

Seaburn Dene New Church

News sheet

July/August 2026



To contact the church please ring

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We also have a Facebook page



Seaburn Dene New Church

Website www.generalconference.org.uk/locations/seaburn-dene

Welcome to the Seaburn Dene News sheet.

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:41-42)

Services of Worship

If you would like to join us in worship, then please make a note of the following dates, all are welcome to attend...

Sunday 12th July	10.30am	Worship	Revd Lynne Griffiths
Sunday 26th July	10.30am	Worship	Revd Lynne Griffiths
Sunday 16th August	10.30am	Worship	Revd Lynne Griffiths
Sunday 30th August	10.30am	Worship	Revd Lynne Griffiths

The Late Andrew Foster

Andrew's passing came as a shock to all who knew and loved him for he had become a much-loved friend here at Seaburn Dene New Church. He became a full member at Seaburn during a special service in August 2023 and was a regular attendee, keen to help and be involved in any practical tasks that needed doing. Andrew had attended the church as a youngster with his father Norman playing the organ at the church. Andrew and his sister Natalie would come to Sunday School but as life developed he found his time filled elsewhere. In recent years however, Andrew found his way back to the church, initially with his mother Vera but following her passing Andrew continued to attend in his own right. Claiming the back row as you entered as his own Andrew was a creature of habit and enjoyed staying behind the service for a chat over a cup of coffee. His faith becoming increasingly important to him and a rock on which he found solace during difficult times. Always keen to share a story and ever the gentleman Andrew will be missed by everybody at Seaburn Dene. A devoted husband and brother Andrew is now reunited with his parents and his brother Ian in the spiritual world. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Sam and his sister Natalie as they navigate a new life without Andrew and his zest for facts, local history and Dr Who. We give thanks for Andrew's life and the contribution he made to the church here in Seaburn and we pray for the Lord's blessing on those who grieve his passing.

Tea vicar?

Come along to Fulwell Community Library Café and meet Revd Lynne for a chat, ask a question or just enjoy some company. A no pressure meet up where you drop in at any time with no

pressure to stay for any set period of time. She'll even buy you a cuppa!

*Monday 20th July 1.30-3pm (*change to previously advertised date*)*

Monday 24th August 1.30-3pm

Spiritual Space Group

Our groups have been meeting fortnightly and begun to see some small signs of tentative growth. Through music, images, poetry and discussion we explore our beliefs in a safe space with people of all faiths or none welcome to attend. We will be taking a break over the busy summer months but re-starting in September so keep a look in our next newsletter for future dates!

Litter picking

Our next dates for litter picking are:-

Tues 21st July 2-3pm Fulwell Quarry, meet on road up to Miller and Carter

Tues 24th August 2-3pm Sea Rd area, meet outside Fulwell Community Library

All equipment is provided and all are welcome to attend.

Digital Ministry

Do you know Seaburn Dene New Church is on Facebook and also has its own You Tube channel. On Facebook we share a prayer for the week on a Monday, have a meditation of a bible passage on a Wednesday, share thoughts on that passage on Thursday and Friday now sees Revd Lynne sharing how football and faith are linked. Our meditation and thought videos are also shared on You Tube. Check it out – some of our posts have lately gone a bit crazy with 8000 views of one on Facebook and another on with 1600 views on You Tube!

Building improvements

Recent work has been undertaken to replace the security light at the back of church, a new internal double socket and 2 brand new LED lights on the back stairs. This increases the safety and security of our building for its users and we are very thankful to the Jeggins Trust for their kindness in assisting with the costs of this work.

Ministers letter – Revd Lynne

Life is still rather busy and heading into the summer months it gets busier. I'm lucky in that I have a week's holiday very soon but then when I'm back it's not long until our annual national conference and then I have the pleasure of helping to lead the 13-18year old summer camp. Add into that all the preparation, usual day to day work and family life and juggling everything can get a bit tricky. It's at times like this that the story of Martha and Mary can really hit home. Perpetually busy Martha flits around being the seemingly impeccable host to Jesus but it is Mary who sits and listens at His feet eager to grasp every word. Martha eventually becomes tiresome of doing it all herself and goes to complain to Jesus. It is then she is told "*few things are needed.....Mary has chosen what is better*". Where and how do we make time for the Lord in our lives? Its not something I've found an easy answer to, a simple formula to apply but the key definitely seems to be finding a balance. Mary and Martha are both parts of us. Martha the part that wants to serve, to be of use, yet without the Lord's presence and goodness in it this use is empty. Mary the opposite full of the Lord's goodness and keen to soak in all she can from the Lord this needs to be balanced out also and put into use. Swedenborg is keen to point out that faith and charity need to go together, you can't have one without the other – just like Mary and Martha. A balance is needed. So, where do we start? Well the starting point is always with the Lord, spending time with him quietly, listening and of course reading the Word. Putting this into practice is then important –

loving the neighbour as well as loving the Lord. These of course the 2 Great commandments given to us by the Lord Himself.

The story of Martha and Mary comes just after the story of the good Samaritan in which Jesus uses it to demonstrate who the neighbour is but it also comes after Jesus was asked what do you have to do to inherit eternal life. In the story of Martha and Mary we get an answer to that – love the Lord and love the Neighbour, find the balance and don't do one without the other. May God bless you in everything you do.