

The Broadsheet January 2014

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

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HUMSHAUGH BENEFICE

Michael Thompson's letter

Humshaugh Vicarage

Dear Readers,

Both Hands Before the Fire

This month I would like to simply offer you all sincere good wishes for the year we are entering, and use my space in the Broadsheet to tell you about a book:

'Both Hands Before the Fire - A Parson's Pilgrimage': Spencer Wade, published in the US by 'Trafford', ISBN 978-1-4669-6519-5 (*too late for Christmas 2013 but still a good present and a gripping read*)

Through the kindness of Mr PA Wade, a Canadian resident and grandson of the late Rev'd Spencer Wade, I recently received a publication copy of 'Both Hands Before the Fire', the autobiography of Spencer Wade, who, in the course of 57 years of active ordained ministry, served two terms in Northumbrian Parishes: Wark on Tyne 1931-38 and Whalton 1938-46. Most of the preceding and following years were spent in Durham Diocese, of which Wade was a native.

I have not yet had the opportunity to study this book in depth but I would suggest that it is worthy of wide readership in church circles throughout the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle, and wider readership in the communities where Spencer Wade exercised his ministry.

In the first instance, it is the gripping tale of a man who left elementary school to follow several of his family into work in the Durham Coalfield in support of his widowed mother. He was diverted to study classics at Manchester, through the influence of a scholarly Bishop Auckland Curate and the good offices of the gentle Bishop Moule.

As the tale develops we find Wade exercising, with the support of his wife, an energetic ministry, in which he encounters people as diverse as William Temple, Sir John Priestman (the Sunderland

shipping magnate), Lord Stamfordham (the King's Private Secretary), the formidable Bishop Henson, King George V, and Lord Lawson the Durham miners' leader. We also encounter a ministry to conditions of deprivation we too easily forget. More than that, we see aspects of care which are no longer called for, such as Wade's ministry, whilst Chaplain to the High Sheriff, to an Assize Judge about to pronounce a death sentence.

Spencer Wade's pithy accounts of individuals who have vanished into obscurity, taken alongside his sidelights on national figures about whom much has been written, suggest that he is a reliable guide to the generation which formed the generation who, in turn, formed many in church and public life today.

The book also portrays a style of churchmanship which only a few people now remember, and which might be characterised as 'low church liberal'. It is quite refreshing to see the case made for a style of Anglican ministry which dwells more on the prophetic than the priestly role. That said, I am not sure that I entirely warm to Spencer Wade's model of the incumbent minister taking a very firm grip of the parishioners committed to their care, nor to his low estimate of 'training incumbents'! But, the proof of most puddings is in the eating and, overall, I am enthusiastic to read more about the man, who, when I first ministered in Wark 16 years ago, was still remembered as the one Rector who could 'fill the church' most Sunday evenings. In his book, Spencer Wade refers to receiving, whilst Rector of Wark, the gift of an altar cross, surplus to the needs of the Sovereign's domestic chapel. As one who has, for a good number of years, regularly celebrated the Holy Communion with that cross as a focus of attention, it is quite moving to read about the man to whom George V caused it to be given. I will say of this book, as young waitresses so often say, when placing a plate before one: "Enjoy".

Michael Thompson

Round and about Humshaugh

(Notes compiled by Liz Hayward)

Welcome everyone to the New Year edition of the Humshaugh news.

Humshaugh Cricket Club is already looking ahead to the new cricket season and will be organising weekly indoor nets in the New Year. We will be starting on Wednesday 8th January 2014, and the venue is Haydon Bridge High School sports centre from 19.30-21.00. If anyone is interested - young, older, even older - then come along any Wednesday evening, or call the club secretary, Nick Hayward, on 681463 for more details. Get your eye in ahead of the new season in April!

The members of Humshaugh Mothers' Union celebrated Christmas at their meeting on 5th December. John Cox was the speaker, and related hilarious stories and sayings, said by children during their Nativity plays. A wonderful description of the Messiah had us all in stitches. Carol singing followed, and a rather lovely tea ended the afternoon. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on 2nd January when we will have our annual Corporate Communion in St Peter's Church, led by Revd. Canon Michael Thompson, starting at 2pm.

The children in our village school worked hard before Christmas raising funds for those with significant disadvantages of one sort or another. They learned a valuable lesson about the cost of food when they took the £86.35 donated at the community soup lunch and used it to buy groceries for the West Tyne Food Bank. Additionally, they ran a cake stall in school and took £170, which has now been sent to Children In Need - an impressive amount from such a small school. Well done to everyone who helped the children with these events.

The recent Christmas market in the village hall raised £700, which the school and pre-school will use to buy equipment and pay for trips for the benefit of all the children. Clearly, Dick Moules and his baking team were a great success, selling over forty loaves of bread at that event. No wonder it is such a sell out in the shop on a Saturday morning. Speaking of which, if you have any carrier bags

to spare, please bring them to the shop, rather than throw them out. They are always needed.

The folk group will be having their third session in The Crown on Tuesday 14th January at 8pm and welcome players and listeners. Please come along and enjoy the music and help make this new venture a success.

The next quiz in The Crown will be organised by the WI, with Peter Linnett acting as quizmaster as usual. Raffle prizes would be gratefully received. Start time is 8pm.

Christmas is over and a New Year begins. All good wishes to everyone for a very happy and healthy 2014

Information for the next Broadsheet

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

Simonburn notes

Elsie Glendening would like to thank everyone who sent there good wishes for her move to Acomb. She was overwhelmed by the generosity of the 'collection' in her honour, and was able to buy a new television with the money collected. She is also looking forward to getting something for the garden.

Pat Fairless

Wark Parish news

A Happy New Year to all our readers. May 2014 bring you everything you wish. So that is Christmas over for another year; the decorations are being stored away, perhaps in the loft; will you remember where they are when December comes around and you need to put them up again? The church year began on 1st December when Advent was celebrated, so, as you read, we are approaching Epiphany. Ann and the slightly younger of your two writers have Churchwarden's diaries that cover the months from 1st

December to 31st January the following year, which keeps us in check as to the changing periods for altar dressing.

One date missing from our diaries is that of the next General Synod meeting, when the thorny question of Lady Bishops will once again be raised. Let us hope 'that lot' can get their act together and sort this out - as they say around these parts: 'once and for all' Truthfully, they - the Synod - have messed around with this question for so long it is past time for a decision. That is my rant over for this month; sorry should you want more!

Now looking back: the move of the Ladies Guild to hold the Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 1st December, proved beneficial, with around £1100 being raised. This was the first time the slightly younger of your two writers had been able to support the event (he does still have to work!), and he did enjoy the day. Well done and thank you to all who supported in any way. Two of our reporters were in the audience for the school Christmas performance of 'The Midwife Crisis', and reported how well this was staged, along with the humour. Importantly, all the components of the Christmas story were there, with the wonderful end line of "*actually the baby did not need the midwife, but the midwife, and all of us, needed the baby*". Now that is a story worth telling over and over again.

A meeting of the PCC took place on 18th November when, as promised, the question of window restoration did take up a large section of the agenda. Progress is in hand, with the architect, to obtain quotations, with a view to having all in hand for a 31st January 2014 deadline for grant applications.

Shortly, you should receive a letter from St Michael's PCC detailing the costs we shoulder for maintaining a church and churchyard here in Wark for the village. Please do read it carefully.

Those who came along to Christmas morning communion will have seen the reworked chalice veil. It is truly remarkable that the embroidery, which we understand was originally applied around 100 years ago, has been 'lifted' from the old, rather worn veil, and applied to new backing. Perhaps the same exercise will be necessary in another 100 years? It is a testament to the level of skill there is available, which allowed this work to be carried out. Let us

hope some of our younger generation will warm to these crafts. Words or gifts cannot thank sufficiently; give thanks to the two ladies who have undertaken this restoration work for St Michael's.

After the light and glitz - yes there does appear to be a lot of 'glitz' about Christmas now - January always appears long and dark. Did you read or hear recently that Kielder forest observatory is now in the darkest sky area within Europe. There is much I could say about Kielder, but little that should go into print!

John, as many will know, has co-ordinated a small group of locals who wish to continue providing a festive meal for the senior citizens of Wark Parish. The guest list is the most challenging part of the arrangements. The conversation at the meeting goes something like: "*Are they old enough?*" "*I'm unsure if they are.*" "*Will so and so qualify?*" And so it goes on. Hand on heart, it is a gamble as to where we send the invites. Please do let me know should you qualify and feel you have been looked over (story of my life!). At the end of the day, all we wish to do is provide a joyful and enjoyable evening. The organisers are so grateful to the various groups within Wark who make a contribution towards this.

As this is written, the deadline for being picked up to go along to Stonehaugh for the annual Christingle service approaches. Memories of driving through snowdrifts a couple of years back, come flooding to mind. We did that year arrive, as we will I am sure tonight, to a beautiful and warm hall with a great reception. Well done Stonehaugh. Look forward to seeing you at St Michael's.

So 2013 has ended, with 2014 commencing. Therefore our thoughts do go to a little piece found within one of the recently obtained magazines (why they come our way we do not understand), which simply says: "*The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility. Watch this space for more details!*"

As always, what more can or should we say.

Love to all,

Cyril and John

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details	Page
Thu 2 Jan	10:30 am	Coffee Morning, delicious coffee, home bakes and great conversation, Birtley Village Hall	15
Thu 2 Jan	2:00 pm	Humshaugh MU, annual Corporate Communion in St Peter's Church	5
Sat 4 Jan	10:00 am - 4:30 pm	Vicarage Open House, Chollerton: 10am-12noon & 2pm-4.30pm: fire, coffee & cakes.	13
Wed 8 Jan	7:30 pm	Humshaugh Cricket Club weekly indoor nets start, Haydon Bridge High School	5
Tue 14 Jan	7:30 pm	Birtley & District Gardening Group, Willowbog Bonsai, with Peter Snart, Birtley Village Hall	15
Tue 14 Jan	8:00 pm	Folk group, The Crown, Humshaugh, players and listeners welcome	5
Wed 15 Jan		Wark Old People's Party / festive meal (tbs)	6
Wed 15 Jan	7:30 pm	Birtley Local History Group, "The History of Brownrigg School, Bellingham" - Ian Roberts, Birtley Village Hall.	15
Sat 18 Jan	10:30 am - 4:00 pm	Chollerton Benefice Mission Action Plan: day at Shepherd's Dene; Mike Slade, 681721	11
Sat 25 Jan	3:00 pm	Messy Church, Barrasford Village Hall; messy but creative activities, worship, family meal.	14
Wed 29 Jan	12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch Club, Gunnerton Church, £2.50, homemade soup, pudding, tea and coffee and, as always, good conversation. Raffle	14
Fri 14 Feb		Friends of Chollerton Churches: Valentine's Evening Gourmet Meal, The Barrasford Arms	13
Sat 3 May		Friends of Chollerton Churches: Heart of All England Race Meeting, Hexham Race Course	13
Wed 24 May		Wark Charity Lunch Silver Jubilee, to support Tynedale Hospice at Home: Ann Bell, 230259	6

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 5th January – The Epiphany	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10:30 Birtley Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion, 1662 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion 18:00 Wark Holy Communion
Old Testament: Isaiah 60, 1-6 Gospel: Matthew 2, 1-12	Epistle: Ephesians 3, 1-12 Psalm: 72, 10-15
Sunday 12th January – The Baptism of Christ	
9:00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10:30 Chollerton Holy Communion	11:00 Simonburn Benefice Holy Communion, St Mungo's Tide
Old Testament: Isaiah 42, 1-9 Gospel: Matthew 3,13-17	Epistle: Acts 10, 34-43 Psalm: 29
Readings for St. Mungo's Tide	
Old Testament: Gospel: Matthew 28, 16-end	Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2, 2-12 Psalm:
Sunday 19th January, Epiphany 2	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh, Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 18.00 Wark, Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Isaiah 49, 1-7 Gospel: John 1, 29-42	Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1, 1-7 Psalm: 40, 1-12
Sunday 26th January, Epiphany 3	
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 18.30 Humshaugh, Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Isaiah 9, 1-4 Gospel: Matthew 4, 12-23	Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1, 10-18 Psalm: 27, 1 & 4-12
Sunday 2nd February, Candlemas	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh, Holy Communion (1662) 11.00 Simonburn, Holy Communion 18.00 Wark, Holy Communion (1662)
Old Testament: Malachi 3, 1-5 Gospel: Luke 2, 22-40	Epistle: Hebrews 2, 14-18 Psalm: 24, 7-10
Sunday 9th February, 4th Before Lent	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh, Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn, Morning Prayer 18.00 Wark, Holy Communion
Old Testament: Isaiah 58, 1-9a Gospel: Matthew 5, 13-20	Epistle: I Corinthians 2, 1-12 Psalm: 112, 1-9

CHOLLERTON BENEFICE

Mike Slade's letter

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

New Year is often a time of weighing up what sort of year we've had, and hoping that the new one will be better than, or as good as, the last.

When I scan down my study white board, and see some of the good things of which I have made a note, it brings back many good memories, and much for which to be thankful: Pancake races; St Patrick's evening social; Lent Groups; a new Holy Communion setting at Birtley and Chollerton; a splendid new red carpet and jubilee kneelers at Chollerton; a sunny July; Ken and Alison's wine evenings; champagne and strawberries at Birtley; Thockrington Fete with Sir Alan Beith MP; the scarecrow weekend; bacon butties; Birtley Harvest Supper; and Chollerton Churches Friends' events. There were some very special events which stand out in my mind: the Chollerton Flower Festival entitled 'A Church for all Seasons', which exceeded everybody's expectations and was magnificent in every way; the confirmation of seven adults; Birtley's 'best ever' fete at Chipchase Castle; and then being graced by the Archbishop of York at St Aidan's Thockrington. None of these things could have happened without considerable effort, usually by lots of people working together. It has been a wonderful year for our churches. Thank you for making it so special.

On the other side of the coin, we have had some difficult times, when loved ones have died, or illness has overwhelmed some of us. It has been sad to see some people move away, and glad to see others arrive.

The New Year is upon us. What will it bring? Last year I was interviewed by a fellow clergyman from the diocese and asked to share my vision about where I thought the Church would be in thirty years' time. That's quite some ask, I can tell you, especially when Jesus says that today has enough worries of its own without even thinking about tomorrow. We shall not be looking quite that far ahead in January, when I shall lead people from the Chollerton benefice to think about the short term (couple of years) future ministry of the churches. Much has been achieved in the past; but what of the future? How can we build upon that? What needs to

stop? What needs to change? What new things should we consider? What would you like to see the churches do, that we are not doing at the moment? What does God want us to do? Well, I kept the most important question until last there. I think it's quite exciting, if not a bit daunting.

Taking one day at a time, learning from the experience of the past, walking in God's footsteps, and being hopeful about the future, is what I shall try to do this year. That reflects God and the teaching of the Holy Bible. It may mean change. Oh dear! 'Change' is a word that can strike fear into people's hearts. If we are about God's work, though, I think we have nothing to fear. As Julian of Norwich once said: '*All shall be well. And all shall be well. And all manner of thing shall be well.*'

Have a happy and blessed New Year. With love,

Mike

Chollerton School

"Mrs Wildsmith thanks all who came to her retirement party on Friday 22nd November in Barrasford Village Hall. A big thank you to all who contributed towards her gifts".

The above message was received from Chollerton School too late for last month's Broadsheet. Sue Wildsmith has served Chollerton School most faithfully for over 20 years, and it was fitting for the church to say farewell to her at the wonderful Christingle service at St Giles' on Monday 9th December. We all wish Sue and Ray a very happy, long and peaceful retirement.

From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice

Funerals and Memorial Services

Jean Exton, 83, interred at Chollerton St Giles on Monday December 2nd 2013

Isabella (Bella) Neil, 94, at Chollerton St Giles on Monday December 9th 2013

Confirmation

A Service of Confirmation will be held in the Deanery in July 2014. If you would be interested in being confirmed, then please speak to me to see what would be involved. In previous years, it has been a course for adults (seven this year) to explore the Christian faith, and a similar but shorter course for young people aged over 10.

Mike (01434 681721)

Forthcoming events in Chollerton Benefice Churches

Vicarage Open House

Saturday January 4th: 10.00am - 12noon and 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Come and join us around the fire for conversation, coffee and cakes. Children and families very welcome.

This year we are inviting donations to support the new Barrasford Scout Troop. In previous years you have been very generous. If you cannot come, you can still make a donation to this lovely group.

Friends of Chollerton Churches

By the time this goes to press the Friends will have held their popular Yuletide Celebration at Chipchase. In common with the similar event in 2012, all tickets were sold. It certainly pays to be a Member to secure your place! Both the atmosphere and the acoustics in the candlelit chapel are superb. The Committee are grateful for the encouragement and support of the Elkington family, by making Chipchase available, and to the musicians: Adam Waugh, Miss Leia Zhu and Master Leo Zhu, Ms Charlie Buchanan and her Choir for their performances.

The next event in the Friends' calendar is another Gourmet Evening on Valentine's Day, at the Barrasford Arms. Anyone who sampled Tony Binks' imaginative dishes in February, or Hallowe'en last year, will not wish to miss another opportunity. Tickets available from Bob Fletcher at bob.fletcher@sw.co.uk or 01434 681949.

Ken Carlisle, Chairman

Community events in Gunnerton Church

Bookings for Gunnerton Church can be made by contacting Susan Reay on 01434 681852

Lunch Club at Gunnerton Church

Wednesday 29th January, 12noon-1.00pm, £2.50

Delicious homemade soup, pudding, tea and coffee and, as always, good conversation. Raffle

Barrasford Village Hall



New Scout Group



The Barrasford Scout Group, for Cubs & Beavers, meets weekly in Barrasford Village Hall on Tuesday evenings, 5.30 – 6.30pm.

Children aged, 5-10 years old, can come along and see what Scouting is all about!! Lots of fun, games and activities.

For further information, call the Group Leader:

Paul Mordue, 07966 902530 or email: pmordue@hotmail.com.

For more information on *any* event at Barrasford Village Hall, read the weekly “*Chollerton Notes*” in the Hexham Courant, and the monthly “*What’s On*” bulletin on the village notice boards. Or join ‘Barrasford Village Hall’ on Facebook.



Messy Church

Meets again in the New Year on Saturday 25th January at 3pm for messy but creative activities, simple prayer and worship and a lovely family meal. All warmly welcome as usual



Birtley Village Hall



Birtley & District Gardening Group

Willowbog Bonsai, with Peter Snart



Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Birtley Village Hall

The group always welcomes new visitors or prospective members whether experienced or rookie gardeners. The annual membership for 2013/14 season is £20.00; guests/single talks £4.00

Coffee Morning

Thursday 2nd January from 10.30am

Delicious coffee, home bakes and great conversation guaranteed!

Birtley Local History Group

The History of Brownrigg School, Bellingham - Ian Roberts

Wednesday 15th January at 7:30pm

To be held at the Birtley Village Hall.

Further details from Mary White 01434 230307

Other church services within the Chollerton Benefice

Barrasford Methodist Chapel: Meets each Sunday at 6.30pm

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

FOR ALL OF OUR READERS

Borderline Counselling Service in Hexham.

The Borderline Counselling Service in Carlisle is hoping to open a branch in Hexham, and it is looking for Christians who might be interested in being involved. We will need counsellors (professionally qualified), supervisors, receptionists, financial support and prayer partners. The aim of the agency is to offer a professional counselling service to the local community, staffed by Christian volunteers. We would not wish money to be a barrier to receiving counselling, so we would be asking clients to make a donation according to their means.

If you are interested in finding out more, then please contact Jenny Tabori on 07931 985 519 or email jennytabori@gmail.com. See also the Borderline website at www.borderlinecounselling.co.uk for further information on the Carlisle agency.

Salvation Army Appeal

The appeal has been a great success, and it was lovely to see St. Peter's Church porch full of so many toys and gifts, prior to them being collected by the Salvation Army.



The Salvation Army has sent us the following message:

Many thanks for all the toys and gifts you collected for our appeal this year. You can be sure than many children in this area will benefit from your gifts.

Have a lovely Christmas, GOD Bless You ALL, and every blessing from Hexham Corps (The Salvation Army).

Many thanks once again to all who gave, and I am sure a lot of people will find joy and happiness on Christmas morning.

With all good wishes

Janice Rowcroft