

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

2nd February 2014

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

Tuesday

10.00 am Eucharist St Andrew's

Sunday - Candlemas

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

HYMNS FOR TODAY

105 Christ, whose glory
fills the skies

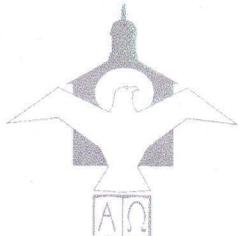
85 Brightest and best of
the suns of the
morning

67 Be still for the
presence of the Lord

259 Hail to the Lord's
anointed

Response to the Psalm:

“The Lord of hosts, he is
the king of glory”.



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

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

Readings

Candlemas Year A,
Malachi 3:1-5
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

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

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.

Apologies

I thought I better apologise for the
errors that occurred in the notice
sheet last week. Please be assured
that I do my best to produce the
sheets but sometimes when I am
rushed I make mistakes. The rota
that Linda produces for St Andrew's
is always correct so if the notice
sheet differs please go by the rota.
Also if anyone else feels able to
produce the sheets (using Microsoft
Publisher) please let me know as it
will give me one less job to do!

Where to find Prayers & readings

Weekday Eucharistic readings:
Mark 5:21-43

Next week: 9th February 2014

4th Before Lent,
Isaiah 58:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

Rotas for next Sunday 9th Feb

St Andrew's	
Reader	Linda Dott
Intercessor	Allan Kaye
Offertory	Mary Williams
Chalice	Keith Lieght

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

Published by the Benefice of St Andrew's Blackhall with
Hesleden and St James' Castle Eden,
The Rectory, The Crescent, Blackhall, TS27 4LE

Connecting faith and daily life

Heaven in ordinary

by Gillian Cooper

Malachi 3:1-5; Luke 2:22-40

The prophet Malachi was hoping for a grand entrance. The coming of the mighty God would be heralded. It would be dramatic, unmistakable. The wicked would scatter in fear, the righteous sing for joy. The Temple would be utterly transformed by the divine presence. The world would sit up and take notice.

But Luke tells of a much more understated coming. God creeps into his Temple unannounced and almost unnoticed, blending into the crowd. Here comes an ordinary

couple, bringing their baby to perform a familiar ritual. This coming has been heralded very quietly, by voices in dreams and a song of angels heard only by shepherds.

And yet some are awake to the presence of God, however hidden. Despite appearances, Simeon and Anna recognise this as the coming awaited by Malachi and his successors. This is the moment when promises are kept and hopes fulfilled. There are songs to be sung, in the quiet corner of the Temple. There is news to be whispered, among the ones who have waited so long.

The drama will come later, the sword and the tears, the light and the glory. But for now God has infiltrated his world, and it is silently transformed. ☺

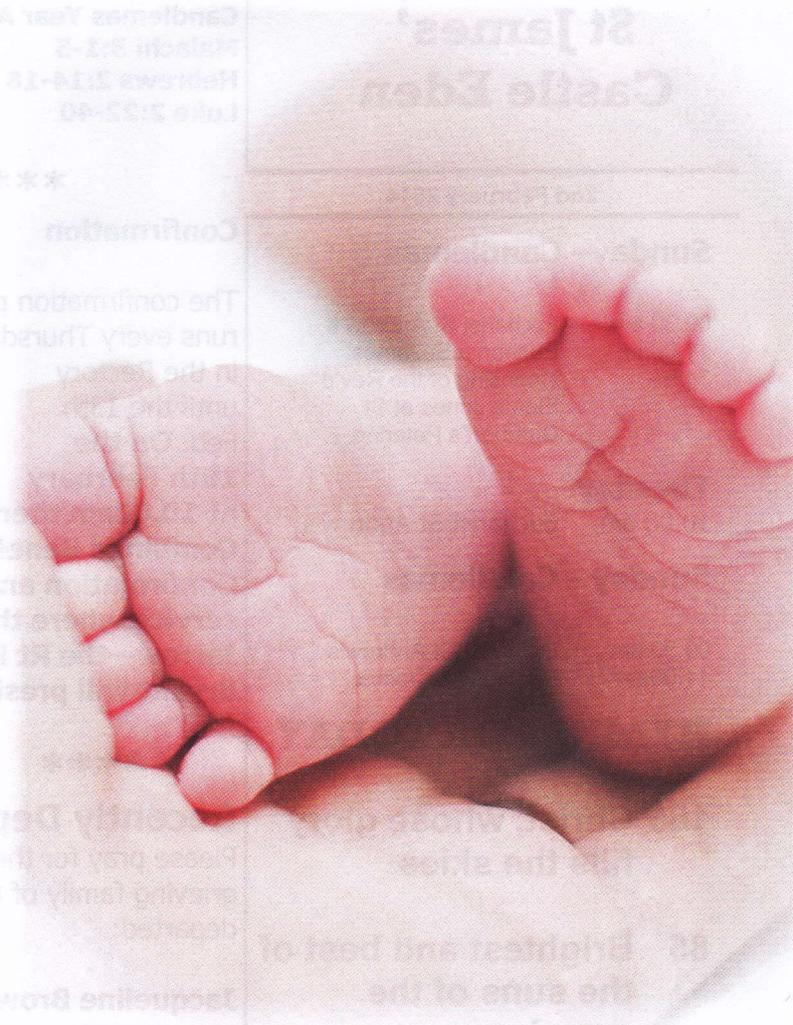
Surprise us, O God, with your quiet coming; make us attentive to the miracle of your presence; help us to glimpse you hidden in our world, and prompt us to greet you in those we meet, so that finally we are ready to meet you in your glory. Amen.

Letter from Mozambique

by Helen van Koevering

Last year, I agreed to help out in a parish temporarily for three months, which rolled over into six months, and now has grown into responsibility for a church building project as well! The parish includes six congregations and more than two thousand members, and there are two other part-time priests helping out.

I am learning so much, but one core piece of learning is about the question of authority. A team ministry of a different kind exists which neither I nor the parish chose, but which has links back to the Lakeshore Nyanja families of the "elders". They hold fast to the handed-down missionary tradition, or at least to what is remembered as true and authoritative of that time. Lack of literacy and Bibles make the role of the memorised creed and of sacramental practice much more important, and emphasise strong tribal belonging. I'm discovering that it is a little like walking in a garden laid out by another. It is the biggest challenge of my ten years of ordained ministry. ☺



Candlemas

by Caroline Hodgson

In a poll of "things to do before you die", researchers questioned two thousand people before compiling a list of the fifty things which British people consider "essential" for a full life. The list included finding true love, kissing a stranger, experiencing different cultures, losing weight, driving a fast car, paying off debt and getting a degree.

As far as I am aware, meeting Christ was not on anybody's list. But for Simeon it was the only thing to do before he died – the ambition that eclipsed all else. Traditionally, candles were blessed on this day, recalling Simeon's reference to the infant Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles". We might not be able to meet Jesus in the flesh today, but we can reassess our priorities and goals, and ask ourselves where on the list do we commit to be closer to Jesus, and to shine his light? ☺

“Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Psalm 24:7