



HELPING TO
CONNECT CHURCH
AND COMMUNITY
GROUPS
TOGETHER
FOR THE
WELLBEING
OF ALL

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ISSUE 19

JANUARY 2022

Rev'd Mandy writes...

Happy New Year to you all!

As we begin a new year, I believe God invites us to travel life's journey with Him. This is a sentiment that was echoed in our nation many years ago...

In December 1939, Great Britain was at war. The Third Reich of Nazi Germany had ruled in Germany since Hitler took over in 1933. Germany had become a fascist totalitarian state and the Hitler regime had spread terror across Europe. In September 1939, Great Britain had entered the Second World War. And soon the nation was gripped in the clutches of fear. With every air-raid siren that pierced the ears of the British people, anxiety increased and fear was overwhelming. Uncertainty for the New Year reigned in the hearts and minds of the country's citizens.

For very different reasons, there is again an air of uncertainty and perhaps fear as we begin this New Year. We have suffered many losses in many ways during the pandemic and wonder how long the virus will continue with its restrictions and frustrations.

In December 1939, King George VI was the reigning monarch. As was the custom, the king addressed the nation on a BBC radio broadcast on Christmas Day, and, in the uncertain last days of 1939, the king spoke words of peace to calm his nation. He reminded them of the only true King, the One who can provide true peace and real rest in such troubled times. As King George concluded his message of encouragement, he read the preamble of a poem that had been brought to his attention by his young daughter, Princess Elizabeth.

Princess Elizabeth was only thirteen years old in 1939. The poem that she brought to her father's attention was written by British poet Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957). Published in 1908 and titled God Knows, the poem was part of a collection of poems in a book titled The Desert. These words can perhaps help us to know that we are not alone and God walks into this new year with us

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

In all the dizzy strife

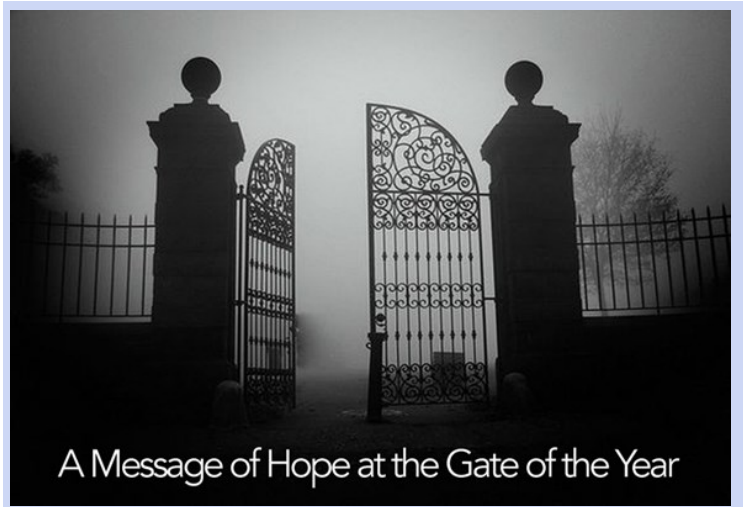
Of things both high and low

God hideth his intention.

Indeed, one of my go to Bible passages is from the prophet Isaiah chapter 41:10. Isaiah speaks God's words to His people saying:

*So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

God upholds us. He holds us up when we totter and fall. Like a loving parent supporting a child learning to walk. I don't know about you but I find that so comforting.



And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still!

What need our little life,

Our human life to know

If God hath comprehension?

So, a prayer:

Thank you Lord that you are our helping hand. We don't have to walk this life path alone but can trust in Your promise to hold us, strengthen us and help us. May we reach out and find Your hand today and every day and know Your help.

Thank you Lord God. Amen.



Service rota for January/February

Please note: **There is now an additional 8.30am service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month at St Luke's. All other services are at 10am unless otherwise stated.**

Sun 2nd Jan 8.30am St Luke's
 Sun 2nd Jan 10am St Francis
 Thu 6th Jan 10am St Luke's

Sun 9th Jan 10am St Luke's
 Tue 11th Jan 10am St Francis
 Sun 16th Jan 10am St Francis
 Thu 20th Jan 10am St Luke's
 Sun 23rd Jan 10am St Luke's
 Tue 25th Jan 10am St Francis
 Sun 30th Jan 10am St Francis
 Thu 3rd Feb 10am St Luke's
 Sun 6th Feb 8.30am St Luke's

Sun 6th Feb 10am St Luke's
 Tue 8th Feb 10am St Francis
 Sun 13th Feb 10am St Francis
 Thu 17th Feb 10am St Luke's
 Sun 20th Feb 10am St Luke's
 Tue 22nd Feb 10am St Francis
 Sun 27th Feb 10am St Francis

A poem by Roger McGough poet Born 9th November 1937

The trouble with snowmen said my father one year
 They are no sooner made, than they just disappear

I'll build you a snowman and I'll build it to last
 Add sand and cement and then have it cast

And so, every Winter, he went on to explain
 You shall have a snowman, be sunshine or rain

And that snowman still stands, though my father is gone
 Out there in the garden like an unmarked gravestone

Staring up at the house, gross and misshapen
 As if waiting for something bad to happen

For as the years pass and I grow older
 When Summers seem short and Winters colder

The snowmen I envy, as I watch children play
 Are the ones that are made and then fade away.



Duston Dashers

We're a Social Running Group!
 We meet every Sunday morning at Errington Park, 08:55 for an 09:00 start.

All runners are welcome for a nice chatty Sunday run, whether you're in training, want to get active or 'dust down' your trainers!

Come and join us, and we enjoy a nice well-deserved cuppa and a natter at the end.

Any questions please get in touch, DM via Duston Dashers FB page or direct on: **07485 784370**

Lawrie



D PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE LEWIS FOUNDATION
DUSTON PLAYERS DUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
www.dustonplayers.org.uk

The classic Ealing comedy live on stage!

The Ladykillers

by Graham Linehan

TICKETS
£10
DISCOUNTS
AVAILABLE



WED 23 - SAT 26 MAR 7.45PM
BOX OFFICE: 07916 011375
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/DUSTON-PLAYERS

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

More info on our Facebook and Website or contact us by phone if you are not online.

01604 583626

events@duston-pc.gov.uk

www.duston-pc.gov.uk

Facebook@DustonPC

DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL: Connect with us

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you had a joyful Christmas with your loved ones and we look forward to a brand-new year of events and initiatives for you to enjoy.

SPRING INTO 2022

A BIG thank you to all the groups and individuals who braved the elements to plant bulbs and pansies all over Duston. We cannot wait for them to burst through! We have lots of plans to further enhance the village and will soon be launching our Friends of DPC campaign and would love you to get involved. Please contact Alison at bcdm@duston-pc.gov.uk



THE GROW TOGETHER ALLOTMENT

Look out for our programme of events for the new year coming soon. There will be lots of opportunities to sow, plant and weed and if you haven't had enough HoHoHo over Christmas you can join us for some HoeHoeHoe at the plot!

VIRTUAL WELLBEING TALK 2022. LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS. THURSDAY JANUARY 20TH 2022 1.30PM

DPC and St Luke's PPG welcome you to our first health talk of the year. We will be reverting back to virtual for the time being. You can register using the link on the poster or contact us if you prefer: events@duston-pc.gov.uk or call 01604 583626.

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY & JUBILEE

This year the nation celebrates the Queen's Jubilee and we can all look forward to miles of bunting, street parties and celebrations. Many of you will have heard of the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) which is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, inviting people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". We will be planting trees and hedgerows across the village and would love you to get involved. Contact bcdm@duston-pc.gov.uk to register your interest.

DUSTON FUN DAY SUNDAY 26TH JUNE 2022

We are SO looking forward to getting back to our first annual family fun day since 2019. We have all the usual shenanigans planned as well as new attractions and lots of fun for all. Live music, street food, artisan crafts and much more. Please do join us and let us know if you would like to have a stall. Contact:

Sarah on events@duston-pc.gov.uk

Or call 01604 583626





PLEASE JOIN US for our next
**VIRTUAL HEALTH &
WELLBEING POP UP**

Thursday 20th January 2022 | 1.30pm

'Living with Sight Loss'



nab

Sight support for
Northamptonshire

by Mr Hugh Spence,
Youth & Activities
Support Worker

A FREE, informative presentation giving help and advice

Hosted via
Microsoft Teams

Pre submit any questions
to dustonppg@gmail.com

For more info and to register, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8dsw2b>

Duston Parish Council working in partnership with St Luke's PPG



T: 01604 583626
E: events@duston-pc.gov.uk
www.duston-pc.gov.uk



Duston by Starlight

A huge 'thank you' to Duston Parish Council for providing our Christmas tree and local businesses in Limehurst Square for supporting 'Duston by starlight' on the 19th December. Although it was a little cold and damp, we enjoyed some festive carol singing and readings and some lovely hot chocolate and mince pies too!

Thanks to the Wellbeing Café team who organised the whole event.



I am here

He's knocking at the door of your heart
Open it and let Him come in
Welcome Him with outstretched hands
The King of Glory is His Name

Then Jesus and the Father
Will come and dine with you
They will make their home in your heart
The Holy Spirit will too

For He will always be with you
Loving, faithful and true
Jesus, Son of the living God
Will keep His promise to you

Yes, He's knocking at the door of your heart
Open it and let Him come in
Welcome Him with outstretched hands
The King of Glory is His Name
The King of Glory is His Name

Shirley Wills.

**Here I am! I stand
at the door and
knock. If anyone
hears my voice
and opens the
door, I will
come in.**

Revelation 3:20

THE WORD SEARCH BATTLE

Winter

Difficulty: Hard

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | R | B | Y | R | A | U | R | B | E | F | S | A | I | B |
| D | O | J | U | Y | Y | R | R | J | R | Z | D | R | W | U |
| R | A | A | P | Q | E | E | R | T | C | X | E | D | J | Z |
| A | H | M | T | T | T | E | L | H | S | T | L | X | D | W |
| Z | G | W | N | A | B | H | O | E | D | E | S | Y | Q | G |
| Z | A | I | E | M | S | C | K | L | K | K | B | S | G | S |
| I | W | W | E | L | O | A | H | O | T | N | O | K | N | O |
| L | S | C | R | L | L | A | P | W | Q | A | B | I | I | C |
| B | E | V | A | F | Y | S | B | E | F | L | H | I | T | G |
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| T | E | O | C | W | A | Q | R | O | O | G | X | G | K | V |
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| S | U | O | L | X | N | H | M | K | Y | M | S | I | K | P |
| L | O | B | D | U | A | F | R | A | C | S | A | I | N | R |
| Z | Q | A | A | R | J | O | N | E | B | U | M | N | X | K |

Play this puzzle online at: <https://www.wordsearchbattle.io/topic/winter>

BLANKET
BLIZZARD
BOBSLEDS
BOOTS
CHOCOLATE

COAT
COLD
DECEMBER
FEBRUARY
HOT

ICE
JANUARY
PENGUIN
SCARF
SKATING

SKIING
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
SWEATER
WINTER

Duston FOOD BANK Needs you!

Top items to donate:

- ◆ Washing-up liquid
- ◆ Household cleaning sprays (not bleach)
- ◆ Toilet rolls
- ◆ Long-life milk
- ◆ Deodorant (men's / ladies')
- ◆ Tinned fruit (and tinned rice pudding)



**Remember
YOU may also
need the Food
Bank!**

Duston United Reformed Church (URC) works with Re:store to offer a food bank on Saturdays 10:00 to 12:00.

They have a band of 8 volunteers who last month helped 45 families.

Situated opposite the Bakery in Main Road Duston, they are open on Saturday mornings from 10.00 until noon to provide ready packed groceries. They also have household products, personal hygiene items, nappies/wipes, baby food and a treats box from which you may chose additional items.

PLEASE if you need some help, come and see us. You will be assured of a

confidential, warm and friendly welcome. If you know of anyone who could do with a helping hand, please tell them about us. During the current pandemic, we follow COVID guidelines, please wear a mask. One person at a time, unless you have children with you, in which case you may bring them in with you. A one way system is in place.



Thank you very much

Donations

URC—Sat & Mon (10:00—12:00)

St Luke's & St Francis' churches (on days when there are services)

St Luke's Rectory – 3 Main Road

Rev Mandy reflects

July this year will mark my 30th anniversary of ordination. I can't quite believe that for 30 years I have had the privilege of officiating at Baptisms, weddings and funerals and being a church leader in various settings. People often ask me how it all started so I thought I would share a little of my journey with you

It was the early 1980's and I was a member of a church, St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. I taught in Sunday school. I sang in the choir. I read the lessons. I was really very involved in this particular church. My social life revolved around the church. It was a big part of my life.

But notice I said, the church was a big part of my life. I was soon to discover that I had a great relationship with the church but my relationship with God was not quite so hot!

I had started to attend a home group, part of the church fellowship, and at this group for a number of weeks we were looking at the book of Revelation. And this particular night we had focussed on Revelation chapter 3. A couple of verses from that chapter leapt out at me ...

15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

'You are neither cold nor hot'...

Suddenly it seemed that those words were addressed directly to me. Yes, I was busy with church activities, but I was in reality lukewarm in my relationship towards God.

This came as quite a shock to me. I had always considered myself a 'good' Christian.

But in reality, I discovered that I had been more concerned with the trappings of church life than a living relationship with God.

And as result of that encounter with God through his word, I stopped and took a good long look at my life and began to think less about what I could do and more about what God had done for me through his Son Jesus.

You see no matter what we feel about how close we are to God, the truth is that he is close to us. He loves us and His love is not cold, or lukewarm but passionate and sacrificial, as seen by the events of Good Friday.

John 3:16. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

At the time I was working with British Telecom. I started out as a Directory Enquiry operator and then moved into sales. There I was with a briefcase and a smart suit demonstrating phone equipment in businesses across Glasgow and the surrounding area. But it wasn't me. I felt like a square peg in a round hole. And God knew it wasn't me either and, as always, He had a plan!

When I was 24, I went on a silent retreat with some other young people from the church. The retreat was held

at a retreat centre somewhere in the Borders. I knew that whilst away for the weekend, I had some serious thinking and praying to do. On the Saturday morning I went for a walk and I remember sitting down by some trees and suddenly I heard a voice, come as it were from nowhere, in my head, clearly say, 'Mandy, I want you to work for me in the church.'

Well, I was so elated. I believed that in that moment God had spoken to me and suddenly it all made sense. I felt a huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders. Being a silent retreat, I could hardly shout my praise to the roof tops but I did tell a nearby flock of sheep!!

To cut a long story short, when I returned home, I spoke to the priest at church who then encouraged me to speak to the Bishop. I felt very strongly, that although I had spent most of my life in Scotland that I was being called to work South of the border. The Bishop transferred my sponsorship to Newcastle Diocese and I gave up my job with BT and moved to Scargill House in Yorkshire, a Christian conference centre where I worked as part of the community there for 15 months.

It was while working there I went on what was then known as an ACCM interview, The Advisory Council for Church Ministry. This was a three day interview in Northumberland and as a result I was conditionally recommended for training for the Anglican ministry, conditional on me gaining some experience in the Church of England as up to this point I

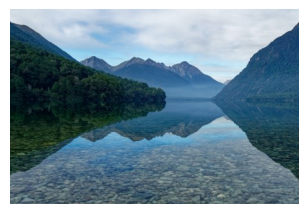
only had experience of the Scottish Episcopal Church. So, after my time at Scargill, I was sent to Holy Island in Northumberland for a year and worked in the community there as well as doing a placement with a female deacon in Newcastle. Remember in those days women were not able to be priests!

And then finally I went to Lincoln Theological College and trained for 3 years before being ordained in Ripon Cathedral in 1992.

But of course, the journey didn't stop with ordination because God doesn't leave us alone but grows us along the way. I remember as a teenager having a poster on my wall which said 'God loves me the way I am and too much to let me stay that way.' We are all a work in progress and we need to allow God to develop us that we may as St Paul says 'grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

I once heard Bishop John Pritchard talking about the great divide between the secular world and the spiritual world. He was urging people not to separate out our lives into sacred and secular but to put Christ at the centre of our lives so that we can relate our faith to every aspect of life.

God calls each of us to a particular ministry. Part of our journey of faith is discovering God's call in our own lives and being obedient to that call.



87th St Francis' Brownies back in action!

We just love doing crafts so much it's true,
We've made keyrings, sand art and marbling too,
Creating beautiful hanging stars and Christmas cards,
Sending special people our warmest regards,

For Christmas, we wanted to show that we care,
So we joined Earth's Lonely Angels and gathered gifts to share,
We all sat and helped as we filled each Christmas box,
With toiletries, food, gloves, hats and socks.

We were joined by Reverend Mandy for a fabulous night,
We learnt about the meaning of Christmas by Christingle light,
One of our older girls hosted a special Christmas party,
Where we played bingo, decorated biscuits and got arty.

Our final treat for the end of another tough year,
We were off to the panto, watching Aladdin appear,
It was very funny, and the kids were a dream,
But I think their best bit was the free ice cream!

Oh what a year, but what fun we have had!
Whilst the restrictions are hard, it has made us all glad,
That we have such fantastic, caring Brownies in our pack,
Now, let's see what magic 2022 brings when we are back!



Community Connect

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3 Main Road
Duston
NN5 6JB

Email: aj.marriott123@gmail.com

Helping to connect Church and Community groups together for the wellbeing of all

We aim to get Community Connect out by the first week of each month, so articles for the following month need to be submitted by the beginning of the last week of each month. They can be emailed to Rev'd Mandy Marriott at aj.marriott123@gmail.com or put through the Rectory door 3 Main Road Duston NN5 6JB.

This is your community newsletter so keep your articles coming in.

We love to hear from you.

*We currently don't charge for Community Connect but if you would like to make a donation towards printing costs then we would be very grateful. Donations can be made by cheque to Duston and Upton PCC or by BACS transfer to Duston and Upton PCC Acc number 32599613 Sort Code 23-05-80. **Thank you.***