing situation reports and links with other emergency services that have been alerted. The on-board doctors (some are ex-military) have their own specialised training in

anaesthetics and emergency medicine. If the air ambulance is summoned, they are here in the Alston area as soon as is possible; the national average is within 15 minutes. At base they are also involved in research and development projects aiming to improve the services even more. In the background at base there are the Charities fundraising and administration teams, the blood bank bikers and those people that are always ready to go and speak to any groups about the work that they do. Alston WI hosted such a speaker from GNAAS last year. She told us all about their work and was very well received; many in the audience bought the fundraising items that she brought with her.

Please visit the websites of GNAAS

(<https://www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk>) and the North West Air Ambulance (<https://nwairambulance.org.uk>) for further information, case studies and how you may be able to be of further help to them. JH

Up, Up and Away!

Everyone loves balloons. What is a children's party without them? Many years ago John and I took the children to Disney World in Florida, for our family holiday of a lifetime. We had a great time all together. But one morning, very early, John and I set off for an excursion all by ourselves. We arrived at the meeting point, a field, where a number of other excited people were gathered. We were all there to experience something extraordinary – a ride in a hot air balloon. Firstly, they gave us a breakfast

of smoked salmon and champagne. Then we had to sign a disclaimer to say we understood the risks and we wouldn't sue them if it crashed....!



But where was the balloon? They're a bit big to hide.... the organisers asked for a few volunteers. From the back of their van, they pulled out this large bundle of brightly coloured material. John and the other men were tasked with unrolling the material so that it lay spread out on the ground. Then a huge blower began its task of inflating the material with air. Gradually it filled this giant balloon and it began to inflate. Then the large wicker basket was attached, and we were ready to go.

I was very excited, John a little nervous as he doesn't like heights! We all climbed into the basket, and the propane-powered burners heated the air, making it less dense, so it rose up into the air, taking us with it. Soon we were gazing down on the landscape



below. It was very peaceful, unless they fired the burners, which roared and carried us higher. The chap in charge of our balloon, who had our lives and about 8 others in his hands, looked rather young for my liking, but he seemed to know what he was doing. He had no control over which way the balloon went, other than to raise or lower the altitude. This he did either by heating the air in the balloon to go higher, or letting out some of the hot air so that we went lower - apparently, the wind blows in different directions at different heights. So, basically, nobody had any idea where we would land. Fortunately, a staff member on the ground in a van followed our progress, and they communicated with the 'pilot' via radio. It seems we had a longer flight than usual (I think it was about an hour) as they tried to find a suitable landing site somewhere along our route. In the end we came down in a field full of orange bushes! It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, one that I would recommend. And it seems, so would John, in spite of his fear of heights. *Pauline de la Mare*



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Bound Together

A Methodist Airborne Padre during WWII

The war ended in 1945, but the London Celebrations of Victory occurred on 6 June 1946. Revd Robert Talbot-Watkins' service as an Army Chaplain during WWII was marked by his unwavering commitment to his fellow soldiers and remarkable bravery in the face of danger. Wearing the Red Beret of the 1st Parachute Battalion, Revd Robert Talbot-Watkins was one of the twelve chaplains chosen to attend the Victory Parade who celebrated peace alongside the international members of the allied forces. The atmosphere was buzzing as the streets of London filled with people eager to celebrate the Allied victory. Along with the vehicles of the mechanised columns and the flyover of 300 aircraft, thousands of men and women from around the world walked together during this time of peace. It was a celebration of peace and freedom.

Born on 1 January 1913, Robert became a Methodist minister in 1938 and, when the war started, was the youngest Methodist Chaplain to join the Royal Army Chaplains' Department (RACHD). After serving with the 2nd Battalion, the Essex Regiment, he was commissioned into the 1st Parachute Battalion on 5 September 1941 with Revd Bernard Egan. They were the first airborne padres and set the standard of what was to be expected from future chaplains. In the 1st Parachute Battalion, they were posted as 'penguins' – non-flying staff. To improve their relationship with the soldiers of the battalion, they asked to undergo the same training and learn to parachute, believing that staying a 'penguin' would place them in an intolerable position. Robert wrote in 'The Methodist Recorder' that it was important because otherwise *"In his every day relations with them he would be a stranger in the midst of men bound together by a unique experience from which he, the padre was shut out."* Despite being denied permission to start jump by the senior chaplain, they went ahead with the support of the brigadier, Richard Gale, which got Robert a *"monumental rocket for disobedience [and] lack of discipline"* from the Chaplain General.

"The nervous and emotional stress is the same for all, chaplains included... the tenseness of the experience arises from the fact that finally each man stands alone... yet one is not quite alone, for the knowledge that the next man looks as green as you feel acts as a spur. Therein lies the sense of comradeship which is so characteristic of all parachutists." Revd Robert Talbot-Watkins in the Methodist Recorder (undated)



ME

Royal Air Force Spadeadam

Located on the border of Cumbria and Northumberland, and originally known as the Spadeadam Wastes, the first connection with modern defence came in the late 1950s when the area was chosen as the site of the test establishment for the 'Blue Streak', Britain's intended Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM). Until this time, the area had no activity at all, and was in effect a waste land. It was not suitable for farming, and the ground was unfit to drive vehicles, so forestry activity was very limited.

Initially developed for use by the Ministry of Aviation, it was managed on their behalf by Rolls-Royce. It is their name that is most often associated with the early years of the Station, although at the same time, other companies involved were Hawker Siddley, and De-Havilland.

In 1960 the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile programme was cancelled but the project was immediately replaced by the European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO), in which Britain joined with France and Germany to provide a European alternative to the American and Russian monopoly on satellite launchers.

Spadeadam was chosen as an engine and rocket test site because of its isolation combined with nearby infrastructure capable of supporting it, such as a plentiful water supply, access to the National Grid power and road connections. A stretch of the road to the site from Gilsland had to be bypassed to make access easier for heavy trucks and the section is still known as "half-shaft hill" due to its unfortunate effect on vehicle transmissions and the rocket carriage vehicles were



modified to lift the rocket up when crossing Gilsland bridge



The Rocket Establishment, as it was called, was divided into specific areas: an administration site, a component test area, the engine test area and the static firing stands. The engine test area at Prior Lancy Rigg consisted of four concrete stands into which the Rolls Royce

RZ-2 engines could be mounted for individual test firing, each Blue Streak rocket would have had two RZ-2 engines, powered by liquid oxygen and kerosene.



My mum worked here over 60 years ago handling these dangerous chemicals, and went about the site in these very wellies, rather faded since those days! BNW

Two rocket-firing stands stood at Greymare Hill, known as Test site East and West, and were large enough to accommodate a full Blue Streak missile. All firings were controlled from command centre bunkers connected to the stands by tunnels or surface cabling ducts and once a test was completed with no failures, the rocket was disassembled and shipped to Woomera test range in Australia for test firing.

The outlying moorland landscape of the site is of increasing importance for its visual quality and for nature conservation. The area includes a pristine peat bog, populations of all three species of British newt and forestry habitat suitable for endangered red squirrels. The site now has a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSIs), and the forestry areas are managed by the Forestry Commission.

In 1972 Britain withdrew from the European Launcher Development Organisation and the consortium withdrew from Spadeadam. At that point the site was handed over to the Proof and Experimental Establishment, for static firing and range activities, and was briefly an Army range.

In 1976 Spadeadam became an RAF Station and the location for Western Europe's first full scale Electronic Warfare Tactics Range, in January 1977.



Much of the infrastructure on site are the relics from the Blue Streak days, although a new Accommodation block has been built and was opened in 2015.

The site is circa 9600 acres and is **the largest Royal Air Force Station**, by size. The station comprises Regular Service personnel, Full Time Reservists, Civil Service, and Contractor staff, who all work alongside each other, as whole force to deliver critical training which will save pilots lives in wartime. The main purpose of the site is to provide electronic warfare training to aircraft from the UK and our Allies. Until 2000 the site was a joint venture with the United States Air Force (USAF), but since then, it has been solely run by UK personnel. The range contains ground-based electronic warfare equipment to act as a simulated threat to training aircrews. Some of the equipment was manufactured in the old Soviet Union, some from Germany, Argentina and the USA. There are real and dummy targets, and a mock airfield, with a variety of aircraft.

In addition to EW training, the site is also used by ground troops for training and increasingly in the modern warfare arena, to test Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Over the last few years, there has been a decrease in the number of fast jets, and an increase in rotary wing aircraft (helicopters), however the pace of training has not decreased. The kits at RAF Spadeadam can be taken anywhere to provide EW training; in the last few years, personnel and kits have deployed as far away Australia, but regularly visit Norway, Sweden, Spain, Italy, and Oman. The Royal Netherlands Air Force are regular visitors to the EW Tactics Range, basing themselves out of Carlisle Airport, for Exercise TAC BLAZE, but they are by no means the only foreign user of Spadeadam!



When international tensions are raised, the whole force at RAF Spadeadam recognise that the training they deliver is a key part of all combat capable aircraft training. However, in the run up to war, most recently in 2003 for Iraq and 2011 in Libya, squadrons pushed hard to train against the threat systems here. All The Station personnel are aware of international tension but are professionals and their aim is to deliver the best possible training to prepare the pilots for potential combat, wherever and whenever that may be.

The team at RAF Spadeadam always strives to adapt to new technologies and strategies – but within certain limitations! We operate old threat equipment, but the team are used to being cunning to try to catch out overconfident pilots. Aircraft databases can be reprogrammed so our older systems look in the cockpit like they are the ones used by current and emergent threat countries.

Despite the purpose of RAF Spadeadam changing over the years, the personnel are incredibly proud of the support we give and our role in electronic warfare, as this is one area that the war in Ukraine has shown is key to all future conflicts. There is an increasing call on us to support training and we have never been so busy. The range is being used for so many different roles now, including test and evaluation trials, army training, drone testing and other classified activities, as well as ongoing work looking at how we can best use the site in the future for cross government and industrial test activity.



*Heidi Garstang, Media Communications Officer RAF Spadeadam
Huge thank you to Heidi for working with colleagues to send us this article.*

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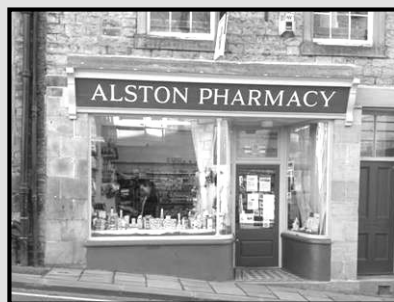
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Lay Pastoral Worker: Dean Lawson Phone: 07897 736024

Email: laypastor@penrithmethodist.co.uk

Church Steward: Mr John de la Mare ☎ 07802 709320

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QUAKERS

Carol Graham ☎ 01388 517145 ✉ hillhouseeast@yahoo.co.uk

Antony Christie ☎ 01434 381633 ✉ antonychristie@aol.com

Kate Webb ☎ 01434 381562 ✉ kate.webb@yahoo.co.uk



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Methodist Services



All services at 11.00 am in St Wulstan's, unless otherwise stated.

June is 'Bible Month' when our focus will be on personal encounters in the Gospel of John.

1st Church Family Meeting

5 pm at The Hive, Nenthead - Pennine Praise with Worship Band and Rev Dave Milner as Speaker

8th Rev Mary Elliot Holy Communion - Focus on Jesus and the man born blind (John 9: 1-41)

15th David Pepin - Focus on Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4: 1-42)

22nd Dean Lawson - Focus on Jesus and Peter (John 1:35-42; 13:2 -38; 18: 1-27; 20: 1- 9; 21: 1-23)

29th Pauline de la Mare - Focus on Jesus and Mary and Martha (John 11:1-45 and 12: 1-10)

5 pm EEMC bring your own Picnic at Gamblesby followed by Easter Offering Service at 6.30 pm

Quaker Meeting for Worship



Quaker Meeting for Worship continues to take place every FOURTH SUNDAY of the month at 10.30am, throughout the year

And SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH: 6.30 – 7.30pm
14th MAY, 11th JUNE, 9th JULY, 13th AUGUST, 10th SEPTEMBER

Everyone most warmly welcome to join us for an hour of silent, reflective worship at these times.

Roman Catholic Mass



St Wulstan's, Kings Arms Lane, Alston, CA9 3JF
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with confessions available from 5.30pm

Ecumenical Service at Grisedale Croft

A relaxed, informal service, on Thursday 5th June, 1.30pm

Church of England services & events



Worship and Prayer in June

Sunday, 1st June (*1st Sunday in the month*):

- 9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh
11.00am Sung Communion St Augustine, Alston (& livestream)
4.30pm Practice for next week's Evensong Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh

Sunday, 8th June (*2nd Sunday in the month*):

- 9.30am Morning Prayer St John, Nenthead
11.00am Sung Communion St Augustine, Alston (& livestream)
4.00pm Practice for...
6.00pm **Come & Sing Evensong (BCP)** Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh

Friday, 13th June

- 6.30pm **Songs of Praise** St Jude, Knaresdale

Sunday, 15th June (*3rd Sunday in the month*):

- 9.30am Morning Prayer St John, Nenthead
9.30am Morning Prayer St John, Garrigill
11.00am Sung Communion St Augustine, Alston (& livestream)

Sunday, 22nd June (*4th Sunday in the month*):

- 9.30am Holy Communion St John, Nenthead
11.00am Prayer & Praise St Augustine, Alston (& livestream)
3.00pm **Summer Celebration service** Ss Mary & Patrick, Lambley

Sunday, 29th June (*5th Sunday in the month*):

- 9.30am Said Communion St Augustine, Alston (& livestream)
3.00 pm **Ordination** St Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle

Andy's Ordination

Andy is to be ordained Deacon on Sunday 29th June at 3pm, in Newcastle Cathedral – we will be arranging transport. We'll be celebrating with a party at Lowbyer Manor in the evening.

Please contact Mark (vicar@alstonmoorcofe.org.uk or 01434 382558) if you need transport to the Cathedral, or will be coming to the party.



Regular Weekday services (except 14th-20th June)

Morning, Evening & Night Prayer

- Morning Prayer: Wed-Sat, 9am St Augustine's & on Zoom
- Evening Prayer: Wed, Thu & Sat, 5pm St Augustine's & on Zoom
Fridays, 6pm St John's, Nenthead
- Night Prayer: Fridays, 9pm Zoom

Informal Holy Communion

- Every Thursday, 12 noon Chat Room, Alston

Sunday services online

- Join us at 11am weekly on **Zoom** using the app – or, with an ordinary phone, dial 0203 051 2874. The **Meeting ID code** is **357 123 751**.
- Or find us on **YouTube** – youtube.com/@AlstonMoorParishChurches
- Download the orders of service from alstonmoorcofe.org.uk/worship and the notice sheet from alstonmoorcofe.org.uk/whatson

Prayer requests and virtual candles



If you would like someone to pray for or with you, phone Mark on 01434 382558 or email pray@alstonmoorcofe.org.uk

Light a candle at churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle or in any of our parish churches

June dates for your Diary (subject to change)

Sun 15th, 10am-3pm **Coffee Shop** *Garrigill VH*

Sat 28th, 10am **St Jude's Coffee Stop** *Knaresdale w Kirkhaugh VH*

The Chat Room

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Holy Spirit, Rushing, Burning

So run the words of Stewart Cross's hymn, *Father, Lord of all Creation*. And this year, the 8th of June will see us celebrating the Feast of Pentecost, a particularly special occasion for our Anglican Parish of the Holy Paraclete at Kirkhaugh, as it is their Patronal Festival.



The Day of Pentecost was originally the Jewish 'Festival of Days', a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after Passover, when gifts of agricultural produce were brought to the Temple in Jerusalem; this became impossible when the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD.

For some of our great Christian observances, we can see a definite link with the Judaic calendar. It is rather less easy to see why God chose the Festival of Days to send the Holy Spirit on the Disciples. Perhaps it is fitting that this should be the case; Our Lord tells us, does He not, that 'The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.' (*John 3:8*).

While *Genesis* 1 makes it clear that the Holy Spirit has been present from Earth's beginning, He is for me the most enigmatic Person of the Trinity. Unlike the Father and the Son, He is difficult to visualise. In Christian art, He is traditionally portrayed as a dove like the picture at the top of this article, but is this perhaps too gentle an image of the Spirit Who came to the Disciples in a 'mighty rushing wind' and tongues of flame, bringing with Him the most cataclysmic change? Possibly the more powerful portrayals of Him are those that combine these two aspects of His Person, such as Lawrence Lew's *Holy Spirit Fire* (below), which brilliantly illustrates Him both as the peaceful Dove and the Pentecostal fire



descending on the Apostles. I recall mentioning once in a sermon that one of the most serious heresies of the Jehovah's Witnesses is to deny the Personhood of the Holy Spirit, and to say 'it' – not 'He' – 'it' is simply, and I quote from their own *Study*

Guide, 'God's power in action, His active force.' For those of us who might be familiar with the *Star Wars* films, this rather brings to mind the *Star Wars* equivalent of God, referred to as 'the Force', a sort of spiritual energy-field that

can be harnessed to help us perform acts of power, for good or bad, depending on our personal inclinations. Looked at on the simplest level, is this necessarily an inaccurate way to understand the workings of the Holy Spirit? After all, we ask for His strength at Baptism and Confirmation to support us in our Christian living; similarly, at Ordination, the Church calls on Him to uphold our clergy in their ministry. In these respects, He certainly can be compared to something like a 'force'.

But He is so much more than that! He is the *One*, the *Person*, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. And perhaps the best way to understand what that means is to think of Him as their agent of change: moving within the Church to inspire and guide it; working in the lives of Christians, revealing our gifts to us, and filling us with the love that enables us to bring the Father's active compassion and care into His World.

The Holy Spirit is also the One Who, as St. Paul tells us in Romans 8:26, 'helpeth our infirmities': when we ourselves don't know what or how we should pray, He 'maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.'

Richard Pattison





Sharon Devlin, Director of Safeguarding

s.devlin@newcastle.anglican.org

Tel: 0191 270 4138 / 07386 678250



Jill Thirlaway, Safeguarding Caseworker

Email: j.thirlaway@newcastle.anglican.org

Mobile: 07436220861



John Hulse, Training & Learning Advisor

0191 270 4147 safeguardingtrainer@newcastle.anglican.org



Lisa Wardlaw, Safeguarding Case Worker

Email: caseworker@newcastle.anglican.org

Tel: 07825 167 016



Maggi Creese, Lead Officer, Chaplaincy to Survivors

E-mail: m.creese@newcastle.anglican.org

Tel: 07826 405 972



Matthew Kelley, Safeguarding Administrator

0191 270 4105 safeguardingadmin@newcastle.anglican.org

Easy to Talk To

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle has a **new Safeguarding team.**

Our local Parish Safeguarding Officer Karen Morsman (pictured below) says they are really kind, helpful and easy to talk to. If you have any concerns or need someone, you can talk to Karen 07930 433407 or any of the team on the left.



Pepin's Puzzles

Find 4 sayings/facts about AIR spread out In the 4 columns of this grid each one starting with the word in the first column.

Finnair	J S Bach wrote	Is a traditional	and soul
The composer	Is a	for body, mind	Irish song
Londonderry	beats fresh air	Air on a	Airline
Nothing	Air	Scandinavian	G String

IN THE FOLLOWING FIND at least 9 words with the letters AIR in them

FIRSTAIRSATHEFAIRWHERE THEFOXINITSLAIRLIESHIDDENWITHAPAIROFCUBS
BUTDON'TDESPAIRIFYOULACKTHEFLAIRSINCETHEHAIRSOFOURHEADAREALL
NUMBEREDSOSAYSTHEGOODBOOKWHICHALSOSPEAKSOFANGELSNOTFAIRIE
SBYTHEWAYANYTHINGTHATISBROKENCANUSUJALLYBEREPAIRED

FIT THESE PHRASES AND SINGLE WORDS INTO THE GRID. LEAVE NO GAPS

A BROADCASTING
PHRASE IS DONE FOR
YOU – BACKWARDS!

AIR ON A G STRING

AIR WAVES

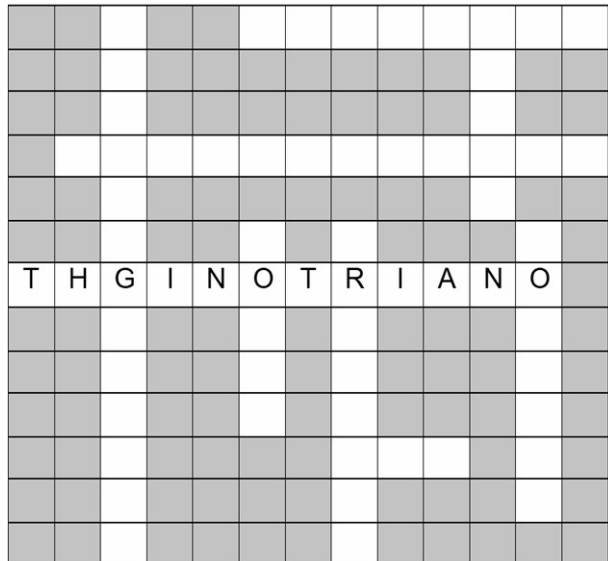
COLD NIGHT AIR

AIR VITAL

FORCE POLLUTE

FRESH AIR

**PAIR THE NUMBERED
1 TO 7 IDIOMS WITH
THE LETTERED A – G
MEANINGS**



1. Clear the air
2. Hot air
3. Take the air
4. Up in the air
5. Walk on air
6. Airs and graces
7. Give oneself airs

A. unresolved B. affectation to impress C. defuse or clarify D. boasting without substance E. go out of doors F. feel elated G. pretentiously

David Pepin

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News from St Jude's

Hope you are making the most of these sunny days. We appreciated the warm weather for our Sunday service this month. The church was warm both in temperature and warmth of the people who came for the Blessing of the Lambs. The sun poured into the newly cleaned windows. We would like to thank Kate for cleaning the windows. The church looks so much lighter.

Lizzie gave a wonderful service to a goodly number in the congregation, at the end of the service we all stepped outside where a peaceful scene presented sheep with their lambs under a tree. They were all blessed and we retired to the Kirkstyle for teas and coffee.

Daryl writes: ***"It was a lovely service - no lambs inside but plenty to see from the churchyard. It was also good to spend some time with Irene, Kim and Christine (and others) in the pub afterwards."***

The Coffee Stop was busy again this month with yet more new faces. Next dates: 31st May, 28th June: Hope to see you there.



On the 16th May a silent film was shown in the Community hall. With brilliantly chosen music played with great enthusiasm by Veronica and Chris, such good fun. The proceeds to Saint Jude's and the Hall, and much enjoyed by a hall full of happy people.



My camera couldn't cope with balancing the light of bright screen and dark audience, so I hope this combination gives you an idea of the effect.

BNW

We raised £560!

Friday 13th June at 6.30pm is the date of the next Church service. Songs of Praise; choose your favourite hymn. Then Sunday 13th July at 3pm for the very popular Pet Service. May has been a busy month with AGM meetings for the Community Hall, Slaggyford WI and the Alston Moor churches.

Enjoy the Sunshine, Stay Safe and look out for each other. *Irene Boyles*



St Jude's Church, Knaresdale



You are warmly invited to join us for ...

Songs of Praise

Friday 13th June, 6:30 p.m.

Come and sing your favourite hymns – all welcome!

Contact Mark ,382558 or vicar@alstonmoorcofe.org.uk
to request a hymn





Thank You!

To all who came to the special Christian Aid service last month.

It is such a treasure here that When we gather from our Different denominations, we know and love each other so it

doesn't feel strange or unusual. We raised a huge amount for the work of Christian Aid helping people of any faith or none all over the world, especially those badly affected by climate change. Thank you to Lizzie for all her work making it happen.



Andy's Adventure

Our own Andy Morsman is finally coming to the end of his path towards ordination as a Deacon in the Anglican

Church this June,
and hopefully a

Priest next year. He says:

'I'm excited and terrified in equal measure, as I trust God to take me through to the next stage of my life.'

There are lifts being arranged to the Cathedral if you'd like to be there for him, and a party afterwards at Lowbyer: if you want to join us please talk to Mark or one of the leadership team.



Please pray for all those to be ordained
this Petertide, among them

Andy Morsman

to be ordained to the Diaconate by

Rt-Revd Helen Ann Hartley,
Bishop of Newcastle

in The Cathedral Church of St Nicholas,
Newcastle at 3pm on Sunday 29th June 2025.

Please pray for Andy's family, especially Karen.

Also for Rev Mark Nash-Williams
and the people of the Parish of Alston Moor
where Andy is to serve as Assistant Curate.

Breath of Life

The words for air, breath, wind and spirit – and even life - are so closely linked in Biblical languages it can be hard to get the right translation.

In Greek, pneuma could refer to several things like: air in motion, the wind, a person's inner disposition, breath, the breath of life, a supernatural being, and the Spirit of God.

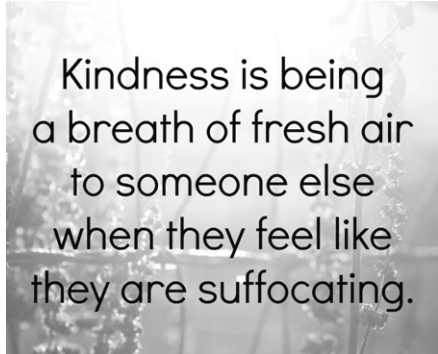
It leads to John's clever use of the word in one of my favourite verses:

3:8 The **wind** blows wherever it will, and you hear the sound it makes, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the **Spirit**." (NET Bible).

It's the same word but nuanced by context.

רוּחַ The Hebrew Ruach is similar, having many meanings such as wind, breath, exhalation, life, anger, insubstantiality, a region of the sky, spirit. It can be a symbol of life, or the wind of heaven. The second verse in the bible is 'the ruach hovered over the face of the waters' (Gen 1.2) to Ezekiel 37 where the dry bones, muscle, tendons and skin only come to life with Ruach. The prophet is told to command the ruach – 'Come from the four winds, O breath': Winds and breath are the same Hebrew word ruach. In Hebrew plants are alive, but the word that distinguishes animal life is moving air or breath.

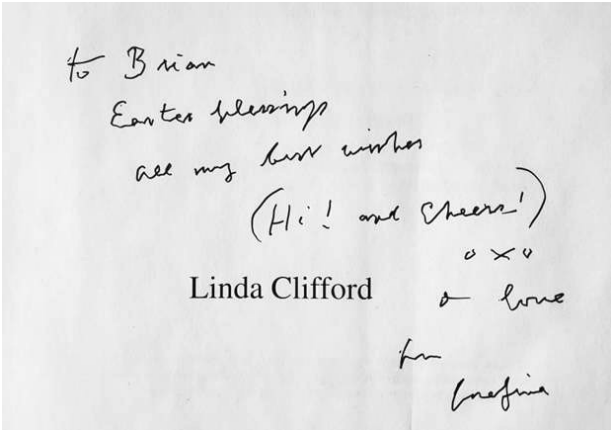
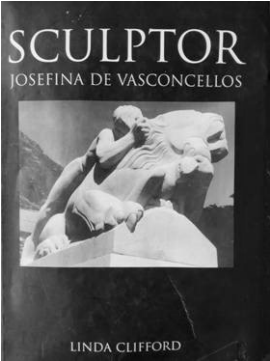
When we read Jn 19.30 'Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.' It is a religious meaning added later; originally it was just translated breath; he stopped breathing, gave up his life. No less powerful for that literal version, but magnificently overturned at Pentecost, with a 'mighty, rushing wind.' He didn't just reenergise the terrified disciples with his pneuma; he gave them Life. *BNW*



Kindness is being
a breath of fresh air
to someone else
when they feel like
they are suffocating.



Last month Madeleine Harris did a lot of research to write the article about Josefina de Vasconcellos. She was so interested she bought a second-hand book about her – and found to her surprise this Easter inscription from Josefina herself to Brian, quite probably her adopted son.



Pepin’s Puzzles Answers:

Hidden words with AIR in:

STAIRS FAIR LAIR PAIR DESPAIR FLAIR HAIRS FAIRIES REPAIRED

1C 2D 3E 4A 5F 6B 7G

		A			A	I	R	W	A	V	E	S
		I							I			
		R								T		
	C	O	L	D	N	I	G	H	T	A	I	R
		N								L		
		A			F		F				P	
T	H	G	I	N	O	T	R	I	A	N	O	
		S			R		E				L	
		T			C		S				L	
		R			E		H				U	
		I					A	I	R		T	
		N					I				E	
		G					R					

About 'Faith in the Moor'

This Magazine is a 'Churches Together' publication. It aims to share information useful to regular and occasional churchgoers, to the wider community, and to tourists and visitors. It reflects the life of the faith community in our corner of the North Pennines. Here people encourage, celebrate and debate their faith.

The different Christian churches who create this magazine get along very well, and work together in a spirit of openness and mutual regard. Faith in

the Moor welcomes input in harmony with this open Christian

Faith. Also from those whose spirituality is not focussed on a

particular religion, and those whose faith is in the Moor itself; its people, its uniqueness, its future. We support whatever enriches our community here.

Current team: JH = Jeanette Haslam,

ME = Mary Elliot, ES = Lizzie Smith,

MH = Madeleine Harris, RP = Richard

Pattison, BNW = Bar Nash-Williams



July Theme: 'Music'

Deadline: **Wednesday 18th May**

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Sebastian



George Mullard's contribution for 'Air' had these words in capitals: 'the chief factor is that without air there is no life; there is nothing.' Just a few days after he sent this, his beloved grandson Sebastian Weaver, was declared without air, without life – but in our faith, Not with nothing. With the immediate love of the community outpoured where he fell, and the eternal love of his creator to catch him above.



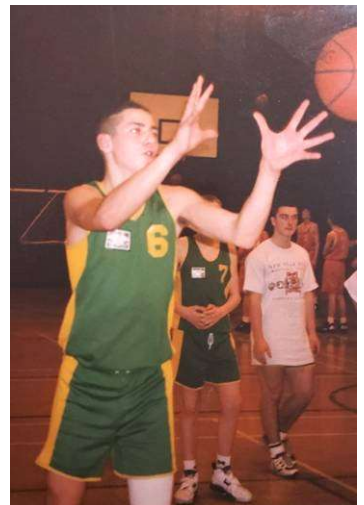
George writes: 'Dear community, my 44 year old grandson has died. His daughter Molli was by his side, along with his mother Lorraine Lisa, his aunty Leena, his sister Eve, and Nicola.



*On the phone they showed me him all wired up in the RVI. He was part of my life for 42 years, Liisa and I took him to Finland when he was ten. **We travelled the world.** Now it doesn't matter where I ring, they all know Sebastian is no longer with us; please uphold us in your prayers.*

*He was so helpful, **he would help anyone.***

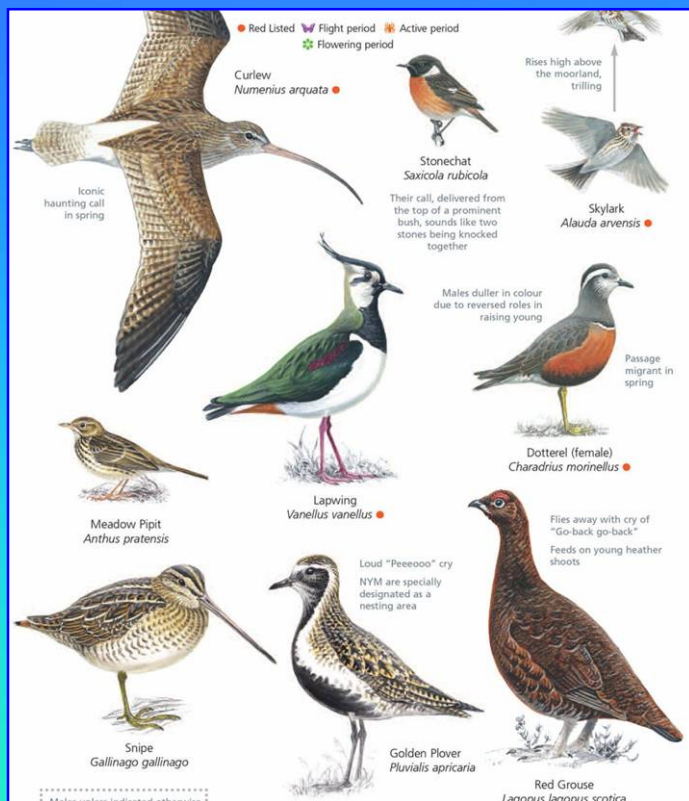
Even now he is going to donate an organ to help someone else live.'



The rest of George's original contribution was celebrating Easter resurrection to new life, and God giving breath of life for us all.

6'5" and larger than life, Seb played basket ball for England Youth.

A Song in the Air



A post on Absolutely Alston by Adie Richards on 1 May at 9.17 am, using the Merlin App which identifies bird song: 'Just had a walk back home from Eden Valley Autos via Tyne Willows. Heard/saw all of following between garage & Tyne Willows:-

Goldfinch, Sparrow, Willow Warbler, Jackdaw, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Curlew, Blackcap, Song Thrush, Chiffchaff, Dove, Blackbird. All in less than 5 minutes. Across Tyne Willows, through Henderson's Wood & up to Spar:- Rook, Wren, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Robin, Sparrow, Dunnock, Dove, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Jackdaw, Coal Tit, Nuthatch, Great Tit. All in 8 minutes.'

And in the comments from Jeff Rogers

'At The Brewery we have nesting Blue Tits, Blackbirds and Thrushes. Later there will be Yellow Wagtails on the river. We see a pair of Herons regularly and we have Chaffinches and Wrens too - and Robins.'

ME