



7th February
2021

HEXHAM ABBEY PEWSHEET
VOLUNTEERS ~ CONGREGATION ~ STAFF



GRANT AWARDED FOR CRYPT PRESERVATIONS

Our wonderful and hardworking fundraiser, Cath Newson, has been at it again and with the help of Churchwarden Richard Thornton, has been successful in a bid placed to Historic England for **£24,500!** The funds will be exclusively used for environmental monitoring investigation and masonry repairs to the Saxon Crypt. Cath summarises the issues Hexham Abbey Crypt currently faces below:

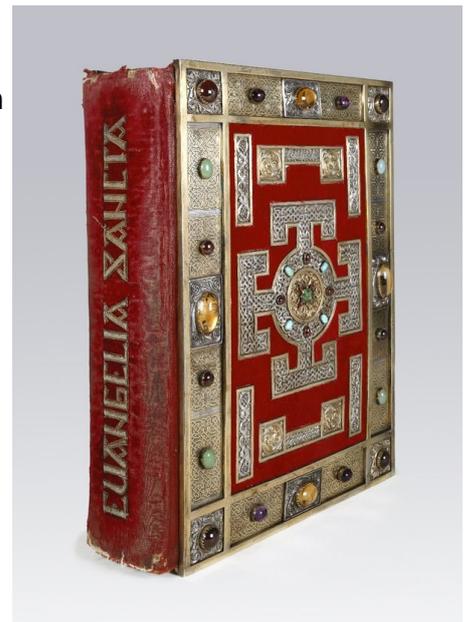
“The Crypt has been closed to visitors since March 2020 as it has not been possible to find a Covid-secure method of regular entry and exit as a result of the very damp conditions. These issues have been prevalent for a number of years, with the humidity levels currently at 100%. The grant will enable a programme of environmental monitoring to be carried out, together with re-pointing the lime mortar. The works will start almost immediately, with installation of the environmental monitoring and masonry repair works to the open and failed mortar joints due to be completed by March 2021. It is hoped that these works will enable us to re-open the Crypt to the public as soon as Covid restrictions are released. The environmental monitoring will take a little longer, we need to capture 12 months of seasonal environmental changes in order for the long term results to be of most assistance.”

THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS

We were pleased to hear on Thursday morning that the North East will once again host the Lindisfarne Gospels. Normally looked after by the British Library, they have agreed to a loan of 3 months to the Laing Art Gallery in Autumn of 2022. This will be the third time the gallery has been loaned the Lindisfarne Gospels and the 2022 exhibition will focus on the meaning of the Lindisfarne Gospels in today's world and how its themes link to personal, regional and national pride and identity.

You can find out more about the exhibition here: <https://laingartgallery.org.uk/lindisfarne-gospels-to-go-on-display-at-laing-art-gallery>

And you can find out more about the Lindisfarne Gospels here: www.bl.uk/collection-items/lindisfarne-gospels



Parish Office: 01434 602031 or admin@hexhamabbey.org.uk.

In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact Rev'd David Glover on 07886 289311.

LENT 2021

WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES LENTEN COURSE

This Lent, David will be running a Lenten series via Zoom on the theme of **Wilderness Encounters**. Each session will involve worship, personal reflection, bible study and group discussions and hopefully good friendship and fellowship.

In this series, after setting the context, we will explore four key encounters from the Bible – Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist and Jesus.

PLEASE REGISTER TO TAKE PART

The series begins on Tuesday 23rd February at 7pm and continues each week until Tuesday 23rd March. Everyone is welcome but you will need to register.

Please register to take part by clicking the following link (or by pasting it into your web browser)

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuc-GtrDsuGdTTJdjC0gno0eR53K9arRZG>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The link in that email will enable you to join each session.

#LIVELENT

This year, the Church of England's #LiveLent theme is '**God's Story, Our Story.**'

From Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April), there are six reflections for each week, each reflection includes a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week has a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week.

The daily reflections are available through the booklet available to buy from [Church House Publishing](#).

The reflections will also be available as a free app (launching early Feb), emails, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts.



Hexham Abbey Poetry & Faith Lent 2021 series

A Warm Welcome

Tuesdays, 23rd Feb. & 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March

14.00 – 15.15 on Zoom

'Witnessing the Dawn' - A Lenten Poetry Selection
Read - Consider - Discuss

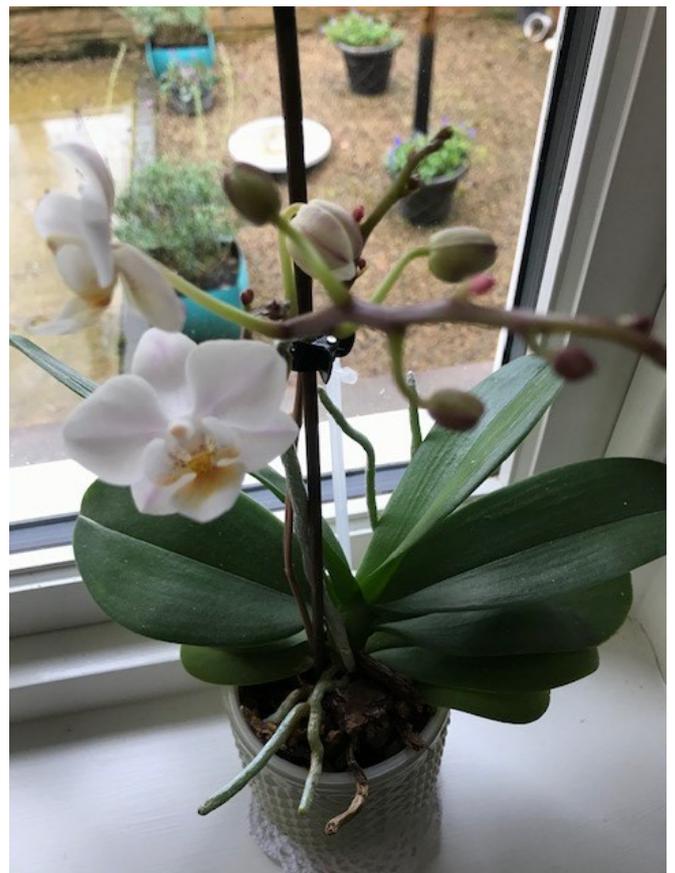
Contact: Mavis Ostler mavisostler@gmail.com Please email to express your interest and include your postal address for a booklet

Hoping you will be able to join [us](#)

NEW DISCOVERIES...

Another week of great submissions for the theme of New Discoveries! Thanks to everyone who sent in pictures and ideas. I thought for next week I would leave the theme open ended, anyone who wants to submit thoughts or reflections can do so, anyone who wants to dedicate a piece to a loved one they haven't seen in a while or who has passed away. Express yourself how you will, art work or writing, pictures or poems, we welcome it all. Share some pictures of some lovely walks, your highlight of the week (or more dog pictures, always dog pictures!). We will start a new theme the following week as we head towards Lent.

First up this week is Diane Wylie's orchid, which was presumed deceased and has surprisingly bounced back to life! What a nice discovery!



Shelagh Carter discovered these little friends in her garden earlier this week. Beautiful little Goldfinches!





Lou Weaver's boyfriend, Jonny discovers the River Tees is still chilly in February!

Here's a picture of my children making new discoveries of their own this week. Turns out anything can be a plaything when they can't play in their usual areas due to social distancing! Also a new walk I discovered last weekend with lovely sunset.



A POEM FROM HELEN OSBORNE

When the Music Stops

When the music stops

And quiet descends as mist on a winter meadow.

Our Majestic abbey, now alone,

Is stripped bare of its Evensong.

Solemn candles, strictly snuffed,

Wait patiently upon the promise of a new flame one day.

Empty pew, silent stair,

Only whispers of echoed prayer,

From where, once chorus filled the air,

No solitary soul to bare.

Peal now struck dumb 'neath sullen sky.

Organ numb. Font cold and dry.

Yet, stained glass rainbows glow on stone,

Bringing hope to all alone.

Once rushed, now hushed,

But before long,

We will return where we belong.

And as before the bells will ring,

to welcome us and we will sing!

Helen Osborne

(Lockdown)

REFLECTIONS FROM JEZ

LIGHT, EVENTS MANAGER

On 16 March 2020 Matt Hancock told the House of Commons that all unnecessary social contact should cease. A week later we were told to Stay At Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives.



Like many, I thought we could be facing a long period of restrictions, possibly even lasting until the start of the summer. None of us thought that we would still be facing lockdown restrictions almost a year later. Wouldn't it be great to be able to celebrate the anniversary of this dubious milestone by spending time with friends, family and colleagues in person? I would love to organise a big event and invite you all, but the experience of having to cancel or postpone (often multiple times) a wide range of special events, weddings, celebrations, concerts and room bookings over recent months makes me extremely nervous about predicting when we will be able to do this safely.

We've learned a new vocabulary during lockdown. "Furlough", "Coronavirus", "Covid-19" and the ubiquitous "Zoom" have all become as familiar to us as the weather. Which was great during the first lockdown, but less so now - where I live (5 miles north of Morpeth) we haven't even had proper snow, just freezing cold rain and wind. I'm currently sitting shivering in my dining room/office as our boiler has finally given up on us.

But I don't have anything to complain about really. The furlough scheme allowed me to spend time with my family and to take on a second job - as Operations Manager for Hexham Community Partnership. I started with HCP in September and I'm really enjoying the process of redefining what the Partnership will be doing in the future (or at least until September, when my temporary contract comes to an end). Although the HCP team have all been "flexi-furloughed" (another new bit of vocabulary) since November, the time we have been able to spend working has been focused primarily on the digital divide in Hexham and West Northumberland. Our new "Click 'n' Connect" project provides tablet devices, laptops and data to those who need it most. We're also developing a new Volunteer Hub for Hexham - where we will be able to match up volunteers to opportunities; a bit like a dating service. We hope this will be ready and full of opportunities by the time we come out of lockdown - so watch this space!

What has been more difficult has been losing friends and family during this period. I don't know anyone who has died of Coronavirus, but I do have a growing number of friends, colleagues who have suffered a loss over recent weeks and months and haven't been able to gather together freely to mark the passing of their loved ones or even visit their loved ones in hospital. I lost my sister, Karen, on the 1st of November 2020. I was fortunate enough to be able to travel down to the Isle of Wight (in Tier 1 one at that point) and celebrate her life, albeit with far fewer people than we would have liked. But even there, on the evening of her Service of Celebration at Holy Trinity, Bembridge, some of Karen's former colleagues were called away to accompany residents of the care home where she had worked to the local hospital after contracting Covid-19. Not all heroes wear cloaks...

But now I look forward with hope. I've really missed you all, missed the hustle and bustle of Abbey life, missed the long days rushing around to make sure things run smoothly for our visitors, clients and guests. Let's see what Spring brings - and let's all get together for that celebration when the time is right!

CLICK 'N' COLLECT PROJECT

The Number 28 Project is part of Hexham Community Partnership and has launched an appeal for any unwanted laptops, tablets or unlocked smartphones you may have lying around, unused. The project then uses these and they are set up and loaned to people who need access to the internet to search for work, keep in touch with family and friends or for home schooling. They also provide mobile broadband devices with data for those who need it to get online.

If you know someone who:

- needs a device to look for work, attend virtual job interviews or undertake online training
- is over 55 and retired, living in a Karbon Homes property and finding it difficult to stay in touch with family and friends
- is home schooling and needs an extra device to help their kids with lockdown learning

Then the Number 28 project may be able to help.

If you know someone who fits into one or more of these categories or you have unused devices you are willing to donate, please get in touch. The project will provide full training on the device and the mobile data if required.

Please contact Paul on 07828 601727 or paul@hexhamcommunity.net

NEW JOB...?

Community Grocery are looking for a new 'Community Grocery Assistant Manager.' They are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person to join their team as a part time Assistant Manger within their new Message Community Grocery in Hexham.

If you love working with people, have a keen eye for detail and want a job that really makes a difference to people's lives, you could be the one!

For more information or to apply please visit message.org.uk/jobs or visit communitygrocery.org.uk to find out more about the organisation.

KNITTING NEEDLES AT THE READY!!

If you'd like to take part in the latest Abbey community project and enjoy knitting, please get on board in knitting some lovely Easter bunnies and chicks! Patterns can be obtained from Cath on cath.newson@hexhamabbey.org.uk or you can call Judi on 694562.



For your prayers

We pray for those who are unwell or who have asked for our prayers: Mary Miller, Ron Lane

We pray for all those who have died and all those who mourn: Colin Dallison, Cynthia Robson, Carol Moy, Joyce Glenwright, Gladys Greenwell, Joyce Oliver, Audrey Carey and Les O'Neil

HELPING THE BEREAVED

Thank you to Brian and Margaret Massey who discovered this link recently on the Church of England's Twitter feed. The link takes you to a YouTube video where the lovely Rev'd Kate Bottley talks about how we can help those who are bereaved during a time of lockdown and social distancing. The video is created in partnership with 'Loss and Hope', for more information you can visit www.lossandhope.org.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQo8InmtcvQ&feature=youtu.be>

BLOOD DONATION

NHS Blood and Transplant needs your help. There are upcoming blood donation sessions at Hexham Auction Mart on Tuesday 2nd March and Wednesday 31st March, with lots of available appointments. You could help by booking an appointment to donate blood today!

NHS Blood and Transplant are working closely with the rest of the NHS to keep supplying lifesaving blood to hospitals during the Coronavirus pandemic and they need people to keep donating as normal. Extra safety measures are in place and every precaution is being taken to eliminate the risk of Covid-19 transmission at their blood donation sessions. Having an appointment to give blood is classed as essential travel and will be exempt from any local or national travel restrictions.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic donors are also specifically needed right now, because:

- Some patients who receive frequent blood transfusions need blood to be closely matched to their own
- A number of blood conditions, like sickle cell disease which is treated through blood transfusions, most commonly affect black, Asian and minority ethnic people
- The best match typically comes from blood donors from the same ethnic background

While people from all communities and backgrounds do give blood, fewer than 5% of blood donors who gave blood in the last year were from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. This is despite BAME communities representing around 14% of the population. They are hoping to try and readdress this balance.

Whether you are a new or regular donor, please visit blood.co.uk, download the NHS Give Blood app or call them on 0300 123 23 23 to book an appointment today.



ABBEY NEWS!

Head Verger, Lou has taken some annual leave this week so no updates from behind the walls! Lovely Viven Drydon sent us this image of the scaffolding from a different angle though which provides a different view of the huge engineering feat! For those who currently can't leave the house or are staying safely behind closed doors, this is the current view from the Market Place. Our scaffolders have been brilliant, undeterred by the horrendous weather we have been having, Site Manager Les even had to order them down at one point as they committed to working even when it was covered in ice. We certainly don't envy their job, working at such height in January in the North East. That all being said, we are still running on track with the roof project, with time being made up at weekends for time missed with the ice. We endeavour to keep you updated!



Sunday 7th February 2021 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10.00am	Zoom Worship	President	Rev'd David Glover
Preacher	Rev'd David Glover	Readers	Helen Milner and Brian Massey
Readings	Proverbs 8.1-22, 33 and John 1.1-14	Intercessor	Bridget Hewitt

Wednesday 10th February 2021

7.00pm	Zoom Worship	President	Frances Stride
Preacher	Frances Stride	Reader	Elizabeth Fish
Readings	Mark 7.14-23	Intercessor	Janet Allison

RESOURCES

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1 February the CofE invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

This link will provide you with the resources to pray every day, not only does it provide you with a daily prayer throughout all of February, it give you themes and related saints. There is also the option to print these prayers in pdf format and also the chance to view the letter from the Archbishops.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

Time to Pray is a free app, available from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. It provides everything you need to pray through the day, taking into account day of week and seasons of the church's year. Time to pray is also now a podcast, where you can listen along for 10 minutes or so. Everything you need will be on the app or follow this link for more information: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

**Loving God,
at this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.
Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength,
our people hope.
Lead us through these parched and difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**