St Francis High Heaton

Worship - Community – Service

Notices, Readings & Prayers

20th September 2026 HARVEST FESTIVAL

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As the leaves begin to turn brown and the autumn air becomes crisp, our thoughts turn to Harvest Festival. The season is steeped in gratitude, as we gather to thank God for the earth's abundance and the food on our tables. Yet, true harvest thanksgiving has never been just about looking inward at our own blessings. It is a profound call to look outward, ensuring that the bounty of creation is shared fairly and that those who toil to feed us are treated with dignity. We therefore invite everyone to bring gifts of non-perishable food which will be given to the People's Kitchen, a charity working with some of the poorest people in our city. In addition, our harvest celebrations coincide with Fairtrade Fortnight, reminding us that global trade is deeply connected to our faith and our stewardship of the earth. For decades, the Fairtrade movement has fought to ensure that farmers and workers in developing nations receive a fair price for their crops. When we choose Fairtrade chocolate, coffee, or bananas, we are making a distinct choice to stand in solidarity with our global neighbours. However, ethical consumer choices alone are no longer enough to fix a broken global system. This year, Fairtrade is launching a vital new petition that takes the fight for justice straight to the corridors of power. The petition calls on the UK government to introduce strict new laws that hold businesses legally accountable for environmental damage and human rights abuses in their supply chains. Too often, the cheap goods on our supermarket shelves hide a devastating reality: deforestation, polluted water sources, and

exploitative labour practices. As Christians, we cannot turn a blind eye to the climate damage behind everyday products. We invite every member of our parish to sign this petition at the back of the church after our Harvest services. By doing so, we demand a system where corporations can no longer profit at the expense of God's creation and the world's most vulnerable people. Our reflections on global and environmental justice continue next month with a highly anticipated local event. On Sunday 4th October, Heaton Churches Together will host a special screening of The People's Emergency Briefing at The Peoples' Theatre. This powerful and eye-opening documentary cuts through the political noise to deliver a clear, unvarnished look at the reality of the climate crisis. Crucially, it highlights the grassroots solutions and community-led actions that offer real hope for the future. It is an essential watch for anyone looking to understand how we, as a local community, can play our part in safeguarding the planet. Following the screening, there will be an informal discussion giving us an opportunity to reflect together on how our parish can deepen its commitment to environmental justice. It's free to attend and you are warmly encouraged to bring friends, family, and neighbours along. That weekend will of course be our celebration of Francis-tide, our patronal festival, and in addition to the screening, there will be a Transitus service in church on Saturday 3rd October at 3pm to mark the death of St Francis, followed by our annual ceilidh from 6pm with The Whistling Sheep, and then there will be a celebration Eucharist on the Sunday morning at 10am. As we anticipate these events this weekend with our Harvest Festival, let us give thanks not just with our lips, but with our actions. Let us celebrate the fruits of the earth by sharing some of our plenty with those most in need, and demanding justice for the people who harvest the fruits of the earth and protection for the planet that sustains us all.

National Emergency Briefing

People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Newcastle upon Tyne Hosted by Heaton Churches Together

The People's Theatre, Stephenson Road
NE6 5QA

Sunday 4th October 6pm-8pm
Come along watch the film and join the discussion

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www.nebriefing.org

ANNUAL ST. FRANCIS-TIDE SUPPER and CEILIDH

dancing to

THE WHISTLING SHEEP

Saturday October 3rd 2026

Music from 6.00pm in the Church hall

Food at 6.30pm, bring your own drinks

Adults £12
Children £5
Families £30 (2 adults with 2+ children)

For tickets email stfrancisnewcastle@gmail.com or see J. Germain

Weekly Eco Tip *Shop seasonal*

At this time of the year there are English fruits and vegetables so it is a good time to buy them. This supports British growers and the produce has not travelled large distances to get to the shops. Often farm shops are pricey but they are great for buying produce in season. As always I say, freeze for future enjoyment. *Jenny Germain*

If you have a green tip to share contact jenny_germain@talk21.com

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Monthly Litter Pick

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN ST FRANCIS ECO-CHURCH LITTER PICKERS on the first Saturday of each month. The next one will be Saturday 3rd October 10 - 11.30am, meet at church. All equipment provided, everyone welcome! *(children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult).*

Lent soup lunches!

The next soup lunch will be on Tuesday 6th October 12.30pm - 1.30pm, supporting *Practical Compassion for Destitute Children* working in the Holy Land.

The next Taizé worship will be… Monday 28th September at 6.30pm in the Baptistry

Worship & Prayers for Harvest Festival

Opening Rite

If you're at home you might wish to light a candle, make sure you are sitting comfortably and take a few deep breaths to still yourself.

The Lord is here
His spirit is with us

Prayers of Penitence

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

We confess to you
our lack of care for the world you have given us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you
our failure to protect resources for others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect

You might like to keep a few moments of silence.

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need
and for our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he

went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

2 Corinthians 9.6-end

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Gospel According to Luke chapter 12.16-30

Then Jesus told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Reflection

In the parable, the rich man's folly is summed up by the repetition of a single word 'my' – my crops; my barns; my grain; my goods; my soul. Even his conversation is with himself. Human beings are not the owners

of the land or its produce; everything comes from God (1 Chronicles 29.14). The sudden death of the rich man reveals the enormity of his error, for he will no longer have any control over the things he has mistakenly identified as his (v.20). Even 'his' soul will be required of him. This fundamental mistake leads to the wrong answer to the question of what to do with economic resources. Where there is too much, it must be shared – as Jesus also tells the rich ruler (Luke 18.22) and is understood by Zacchaeus (19.8-9). Jesus' teaching about possessions continues with material shared with Matthew (6.25-33). In this Gospel, Luke uses the images of birds of the air and lilies of the field to build up to the conclusion 'sell your possessions, and give alms' (v.33), illustrating what it means to be rich towards God through the compelling contrast between those who store up treasures for themselves (v.21) and those who store up unfailing treasure in heaven (v.33). The proverb 'Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also' provides a fitting conclusion to both sections of this teaching, even if it is not among the verses to be read today.

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Prayers

Spend a few moments praying for the people you know and love, for the world, for peace and for the relief of refugees everywhere

On Harvest Festival

Creator God
You made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Praying for the Earth ***Globalization and fair trade***

We pray for guidance in the global economy. We give thanks for the diversity of foods and the range of products available to us, and remember those who produce the goods which we enjoy. Help us to support the principles of fair trade, and to practise it in our daily lives. **Amen**

From the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for the Church

Porvoo Communion: Diocese of Sheffield and Diocese of Greenland (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark)
Anglican Communion: Anglican Church of Australia Primate; The Right Reverend Mark Short

Diocese of Møre: Deanery of Northern Sunnmøre, Parishes of Valderøy and Vigra

Tynemouth Deanery: Benefice: Tynemouth Priory Holy Saviour Vicar: Steve Dixon Assistant Curate: Emily Emmerson-Finch

From our Parish Prayer Cycle this week

Pray for all residents of Fairways Avenue, Fairdale Avenue and Spalding Close

For the sick and those being cared for in hospital or at home

Sheila Sidney-Wilmot, Maureen Webster, Pat Park, Neil Walker, Sam Cole, Shirley Collingwood, Lynne Dryden, Corinne Harris, Jo Whittam, Veronica Brown, Alastair Day, Jenny Freeman, baby Gianna Skye and Daniel Hassan

For those in residential care

Doreen Richardson, Ida Smart, Irene Gibson, Tony Bartlett, Jacqueline Pearson, Pat Bell and Pat Hindmarsh

For those whose year's minds are this coming week

William Thompson Jackson, Cicely Milne, Evelyn Hogg, Lillian Haydock, Jack Lamb, Mary Rattenbury, Margaret Rootham, Elizabeth O'Hanlon, Lena Muras, Norman O'Neill and Joan Clough

You might like to end your prayers with The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

<u>The Conclusion</u>

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen

Let us bless the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

GHANAIAN CHILDREN'S TRUST

Eclectic Lite Trio

Featuring:

Jonathan Worthey
(Baritone)

Saturday 24th October

7pm Concert

St. Francis Church Hall
Cleveland Gardens
NE7 7QH

TICKETS:
£12 Adults
£6 Children

Information from:
Jackie Moore
jackiemooreuk@yahoo.com

Weather and Air Quality – Summer 2026 in High Heaton

In meteorological terms summer is defined as the months of June, July, and August. This is a summary of this summer's weather, and a look at how it compares to previous years.

It has been an extraordinary summer, particularly for the persistence of the heat and the lack of rainfall. Nationally, in terms of average temperatures, this was the hottest summer since records began in 1884, and in High Heaton it was also the hottest, at least since my records began in 1995. All three months were significantly warmer than usual. The average temperature was 16.5°C, which exceeds the previous record of 16.3°C in 2022. However, it is the maximum temperatures which are most evident, and this summer was also exceptional in this respect. We experienced three heatwaves (defined as three or more consecutive days when the temperature exceeds 25°C), one in each month. Heatwaves are not common, occurring about once every three years, and this is the first year we have experienced three, one of which lasted for five days. The summer's maximum temperature was 33.2°C (91.8°F), which occurred on August 13th. This is the second highest temperature I have ever recorded, and was a record for August. Before 2022, the thermometer never reached 30°C but since that date it has done so five times, including twice this year.

The other outstanding feature of the summer was the lack of rain. Although we did not experience the serious drought that affected much of the country, all three months were significantly drier than average. Total rainfall for the summer was 110mm which is 59% of the average, making it the driest summer since 1995 when only 67mm was recorded.

John Telfer

The Bereavement Journey

A place to talk

Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss?

A six-session course will soon be running in your area.

Venue: Heaton Baptist Church, Heaton Road, Newcastle, NE6 5HN

Mondays 7.30 – 9.30pm

First session 28th September, then

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th October

2nd, 9th (optional) November

Cost - £30 in total or £5 per session

for more information and to

book contact either Helen
Helen.swann@blueyonder.co.uk

Or Marion 079 40 811 352

Topics include:

Attachment, separation and loss · The impact and pain of bereavement
Adjusting to change · Anger and guilt · Coping with others' reactions
Moving on healthily · And an optional 6th session on Faith questions

thebereavementjourney.org

Parish Directory

Vicar: Robert Lawrance 07888 693850
robert.lawrance@newcastle.anglican.org

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rkbryant28@gmail.com

Reader with Permission to Officiate: Gloria Bryant 07425 134 494,
gcadman054@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Sue Flood 07792 830026
Dorothy Frankland 07530 813191

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PLACES OF WELCOME

We're open every Wednesday from 2 – 4pm for visitors of all ages, some from the congregation, others from further afield. Whether you're regular or it's your first time you'll be welcomed with friendly conversation and free refreshments!

We are also very grateful to our team of volunteers who run the sessions and would welcome anyone who would like to offer help, whether that be in the form of helping to set up the hall, making and serving drinks, welcoming new people or just being there to engage and interact with people – whatever your strengths might be, they will be highly valued! Contact Helen Swann placesofwelcomehighheaton@gmail.com or 07487 842 820