



St Francis High Heaton

Worship - Community – Service

Notices, Readings & Prayers



18th October 2026 Luke the Evangelist

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This Sunday the Church remembers Luke the Evangelist, the physician, the companion of Paul, the author of the second and third Gospels and of the Acts of the Apostles. He is the one who, in his short preface, tells us he has *inquired carefully* and now sets down his account *so that you may recognize the truth about the teachings about which you have been instructed* (1:3–4). That phrase – *inquired carefully* - carries a great deal. It tells us that Luke's first act of stewardship was not financial, not physical, but *attentive*. He gave his time, his eyes, his memory, and his skill to the story of Jesus. He was, in the most literal sense, a steward of the Good News. That is a helpful place to begin a conversation about stewardship in our own parish, because so often we think of stewardship as the financial offering we make. And that matters, of course, but Luke's example widens the picture. Stewardship is the way we handle everything that has been entrusted to us: our time, our attention, our gifts, our relationships, and yes, our money. It is a posture of care rather than a transaction. Luke's Gospel is, in many ways, a book about what it means to be a good steward of what God has given. Think of the parable of the Good Samaritan, where a stranger becomes the true neighbour by stopping, by giving his time, his oil, his wine, his money, and his future - he even pays the innkeeper and promises to cover the rest. Stewardship, in Luke's telling, is not a duty we perform; it is a response to a need we have seen.

Or consider the widow at the temple, who drops two small coins into the treasury. Jesus does not say she gave the most in absolute terms. He says she *gave more than all the others, for she gave out of her poverty, all that she had to live on* (Luke 21:4). The measure of stewardship is not the amount given but the heart doing the giving. It is the willingness to say, *this is yours, not mine; I am only looking after it for a while*. And then there is the parable of the Prodigal Son, which is really a parable about a father who refuses to stop being generous. The older brother, who has been a faithful steward of the family's resources, is angry. He has kept the books, worked the fields, obeyed the rules, and yet he has not given his father the one thing that matters: his heart. Luke's point is subtle but sharp. Stewardship without love becomes accounting. Faithfulness without joy becomes servitude, whereas the father runs to meet his wayward son. So what might this mean for us in our own parish and in our own lives? Perhaps it means that stewardship begins with paying attention, as it did for Luke. Before we give anything else, we give our attention to the story we are part of, to the people around us and to the needs we might otherwise walk past. It means that our giving - whether it is money, time, or talents - is not a performance but a response. This week is our annual opportunity to remind ourselves of the financial offering we choose to make, but it's part of this wider perspective of God's generous spirit. Please look out for your stewardship letter at the back of church, or use the QR code at the front of this bulletin if you would like to become a regular supporter.

Stewardship means that we are not the owners of what we have: we are stewards, holding it in trust, and the measure of our faithfulness is not what we keep but what we release. Luke the physician did not write his Gospel to make us feel guilty about what we have not given. He wrote it so that we might see the story clearly, meet the character of God honestly, and be moved — as he was — to give our own careful, faithful attention to the work of the Kingdom. On this, his feast day, may we be reminded that stewardship is not a burden. It is a privilege. And the story is still being written.

Weekly Eco Tip

Green your home this Autumn.

Before the cold weather really kicks in, find and reduce draughts in your house. Check letter-boxes, keyholes, gaps around windows, doors, loft hatches and floorboards. Do what you can to fix these gaps. There are lots of tutorials on line. If you are concerned about the environmental impact of common AI tools Google, Claude and Chat GP (and the data they harvest) we recommend a Swiss AI tool called *Euria* which uses renewable hydro-electric power and the heat generated is used to heat homes, AND it doesn't retain any personal information! *Jenny Germain*

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

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 7th November 10 - 11.30am, meet at church. All equipment provided, everyone welcome! *(children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult).*



Soup lunches!

The next soup lunch will be on Tuesday 3rd November 12.30pm - 1.30pm, supporting *Practical Compassion for Destitute Children* working in the Holy Land.



The next Taizé worship will be... Monday 26th October at 6.30pm in the Baptistry

The Lost Flowers and Urban Flora

**Free talk at Newcastle City Library
Wednesday 21st October 10.30am-
12noon in the Bewick Hall (level 2)**

A lovely opportunity to hear about a fascinating collection of 19th century watercolours of wildflowers from Northumberland and Durham, belonging to the City Library, which have recently been the focus of a creative project that Sarah



Lawrance has been leading with Equal Arts. The event will include an opportunity to see the watercolours and hear from Archivist Kris McKie about how and when they were created. Also speaking will be James Common, senior naturalist at Northumbria Natural History Society, who has recently produced a book entitled Urban Flora. A great opportunity to compare how the wildflowers of our region have changed over the last 2 centuries!

Doors open at 10.30am with an opportunity to look at the watercolours before the talk starts at 11am. Light refreshments will be available afterwards.

FREE but booking advised, either via Newcastle Libraries Eventbrite page or let Sarah know and she will reserve a place for you.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-lost-flowers-and-urban-flora-talk-with-kris-mckie-and-james-common-tickets-1994947717325>



All Souls' Day Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Sunday 1st November is All Saints' Day and so we will have a service of commemoration of All Souls at 6pm that day, in anticipation of All Souls Day which will be Monday 2nd November. If you would like someone to be included in the list of names that will be read out as part of that commemoration, please add their names to the list at the back of church, or you can email stfrancisnewcastle@gmail.com

Worship & Prayers for The Feast of Luke the Evangelist

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

Jesus said to his apostles,
'You are my friends if you obey my commands.'
Let us now confess our disobedience to him.

After a period of reflection

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring us his pardon and peace,
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Collect

You might like to keep a few moments of silence.

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
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**

Isaiah 35.3-6

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance; he will come with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy; for water will gush out in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Psalms 147.1-7



Alleluia. How good it is to make music for our God,
how joyful to honour him with praise.
The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel. **/R:**

He heals the broken-hearted and binds up all their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names. /R:

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his wisdom is beyond all telling.

The Lord lifts up the poor,
but casts down the wicked to the ground. /R:

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the lyre. /R:

2 Timothy 4.5-17

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Reflection

Jesus sends the seventy-two out in pairs, with almost nothing: no bag, no staff, no sandals. The only provisions are one another and the message - *The Kingdom of God has come near*. There is a quiet radicalism in that. We are not sent with a toolkit of guarantees, but with a trust that the welcome we encounter - or the silence we meet - is part of the mission itself. Notice what they are told to do first in every house: *Peace on this house*. The greeting precedes the healing, the healing precedes the proclamation. The order matters. Before we speak of the Kingdom, we are to offer a blessing; before we expect a response, we are to be willing to stay or to move on without resentment. And then the hardest line: *If a town does not welcome you... shake the dust from your feet as a warning against them*. This is not a licence for self-righteousness. It is a permission to grieve, to release the outcome, and to trust that the weight of rejection does not have to be carried forward. The dust stays

behind; the mission continues. In a culture that measures success by attendance, conversion, and visible impact, this passage invites us to ask a different question: *Am I sent, or am I performing?* The seventy-two carried no credentials beyond their names and their pairs. Perhaps that is enough. Perhaps that has always been enough.

<https://euria.infomaniak.com/>

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 the Feast of Luke the Evangelist

Almighty God,
who built your Church upon the foundation
of the apostles and prophets,
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone:
so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine,
that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you;
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

Praying for the Earth

The rainforests

In the rainforests of the earth you reveal the diversity of your creation. Help us, in wonder, to care for your forests, and in so doing to protect and strengthen the lungs of the earth. Bless native peoples and forest dwellers, and help us with them to learn the lesson of our shared belonging and interdependence. **Amen**

From the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for the Church

Porvoo Communion: Diocese of Växjö (Church of Sweden) and the Diocese of Oxford

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Canada Primate: The Most Reverend Shane Parker

Diocese of Botswana: St Matthew's, Mochudi: Fr Joseph Supang

Alnwick Deanery: Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Alnmouth

From our Parish Prayer Cycle this week

Pray for all residents of Corchester Walk and The Drive

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

Sheila Sidney-Wilmot, Maureen Webster, Pat Park, Edward Strange, Sam Cole, David Cloke, 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 who have recently died

Neil Walker and George Rutherford

For those whose year's minds are this coming week

Mary Briggs, Margaret Walker, Pat Jackson, Lily Tiffin, Minnie Rudd, Wallace Legras, Jack Dunn, Victoria Musk, Tom Scott, Robert Watson, Charles Reginald Justice and Margaret Hansell

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

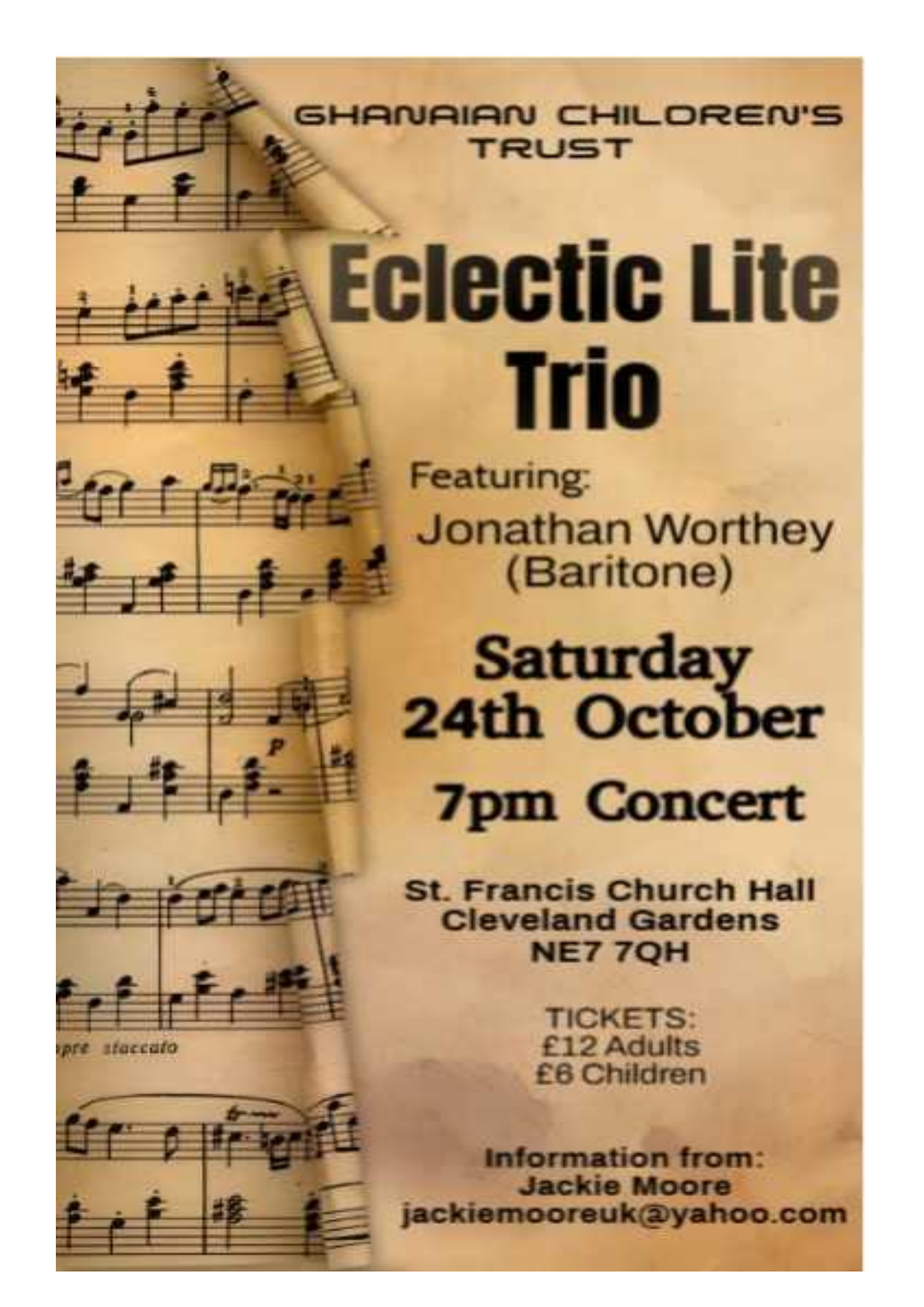
**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

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

The Conclusion

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

Heaton Churches Together

are collecting

“Socks and Chocs”

for The Peoples Kitchen.



Donations of the following would be most welcome :-



- New socks or thick tights
- Woolly hats, Gloves.
- Bars of chocolate (Not boxes)
- Toiletries (Soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)



Forthcoming dates

8 th November	Remembrance Sunday
15 th November	Safeguarding Sunday
16 th November	PCC meets at 7.15pm
22 nd November	Christ the King
29 th November	Advent Sunday
3 rd December, 10 th December, 17 th December	Advent Quiet Evenings
20 th December	Christmas Carol Service at 6pm
21 st December	Carol singing in the Freeman Hospital from 6pm
24 th December	Crib service at 6pm

Saturday 7th November

Bereavement

Coffee



Morning

10 - 11.30



Anyone who has experienced bereavement, whether recently or in the past, is welcome to drop in, and have a chat over a drink in a supportive environment.

**For further details contact:
Helen 07487 842820 or Marion 07940 811352**

T St Francis
HIGH HEATON

St. Francis Church, Cleveland Gardens NE7 7QH

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

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Dorothy Frankland 07530 813191

PCC Secretary & Jennifer Germain 0191 266 5144

Electoral Roll Officer jenny_germain@talk21.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Helen Swann 07487 842820

helen.swann@blueyonder.co.uk

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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

placesofwelcomhighheaton@gmail.com or 07487 842 820