

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

19th January 2014

## Sunday—Epiphany 2

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

## Tuesday

10.00 am Eucharist St Andrew's

## Sunday - Epiphany 3

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

## HYMNS FOR TODAY

**347 Jesus calls us; o'er  
the tumult**

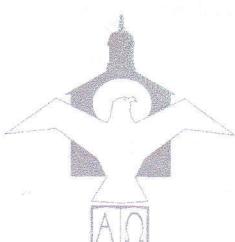
**503 O Jesus, I have  
promised**

**625 Take my life, and let  
it be**

**249 Great is thy  
faithfulness**

**Response to the Psalm:**

**"I love to do your will, O  
God".**



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

A warm welcome to any visitors to our services this morning

### Readings

**Epiphany 2 Year A ,  
Isaiah 49:1-7  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42**

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### Confirmation



The confirmation preparation course runs every Thursday evening at 7pm in the Rectory until the 13th Feb. **On the 16th February at 10.00am there will be a Combined Benefice Eucharist, Confirmation and baptism service where the Bishop of Jarrow—the Rt Revd Mark Bryant will preside.**

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### Recently Departed

Please pray for the souls and grieving families of the recently departed

**Peter Lloyd**

### Where to find Prayers & readings

**Weekday Eucharistic readings:  
Mark 2:23-28**

### Rotas for next Sunday

<b>St Andrew's</b>	
<b>Reader</b>	Ian Goodrich
<b>Intercessor</b>	Alan Kaye
<b>Offertory</b>	Joan Bennett
<b>Chalice</b>	Harry Jordan

## Inauguration of the Bishop

The Inauguration of Bishop Paul will be held in a service at the cathedral on Saturday 22nd Feb at 11 am. Should you wish to attend this service we have been invited to apply for tickets. Applications have to be in by 31st Jan and then we will learn how many tickets have been allocated to the benefice. If you wish to attend please put your name on the list at the back of church by 26th Jan at the latest.

### World War I Anniversary

As you are no doubt aware this year is the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. We will as a benefice be observing and remembering this (and other conflicts) in a number of different ways. One proposal is that we hold a sing-a-long of old time songs in the church hall on Friday June 6th and we are looking for a small number of people to volunteer to organise this. If you are interested please contact Alison.

### Licencing of Revd Elaine Jones

The churchwardens and PCC of St Cuthbert's Peterlee invite the congregations of St Andrew's and St James' to the licensing of their new vicar Revd Elaine Jones. The service is to be held at 3 pm on Sunday 2nd February.

**Next week: 26th January 2014**

**Epiphany 3 Year A ,  
Isaiah 9:1-4  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23**

### How to get in touch

<b>Vicar</b>	The Revd Alison Richardson TEL 0191 5864202	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Harry Hardy	TEL 01915866594
<b>St Andrew's</b>	Averil Renton	TEL 01429836205
<b>St James'</b>		
<b>Authorised Pastoral Assistant</b>	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 TEL: 01429837820

**Notices:** The Revd Alison Richardson  
TEL 0191 5864202 Email archardson2@btinternet.com

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

*Connecting faith and daily life*

# I need a hero

by Caroline Hodgson

John 1:29-42

The Jewish people had a long history of powerful, charismatic prophets and leaders, who had led them, both physically and spiritually, out of slavery, through the wilderness, through periods of exile, starvation and suffering. So under oppressive Roman rule they were desperate to find the next hero to follow in the footsteps of Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah and their great ancestors, prophets, judges and kings. And there was no shortage of candidates. Some of these self-appointed "messiahs" gained quite a respectable following of people prepared to believe and follow them. And by all accounts John the Baptist was a contender. He had his own disciples – and today's account

by John the Evangelist tells how he persuaded two of them to follow Jesus instead of himself.

One of the hardest things to give up is status. It's something we see in the Church, in our families, friendships, work, ourselves. It's easy to think of John the Baptist as a mere cog in the machine – a man who was born through a divine miracle and who was simply, automaton-like, fulfilling his function. But I don't think it was like that. I think John was an ordinary human who, in recognising and acknowledging Jesus as the true Messiah, showed superhuman (but not supernatural) humility. And what is so inspirational is that it's nothing that you or I, by God's grace, are not ourselves capable of. ☩

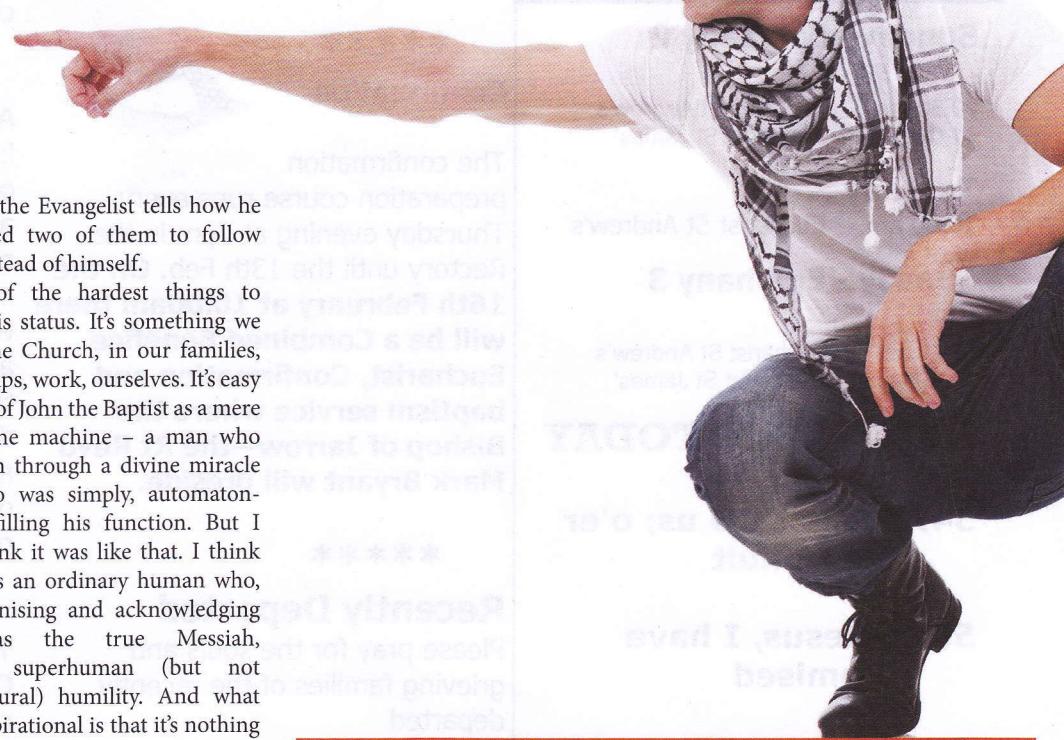
**Lord, I thank you for the example of John the Baptist in recognising the true Messiah and giving the higher ground to his Lord and saviour. In Jesus' name, I ask for this kind of wisdom and humility. Amen.**

## God in the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

We're teaching our new collie-cross pup, Jim, at the moment. He's learning not to chase hens and had a nasty run-in with a goose which taught him much more than we could in a very short time! Jim has already mastered the difference between inside and outside and there are no more "accidents". He's learning that the electric poultry fence is

almost as scary as that goose and that scratching at the kitchen door usually gains him entrance to be beside the warm woodstove. Gaining height has let him race round the fields with the greyhound lurcher, if not at the same speed, then at more than a tumbling scramble. As he goes on learning so we go on learning too. We've learned to marvel at his ability and forgive his mess-ups and in that learning we've become a bit kinder with each other and ourselves and our abilities. ☩



## Poverty on our doorstep From the top down

by Jane Williams

The history of divisions in the Christian Church shows that it's much easier to break something than to put it back together again. Efforts are being made to bring closer cooperation between Christian churches. At the institutional level, most denominations are involved in dialogues with Christians of other denominations, such as the ARCIC dialogues between Anglicans and Roman Catholics.

Theologians from both churches meet regularly to look at some of the issues that divide us, and report back so that others can see the debates and think and pray more deeply about these issues.

These dialogues can feel quite far away from the day-to-day concerns of most Christians, but they might help to address some of the ignorant prejudices we have historically had about other churches.

You can read the last ARCIC report on Mary at:  
[www.anglicancommunion.org/  
ecumenical/dialogues](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ecumenical/dialogues)  
 and make up your own mind about why different churches have spoken about Mary in such different ways. ☩

**"Hell is not other people; hell is myself, cut off from others in self-centredness."**

Kallistos Ware