

Please contact Jean Gartland on 0191 3868401 or email gartland.jean@gmail.com for Pittington and Alan Port on 0191 3862265 or a.m.port@btinternet.com for Belmont on to book your place each week. Please do so between 12md Thursday and 12md Friday for any service.

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

Sunday 2nd May

Mission & Pastoral Measure 2011:

Please read the notice on the church door which outlines the draft pastoral scheme for St Giles, Shadforth and Sherburn as one benefice and another benefice of Belmont and Pittington. Any representations for and against are to be made by 17th May 2021.

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

Date for your diary: -

St MM APCM 2021 is to be provisionally held on 23rd May at 11.30 am after the morning service. (TBC). Reports are in the Narthex.

Where does the time go?

It is time for our regular foodbank collection. Please can your donations be left on the vicarage step. Final day for drop off Monday 3rd May. Thanks for your on-going generosity.



The next session of Messy Church will be at 3 pm on 2nd May on Zoom. A craft kit will be available to pick up from outside the Vicarage beforehand.

Reading Group:

The next meeting of the reading group is at 7 pm on 5th May. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78994440591?pwd=V2F1VFhuOXlaMnBuSzBvVW9uUUyrZz09>

Meeting ID: 789 9444 0591

Passcode: h1pcBr



Bible Reading Notes

The new Bible reading notes for May-August are now available in the Narthex for those who take them. Please take your copy and put the money (£4.75) in the brown envelope and tick your name off the list. New readers are welcome – please see Judith or Patrick Holroyd.



5th Sunday of Easter

Collect Prayer

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

New Testament Reading: Acts 8:26-end

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Services this week.

Sun	9.30	Holy Communion SL
	9am	Holy Communion SMM
	10.30am	Holy Communion SMM
Mon	9.15am	Live Stream Morning Prayer
Tues	9.15am	Live Stream Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion SMM
Thurs	9.15am	Live Stream Morning Prayer
Thurs	10-11	SL Church open for prayer
Sat	9.15am	Live Stream Morning Prayer

Please note all 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

New Testament Reading: Acts 8:26-end Philip and the Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8 The Vine and the Branches

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart

from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

For our prayers this week:

Pray for those who are unwell and have asked for our prayers: Maureen Bond, Andrew Dover, Joyce Fry, Richard Harrison, Anna Harvey, Mike Jackson, Anne Johnson (Pittington), 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.

From Our Parish weekly prayer cycle:

We pray for the Bishops of Durham and Jarrow; Belmont Industrial Estate; St Nicholas's Church; residents of High Street, Pittington; Aspen Close, Renny's Lane, Coronation Avenue, Patterdale Close, Birchgrove Avenue, Belmont.



Christian Aid Week is the 10th – 16th May

The focus for this year is the climate.

People living in poverty fight the worst of the climate crisis every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means many people struggle to survive without a reliable source of water. Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live.

A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Christian Aid envelopes will be available from the back of church for you to put your donation in.

Alternatively, donations can be made by sending a cheque to Charlotte Reynolds at Sunnymede, Woodland Road, Bear Park, Durham DH7 7DQ or by Bacs transfer to Belmont PCC, Sort code 20-27-41, Acc number 30035386. Ref: C Aid and your initials. Or there are on-line ways to donate direct.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

The Time service on 9th May will focus on our response to the climate crisis.