

## Good News Stories.

If you have a good news story you would be willing to share please let Heather or Liz know by Wednesday evening at the latest and we will make every effort for it to be included.

## This week's Good News Stories:

Thomas Reynolds celebrated his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Congratulations Thomas from your church family.

James and Amanda Glen, who have been worshipping with us recently at St Mary Magdalene, are now proud parents of twin boys, Oliver and Reese, born on Feb 2nd.

 If you shop online with Amazon, you can support St Mary Magdalene's church at no cost to yourself. Simply log in using the following link [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1173193-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1173193-0)

0.5% of eligible purchases are made as donations to church.

## Zooming Together:

**Book Club:** There has been interest for a Benefice book club. The first session will be on Wednesday evening of April. More information to follow. But please do let Liz know asap if you would like to take part to be included in the choice of book and to enable time for them to be sourced.

**Quiz:** There will be a **fun** quiz on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. The idea would be to make yourself some supper/snack/nibbles, pour a drink and 'Zoom in'. This will be a fun way to come together and share in a time of fellowship. Please let Heather know if you are interested. Here is the Zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87239520298?pwd=eGpHbzNvMzVDVXJZRmt2RkRWTU8xZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 3952 0298

Passcode: 347567

**Food Bank:** Time goes by quickly. It is time for our foodbank collection again. Your donations so far have been wonderful and are appreciated. Please leave further donations if you are able on the Vicarage step. Thank you.

## The Benefice of St Mary Magdalene, Belmont & St Laurence, Pittington.



## Sunday 21st February First Sunday of Lent.

### Collect Prayer

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Readings

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

### Services this week.

Sun	10am	Live Stream Holy Communion
Mon	9.15am	Live Stream Morning Prayer
Tues	9.15am	Live Stream Morning Prayer
Wed	10am	Live Stream Holy Communion
Wed	10.45 – 11.45	Church open for prayer <i>St Mary's</i>
Thurs	9.15am	Live Stream Morning Prayer
Thurs	10-11am	Church open for prayer <i>St Laurence's</i>
Sat	9.15am	Live Stream Morning Prayer

*Please note all live stream services are first streamed to St Mary Magdalene Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SMMBelmont> then posted afterwards to St Laurence's Facebook Page*

*[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1719669764968104?modal=false&should\\_open\\_composer=false](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1719669764968104?modal=false&should_open_composer=false)*

This Morning there will be the opportunity to meet with others over a Zoom Coffee. Please just click on the link at 11.15am

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71092470423?pwd=c0hiODVsakFTYXAwRDYrYTc5VU5tdz09>

Meeting ID: 710 9247 0423

Passcode: mZqHU1

## **Genesis 9:8-17**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

## **Mark 1:9-15**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

## **For our prayers this week:**

Pray for those who are unwell and have asked for our prayers:

Colin & Maureen Bond,  
Andrew Dover, Joyce Fry,  
Richard Harrison, Anna  
Harvey, Douglas Hutley,  
Mike Jackson, Anne  
Johnson (Pittington), Ann  
Johnston (Belmont),  
Matthew Litobarski, Adam Matthews, baby Hilda,  
Jackie Roberts, Ray Tones, Trevor Uren and  
Helen Wilson.

If you would like anyone to be added to the prayer list, please let Heather or Liz know. However, please seek the person's permission first.

## **Parish Office:**

Currently no-one is working in the parish office. Therefore, for enquiries please contact Heather or Liz until further notice.

## **Suspension of Public Worship:**

Following a recent review and following communication from our Bishop we would like to announce that we will be continuing with the suspension of public worship across the Benefice for the time being. The next review will take place on March 8th. We would hope by then, the majority of those eligible for vaccination will have been through the 3 week threshold for the vaccine to become effective and we will also to see numbers of new Covid cases continue to fall. It may well be that we can then return to Sunday Worship on Mothering Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March albeit we will continue to be directed by the circumstances nearer the time.

## **Funeral of Dave Drinkwater:**

Many people have been asking about the funeral of Dave Drinkwater. This will take place at St Mary Magdalene's on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 1pm. However, we are not allowed to have more than a total of 30 mourners at a funeral and this includes both inside and outside. Attendees must have been invited by the next of kin and the next of kin has to agree to this limit. I am sure many of you would have liked to have paid your respects but unless invited I am afraid it is best not to attend. We fully appreciate how sad this will be for many of you. However, the funeral service is to be live-streamed via Zoom. Once I am told by the person recording the service what it is, I can pass on the link to those who request it. If you would like to watch please do let Heather know.

