

# The Broadsheet October 2013

for the parishes of Humshaugh  
with Simonburn & Wark, and  
Chollerton with Birtley,  
Gunnerton & Thockrington

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## Editorial

I don't want to 'navel-gaze' over editorial policy & process, but some of our contributors *may* be wondering how we put the Broadsheet together, and why *their* material gets '*lost in the wash*', and other material gets mentioned twice.

As regards process, I put the Broadsheet together, then Russell proof-reads and finalises it - expanding & squeezing the text into 4-page chunks, suitable for A5 booklet printing. Apparently, when he is not agonising over whether to raise the delicate matter of apostrophes with the Wark Ladies Guild [sic], Russell lies awake at night worrying about all of this. He says his current policy is to favour '*narrative over notices*'. So, if you want an entry in the Calendar of Events (on page 9) AND in the main text, now you know.

Finally, if contributors have any late changes, can they amend their *original* submission, and send it to me as an attachment. It all helps. Many thanks.

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# HUMSHAUGH BENEFICE

## *Michael Thompson's letter*

Humshaugh Vicarage

Dear Readers,

### **Their future in our hands?**

Whether we happen to have children or grandchildren of our own or not, the destiny of the rising generation, and of the planet on which they shall live, is something of widespread concern.

That concern finds expression in all manner of ways, and gives rise to all manner of controversies. Fundamentally, it is concern for the future, as much as concern for what is 'right' in the 'here and now', which fuels controversies as varied as those over fracking versus wind-power, the efficacy of culling badgers, HS2, the funding of education, or the provision of health care.

Set against national and international issues of such baffling complexity, there is a particular blessedness about the coming weeks in the life of the church. In early October, those churches which have not already done so, will celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. And then, on November 10th, we shall mark Remembrance Sunday. There is a sense in which the themes of Harvest and Remembrance may seem far apart and unrelated. Deep down, however, the human need to keep Harvest Festival and Remembrance are deeply connected, because they both can speak to us about personal responsibility in a world where much can seem far beyond our individual control.

For those involved in agriculture, and those involved in the defence services, there is no 'let up', no ability to say: "*I really don't feel like doing that today!*". The crop must be harvested when the time is right; the calves are unlikely to appear during 'office hours'. (To emphasise my point, I broke off writing this letter to pick some blackberries. Yesterday they were not ripe; by tomorrow the birds or the wasps would probably have 'harvested' them!) So too security alerts and suchlike are no respecters of personal convenience and inclination. Without the willingness to 'seize the moment', the future is diminished. Many forms of human endeavour involve a degree of hardship and inconvenience, but perhaps we can take the work of agriculturalists and the armed forces - to which we pay special heed at this season - as representative of a rebuke from *all* occupations, against our desire to live life on our own terms, and with a false sense of what is urgent and important.

As we approach Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance Sunday, we do well to think of those whose patterns of work are determined as much by the rhythm of nature as by 'supply and demand', and of those whose role is a

constant readiness to respond to the unforeseeable. Our own response may be no more than to remember them when we don't feel like answering a question from an enquiring child. But even to do that will make the world a better place.

Yours sincerely, Michael

## ***From our Registers***

The community in Wark and further afield was saddened by the sudden and unexpected deaths, first of **Keith Nixon**, and then of **Michael Elliot**, during August. The sadness, in Keith's case, being compounded by the death of his grandmother, **Mrs Blacklock**, a few days after his memorial service at Chollerton. Michael Elliot's funeral service was held at Newcastle Crematorium on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> a large gathering of friends and family joined together to celebrate the life of **Alec Moralee**, at St. Mungo's Simonburn, following a cremation service at Newcastle earlier that day. Alec's association with St. Mungo's stretched back to his teenage years, when his family moved from County Durham to Sheilahaugh, and subsequently to Conshiel. It was at St. Mungo's that Alec had proudly given both of his daughters in marriage, and there too that Joan has so often supported the life of the church and the wider community.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory, and may God comfort those who mourn their passing.

## ***Photographs of the Benefice***

I have a challenge for ALL of our readers: someone recently pointed out that the 'Home' page of the Humshaugh Benefice website (details on page 1) was looking a little 'dull'. I have to agree – as indeed is the 'Churches' page as well. I have tried to rectify the situation by adding a photograph to each of the pages. What I realise, however, is that, while it is easy to find photographs that illustrate our three Benefice *churches*, it is actually quite difficult to find something which reflects the *Benefice* as a whole: the river? a view across the valley? a local artefact of some sort? a child's painting perhaps? ...

So here's the challenge: send me pictures of *anything* you feel represents the Humshaugh Benefice, and could be displayed on the website. It doesn't have to be a landscape photograph (like mine), and this is not a competition, as we can probably use many items over the coming months. Maybe the home page can become like the '4<sup>th</sup> plinth' in Trafalgar Square: somewhere we can let our imaginations, and our passion for the North Tyne, run wild...

Russell Fairless - [office@humshaughbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@humshaughbenefice.org.uk)

## ***Round and about Humshaugh***

*(Notes compiled by Liz Hayward)*

After a summer with much more warmth and sunshine than in recent years, it seems the season of mellow fruitfulness is now truly upon us. I wish I had a pound for each time I have heard that expression! Time then to think about indoor activities and the start of the autumn calendar; of classes and groups in the Village Hall.

The Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon art groups have room to welcome newcomers. Friendly and informal, you can work in any medium and enjoy the social aspect of painting with others whilst working at your own level. Just pop along if you are interested.

Iyengar Yoga takes place from 6pm each Monday and is a great way to stretch and strengthen muscles. Contact Nora Phipps on 674249.

### **Mothers' Union**

Humshaugh Mothers' Union met on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September, and very much enjoyed having Canon Pat Johnson with them again. Pat spoke about the MU theme for this year: '*The Seeds We Grow*', which was a fascinating subject. As a thank you, she was given some tiny Allium bulbs for her to grow.

Rene Baillie, whose 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday it was that day, showed us a photo of the beautiful embroidery she made in connection with the Lindisfarne Gospels. She had embroidered the letter M for Matthew, and it is one of the exhibits at the '*Faith, Inspiration and Stitch*' exhibition in the Queen's Hall. At tea time she had a cake with candles to celebrate her birthday – although we did not go as far as 92 candles...

On Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Canon Michael Thompson will speak on '*St Luke and the Acts of the Apostles*'. This will be held at Bell Wilson's house, and will begin at 2pm. As always, anybody is most welcome to join us.

### **Help for projects**

Thanks to the continued dedication of the many volunteers who keep our village shop open for business, profits continue to be available to support and enhance the lives of individuals and the community.

So far, grants from £300 to £3,000 have been awarded to the following groups:

- Village Hall (furniture, new windows and new kitchen)
- Electric Car (6 month trial)
- Theatre Group (film workshops and equipment)

- Playing Field Trust (soundproofing of half-pipe)
- Crown Inn Quiz (sound equipment)
- Pre-school Group (educational equipment) and After School Club
- North Tyne and Redewater Choral Society (40<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert)
- Swallow Project
- Wednesday Art Group
- Humshaugh Arts Programme

And grants have been awarded to individuals for:

- Nursing experience and training in Africa
- National Youth Arts Summer School
- Tour to the Far East with Symphony Orchestra
- Equipment for course in game-keeping
- Equipment for basic learning skills

Application forms for grants, either for groups or individuals, are available in the shop, or online at: [www.humshaughshop.co.uk](http://www.humshaughshop.co.uk). Simply complete the form, hand it in to the shop, and the Board will consider your application. If you would like more information or help in completing the form, contact Maurice Gilmour on 681587 or email [mauricegilmour@btinternet.com](mailto:mauricegilmour@btinternet.com).

## **Humshaugh School news**

On Friday 4th October, there will be a Harvest Festival at 9.15am, and a community soup lunch at 12.30pm. Family and friends are invited to join the children for homemade soup, which they will have prepared on the day. This is always a happy occasion, and an opportunity for the children to share their lunch with the villagers, so please come along if you are free.

## **Village Hall**

The Village Hall is now taking bookings for the winter season. It is an excellent venue for parties, shows, events, weddings, meetings, clubs, cookery, crafts etc. The Hall has just undergone a major refurbishment, and the kitchen, meeting room and main hall can all be booked separately or together. For further details, and to make bookings, contact the Hall Secretary, Alan Glendinning: [glendinning.alan@gmail.com](mailto:glendinning.alan@gmail.com), or tel: 681468.

## **Autumn entertainment**

On Friday 18th October, at 7.30pm, there will be a storytelling show for families entitled 'Salt'. Briny tales, epic ballads, projected crystalline imagery, origami and experiments will tell the epic story of salt. The mind boggles!

Tickets are on sale in the village shop at £4 / £2, and the production will be in the village hall. For further details tel: 681924

And finally... even though we have not yet celebrated Bonfire Night, preparations are already underway for the Humshaugh Christmas Show. Oh yes they are!

The Snow Queen, a revival of a previous production by Humshaugh Theatre Group, is already in rehearsal, but help is needed with costume, props, scenery and stage management. Anyone who would like to be involved will be very welcome. To discuss any aspect of the production please contact either Maurice Gilmour on 681587, or Sharon Higginson on 681924

### **Information for the next Broadsheet**

Please send any information about Humshaugh, that you would like including in the next Broadsheet, either by email to: [nick.hayward310@btinternet.com](mailto:nick.hayward310@btinternet.com), or on Liz Hayward's answerphone at 681463.

### ***Simonburn notes***

Earlier this year we received a most generous response, from local charities, to our appeal for funds to carry out essential repairs to the magnificent Walker Organ at St Mungo's. The generosity of these charities - the Giles Heron Trust, the Evans Trust, and the J H Burn Charity Trust - has meant that we are now able to proceed with the repairs, and the organ builder, Jim Molyneux, is due to start work on Monday the 7th October.

The work will take about 5 days, and involve parts of the organ being laid out in the church. Whilst the organ is partially dismantled like this, Jim will be in charge of opening and closing the church. This will mean that the Church is open whilst Jim is present, but closed at other times - including short periods over lunch time. If anyone needs to arrange access while Jim is absent, they should contact the key-holder, Roger Hadley, on 681077.

Another donor, who must remain anonymous, has very generously provided a new, portable Public Address (PA) system, for use by the church and village. We seem to have become its custodians, at Stewards House, and, having experimented with it a bit, Russell tells me it is powerful and very easy to use. So if you need to borrow it for an event, just let us know.

**Pat Fairless**

### ***Wark Parish news***

We did say September was a busy month, so, as we write, some events have already taken place, while some are still to come. Reflections and hope should perhaps be the heading for this piece, as we enter the '*season of mist and mellow fruitfulness*'. (The slightly older of your two writers thought that was Shakespeare, however the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations attributes it

to Keats. Who are we to argue?) The slightly younger of your two writers took the opportunity to walk around the village earlier this morning. How lucky we are to live in such a peaceful and tranquil place: from the churchyard, which has been so well maintained by 'the Monday boys', to gardens carefully tended by their owners, and the village green with its majestic chestnut tree - albeit slightly shorter following work to eradicate a disease.

Then the bridge – how much longer? And have they really removed some of the work undertaken previously? We wonder how long the initial construction took, all those years ago.

The PCC meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September agreed to apply for a 'Faculty' from the Diocese (a bit like planning permission from the powers that be) to repair and restore three windows at St Michael's. Agreement was also given for the Ladies Guild to hold their Christmas Bazaar in the Town Hall on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Further details will be in the November Broadsheet. Rector Michael reported that the village school had recently received a 'Good' OFSTED report, with 'Outstanding' features. Then lots of *'this and that'*. The next meeting was arranged for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

'*Fashion Through the Ages*', on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, was a fascinating evening. Mandy Nichol had arranged for Alan Graham to bring along a collection of clothes dating back to the 1820s, which were beautifully modelled by seven local young ladies. Also on show were dresses from two village residents. We wonder, in our throw-away society, how many of today's clothes will still be around in, say, eighty years' time. Thank you to Mandy and Alan, and to all who modelled, assisted with dressing, or helped in any way. Thank you also to those who attended the evening.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Wark School celebrated a Harvest Festival service in St Michael's, which, we are certain, many parents will have attended. On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, St Michael's also celebrated Harvest with, we are sure, many farmers giving thanks for this year's very good harvest.

Without doubt, the '*Harvest Supper*', on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Community Room, will have been as hot as ever, and well attended. Ann and the slightly younger of your two writers will have kept their cool that evening as, on the following day, as churchwardens, we will have had an inspection from the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne. Ann and John will have shown, to the best of their knowledge, registers, maintenance reports and inventory, and answered questions pertaining to the working and upkeep of St Michael's. Please pray for us – it's not an easy job being church warden: we don't even get an invitation to the Bishop's garden party! Concluding September's events will be a Benefice Eucharist at St Michael's, to celebrate Michaelmas.

On a slightly lighter note, Yvonne Tully tells us she is fundraising once more - this time to contribute towards the purchase of ECG equipment for Wark



Surgery. A coffee morning has been arranged for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, at 10.00am in the Community Room, for the sale of cakes, jewellery, and a tombola and raffle. A good cause; please come along and support; you may never need ECG equipment yourself, however someone in the family may.

After all the events during September we have a chance to `catch our breath` during October, with a fairly quiet calendar, before entering the period of preparation for Christmas. Regarding Christmas, mention has already been made of the Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. They are moving this to Sunday to try to get a better turn out. Our annual trip to Stonehaugh, for a Christingle Service, will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm, with St Michael's Carol Service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6.00pm.

We picked up a copy of a church magazine the other day, and found this amongst the usual notices: "*Charlie Benson and Jessie Carter were married in church on the 13<sup>th</sup> July. So ends a friendship begun in their school days.*"

Until we chat again, what more can or should we say?

Love from Cyril and John

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details
Fri 27 Sep	10:00 am	MacMillan Coffee Morning, Wark Town Hall
Tue 1 Oct	7:30 pm	Monthly meeting, Barrasford Village Hall
Wed 2 Oct	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI: " <i>The true story behind the Millennium Bridge</i> " - a talk by John Johnson, Project Manager. An open meeting, as the subject will appeal to everyone.
Thu 3 Oct	10:30 am	Coffee Morning, Birtley Village Hall
Thu 3 Oct	2:00 pm	Humshaugh Mothers' Union, at Bell Wilson's house: Canon Michael Thompson: ' <i>St Luke and the Acts of the Apostles</i> '. Anybody is most welcome (see page 5).
Fri 4 Oct	9:15 am	Harvest Festival, Humshaugh School
Fri 4 Oct	12:30 pm	Community Soup Lunch, Humshaugh School: family & friends are invited to join the children for homemade soup which they've prepared on the day (see page 6)
Sun 6 Oct	2:00 pm	Family Fun Day, Chollerton School, 2:00-4:00pm, outside if the weather is fine. In aid of the PTFA.
Tue 8 Oct	7:30 pm for 7:45	Birtley & District Gardening Group: " <i>Mushrooms and Toadstools – Deadly and Delightful!</i> " - with Gordon Beakes, Reader in Mycology, Newcastle University.
Wed 9 Oct	10:00 am	Dunkers coffee morning, Barrasford Village Hall, 10.00-11.00am
Thu 10 Oct	7:30 pm	Carpet Bowls, Barrasford Village Hall
Fri 11 Oct	7:00 pm	Birtley Harvest Supper, Village Hall (see page 14)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details
Sat 12 Oct	7:30 pm	Quiz Night, Colwell Village Hall, £5 per person incl supper. Annual raffle in aid of Josie's Dragonfly Trust.
Fri 18 Oct	7:30 pm	Salt! - at Humshaugh Village Hall - briny tales and epic ballads to tell the story of salt (see page 6)
Sat 19 Oct	10:00 am	Coffee Morning, Wark Community Room, to raise funds for ECG equipment for Wark Surgery. Cakes, jewellery, tombola & raffle. Contact: Yvonne Tully
Sat 19 Oct	3:00 pm	Messy Church, Barrasford Village Hall (see page 13)
Thu 24 Oct	7:30 pm	Carpet Bowls, Barrasford Village Hall
Fri 25 Oct	7:30 pm	Salt! - at Colwell Village Hall - an evening of song, story & salt art for family audiences; £6 Adult, £3 children; licensed bar
Sun 27 Oct	12:00 pm	Christmas Craft Fair, Barrasford Village Hall, 12.00-5.00pm, see page 15
Wed 30 Oct	12:00 pm	Gunnerton Lunch Club, 12noon-1.00pm, £2.50. Delicious homemade soup, pudding, tea and coffee and, as always, good conversation. Raffle
Thu 31 Oct	7:30 pm for 8:00	Friends of Chollerton Churches Halloween Gourmet Dinner, The Barrasford Arms, £40 excl. drinks, tickets from Bob Fletcher, 681949 or <a href="mailto:bob.fletcher@sw.co.uk">bob.fletcher@sw.co.uk</a>
Fri 1 Nov	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI: Northumbrian Evening with Eddy Milligan & friends, Barrasford Village Hall. £5.00, proceeds to Village Hall funds and the WI.
Tue 5 Nov	7:30 pm	Monthly meeting, Barrasford Village Hall
Fri 8 Nov	7:30 pm	Chollerton Churches Wine Tasting Evening with Ken & Alison Carlisle, theme: ' <i>Super (-market) Sicilian Wines</i> '. £12.00 – to book your place phone 689996
Wed 13 Nov	10:00 am	Dunkers coffee morning, Barrasford Village Hall, 10.00-11.00am
Mon 18 Nov		Wark PCC meeting
Tue 19 Nov	7:00 pm	History Society ' <i>Nostalgic Views of the North</i> ', Barrasford Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm
Sat 23 Nov		Dine and Dance, Barrasford Village Hall - limited tickets available end of September
Sun 1 Dec		Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar, Wark Town Hall
Sun 15 Dec	6:30 pm	Christingle Service, Stonehaugh
Fri 20 Dec		Magical Evening of Carols and Music at Chipchase Castle Chapel. Further details to be announced.

## SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2013

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 19</b>	
9:00 <b>Gunnerton Harvest Festival</b> 10:30 Birtley Holy Communion 6:30 <b>Gt Bavington URC Harvest</b>	9:30 <b>Humshaugh Harvest Festival</b> 11:00 <b>Simonburn Harvest Festival</b> 6:00 Wark Holy Communion, 1662
<b>Old Testament:</b> Hab 1,1-4 & 2, 1-4 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 17, 5-10	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Tim. 1, 1-14 <b>Psalm:</b> 137, 1-6
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October - Trinity 20</b>	
9:00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10:30 <b>Chollerton Harvest Festival</b> 6:00 <b>Birtley Harvest Festival</b>	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion, 1662 11:00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6:00 Wark Holy Communion
<b>Old Testament:</b> 2 Kings 5, 1-3 & 7-15c <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 17, 11-19	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Tim.1,1-14 <b>Psalm:</b> 111
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Trinity 21</b>	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10:30 Birtley Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6:00 Wark Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> Jer. 31, 27-34 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 18, 1-8	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Tim. 3, 14 – 4,5 <b>Psalm:</b> 121
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Trinity 22</b>	
9:00 Thockrington 1662 Communion 10:30 Chollerton Holy Communion	8:00 Humshaugh Holy Communion 9:30 Wark Holy Communion 11:00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6:30 Humshaugh Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> Joel 2, 23-end <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 18, 9-14	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Tim. 4,6-8 & 16-18 <b>Psalm:</b> 84, 1-7
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – All Saints' Sunday</b>	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10:30 Birtley Holy Communion 6:00 Chollerton All Souls' Service	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion, 1662 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6:00 Wark Holy Communion, 1662
<b>Old Testament:</b> Dan 7,1-3 &15-18 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 6, 20-31	<b>Epistle:</b> Eph. 1, 11-end <b>Psalm:</b> 149
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday</b>	
9:00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10:00 Birtley War Memorial Service 10:40 <b>Chollerton Service of Remembrance</b> 6:00 Birtley Evensong	10:45 <b>Service of Remembrance at Simonburn</b> , then services at: 11:45 Simonburn War Memorial 12:00 Wark War Memorial 12:30 Humshaugh War Memorial
<b>Old Testament:</b> Micah 4, 1-5 <b>Gospel:</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> Romans 8, 31 end <b>Psalm:</b>

# Chollerton Benefice

## *Mike Slade's letter*

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

In September I was invited to two special services in churches I do not normally attend. The first was at Haltwhistle Methodist Church, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, for the Service of Welcome into the Tynedale Circuit of the Rev'd J Thomas Quenet and Deacon Anne Taylor. Anne is now the Methodist Deacon covering Barrasford and many other churches. The second was on September 15<sup>th</sup>, when a small number of Thockrington church members travelled to York Minster to witness, in the Chapter House, the Rev'd Canon Michael Smith being Admitted as a Residentiary Member of Chapter, Canon Pastor and Prebendary of Tockrington (note different spelling); then, during Evensong, Michael was Installed into his, well, stall in the Quire. We hope to invite Michael to come to Thockrington to preach and celebrate at a service next Autumn.

It would be difficult to imagine two more contrasting services. At Haltwhistle we were packed to the rafters with people. Many ecumenical partners took part in the service, saying their words of welcome. It was an informal, joyous and uplifting occasion. The singing was quite superb, even when, during the last hymn, the electricity failed! It seemed to make the people sing even more confidently. Power was restored before the refreshments afterwards. Having been to many such services in the past, this one far exceeded the others in every way, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

As I left church I was approached by a young lady. Worry not! She thought I was the new Methodist Minister, and wanted to say 'hello' and welcome me. Even though she got the wrong person I thought that was really encouraging.

Then, on a very wet and windy day, seven of us entered York Minster as it stood resolutely against the storms. We were very privileged to have tickets to enter the Chapter House to witness, along with his former parishioners from Berkshire, something which has been done there for many hundreds of years. Afterwards, the choir led Evensong, with singing which soared up into the roof, lifting our spirits too. We then enjoyed generous and delicious refreshments, with a Yorkshire theme, in the North Transept. It was a splendid afternoon, and, as we came out of church afterwards, the sun was shining and we felt engulfed by visitors from the Far East as they snapped their pictures of the Minster's west face. We felt we had seen the Church of England doing what it does best - rising to the big occasion.

Although the services were quite different in style, they both succeeded in doing the same thing: welcoming servants of Christ into a new and exciting ministry of sharing the faith of Jesus Christ, and ministering through his churches to the people they seek to serve. The contexts of that ministry couldn't be more contrasting: York and its Minister, relating to a diverse and incredibly busy city, as well as its wider ministry to visitors and the region; compared with the small Methodist churches in North Tynedale, with its villages and hills. And yet their message will be the same: that the love of God and the peace of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit are worth engaging with, no matter where you are in your faith. I was warmly welcomed in both services, as you will be if you come to any of the churches in our area.

I was challenged to think further on the Dean of York Minster's message in her sermon. She hoped the church would develop from being a place of welcome to a place of invitation. It made me feel that I wouldn't have been there that day, or in Haltwhistle, unless someone had invited me. How many more people would worship in church if, simply, we invited them?

With love and best wishes, Mike

### **Messy Church, Barrasford Village Hall, Saturday 19 October**

At 3.00pm. Messy but creative activities, simple prayer and worship and a lovely family meal. All warmly welcome as usual.

More details from the Vicar on 681721.

### ***Harvest Festival Services***

We have much to celebrate this year when we think of our harvest. The BBC is running a programme about it – let's hope it's accurate and realistic, covering the challenges farmers face, even in years like this, which have been easier than recent ones. And the weather has been much more favourable. Thanks be to God!

There will be opportunities to bring our thanksgivings into God's churches in our Harvest themed services, which will take place as follows:

#### **Sunday 6th October:**

9.00am: Family-friendly Harvest Festival Communion at Gunnerton

6.30pm: Great Bavington URC Evening Worship, where Mike will be preaching

#### **Sunday 13th October**

10.30am: Family-friendly Harvest Festival Communion at Chollerton

6.00pm: Evening Worship at Birtley

Donations of cash, non-perishables, and fruit and vegetables are more than welcome to be brought forward at our church services (or left beforehand in church or at the Vicarage). Fruit and vegetables will again be donated to Mencap Dilston College, and we shall also be supporting the Cedarwood Trust in their work to the poorest people of the Meadow Well Estate in North Shields. Please be generous as we give thanks for our harvest this year.

### ***Service for All Souls - 3rd November***

An evening service of hymns, readings and a time to remember, will be held at Chollerton Parish Church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.00pm. All are welcome to come to light a candle in memory of a loved one who may have died recently or a long time ago.

More details from Mike on 01434 681721.

### ***From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice***

#### **A Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child**

A service to give thanks for three children was held at Chipchase Castle Chapel on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August: **Ruby Bess Torday**, **Star Maya Torday**, and **Laszlo Alexander Torday**.

#### **Funerals and Memorial Services**

We celebrated the life of **Keith Ian Nixon**, 38, at Chollerton St Giles on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August, and **Thelma Blacklock**, 79, at Chollerton St Giles on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Weddings**

We witnessed and celebrated the marriage of **Paul Hope Martin** and **Linda Walton** at Thockrington St Aidan on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

### ***Birtley Village Hall***

#### **Birtley Harvest Supper, Birtley Village Hall, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

7.00 for 7.30pm. Musicians Stephen Fry and Pete Stenhouse will provide traditional Northumbrian music, Eddie Milligan will be our compere, and a lovely hot supper and selection of puddings will be prepared for us. Drinks available. Cost: £10, Tickets available from Eileen Burn, 01434 270228.

**In aid of Birtley Parish Church - ALL welcome.**

## **Birtley & District Gardening Group**

Details of our next event: "*Mushrooms and Toadstools – Deadly and Delightful!*" - on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, are in the Calendar of Events (page 9). At this first meeting of the season we shall be renewing memberships, so do come early to beat the crush!

The group always welcomes new visitors or prospective members, whether experienced or rookie gardeners. The 2013/14 annual membership is £20.00. Guests/single talks are £4.00 (£6.00 in December).

## **Community Events in Gunnerton Church**

### **Steeplechase 2013/Ride and Stride**

Many thanks go to Dianne Lishman and Pauline Fenwick for providing food and refreshment for Steeplechasers and the community at St Christopher's Gunnerton on Saturday 14th September.

**Richard**

Bookings for Gunnerton Church can be made by contacting Susan Reay on 01434 681852
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## **Barrasford Village Hall**

<p><b>Sunday 27th October - Christmas Craft Fair - 12.00pm to 5.00pm</b></p>
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<p>Soup, tea coffee &amp; cakes served. Stalls including Phoenix cards, Jamie Oliver at Home, Usborne Books, Berry Homemade, walking sticks, pottery, Jasper crafts, wood turned items, cakes &amp; much more.</p>
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<p>The Village Hall will have a stall of handmade items, so if anyone can make any items to sell, or can spare an hour to help, please ring Yvonne 01434 689758 or Louise 07867 925617.</p>
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The Plant Stall is still open at 9 Eastacres, Barrasford. Lots of plants available for a donation to the hall: vegetables, annuals and perennials. If you have any surplus plants please donate them to the stall.

The Dunkers Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £157.90. Well done everybody.

## **Other church services within the Chollerton Benefice**

Great Swinburne: St Mary's RC Church Holy Mass at 10.15am every Sunday.

FOR ALL OF OUR READERS



## An evening of Folk ~ Gospel Music

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00pm  
at Tynedale Function Suite  
Hexham Auction Mart**

*with*

*Kathy Anderson, Roly Johnson and Roddy Matthews  
Humorous songs from Bob Bolam*

*Guest speaker: Malcolm Jones, Throckley*

£7.50 per person

**Pie and pea supper & light refreshments included**

Any who wish can make a free will offering to Release International - [www.releaseinternational.org](http://www.releaseinternational.org) - a charity which exists to care for imprisoned and persecuted Christians worldwide.

**To book, or for more information, contact**

**Richard Dodds: 01434 681847**

**Katie Matthews: 01434 672424**

**Peter: 01434 609485**

**The Cedar Tree: 01434 604004**