

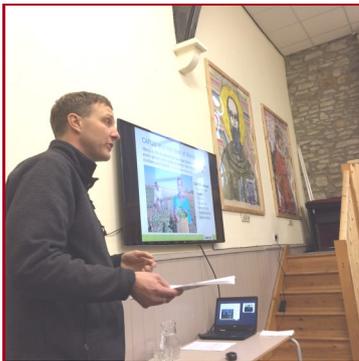
# THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

May 2016

## As you did to the least...

The Voices of Mercy series of talks continued in April with talks by Jeremy Cain and Walter Knoblauch in St Cuthbert's Centre, Crook. They focused particularly on the



Jeremy Cain explores the Corporal Work of Mercy: Feeding the Hungry

Corporal Work of "Feeding the Hungry". Jeremy took the perspective of feeding the hungry on the international stage and explored the ways in which CAFOD works with local people to implement farming and other projects to be self-sufficient—especially where conditions are difficult. One fascinating short film was taken by a

young volunteer which showed a water storage system and irrigation system—and then filmed the walk that women had formerly had to undertake to get water for their families and crops. As the journey went on—and on—and on—the difference the project made to the lives of the local people was made abundantly clear.



Participants in Crook reflect together on practical ways in which they can support the work of those who feed the hungry.

Walter spoke of the West End Food Bank in Newcastle—and of how something that started on a very small scale was now feeding hundreds of people each week. He looked at some of the reasons that force people to come to get food parcels. Some are because of people's problems in managing money but often it is because they simply do not have enough or benefits to which they are entitled are not being paid. He cited the case of one person who had been helped to work through what they needed to find that they were owed £5000—after months of not having enough to feed

themselves. They now volunteer at the Food Bank—in part because of gratitude that it was there when they needed it but also because it had become like family. Alongside the successes though were stories of children going to school hungry and the need for schemes to offer breakfast as well as after-school meals.

Walter also reminded us that these acts of mercy are ways of uniting people of different faiths. He is Jewish and spoke of the solidarity and friendships born of working together to serve those in need.

Jeremy and Walter will be together again as part of the series on **28 September**, at a venue yet to be confirmed. They are, however, happy to come to any parishes or communities who would like to host a similar evening. You can contact them via the Department—details below.

The next Voice of Mercy we will hear is Dr Kathryn Mannix who will look at the Work of **Visiting the Sick**. Kathryn has huge experience in the field of palliative care and will look at this with us. She will offer an alternative to the voices we hear so often in the media which say that, in the face of terminal illness, mercy is to found in killing rather than in offering skilled and compassionate support to the patient and to their family and friends. This will take place in **St Cuthbert's Church, Chester-le-Street on Wednesday 25 May**. She will also offer the talk at St John Vianney, West Denton, (just off A1), on Thursday 20 October.

Two more dates for your diary before the summer are **Wednesday 15 June (Hexham) and 20 July (North Shields)**. The Voice we will hear will be that of Alison Gelder who is the CE of Housing Justice. She will be addressing the Work of "Shelter the Homeless".

We are blessed to have these opportunities during this Year of Mercy—do try to come along and be inspired by these Voices of Mercy. 

## Celebrating God's Mercy

These powerful liturgies celebrating God's love and mercy continue in the following churches over coming months:

<b>Wednesday 11 May</b>	<b>St Mary's, Wickham (change of venue)</b>
<b>Wednesday 25 May</b>	<b>St Mary's, Bishop Auckland</b>
<b>Thursday 9 June</b>	<b>St Patrick's, Consett</b>
<b>Thursday 23 June</b>	<b>St Joseph's, Sunderland</b>
<b>Thursday 7 July</b>	<b>St Bede's, Jarrow</b>
<b>Thursday 21 July</b>	<b>St Edward's, Whitley Bay</b>

## Contact Details

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# Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

DIocese of Hexham & Newcastle  
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

**TO LIVE WISELY,  
THINK DEEPLY  
AND LOVE GENEROUSLY**

*A day of reflection with 'Laudato Si'  
and the ecological vision of Pope Francis  
in the beautiful setting of Ushaw College.*

**SATURDAY 14 MAY 2016**

**10.30am-3.30pm**  
Refreshments served from 10.00am

*Led by Karen Kilby, holder of the Bede Chair  
of Catholic Theology at Durham University*

Presentation Room, Bede Wing,  
Ushaw College  
Durham. DH7 9RH

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BOOK  
PLEASE CONTACT DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY  
TELEPHONE 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

DIocese of Hexham & Newcastle

**VOICES OF  
MERCY**

**"Visit the Sick"**  
**WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2016**  
**7.00pm**  
(Refreshments from 6.30pm)

*An evening listening to the voices  
of people who visit the sick,  
and an opportunity to reflect on  
what this means for us.*

**St Cuthbert's Church  
Ropery Lane  
Chester-le-Street DH3 3PH**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
Department for Spirituality,  
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DIocese of Hexham & Newcastle

**VOICES OF MERCY**  
**"SHELTER THE HOMELESS"**

  
Alison Gelder  
Chief Executive, Housing Justice

Housing Justice is the national voice of Christian action to prevent homelessness and bad housing. Human dignity is challenged by the lack of a decent home, and Housing Justice aim to mobilise Christians united in their determination to work with and for homeless and badly housed people.

**Wednesday 15 June 2016**  
**7.00pm**  
(Refreshments from 6.30pm)  
**St Mary's, Hencotes, HEXHAM. NE46 2EB**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY  
Telephone 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

## Minsteracres

**13 - 15 May**

**Pentecost Renewal**

with Anne Liddell

Calling on the Holy Spirit to renew us as individuals and to renew our parishes, our church and our region.

+

**20 - 22 May**

**Landscapes of prayer**

with Margaret Silf

Explore some inner landscapes of the heart, looking at ways in which each of them can invite us into prayer in a particular way and help us connect to the mystery of God in our experience.

+

**23-27 May**

**Icon painting**

with Maureen Rimmer

This workshop is open to beginners as well as to those with some experience.

+

**23-26 May**

**Christian mystics inspire the soul's longing to go deeper**

Drawing inspiration from our Christian mystics, Tumble Trust retreats aim to offer time and space for relaxation, stillness, silence, meditation and sacred circle dance.

+

**Wednesday 1 June**

**Quiet day**

Led by Rosarie Spence RSM.

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity at Minsteracres.

+

**3 - 5 June**

**Parish retreat**

Open to parishes or individuals.

More information from Minsteracres

01434 673 248 or

info@minsteracres.org

## Thy Kingdom Come

The Church of England is inviting all Christians to join in a period of prayer for the evangelisation of our country from 8-15 May (Ascension to Pentecost).

There are great resources here:

[www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk)

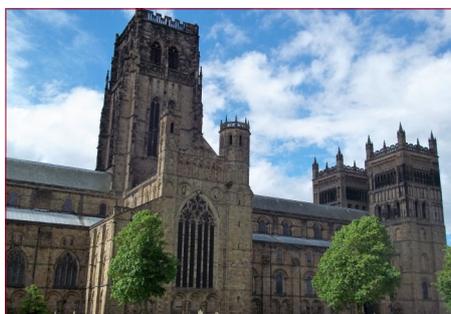
Everyone in the diocese is also invited to one of the Beacon Events to be held at

**Durham Cathedral**

**on Pentecost Sunday at 7pm.**

This aims 'to gather, to ignite and inspire worship and intercession for a generation to rise up with a fresh passion and confidence for the proclamation of the gospel'!

**Tickets are required but are free and available via the website.**



During the week before there will be special prayer spaces set up in the Cathedral so if you cannot make the main event, try to get along to the Cathedral to pray (and maybe get a few ideas to try at home!)



Saturday 25 - Sunday 26 June

## Diocesan Festival 2016

### 'Limitless Love: Making All Things New'



A weekend of talks, music, conversation and good company!

With Karen Kilby,

Steve Murray

and Barry and Margaret Mizen.

More information from

Diocesan Festival bookings Emmaus

Youth Village, Allensford, Consett,

DH8 9BA

festival@diocesehn.org.uk

01207 592244

## Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

**Tuesday 3 May**

**Compassion – the touch of mercy**

**Tuesday 10 May**

**The Holy Spirit and Divine mercy**

**Tuesday 24 May**

**The patience of Mercy**

More information from Sr Michael

marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com

(0191) 581 3249