



Rev. Ben's Letter

Would you like to be baptised or confirmed? Several people have enquired about church confirmation and it would be nice to do the preparation for sessions for a larger group. Jesus calls for those who want to follow him to be baptised. At Pentecost when Peter is asked what the people must do to be saved he answers, "Repent and be baptised". An important element of being a Christian is making a public declaration of your faith. Jesus said, "Everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father in heaven."

At that time baptism was very likely to be by full immersion of the whole body. As Christianity spread to colder climes churches began to baptise with water on the head. As whole families and communities adopted Christianity they began to baptise younger candidates and today at the request of Christian families we baptise infants.

A
NEWSLETTER
FROM THE ANGLICAN
CHURCHES OF
LANERCOST WITH WALTON,
GILSLAND AND
NETHER DENTON

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Confirmation is an important next step for the infant baptised as it allows those who were unaware of their childhood baptism to confirm the promises and faith that their parents chose for them.

In our church candidates are confirmed by the bishop; he lays his hands on the candidate's head and prays for the coming of the Holy Spirit. In many churches confirmation is an important step before one receives one's first communion. For unbaptised adults confirmation and baptism usually happen at the same time. People can be confirmed from any age from about 11 years old.

Baptism/Confirmation preparation involves a series of sessions to learn and discuss the key elements of faith. The course is designed so that candidates can gain knowledge and decide for themselves whether they wish to take this step of faith.

My preference would be to run one course for those of Secondary School age and another for adults. If you would like to consider being part of the course, either to confirm your faith or to explore the meaning of faith, please get in touch with me. God bless.

Rev. Ben Phillips

Benefice of Lanercost with Walton, Gilsland and Nether Denton Services in August and September 2026

August

Lanercost: 11am

2nd Morning Worship
 9th Holy Communion
 16th Holy Communion
 23rd Holy Communion
 30th 9.30am at Nether Denton CA8 2LY
 United Benefice Holy Communion
 No service at the Priory

Walton: 11am

2nd Holy Communion
 9th No service
 16th Morning Worship
 23rd No service
 30th 9.30am at Nether Denton CA8 2LY
 United Benefice Holy Communion

Gilsland: 9.30am

2nd No service
 9th Morning Worship
 16th No service
 23rd Holy Communion
 30th 9.30am at Nether Denton CA8 2LY
 United Benefice Holy Communion

Nether Denton: 9.30am

2nd Holy Communion
 9th No service
 16th Morning Worship with Baptism
 23rd No service
 30th 9.30am United Benefice
 Holy Communion

September

Lanercost: 11am

6th Morning Worship
 13th Holy Communion
 20th Holy Communion
 27th Holy Communion

Walton: 11am

6th Holy Communion
 13th No service
 20th Morning Worship
 27th No service

Gilsland: 9.30am

6th No service
 13th Morning Worship
 20th No service
 27th Holy Communion

Nether Denton: 9.30am

6th Holy Communion
 13th No service
 20th Morning Worship
 27th No service.

Wednesdays at 10am:

a short service of Holy Communion alternates between
 St Martin's Church, Brampton – August 5th & 19th & Sept. 2nd, 16th & 30th
 and The Priory Church, Lanercost – August 12th & 26th & Sept. 9th & 23rd

All are welcome at any of the services

Revd Ben Phillips: Vicar, Rural Dean and Mission Community Leader

Mobile: 07936 099 123

email: ben@lanercost.net

Moss Peteral Farm Visit



Recently, on a gloriously sunny Saturday morning, an assorted group of enthusiastic nature lovers gathered in Longbyre to head up to Moss Peteral for a farm tour. Led by the inspiring and charismatic Sue, the tour focussed on Beef, Bogs and Biodiversity.

Whilst enjoying very welcome refreshments in the open barn, we listened to a fascinating explanation of the development of the farm. We heard how priorities and policies in agriculture have changed in response to the increasing awareness of biodiversity, soil health and the shift to Low Input systems.

But we were all anxious to get out and see for ourselves, so prepared with boots and wellies, we trudged up to the high ground and surveyed a magnificent and far reaching vista with a big sky. Sheep and beautiful White Galloway cows wandered through this landscape, contributing to the enrichment and maintenance of the land and its vegetation.

Moving on from the grassland, we then encountered a large bog area, full of valuable plants, including the strange, carnivorous, sundew.

Squelching through the soggy ground required good balance as the bog threatened to suck our feet down and it was hard to make



Sundew

progress. We were all pleased when Sue gathered us together and explained how the bog had evolved over millennia. A brave volunteer inserted a metre-long pole into the soft ground.



Measuring the peat depth

Just before it disappeared a second section of pole was attached, then a third and a fourth before the pole made contact with solid rock. Based on the slow rate of growth of these bogs, this meant that the bog began its life about 4,000 years ago, but other parts of the farm have bogs that are much older, originating about

12,000 years ago, at the end of the last ice age.

It was marvellous to see all this so close. Our day concluded with a wonderful meal and we left Moss Peteral buzzing with all we had learned.

Pam Barton

Lanercost C of E Primary School

Over the past few months, life at Lanercost School has been rich with purposeful learning, meaningful experiences, and a strong sense of community. Across every aspect of school life, there has been a clear focus on helping children not only succeed academically, but also grow in confidence, understanding, and a sense of responsibility towards others and the world around them.

A significant moment in the life of the school has been our recent SIAMS inspection. This provided an opportunity to reflect deeply on who we are as a school and what we stand for. The inspection recognised the strength of our shared vision and the way it actively shapes daily life, rather than simply existing as words. In particular, it highlighted the culture of care and respect that underpins relationships across the school, enabling children to feel safe, valued, and able to flourish. There was also recognition of the way we create intentional opportunities for spiritual development, encouraging children to notice the world around them, reflect on their experiences, and consider how they respond. This shared approach is helping children to develop empathy, awareness, and a growing sense of their place within the wider community.

This sense of purposeful development has been



evident across the curriculum. In the Early Years, a recent visit to St Mary's Lighthouse provided children with a powerful opportunity to

experience awe and wonder first hand. Standing by the coast, observing the natural environment, and spotting wildlife created moments that prompted curiosity and thoughtful conversation. While these early experiences are rooted in exploration and discovery, they also lay important foundations for later learning by encouraging children to ask questions, make connections, and reflect on what they see.

For older children, learning has continued to be enriched through carefully planned experiences beyond the classroom. Visits to Susan's farm, including time spent exploring wetlands and pond dipping, have provided a context for scientific enquiry, close observation,



and high quality writing. These opportunities allow children to gather ideas, vocabulary, and inspiration in a way that classroom based learning alone cannot replicate. Similarly, regular woodlands sessions have supported collaboration, resilience, and problem solving, as children work together to build, create, and explore in an outdoor environment.

Creativity has remained a key strength across the school. In music, children have taken on the role of composers, working collaboratively to create, rehearse, and perform their own pieces. In art, older classes have explored portraiture through mixed media, making deliberate choices about composition, texture, and expression. These experiences are not only about producing a final outcome, but about developing confidence, independence, and a willingness to take creative risks.

Physical development and wellbeing have also



been a strong focus. Through gymnastics, cricket, and outdoor clubs such as walking and map reading along Hadrian's Wall, children have been given regular opportunities to build physical skills while also developing teamwork, perseverance, and resilience. These sessions provide an important balance to academic learning, supporting children's overall wellbeing and confidence.

Beyond the curriculum, there has been a continued emphasis on community and responsibility. Through projects such as caring for the local train station, children have engaged in meaningful acts of service, recognising that even small actions can have a positive impact. These experiences help children understand that they are part of something bigger, and that their contributions matter.

We are particularly proud of our Year 6 children, who recently completed their SATs. They approached this important milestone with maturity, determination, and a calm, thoughtful attitude, supporting one another throughout. Their approach reflects the wider ethos of the school, where success is measured not only through outcomes, but through character, resilience, and a willingness to keep going.

As always, we are deeply grateful for the continued support of families and the wider community. It is through these strong partnerships that we are able to continue providing a nurturing and purposeful environment where every child is encouraged to learn, grow, and flourish.

Lexi Wilkinson



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- ★ Be part of a team

DBS and references will be required

Get in touch and be part of something meaningful.

Contact Ruth at ruth.hutchinson@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



NETWORK
YOUTH CHURCH

What's on in Brampton

Café Scientifique general science talks take place in Brampton Community Centre on the last Thursday every month except December.



The free **Brampton Arts Umbrella** is a list of selected arts, crafts and music events in the sur-

rounding area and is published every other month.

Contact timothycoombe@damhead.me if you would like more information on either or both of these mailings.'

Suffer Little Children

After I had, on several occasions, offered to help out with Christian work in local Primary Schools, I was told by the Revd Canon Tricia Rogers, then team rector of Brampton, that the Primary School in Rockcliffe, to the north of Carlisle, was feeling the loss of contact with the church following the retirement of the local vicar. Although Rockcliffe is rather a long way from Brampton, where I live, I felt that, since I had offered my services, I should go to where there was a need. I started going into the school, initially once a fortnight, then once a week, to take what is now known as Collective Worship, although many of the children still refer to it as 'assembly.'

Primary schools are fascinating places. There is so much to see there, and the children are so engaged and engaging. As I have now become recognised and known, many of the children will approach me and chat. I have encouraged them to submit, via their teachers, questions about Jesus or the Bible, which I may address during Collective Worship time. A number of children have taken a short cut and asked me questions directly. These always show genuine curiosity.

I noticed recently that many of the doors in the school bore the names of the rooms to which they gave access on notices in French. 'Ah,' I thought, 'they're learning French,' so I started greeting them in that language. Now I have become used to hearing their reply in chorus, "Bonjour, David." We recently went on to, "Comment ça va?" and the reply "Ça va bien, merci."

The children come into the hall in complete silence and sit down. We exchange one or two bits of chat as an ice-breaker, I refer to some of the displays that I've been looking at before they came in. Then I start what I have to share with them. At the moment I'm going through some of Jesus' parables. I am so impressed by the children's attentiveness, their alertness and their responses). How, I often wonder, could those qualities be harnessed and used as positive energy for the benefit of humankind? At the end of my recent recounting of the story of the Prodigal Son, the day, coincidentally, on which I'd taught

them the meaning of the word 'merci', the children were dismissed to return to the classrooms, one little girl, on her way past me, paused, looked up at me and said, "merci, David."

It's little things like that that make it all worthwhile.

David Bamford

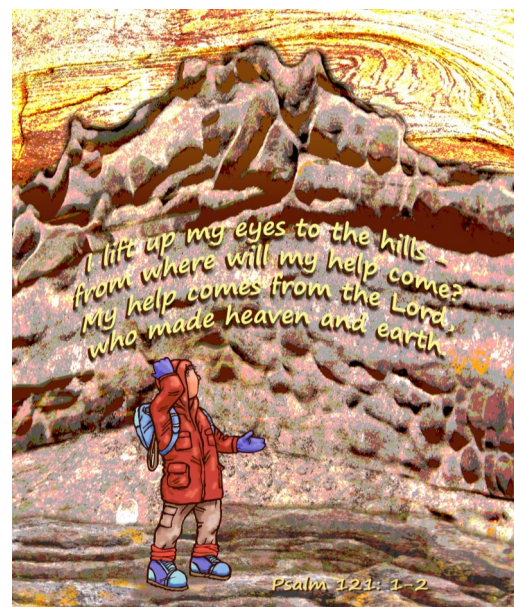


The Pilgrim's Aiding

God be with thee in every pass,
Jesus be with thee on every hill,
Spirit be with thee on every stream,

Headland and ridge and lawn;
Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
Each lying down, each rising up,
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of
the billows,
Each step of the journey thou goest.

A Celtic prayer collected by Alexander Carmichael



200. Life's Candle

We can compare our life to that of a candle.
Before birth, our body is in a state of hidden potential.

The candle has also been formed, but as yet in darkness.

Both await the moment of awakening.

The first breath, the candle is lit.

From this moment on, both absorb oxygen,
Producing the energy of heat and light, given out to the world,

Releasing the by-products of this fiery consumption;

Gases, dead cells, soot particles, contaminants.
Small deaths within both bodies are inevitable.

Time passes, the bodies now decay faster than growth;

But in living their life they have given so much;
Light, warmth and love to all that came near.
Even the products of death are essential to life.

The body is extinguished; the candle too; but continue to enrich

The air and soil, enabling new birth of all forms of life;

Becoming a part of creation; new bodies containing the old.

Nothing is wasted.

The candle; bringing the light of wisdom into the darkness;

The body; a temporary home for the enlightened soul.



Bob Morley

From the Registers Lanercost Wedding

22nd July 2026

Nathaniel Dee and Katherine Phillips

Lanercosted@gmail.com

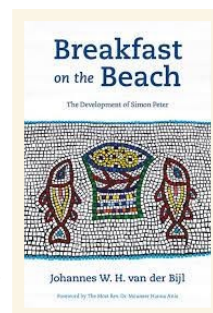
A New Book Club

It's been lovely to begin to get to know some of you as we settle into our new home in Lanercost, and as I get around a bit (as I'm able). I've spoken with some about what I do for work, and I've even presented on some of that at a Lent Lunch with Churches Together in Brampton.

I work for a charity called Langham Partnership. It has its service centre in Carlisle on Lancaster Street, opposite the old sofa shop, Vaseys. But many of you don't know what goes on inside. It's a Christian charity that equips and supports Christian leaders in Majority World (Developing) Countries. It does that through books, scholarships and preacher training. (For those who want to know more you can visit their webpage <https://uk.langham.org/>)

There's a new Book Club to encourage people to explore a few of the books that we publish and I am going to participate myself. (You can find out more about the official project here <https://uk.langham.org/book-club/>)

The first of these books is called *Breakfast on the Beach: The Development of Simon Peter*, by Johannes van Der Bijl. He's originally from Namibia, has travelled and worked extensively in cross-cultural settings in different countries around the world. I have read his book on the letter to the Galatians and really enjoyed it. I



plan to read the book on Peter over the summer, and if you feel like joining in you could let me know that you are doing so, and we could gather here at the Vicarage in Lanercost, some time in the autumn to discuss what we thought of it. There will be an online event in November with the author in which you might also be interested. The second is a book written by Ukrainian Christians (to be discussed before an online event next April), and the third by a Sri Lankan theologian about being a Christian in a broken world (event next summer).

If this is something that interests you and you'd like to join in with me, do let me know by emailing me (jophillipsindalston@gmail.com).

Jo Phillips (married to Ben Phillips - vicar)



St Radegund

Celebrated in August 17th

St Radegund (518-87) is a saint for anyone who has suffered domestic abuse. She is also a reminder that domestic abuse can occur in any family, however wealthy, and can span the generations, so that some women go straight from violent father to violent husband.



Radegund was born in 518, the daughter of Berthaire, king of Thuringia in east-central Germany. Berthaire was a brutal man, and Radegund grew up surrounded by violence and intrigue. When she was only 12, she was captured by the Franks, converted from paganism to Christianity and at 18 was given in marriage to Clotaire, a king of the Franks.

childlessness. When, six years into the marriage, Clotaire murdered Radegund's brother, she fled the court for her life, and sought refuge in the Church.

Radegund took the veil at Noyon, and became a deaconess, known for her alms-giving. But it seems that a lifetime of violence had left deep scars on her spirit, and instead of enjoying her newfound peace and freedom, Radegund turned savagely upon herself. She became an extreme ascetic, refusing most foods. She began to self-harm, binding her neck and arms with three iron circlets which badly cut into her flesh. Sadly, it seems that although her body was freed from the violence of her father and husband, her spirit was still in subjection to violence and suffering. Though she was a Christian, she never took her rightful possession of the joy, love and peace that God offers to all believers through the grace of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Still, Radegund meant well and God blessed her as much as she would let Him. She founded the monastery of Holy Cross at Poitiers, which became a centre for scholarship (the nuns spent two hours a day in study) and also of Radegund's various peace-making activities.

Various ancient churches in France and England were dedicated to her, as well as the Cambridge College now known as Jesus.

From Parish Pump

The Shell

Upon the sandy shore an empty shell,
Beyond the shell infinity of sea;
O Saviour, I am like that empty shell,
Thou are the Sea to me.

A sweeping wave rides up the shore, and lo,
Each dim recess the coiled shell within
Is searched, is filled, is filled to overflow
By water crystalline.

From a poem by Amy Carmichael 1867 – 1951

Sadly, Clotaire's nominal Christianity did not affect his own natural bent for violence and immorality. Though Radegund was said to have been both beautiful and good, Clotaire was repeatedly unfaithful to her, ridiculing her for her

God in the Arts

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – church roof and ceiling

Each month we have been making our way through the church building and pausing to ponder different areas. This month we look up to the roof and ceiling of the church. In Gothic buildings our hearts are lifted high as the architecture soars upwards, trying to touch the very skirts of heaven. Norman churches in an earlier age by contrast seem weighed down by the stonework with heavy pillars and simpler windows.

This August we travel to a church consecrated much later – at the beginning of the 20th century. It is a wonderful monument to the Arts and Crafts Movement: St Andrew’s Church at Roker, near Sunderland. It was commissioned by a shipyard millionaire, and there is a vivid sense of an upturned boat as we enter the nave. The building abounds with riches: a font with its cover by Mouseman Thompson of Kilburn, lettering by Eric Gill on plaques



St Andrew’s Roker photo by Phil Beard

around the walls, and a beautiful lectern by Ernest Gimson. But our eyes are drawn to the east end – to the reredos tapestry of Burne-Jones, and then above, a ceiling by Eric Gill’s brother, MacDonald, that proclaims the glory of creation.

The sky is studded with stars and the moon, and then surrounded by trees and undulating lines of water. In the centre the sun is a brilliant light, fitting for the east end. And from the clouds we see the creative hand of God raised in blessing. It is the opening chapter of Genesis portrayed in colour and shape above us. There we read that God rested on the seventh day. As we give thanks for that glory we see in St Andrew’s Church and in our world around, we can hear George Herbert’s hymn telling us how a life of work and rest should always be permeated by praise:

‘Sev’n whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee.’

The Rev Michael Burgess

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

Aldous Huxley

Walton & Lees Hill CE Primary School Nursery From 2 Years and above



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Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of

that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

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Reader with Permission to Officiate	David Bamford	01697 508157	
Local Lay Ministers with permission to officiate	Jo Grundy	01228525284	
Retired Clergy	Rev'd Malcolm Riches	016977 42761	
Wardens: Lanercost	Chris Angus	Burtholme East, Lanercost CA8 2HH	016977 41504
	Barbara Riches	13 Edmondson Cl, Brampton CA8	016977 42761
Walton	Paul Cronin		07485486303
	Charlotte Shaw	The Old Vicarage, Walton, CA8 2DH	016975 43002
Gilsland	Alison Higgs	alison.marymag@gmail.com	016977 47409
	Owen Wilkins	Owen.stmarymag@gmail.com	
Nether Denton	Amanda Nixon	amanda.nixon67@gmail.com	07968 983664
	Allan Cathers	Allergarth, Banks, Brampton CA8 2JH	016977 41645

Safeguarding Officers for Children and Vulnerable Adults

Lanercost with Walton

Charlotte Shaw 016975 43002

Gilsland:

Conn Elfinstone 07977425566

Nether Denton

Amanda Nixon 07968 983664

Carlisle Diocese Safeguarding Advisor

Joanna Van Lachterop 07458 016884

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- Supporting the *needs of the people* of Nether Denton

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For an application form, or further details, contact the Secretary:

hodgsontrust@gmail.com

Applications should be submitted by 3rd July in order to be considered at the next meeting of the Trust

William Hodgson was a churchwarden at St Cuthbert's church. He set up a trust in 1850 for the prevention and relief of poverty, for community development and towards the education of the children of the parish. This is still our aim today.

Thank you, William Hodgson!

Deadline for the next issue 20th September
Please submit copy to Alison Higgs, editor at :
Lanercosted@gmail.com