

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

26th January 2014

Sunday— Epiphany 3

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

Tuesday

10.00 am Eucharist St Andrew's

Sunday - Candlemas

09.30 am Eucharist St Andrew's
11.00am Eucharist St James'
3.pm Licensing of the Rev'd
Elaine Jones at St
Cuthbert's Peterlee

HYMNS FOR TODAY

54 At the name of
Jesus

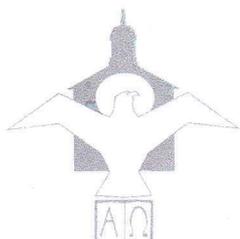
144 Dear Lord and
Father of mankind

304 I come with joy

485 O for a thousand
tongues to sing

Response to the Psalm:

"The Lord is my light and
my salvation".



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

A warm welcome to any visitors
to our services this morning and a
special welcome to Elizabeth Arms
who will lead the service at St
Andrew's.

Readings

Epiphany 2 Year A ,
Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

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.**



Recently Departed

Please pray for the souls and
grieving family of the recently
departed:
Jacqueline Brown whose funeral
will be held in Hartlepool Crematorium
on 29th January at 10.00

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.

Licensing 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.

Where to find Prayers & readings

Weekday Eucharistic readings:
Mark 3:31-35

Next week: 2nd February 2014
Candlemas Year A ,

Malachi 3:1-5
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

Rotas for next Sunday

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

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	TEL: 01429837820

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

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

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Assurance

by Caroline Hodgson
Matthew 4:12-23

I can prevaricate for Britain. I'll "um and ah" and weigh up the odds until the moment has long gone and I can see the opportunity – whatever it was – vanish like a dot on the horizon in my rear-view mirror. Spontaneity is an art form and, if you're anything like me, you envy Andrew and Peter their impulsiveness when you read today's text from Matthew's Gospel. Most of us get so attached to the track our lives are on; but just imagine having such absolute clarity and certainty about something that you immediately drop everything – all your plans, your occupation, your livelihood – and take a completely new route, free as a bird!

But actually, the reality was probably rather different. Last week's reading from John told us that Andrew had already spent a day with Jesus before he told his brother Simon Peter that he'd found the Messiah. Later, as Jesus

is walking along the lakeshore, he again sees Andrew – this time with Simon Peter – and beckons them both. But knowing this doesn't necessarily undermine or diminish the inspiration value of Matthew's account. A bird in flight actually has certain prescribed routes it takes through the sky, and a fixed nest it returns to. But it is still an inspirational sight to look up and see it ducking and diving and wheeling – as though the whole sky were its playground. ☺



Lord, I thank you for the inspiring stories I read in the Bible, for the bird in the sky, and for the example of Andrew and Simon Peter. Amen.

One body:
**From the
bottom up**

by Jane Williams

Christian unity is almost certainly never going to come if we wait for it to start at the top. Despite great efforts in ecumenical dialogues, the real work needs to be done by ordinary churchgoers.

In most areas, churches are quite small and yet are expending resources in keeping lots of different buildings and charities going. If we worked together, we could save so

much time, money and effort and be so much more effective. And our disunity undoubtedly hampers the message of good news that we have to give to the world: why should people believe us when we can't even agree among ourselves?

Lots of churches expect to join together occasionally, but then retreat safely to familiar territory. Perhaps next year we can try to extend the number of things we do together, visit each other's churches more often and pool our resources to meet a local need. Anything might happen if we got used to Christian unity! ☺

Letter from Madagascar

by Patsy McGregor

One is never at a loss for things to see when observing the sights in Madagascar. One day, while playing tennis, I saw a sack of cement on someone's tin roof, holding it in place during summer rains and wind. Growing out of that sack of cement was a patch of flowers. I felt

the Lord's quiet whisper: "Bloom where you are planted."

"How can I blossom in my circumstances? In a place as hard as a sack of cement?"

But, over time, I begin to see anticipations of life popping through the hard stone. A sprig becomes a branch. A bud becomes a blossom. There is no denying that living in Toliara is as hard as a flower blooming in a sack of cement. But with a heavy dose of hope and prayer, watered by the word of God and the rays from God's Son glorified, I, too, begin to bloom where I was planted. ☺

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

Isaiah 9:2