

At the front of the worship area is the wooden **Communion Table** standing on a low stage. The table carries the candles, and during communion services bread and wine will be placed there.



To the side of the communion table is the **Lectern** from where the service is conducted and the lessons from the Bible are read.

Behind the communion table is a beautifully stitched triptych made by some ladies of the church (a few men helped). The design was inspired by the Bible passage Revelation, Chapters 21 & 22 and depicts the New Jerusalem.



Our 'Window into Heaven'



## A guide to St Cuthbert's Church Centre



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## Welcome

St. Cuthbert's is a Church of England parish church and we welcome everyone to our services. Our congregation is made up of all sorts of people who are attending for many different reasons.

Some have been attending church for many years, others joined us only recently. Some come along every Sunday, others perhaps only once a month. Some bring their family, because they want their children to be given a foundation of Christian teaching, some are interested in finding out what Christianity is all about. Some come to hear their banns being read before their weddings, others bring their children for Baptism. Some are seeking the comfort that only Christ can bring them following a death or momentous event in their lives. Others want to put behind them a life of emptiness or addictions. Some feel that they have been let down by their parents, spouses, friends, colleagues and have heard that following Jesus can help to heal the hurt. Whatever your reason for coming along, **we welcome you.**



We try to provide a friendly and non-threatening atmosphere in all the activities at our church. People can participate as much or as little as they wish. Although some people like to get involved in the activities such as reading the lessons, joining the music group or leading discussions, many come along to merely sit quietly and listen and learn. We are all at different stages on our Christian journey.

If you need help or want to find out about anything please approach either the Vicar or any member of the church.

A list of contacts is on the notice board in the entrance foyer.

From time to time we organise **Alpha courses** which are held in the homes of church members and aim to help people learn what Christianity is all about and how it can change their lives. A meal is provided at each session.

The church is very active in the area of **World Mission** and we support several societies working overseas. Each year we concentrate on one of the societies and through prayer and fundraising activities we are able provide support to their work.

Through the year we hold **social activities** for church members and their guests.

## The church building

The building you see today was completed in 2005 directly on the foundations of the original church which had been built in 1914. That building was unfortunately too expensive to maintain, heat, light and keep waterproof. The new church has been paid for by members of the congregation, various fund raising activities, a very generous gift and a loan from the Diocese of Blackburn and by donations from individuals, societies and organisations. It is our hope and prayer that the small outstanding debt on the church building project will soon be paid, leaving us free to use our gifts of money for furthering the work of Christ's kingdom in different ways in the years ahead.

✠ The cross with the circle on the top of the church reminds us of the Celtic origins of St Cuthbert, our Patron Saint.

Before you enter the church, if you glance to your left you will see the **Garden of Remembrance**. Here the ashes of former members of the church can be placed.

Almost the first thing that you bump into as you go into the worship area is the **Font**. This large stone basin holds water when children are baptised. Adults also can be baptised here but some wish to use the **Baptistery**, the pool under the boards by the font, here they are ducked completely under water. Baptism is the ceremony representing God calling us by name into the Christian community. During the baptism of babies, their parents and godparents make the promises on their behalf.



represent the congregation and it includes the Vicar, the Wardens and Readers. Suggestions and ideas to do with the running of the church can be given to any member of the PCC which meets every month.

### Activities during the week

**PEWSNEWS** is the weekly church newsletter which gives the service times and lists some of what is going on in the parish. It is available on Sundays at the Church Centre. The website: [www.stcuthbertchurch.net](http://www.stcuthbertchurch.net) also gives details of future events.

#### **For children**

On Wednesdays we have a busy **Mums and Toddlers** group for the very young, they meet at 10.00 am in the Northumbria Hall.

#### **Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer**

**Scouts** all operate from the Church throughout the week and meet in the



Douglas Hall building beside the church. On the 2nd Sunday of each month we have a parade service and the church is usually full to the brim with the youngsters and their families.



### Other activities

During the week our **Home Groups** meet to share fellowship together, study the Bible, learn and grow in their understanding of what Christianity is about. Home groups consist of about 6 to 10 people who assemble in the house of one of the members. It is also a great way to get to know people and make friends. Joining a house group is highly recommended!

**T2.** Some of the male members of the church meet informally on the second Thursday of the month and participate in a variety of casual activities.

We have a **Football Team** and matches are occasionally arranged against other church teams. Real talent is always welcome.

The **Badminton** group plays in the Douglas Hall, beside the church, on Monday evenings.

The **Over 50s walking club** goes on not too strenuous walks on Fridays.



## Sunday services

### Adults

Our services on Sunday aim to provide a variety of styles of worship. The 9.30 am service is family oriented, lively, topical and interactive. At 11.00 am the service uses more traditional hymns and prayers. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month, a service at 10.30 am replaces the 9.30 am and 11.00 am services. The 6.30 pm service tends to be quieter with teaching, reflection and praise.

At most services everyone is given an order of service sheet when they arrive so that they can see what is going on during the service. We use a projector to display the prayers, songs and Bible readings on a large screen. This means that we don't have to find our way through lots of different books. We also use video/DVD/CDs for pictures and music during some of the services.

The music during the services is provided by gifted musicians and singers who are members of the congregation.

Prayer is of vital importance. During the services we are led in prayers for world situations as well as more local and personal matters. Anyone needing prayer for themselves or someone else, can ask to be included in these prayers either publicly, during the services, or privately. (See also **Prayers** on page 5).

During communion services a steward will indicate when people should go forward to receive the bread and (alcoholic) wine. Everyone is welcome to come forward, those who have not been confirmed can either remain in their seat, or go forward for a blessing. The ministry of healing accompanied by anointing with oil is also offered as we receive communion.

The traditional passing around of the collection plate only happens during the Parade service on the 2nd Sunday of the month. At all other services those wishing to make a donation can place a gift on a plate by the door to the worship area.



After the 9.30 service we serve **tea, coffee and juice** in the hall so that rather than dash off home, people can stay, talk, meet new people and discuss church or other business. Occasionally we hold a **Jacob's Join** meal after a morning service. The food



is provided by those attending who bring more than they need for themselves. The extra food provides a meal for those who have forgotten to bring some, or who, at the last minute, decide to stay for lunch. It's great fun.

### **Children**

Whilst their parents attend the 9.30 am service there are various interesting activities for children. However, children may stay with their parents during the service if they wish.



**Crèche.** For the very young we have a crèche in a room at the back of the worship area. Parents can go in with their child or they may leave their child in the care of those who organise the crèche. The room has a glass wall into the worship area so parents can see what is going on.

**Deep Sea Divers** (Sunday School). Members of the church run activities for the children aged 4 to 13 years. There are three age groups; Pearl Fishers, Treasure Seekers and Navigators. Activities are designed to be lively and fun whilst learning about the Bible and Christian subjects.

**The Crucible.** For young people aged 14+ the Crucible is our youth church. Here they have discussions and activities in their own room in the church and relevant and topical Christian issues are addressed.

All those who are responsible for children's activities have been through the CRB clearance system.

### **Other services and prayers**

We celebrate **Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday and Harvest** with special services and we really do welcome those who perhaps can only attend church at these traditional times. Our annual Christmas and Easter services seek to bring us face to face with the reality of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection using traditional songs and readings as well as telling the gospel story in more creative ways through drama and meditation.

### **Thank Goodness It's Friday** (TGIF)

This is an event held approximately once a month on a Friday evening in the church. **PEWSNEWS** gives details.

**Baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals** can be arranged by contacting the Vicar.

### **Home and hospital visits**

The Vicar and our two Pastoral Assistants are available to visit people who are unable to come to church for any reason, or who are in hospital. During the visits, in addition to listening and talking through any problems, sharing a pot of tea or just catching up with parish news, they also offer to pray and administer communion.

### **Prayer**

Anyone needing prayer for themselves or someone else, or for any reason, should speak confidentially to the Vicar or the Pastoral Assistants. Members of the Prayer Ministry Team are available to pray with anyone in the quiet of the Melrose Room after each main Sunday morning service. Anything you say will be kept confidential; however, if you prefer, you don't need to say why you have come for prayer - just say you have a need. For matters which can be shared with members of the church we have a **Prayer Chain**, prayer needs are passed quickly around the chain of people by telephone and email and soon many people can be joined in prayer.



At 9.30 am on Mondays and Wednesdays, a few members of the church meet for a '**half hour of prayer**'.

**Cereal Prayers** meet on a Friday morning at 7 am for breakfast and prayers.

### **Open Door**

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12.30 pm the church is open for people to come in and have soup, a bread roll and a chat. This is open to anyone, not just members of our church.

### **Church staff**

To help the Vicar in his various duties we have several Readers. They are men and women who have gone through extensive training and they can be seen leading Sunday services, preaching the sermon or performing other duties around the Parish.

The day to day running of the church is shared between the Vicar, a Church Administrator, two Church Wardens and a number of hardworking volunteers. The direction and activities of the church are guided by the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This group is made up of members of the Church who have been voted in to

