

JULY edition

2026

THE RAMBLING RECTOR

Holy Trinity & St Oswald, Finningley with St Saviour, Auckley

Every Week



WEDNESDAY

10.30

Natter – Finningley

During Term Time



FRIDAY

10.00

Coffee Morning
at Auckley



Services This Month

Sunday 5th July - Trinity 5

9.15 First Sunday Focus - Finningley

11.00 First Sunday Focus - Auckley

3.30 Cafe 3:30 - Finningley

Reading(s) are chosen
by the service leader.

Sunday 12th July - Trinity 6

9.15 Holy Communion - Finningley

11.00 Holy Communion - Auckley

Readings

Isaiah 55:10-13

Matthew 13:1-9, 16-23

Sunday 19th July - Trinity 7

9.15 Holy Communion - Finningley

11.00 Holy Communion - Auckley

Readings

Isaiah 44:6-8

Matthew 13:24-30, 36,43

Sunday 28th July - Trinity 8

9.15 Holy Communion - Finningley

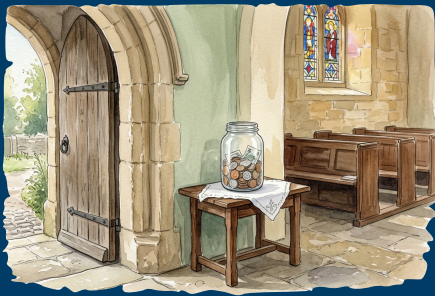
11.00 Holy Communion - Auckley

Readings

Romans 8:26-end

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Parish of Holy Trinity and St Oswald's, Finningley, with St Saviour's, Auckley, is committed to high standards in the safeguarding and care of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Any concerns can be shared with our **Parish Safeguarding Officer -David Elvin tel: 07851 737616** or use the **Safeguarding contact form on our website: www.fabparish.org.uk**



Finningley's Jar of Change

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who dropped their spare coins into the Jar of Change at Finningley Church over the past four months. Together, those small handfuls added up to a wonderful £111.50 for St John's Hospice in Balby - a charity close to many hearts in our community.

You may have noticed the jar now carries a new cause. We are currently raising money for the British Heart Foundation, whose research into cardiovascular disease helps to save lives every day. Do keep those coins coming!



Another big thank you to the members of both Finningley and Auckley Churches who gave so generously to our Christian Aid collection in May. This year both churches surpassed last year's totals, raising £370 between them.

Thanks to those who were able to Gift Aid their donations, a further £67.50 will be added - bringing the grand total

Twenty-Five Years...

How did that happen?

On 1st July I reach a milestone that genuinely doesn't seem possible... twenty-five years since I was ordained.

It was a gloriously hot day in 2001 when I was ordained deacon in Chester Cathedral. Family, friends and supporters packed the cathedral, although I suspect most of us spent the service wondering whether we'd leave full of the Holy Spirit or simply suffering from heat exhaustion!

The very next day I arrived in Runcorn to begin my curacy. Like most newly ordained curates, I thought I knew a fair bit. It took about five minutes to realise I didn't!

Those early years taught me that ministry isn't about having all the answers...which is fortunate, because I certainly didn't. It's about walking alongside people through life's highs and lows; celebrating the joyful moments, laughing until you cry, helping carry the difficult ones, and sometimes quietly shedding a tear together.

Looking back, I've had the privilege of baptising babies who are now adults, conducting weddings for couples who have since become grandparents, and meeting so many varied, interesting and wonderful people. Ministry has opened doors I could never have imagined.

I've worked alongside Oscar-winning actors, appeared on television and radio, listened to lions roaring through my bedroom window, spent a week living at Windsor Castle, met celebrated poets and writers, climbed into the cockpit of the Vulcan bomber, and even fought a fire on an airport training rig.

Plus, I've also discovered that every church has at least one person who remembers exactly how things were done forty years ago... and they're usually more than happy to remind the rector!

These twenty-five years have flown by. Along the way I've been encouraged, challenged, stretched, surprised and blessed by countless people whose kindness, faith and friendship have shaped both my ministry and my life.

But when God called, he didn't just call me; he called a family.

Before ordination I was already a husband and a dad, and none of this could have happened without the unwavering love and support of my amazing wife, Catherine, and our wonderful children, Hannah, Jack and Joe. They have shared the joys and the sacrifices, the interruptions, the late-night phone calls, the moves, the demands and the countless moments that come with parish life. They have made it possible for me to answer God's call, and I owe them far more than words can express.

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