

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Collect**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds  
declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

***Bible Readings***

[Acts 7:55-60](#)

[1 Peter 2:2-10](#)

[John 14:1-14](#)

**10th May 2026**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Collect**

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed  
your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your  
command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

***Bible Readings***

[Acts 17:22-31](#)

[1 Peter 3:13-22](#)

[John 14:15-21](#)

## What's On Over the Next Fortnight

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Easter 5	10am	St John's Chapel	Eucharist
		10am	Stanhope-Hall	Eucharist
		3pm	Stanhope-Hall	Service of Praise
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May		9.30am	Stanhope-Hall	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May		10am	Stanhope-Hall	Eucharist
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May		9.30am	Stanhope-Hall	Morning Prayer
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> May		10am	Stanhope-Hall	Coffee Morning
		7pm	Heatherycleugh	Stanhope Silver Band
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter 6	10am	Heatherycleugh	Eucharist
		10am	Stanhope-Hall	Eucharist
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May		9.30am	Stanhope-Hall	Morning Prayer
		7pm	Eastgate	APCM
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> May		8pm	Zoom	Faith Thro' Music
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May		10am	Stanhope-Hall	Eucharist
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Day	7am	Eastgate	Ascension Service
		9.30am	Stanhope-Hall	Morning Prayer
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> May		9.30am	Frosterley Hall	Breakfast Church
		10am-12	Stanhope-Hall	Big Brekkie
		12.30-1.30pm	tba – Contact Graeme	Church in the Wild
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter 7	10am	St John's Chapel	Eucharist
		10am	Stanhope-Hall	Eucharist

A full and up-to-date calendar of church events can be found on the [Benefice website](#).

## **For Your Prayers**

We keep in our prayers all in our community who are in any kind of need. Our prayers are asked particularly for Kathleen Kirby.



We pray for peace and unity between those of different faiths and none, and particularly for those who live in fear of discrimination and violence.

## **Coming up Soon ...**

### **Coffee Morning – May 9<sup>th</sup>**

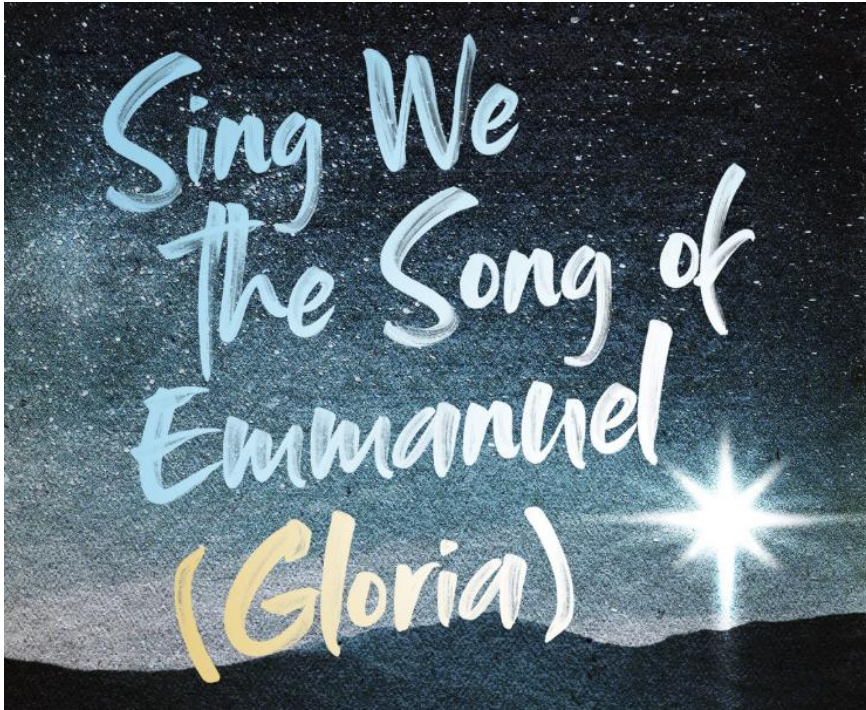


There will be a coffee morning in Stanhope Church Hall 10-11.30am in support of Weardale Community Hospital. Cake stall, tombola, raffle, stalls and the opportunity for a coffee and a catch up with friends. All welcome! A poster is attached

### **Stanhope Silver Band – May 9<sup>th</sup>**

In concert at St Thomas' Heatherycleugh 7pm  
Refreshments and raffle. Donations welcome.  
Poster attached.

## Faith Through Music- May 12<sup>th</sup>



The next Faith through Music will be on the 12th May (at 20:00, by Zoom), and will look at the song "Sing we the Song of Emmanuel." It is a song suggested by one of our regular attendees, who writes "I know it's a

Christmas song, but we sang it for the first time last year, and I found it really uplifting."

The format will be unchanged. Richard will give a brief overview of the song, and the circumstances of its composition, and then field a free flowing discussion, covering subjects such as "do we know the song", "do we like/dislike the song", "how does the song speak to us" and "how could we use the song in our personal and corporate worship. "

We're a friendly group, and would welcome more members. In particular, Richard is very open to suggestions of hymns we could look at: please contact Richard via the newsletter should you wish to join the discussion, or suggest songs to study.

## Christian Aid Big Brekkie – May 16<sup>th</sup>



Want to change the world over breakfast? Then come and tuck in at our Big Brekkie! We'll be serving a delicious morning meal while raising money to fight poverty and injustice worldwide. Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10am-12 noon.

*Bacon butties, healthy breakfast bar, cake stall, raffle.*

## Church in the Wild A different way of worshipping God.

Do you believe in God but find it difficult to join with others on a Sunday? Church in the Wild is a *different* way for the church to gather. It is worship, but physical as well as spiritual. *Church in the Wild* invites us to take the metaphor of Christian journey and make it a physical experience. In the same way that our spiritual walk with God begins where we are right now, this worship begins where and when we want. Read all about it [here](#)



Church in the Wild will normally take place on the first Saturday of each month, but please note this month it is planned for Sat May 16<sup>th</sup>. To take part please [contact Graeme](#) well in advance for more details.

# Questions About Faith



“Oh God, it’s the Vicar!”

Graeme is offering a series of one-night events throughout the Upper Dale for those who perhaps don’t attend church regularly but would like to know more about the Christian faith. Come along and bring a curious friend!

Read more [here](#)

Dates remaining:

- 26<sup>th</sup> May Stanhope Church Hall
- 27<sup>th</sup> May Frosterley Village Hall
- 1<sup>st</sup> June Barrington Hall, St John’s Chapel

All at 7-8.30pm

## Graeme’s APCM Report



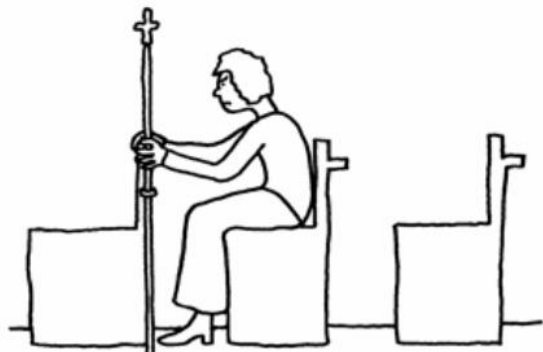
We are deep into Annual Parish Church Meeting season, but not everyone has yet managed to attend a meeting and so may not have heard Graeme’s report as our new Vicar. It gives important insight into how Graeme sees his role amongst us, and his vision for the future of our parishes. You can read the report in full [here](#)

(PS – if you get the chance to go to an APCM for your parish do go. It’s an important event in the life of each church and much more interesting than it might sound!)

**And finally...**

# POLITICS

EVENTS OBSERVED FOLLOWING THE CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS



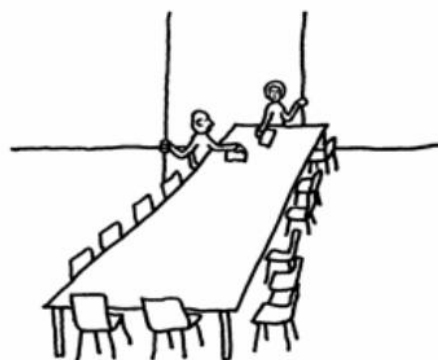
THE OUTGOING CHURCHWARDEN STILL OCCUPYING THE CHURCHWARDEN'S PEW



A COALITION BETWEEN THE FLOWER LADIES AND THE YOUTH GROUP



THE RECTOR BEING GIVEN A MANDATE TO RULE (I DID NOT KNOW WHAT A MANDATE LOOKED LIKE, SO I HAVE DRAWN A PINEAPPLE)



THE BELL RINGERS ATTEMPTING TO FORM A MINORITY PCC

CartoonChurch.com

This cartoon by Dave Walker was originally published in his book "Peculiar Goings On" and is used by permission

## General Information

**To add any items of news to this newsletter** please contact Sandie Barton at [westwardalenews@gmail.com](mailto:westwardalenews@gmail.com). Photos of church events etc. would be lovely (but do make sure any people in the photos have given their permission!)

The deadline is 3pm on Thursday for issue by email on Friday. Sandie is also happy to add people to the circulation list, on request.

**Durham e-News:** a regular email from the Diocese for worshippers and people with an interest in the diocese. It contains the latest news and features from the Diocese, and can be delivered directly to your inbox. To sign up simply fill in your details via this link: [Diocesan newsletter](#).

## **Contacts**

**Priest-in-charge: The Rev Graeme Holdsworth**

01388 531460 [rev.holdsworth@pm.me](mailto:rev.holdsworth@pm.me)

**Associate Priest: The Rev. Heather Ross**

01388 537439, 07713 388106, [heather.ross9@btopenworld.com](mailto:heather.ross9@btopenworld.com)

## **Parish Safeguarding Officers:**

Stanhope: Katharine Adams 07783659089

Eastgate: Liz Curry 07921 176012 [safeinupperweardale@outlook.com](mailto:safeinupperweardale@outlook.com)

West Weardale: Jan Wright 07415 046392  
[safeinupperweardale@outlook.com](mailto:safeinupperweardale@outlook.com)

**To arrange a baptism, marriage or funeral** please contact Rev Heather Ross as above.

**Facebook Weardale Parish News:** to keep up to date, join [Weardale Parish News on Facebook](#)

**Basic information on all churches** is available at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

Our **Benefice Website** can be found at <https://upperweardalebenefice.org>