

The Benefice of St Andrew's Blackhall with Hesleden and St James' Castle Eden

8th December 2013

Sunday— Advent 2

09.30 am Eucharist St Andrew's
11.00am Eucharist St James'

Tuesday

10.00 am Eucharist St Andrew's

Sunday - Advent 3

09.30 am Eucharist St Andrew's
11.00am Eucharist St James'
4.00 pm Christingle Service St
Andrew's

HYMNS FOR TODAY

263 Hark! a herald
voice is calling

527 On Jordan's
bank

428 Love Divine

221 God is working
his purpose out

Response to the Psalm:

"In his time shall the
righteous flourish".



WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S AND ST JAMES' ...

A special welcome to any visitors
to our services this morning.

Readings Advent 1 Year A:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Christmas Baubles

As part of our Christmas decorations
there will be baubles available for
people to write a name of a
departed loved one on. These
baubles will then be hung on our
Christmas Tree. Any donations that
people give for these will be given
to the Hartlepool and District
Hospice

Confirmation

It is hoped that we can have a
confirmation service here at St
Andrew's in the first few months of
next year. There will be a
confirmation course run it will start
on Thursday January 9th at the
Rectory—it will last
for 6 weeks prior to the confirmation and
anyone that is
interested in being confirmed should
please contact Alison



Well done:

A really big well done to all who
helped organised and run the
Autumn/Christmas Fayre a MASSIVE
£1006 was raised!

Recently Departed

Please pray for the souls and
grieving families of :

Brian Hinton (Wacker). Brian's
funeral will be held at St Andrew's
on Tuesday 10th December at 11.30
am followed by a service of
committal at Hartlepool
Crematorium.

Elsie Garthwaite. Elsie's funeral
will be held at St Andrew's on Friday
13th December at 11.00 am
followed by a service of committal at
Hartlepool Crematorium.

DIARY DATES

**Dec 15th 4 pm - St Andrew's
Christingle Service**

**Dec 20th 7 pm – St Andrew's
Carols in the Hall**

**Dec 22nd 4pm – St James' Carol
Service**

**Dec 24th 6pm – St Andrew's
Christmas Eve Service**

**Dec 24th 8pm – St James'
Christmas Eve Service**

**Dec 25th 10am – Combined
Benefice Christmas Day Service
St Andrew's**

Where to find Prayers & readings

Weekday Eucharistic readings:
Matthew 18:12-14

Next week: 15th December 2013

Advent 3 Year A,
Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Rotas for next Sunday

St Andrew's	
Reader	Linda Dott
Intercessor	Allan Kaye
Offertory	Margaret Hardy
Chalice	Ray Settrey

How to get in touch

Vicar	The Revd Alison Richardson TEL 0191 5864202	
Churchwardens		
St Andrew's	Harry Hardy	TEL 01915866594
St James'	Averil Renton	TEL 01429836205
Authorised Pastoral Assistant	Linda Dott	TEL: 01915181765

St Andrew's:

Treasurer Ian Goodrich TEL: 01915866451
PCC Secretary Ron Stewart TEL: 01429837744

St James':

Treasurer Christine Riley
PCC Secretary Dawn Carter

Notices:

The Revd Alison Richardson
TEL 0191 5864202 Email arichardson2@btinternet.com

Before the service—talk to God.
During the service—listen to God.
After the service—talk to others.

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Connecting faith and daily life

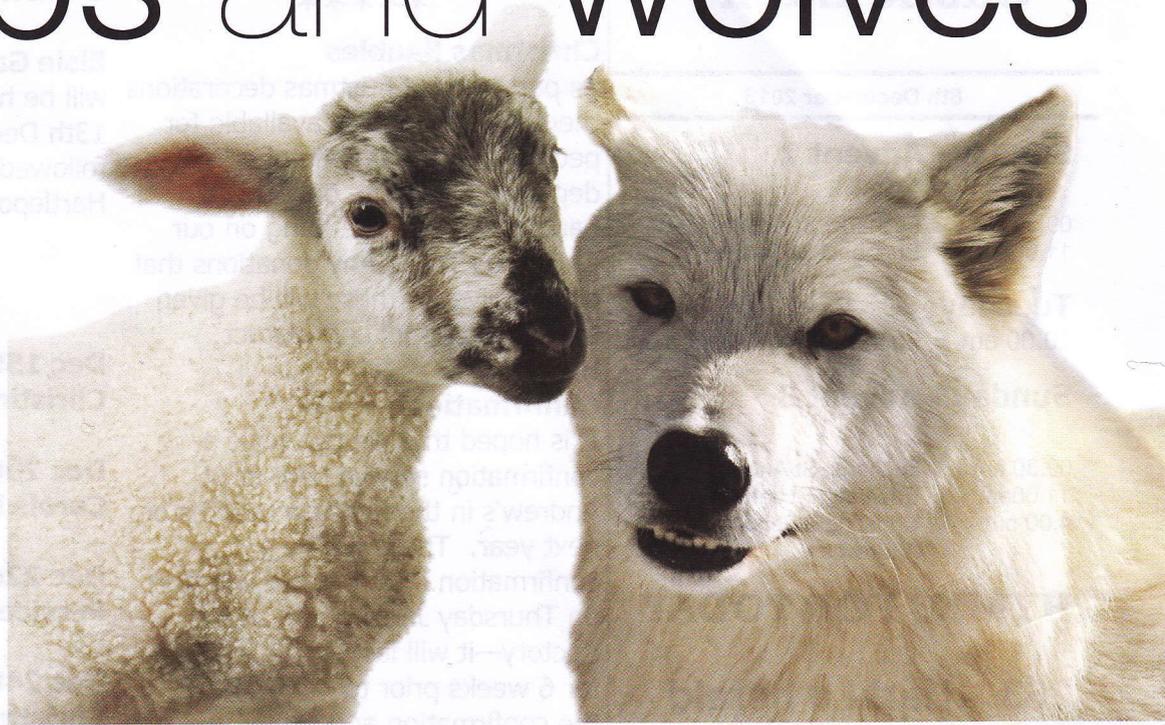
Lambs and wolves

by Gillian Cooper

Isaiah 11:1-10

Wolves eat lambs. Lions cannot be trusted around calves. Whatever the cute newspaper stories about mother bears adopting kittens, the reality is that a wolf who does not seize the opportunity for a snack when presented with a vulnerable lamb is no longer a wolf, but more like a domestic dog. This we know.

So Isaiah's vision is remarkable. Isaiah paints a picture of a peaceful world. The vision is not about the absence of war, about people who are capable of making a choice about their behaviour choosing the way of peace. Rather we have an image of a world where all violence is banished and a deep healing has taken place. It is not a return to the innocence of the beginnings, but an ending which acknowledges cruelty and suffering, and banishes them. It is a world full of the knowledge of God.



It seems an impossible dream. But Advent invites us to dream the impossible. Our world belongs to God and has been saved in Christ. It has a future and a purpose. Just this once, we are allowed to imagine that one day there may be a ridiculous, impossible peace, presided over by the one on whom God's Spirit rests. ☺

God of the impossible, whose purposes are always bigger than our imaginings, help us to trust in your promises; give us minds with the imagination to dream of a better world, and hearts full of determination to play our part, that your kingdom may come and your will be done on earth. Amen.

The four last things
of Advent

Judgement

by Andy Lyon

A friend of mine recently did jury service. Although I know him to be fairly opinionated, he found the awesome responsibility of sitting formally in judgement over someone else almost paralysing: the case was by no means clear cut, and the decisions made would affect the path of somebody's life.

As Christians, sometimes we feel that "the Day of Judgement" is dangled over us like a threat: our grand appearance in the highest court of all when our fate will be decided based on our actions in life.

But in his *Reflections on the Psalms*, C.S. Lewis notes how the psalmists think about judgement quite differently: "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity," says Psalm 67. Judgement is now an occasion for rejoicing! All shall now "sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming... to judge the earth... with righteousness" (Psalm 96:12, 13). ☺

Letter from Mozambique

by Helen van Koevering

It is my miracle photo of the year: Ofelia cheerfully posing with the other girls as they carried sand into the rain-flooded church, preparing it for a service of celebration. Just a month before, Ofelia had begun coming to confirmation class, and turned up early on that first day so we had the chance of a chat.

All I heard from her was sadness: she was the daughter of Muslim parents, both of whom had died and left her to be raised by her Christian aunt. I could see yet more pain in her eyes as she told me that this aunt sometimes got angry with her. Ofelia told me she wanted to be confirmed because she wanted to be "made good", and I prayed for her. She has joined in with the St Agnes' group of fifty-four girls and will be one of those baptised and confirmed at the end of the year. With these girls and in our church, she is discovering the goodness of the God who sent his Son. Simply beautiful. ☺

“Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair.”

G.K. Chesterton