

## *A Prayer For Late Autumn*

Walk with us God through sharp, frosty days and bright, crunchy leaves into winter.

Rest with us by warm firesides and tell us stories into the night.

Take us out at night and show us the stars and fill us with wonder.

Bless us and our families our friends and our neighbours with love and with courage.

And never let us forget the stranger who needs to share our wealth our shelter and our hope.

Ruth Burgess

Sent in by Sandra Grigg

## **FOODBANK UPDATE**

During September there were 9 referrals/food parcels catering for 13 adults and 7 children. A much quieter month than usual.

We have had a problem dealing with fresh produce donated recently from Harvest Thanksgiving Services. Whilst we are of course grateful for the gift of this food in fact it is impossible get the fresh produce away to recipients before it goes off. Of course these perishables only have a relatively short shelf life and most of the produce will have to be disposed of. So any other tinned and dried food instead of fresh food is more than welcome. The Foodbank continues to be consistently well stocked. We would welcome a top up of the following:

**Tins of cold meat; Tins of Potatoes; Long grain rice; Jam; Coffee (Small jars); Sugar (Small bags)**

Once again many thanks as always for your consistent giving.  
Every blessing.

Charles

## **WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER** **Regular Group Events**

**Bible Study Group:** meets at 9.45 am every Wednesday morning at 16, Murray Street

**Contemplative Prayer:** Mondays at 4.30pm. Tel 01361 883315.

**Meeting Point:** November 27th at 2.30pm in the Church Room. The speaker will be Dick Dennys and about Indian Tea Plantations

### **Sunday Services**

**3rd November 10.45 am. Peter Estibeiro**  
**Eucharist (reserved sacrament)**

Isaiah 56. 3-8; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1. 11-23;  
Luke 6. 20-31

**10th November Armistice Day 10.45 am.**  
**Duns Parish Church**

**17th November 9.00 am. Rev Chris Jones**  
**Eucharist or Morning Prayer**

Malachi 4.1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13;  
Luke 21.5-19

**24th November 10.45 am HC Rev Martin Giliam**  
Jeremiah 23.1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1.11-20;  
Luke 23. 33-43



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

## **CHRIST CHURCH DUNS**

Teindhillgreen  
Duns, TD11 3DX



### **A Place for Peace and Hope**

Seeking to be a family of caring people growing in the knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ and expressing that love, with the help of the Holy Spirit, through our relationships with one another and our service and witness in the community.

## **Newsletter** **NOVEMBER** **2019**

### **Christ Church Contact Details**

**Reverend Christopher Jones**

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**Charity Number** SC009385

**Material for inclusion in the next newsletter should be submitted as soon as possible and by 5.00pm on Tuesday, 19th November at the latest.**  
**Email:** [newsletter@christchurchduns.org](mailto:newsletter@christchurchduns.org)

## A Message from Chris

Well, with the clocks having just gone back and the night's drawing in, we can, I'm sure, officially declare that autumn has arrived. And I don't know about you, but at this time of year I can often find myself tempted to look forwards. After all, there's Christmas, then New Year with all of their celebrations; and then Easter, then clocks change; summer holidays and then.....; well I could go on. And thinking about this, I'm sure you'll agree, at this time of year it's easy to look forward; that sense that there are better things to come.

But, as I thought about this (all this looking forward), it made me think why? Why do we do it, look forward that is? Why do we prefer to look forward, rather than looking back, or simply just looking around?

I guess looking forward is easy. It can be exciting, full of hopes and possibilities. The future, as yet unspoilt by our mistakes, is always attractive. However, on the other hand looking back or looking around can be hard. For if, or when we do there's a good chance we'll see things we regret, things that hurt, that are too painful, things we'd rather not remember, mistakes we made, regrets and misgivings.

And then I remembered that the people of God, as they journeyed through the wilderness were often challenged to look back: "Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt..." And yet God didn't encourage them to look back to dishearten them, rather he encouraged them to look back so they might understand and appreciate all that he had done for them. For what God was saying was something like: "Well that's where you were, and what you were; but look at where you are, and what you are now." They had been brought out of slavery, given an identity, told that were loved; they had received a sense of value, identity and belonging - to one another and to God, and they had been forgiven and accepted by God.

So I thought, well if it's good enough for them, it's good enough for us (looking back that is!); and so I risked a quick glance backward, and was quite amazed. Not only have the last five months been a

time of real blessing and privilege for Pauline and I; being reminded again that this is where God wants us to serve him. I was also amazed as I reflected again upon all the hard work so many have done in the life of Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Ebba's in making the many changes that not only a new rector, but becoming a new group entails - and I am so very thankful as through this I have been able to glimpse something of what God has done, is doing; his blessings poured out.

I wonder, as the nights draw in and you find yourself looking forward longing for something better, will you risk a quick glance over your shoulder? Looking back, looking around. You might be surprised to see what God has done (is doing) for you. And, finding yourself quietly amazed, you might want to give God thanks for all that he's done, and then, looking forward, trust him for all that is to come.



Please pray for all those known to us who have been recently bereaved, in hospital and in care also those waiting for test results. Also give thanks for all those who are recovering from surgery and illnesses.

### CHRISTMAS DRAW

Our last Raffle, drawn at Marchmont in May, raised over £500. We do need to raise funds so please could people kindly sell as many raffle books as they are able to.

Books available from Julia Trotter and Jean Fraser.

### CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

MANDERSTON

FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019

By kind permission of Lord Palmer

In Aid of Berwickshire Episcopal Group of Churches

7 for 7.30pm till 9.30pm

Tickets £10 to include wine and nibbles available from Christ Church Vestry members

The Grand Christmas Raffle will be drawn

## NOVEMBER 30TH IS ST. ANDREW'S DAY

Very little is known about St. Andrew, other than that he was one of Jesus' twelve disciples and he lived and worked as a fisherman in Galilee. He was the brother of Simon Peter, another of Christ's disciples. Virtually everything else is, literally, legendary and sometimes there are several contradictory legends. These are the main ones:

After Christ's crucifixion, he is said to have spread Christianity though Asia Minor and Greece, where he was crucified by the Romans for his beliefs at a place called Patras, on a cross in the form of an X.

His bones were entombed, and around 300 years later were moved by Emperor Constantine to his new capital Constantinople. A Greek Monk, St. Rule (or St. Regulus) was warned in a dream that St. Andrew's remains were to be moved and was directed by an angel to take what remains he could to the "ends of the earth" for safe-keeping. So he carried the bones of St. Andrew to Scotland. His ship was wrecked on the Fife coast, and the spot at which the ship landed became the site of the town of St. Andrews.

In 832 AD at Athelstaneford in East Lothian a battle was fought between a joint army of Picts and Scots under the High King of Alba, Angus mac Fergus and a much bigger army of Angles and Saxons under Athelstan. Angus was surrounded and fearing defeat, he prayed for deliverance. He believed he had received a divine sign when above him in a clear blue sky, he saw a great white cross like that of St Andrew. The king vowed that if, with the saint's help, he gained the victory, then Andrew would thereafter be the patron saint of Scotland and his cross the flag of Scotland. Angus did win, Athelstan was killed and St. Andrew's cross, the Saltire, duly became the national flag. It is believed to be the oldest national flag in Europe.



It's well worth making the short detour to Athelstaneford if you're travelling North and not in a hurry. The village lies just off the A1 near Haddington. You can visit the Flag Heritage Centre, the Saltire Memorial and the historic Parish Church and graveyard. The Church and Memorial can be visited at any time. The Heritage Centre is open daily between 9am and 6.00pm from April to October. Admission is free.