

BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP

Amble ✕ Ashington ✕ Bedlington ✕ Longhorsley ✕ Morpeth

Partnership Newsletter Edition 3 - August 2018

PARTNERSHIP PRAYER – 2018

Risen Christ, from your abundant grace, pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese. As we build on the deep foundations of faith laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands, and of our Brinkburn Partnership, St Aidan, St Cuthbert, St Bede, St Thomas of Canterbury, St Benet Biscop and St Robert of Newminster, may our Partnerships continue the mission of building your Kingdom on the earth: to give living witness to your love, and to your compassion and hope for our world. We pray in trustful confidence that your power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



OUR BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, ONE YEAR ON

From the Partnership Chairman, Michael Quincey

Several times over the past twelve months, our Development Group, along with all other Partnerships, has sent representatives by request to diocesan events, discussions and meetings organised to gauge progress and explore nurturing discipleship. If nothing else, these occasions have enabled us to measure our progress and success relative to others and to evaluate whether we appear to be on the right track.

It is reassuring to learn that we are, in fact, in a very healthy Partnership state! In the most recent review devised by the diocesan team we were able to report significant progress against the expected organisational criteria. Equally, it is gratifying to identify the underpinning reasons for our progress to date. As you might expect, key attributes of our Partnership such as inclusivity, planned collective worship, a Development Plan based on consultation all play their part. Most importantly of all, of course, is that no amount of activity, planning and measuring is any use at all unless grounded in prayer, spiritual commitment and the endless search for His guidance to do His will. Those who represent our Partnership fulfil those attributes as they search for the best for our flock.

However, it is incumbent on all in our Partnership to remember that the continuing journey is not one that can simply be delegated to our chosen representatives. What can we all do in growing our discipleship? A straightforward answer to that is to be found in the common partnership prayer: are we individually looking for the guidance of the **Holy Spirit**? Are we looking to build on the foundations of our north eastern faith and seriously witness to the love and hope of Christ? Are we truly open to His power working in us? In short, are we prepared to develop our discipleship and rise to the challenge of reshaping our faith community to answer His call?

Discipleship is a serious undertaking which often involves a difficult road. Journeying together in His love generates increasing courage and mutual support. Our Partnership currently offers a secure and robust vehicle for undertaking the exciting challenge to regenerate our faith in our area. **Will you join in?**

From Michael Mc Peake (Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble)

Renewed Identity & Purpose

Some fundamental questions to consider on our partnership faith journey

- * **Who are we (especially at faith level)?**
- * **What are we here for?**
- * **Who is our neighbour?**

The answer might be in the form of re-development for which the Brinkburn Partnership is designed such as:

- ◆ **Recognising** the end of the communities existing identity and purpose (Newbiggin & Widdrington)
- ◆ **Reallocating resources** from Parish to Partnership to discovering and living out a new identity and purpose
- ◆ **Finding and empowering leaders** who can minister to a community of believers in the absence of a resident Priest.
- ◆ **Caring** for the remaining members of previous worshipping communities and providing support for their needs

Remember, continued spiritual renewal and redevelopment will only be achieved through the capacity of each generation to sow the seeds for the next!

'The Discipleship Conference' - This one day event is for anyone involved in Partnership development including those in key areas of ministry within their parishes who are looking to be inspired, connected, supported and equipped for the task of moving forward as Church. There will be a keynote input from David Wells, who is known for his down to earth approach and he will offer us a forward thinking vision of the opportunity that Partnerships provide. There will also be a variety of workshops to allow you to connect with others in the Diocese who are taking a lead in the key areas of Partnership development.

Booking is necessary, so to avoid disappointment book your place at the Partnership Conference online at www.partnershipconference2018.eventbrite.co.uk or email Amy McDonagh at adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk by 5th September.

Partnership Communications Group

Some months ago we asked if there were any people across our partnership interested in forming a new Communications Group, with the task of producing Partnership newsletters, a Website and a Facebook page to name but a few things to help us all know what is going on. A meeting in July brought together only two priests and one other person, so we will try again shortly to have another meeting and hopefully get something up and running fairly soon.

The next **Partnership Development Group** Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th September at 7pm. If anyone has any items they want the PDG to consider for discussion, please send them to the Partnership Dean, Fr Peter Stott on morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk

A LISTENING COMMUNITY

*"We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time"*

T. S. Eliot - The Four Quartets

It is just over a year since the working groups of our Partnership began exploring creative ways of working together and hopefully "we have arrived where we started" with a better understanding of each other, gratitude for all the gifts and talents which are emerging across the parishes in our Partnership, and a gradual deepening of our Spirituality. In our exploration, challenges and reflection, we are hopefully beginning to know our situation better "for the first time". Fundamental to all of this, is our willingness to listen to each other and to respect different points of view.

In a more pastoral context, there is a real need to listen sensitively, attentively and compassionately to those who are carrying heavy burdens, for example, in Loss and Bereavement, in Relationship Difficulties or Loneliness, Anxiety and Stress. This is the focus of our **Confidential Listening Service**. The initiative to establish this service came from a (then) deanery meeting in 2015 as a response to Pope Francis' Year of Mercy.

During 2015/2016, twenty people from the parishes on the east side of Northumberland undertook some training in "Listening" and are available to support and listen to others who may be struggling or finding life hard. In our own Partnership we have trained listeners in Amble, Ashington, Longhorsley and Morpeth. When we listen to someone who is distressed and worried we are offering our time, compassion and empathy. Listening deeply to another is a skill which needs to be learned and relearned and improved upon. Pope Francis in his book, **The Name of God is Mercy**, refers to this deep listening as "**the apostolate of the ear**".

Our Listening Service was launched in 2016 and can be accessed by ringing **07732 980740** when an appointment can be fixed up quickly in one of our Partnership Presbyteries. At the moment this is the only way to contact the service and anyone who rings will receive an automated message in the first instance. We are looking for easier ways in which folk may access the service. (any ideas would be very welcome).

In all our exploring and listening in our Partnership groups and in our Listening Service, perhaps we can take to heart, Jean Vanier's words in his book, "*The Broken Body*" **Come, listen and learn.....**

Mass Times in the Partnership

As agreed earlier in the year, from the weekend of 1st / 2nd September 2018, the times of Sunday Masses in our Partnership are changing and the times are given below ...

Saturday Vigil Masses

5:30pm St Bede, Bedlington
6:30pm Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble

Sunday Morning Masses

9:00am St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
9:30am Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble
10:30am St Aidan, Ashington
11:00am St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
11:00am St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley

Sunday Evening Mass

6:00pm St Aidan, Ashington

Weekday Masses remain as announced in your parish newsletter.



BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP

"OUR CALL TO HOLINESS"

*Day of Recollection
Saturday 20th October 2018*

VENUE: ST. BEDE'S BEDLINGTON

10.30 am - 3.30 pm (coffee served from 10am)

This is an opportunity to spend time together in prayer and reflection as we continue to discover bonds of friendship and co-operation in our Brinkburn Partnership.

Pope Francis, in his recent writing on the call to holiness, encourages us to recognise those ordinary times in our lives and the lives of others which are "holy" and both contribute to, and influence our journey to God personally, in our local churches and communities and beyond.

(This day will also fulfil the requirement for Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion to attend an annual day of Recollection)

From the beginning of September there will be a sheet in your church for you to sign if you wish to attend. You will need to bring a packed lunch. Coffee and Tea will be provided.

"Spirituality through Art" ... Art has the capacity to move us profoundly. When aesthetic experience is combined with our communion with God in prayer, it can be an uplifting affirmation of our faith and our hope. Join us for a journey through the Scriptures through one famous Christian painting each week. We will analyse the painting, learn about the artist and reflect on the Scripture passage related to the scene depicted.

Venue: St Robert's Parish Hall, Morpeth

Date: Starting on 14th Sept' 18, every Friday evening, for 6 weeks

Time: 7pm - 8pm

Partnership Confirmation Course Meeting

There will be a preparatory meeting for those being confirmed and their parents, at St Aidan's Church, Ashington, on Monday 10th September at 7pm. The regular sessions will begin on Sunday 23rd September, running every week after the 6pm Sunday Mass at Ashington, except for the half term holiday. Application forms for the young people are NOW AVAILABLE from our Partnership Churches - all who are Year 9 (and above) in September can collect and complete them if they wish to be confirmed.

A few extra adult helpers, especially female, would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Thomas on youth.brinkburnheavenfield@rcdhn.org.uk if you are able to help.

EDGE ... is a faith journey, a series of regular meetings, from Life Teen in the USA, and is for all young people in **Years 5, 6, 7 and 8**. We will be starting this soon in our Partnership because we think it is important to help our young people in their Journey of Faith and in helping them understand some aspects of the Catholic Church. The topics are all relevant for the age group concerned and all based on the Catholic faith and designed to help our young people develop in their faith. Watch your parish newsletter for more information of venue and times of these meetings. If you would like to be involved, as an adult helper, please contact Thomas, our Youth Coordinator youth.brinkburnheavenfield@rcdhn.org.uk

The Brinkburn Partnership Spirituality Network has planned at least one event per month from September to Advent and these will all be publicised by your parishes in due course. They are also looking into the possibility of a Partnership Pilgrimage to Walsingham next Summer.

Journey in Faith: The Partnership 'Journey in Faith' meetings will begin after the summer for all who are interested in joining the Church or knowing more. Times and venues will be announced in your parish newsletter in the next few weeks. Each parish has forms for those interested, to complete and return.