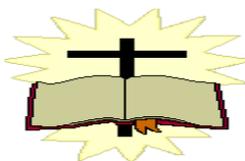


The Broadsheet March 2014



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

The Revd. Canon Michael Thompson

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HUMSHAUGH BENEFICE

Humshaugh Vicarage

Dear Readers,

The journey begins on Ash Wednesday

The late Herbert Kelly, leader of the Society of the Sacred Mission, a monastery in Nottinghamshire, left a legacy of considerable spiritual insight, coupled with some pithy sayings.

It is said that on one Easter Sunday, when a huge congregation had come from far and wide to join the Community at their Easter Communion, Father Kelly ascended the pulpit, surveyed the throng, and opened his address with a remark along the lines of: *“Well, I expect you are all expecting a nice Easter sermon, but what I want to know is, where were all of you during Lent?”*

I have never had the nerve, but have always had an admiration, for what might be termed ‘the direct approach’! There are two things that can be said about Father Kelly’s approach to Lent and Easter.

Firstly, it is worth pointing out that if a higher proportion of church going people could see their way to coming to church week by week and observing the key weekday observances – Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension Day – our corporate worship could be more focussed and less protracted. To give you a concrete example of what Father Kelly probably had in mind: if the Lenten Season has been well used to search our consciences, Holy Communion on Easter Day might well be a more joyous and concise affair, opening with ‘Glory be to God on High’, and dispensing with the initial penitential section. The reality is that in many places public worship and preaching are verbose and protracted because it has to be assumed that quite a few of those present ‘missed the last episode’. This state of affairs is compounded because the Sunday bible readings are not as widely accessible as they were in the days when those who were hindered from churchgoing could easily consult their Prayer Book and keep up with the Collect, Epistle & Gospel.

Secondly – and, as it were, ‘on the other side of the coin’ – the Church in its wisdom has given us plenty of opportunity to prepare for Easter. It is not as though we have to be in Church for every service between Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday to make adequate preparation to greet the risen Lord on Easter Sunday. How often each of us is present is a matter for individual conscience and circumstance. What we may reasonably hope is that, before celebrating the empty tomb, each individual Christian will have found means of going in heart and mind with Christ, in his wilderness temptations, his betrayal, trial and crucifixion.

The opportunities to join in Lenten Worship are outlined on page 6. Do please consider them carefully, as a means of adding substance to your joy at Easter.

New roles

For two well known local figures, a different sort of journey begins in March: on Sunday 23rd The Revd Christine Bull, Priest in Charge of St. Oswald's with Bingfield, is to be installed as an Honorary Canon of Newcastle – a recognition of patient service on which many of you will want to join with me in congratulating Christine.

Two days later, on the Feast of the Annunciation, Canon Graham Usher, Rector of Hexham, is to be consecrated at St Paul's Cathedral, London, as Bishop of Dudley. As we wish them well in their new life and work, there will be an opportunity to remember Graham, Rachel and their family, in our Lady Day Eucharist.

Have your say

The Church of England is not a democracy – Jesus Christ being its head – but it has many democratic features, amongst which are the duty to hold Annual Parish Church Meetings (APCMs) each year. Dates of our APCMs are given below. Whilst only those on the Church Electoral Roll are, for the most part, entitled to vote at such meetings, **these meetings are open to all parishioners**, and all those on the civil electoral roll are entitled to participate in the appointment of Churchwardens. I would urge as many of you as are able to attend our APCMs this year, and hear our Parish Officers give their account of what they have undertaken on your behalf.

And on a personal note

When I began my working life in the Passenger department at Hexham Railway Station in August 1964, I entered a long-gone world where expectations about when an individual would eventually retire were very clear and firm, and I knew that I was expected to retire between 2010 and 2012! When I was ordained in 1977, the expectation was less clear, but for some while past I have taken the view that anyone who manages 50 years in the 'world of work' is very lucky, and that I would, therefore, retire this summer. I have now agreed with the Bishop of Newcastle that my last Sunday on duty as your Rector will be 24th August 2014. Many of you will understand that I have very mixed feelings about retirement, but I should like all of you to know that I count myself exceptionally blessed and privileged to have worked amongst yourselves, and in an area I have known and loved since childhood.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Thompson

Round and about Humshaugh

February has been a successful month for gathering information about the village, hitherto unknown to most of us.

Following on from the request in last month's notes for information relating to the poster advertising the 1898 cricket club sports day and picnic, we now have an answer to the query about the letters VBNF, whose band provided the musical entertainment. It seems VBNF stands for Volunteer Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. Thank you to Russell Fairless for hunting this down on a Google search (I wonder if anyone still makes trips to the library for researching). However, Mr Shanks, who hosted the event, and the whereabouts of his field at Brunton, still remain a mystery, so if there is anyone out there who remembers a family of that name, please get in touch.

A photograph published in the Hexham Courant a few weeks ago showed the village football team three quarters of a century later. The game may still be recognisable but, oh, those hairstyles!

Contributions of stories, medals and memorabilia connected to ancestors of residents involved in WW1 are beginning to emerge, and fascinating they are, too. The commemoration in September should be a poignant opportunity for us to see just how many lives were touched in different ways by the experiences of those who lived through that time. My own grandfather, American by birth and living in New York, was sent to South Carolina to an army training camp, and I have a wonderful album of photographs which were taken during his time there in the medical corps. Apart from its value to me, since he died before I was born, it is a detailed snapshot of social history, and I hope to be able to share it with anyone else who is interested when it goes on show later in the year at the village hall. For those of you who have yet to look through your attics and chests, please do – it is not too late to let us have your family stories, photographs or anything else you might find that could be included in the exhibition. Just get in touch with either me, on 681463, or Jen Ogle, on 681193, and we can discuss, collect and, if necessary, scan your documents.

What a wonderful afternoon the Mothers' Union members had on February 6th, when Margret Jacot gave her fascinating talk about early Christianity in Syria, with beautiful photographs. A myriad of churches, all with their own ways of worship, and all the believers living together peacefully. How very different that poor country is now. Most moving were pictures of children; we all wondered where they are now.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 6th March at Bell Wilson's house, when we will be discussing what Lent means to each of us. The afternoon will start at 2pm and, as always, anybody is most welcome to join us.

Many people in Humshaugh will remember Joan Chisholm, who lived in Valley Court, and who died in January. A Thanksgiving Service was held for her in West End Methodist Church in Hexham on 4th February. The minister, Rev. Peter Wright, told us about her life, which made it very clear what a wonderful person she was. A lovely neighbour, an Elder in the Methodist Church, a longstanding member of the Mothers' Union, a choir member in the W.I. and a much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Peter Wright mentioned each child, grandchild and great grandchild by name and date of birth, and then he said: "*Each of those I have mentioned will have a little of Joan inside him or her.*" What a great ending to a life story.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is mentioned elsewhere in the Broadsheet [*see page 16*], as the service is to be held in Wark. Anyone from Humshaugh who would like to go, and needs a lift, should get in touch with either Anne Race, on 681462, or Pat Prest, on 681665.

The next quiz at The Crown will be raising money for the cricket club, and will be held on Tuesday 18th March at 8pm. Much more than a set of sports questions, so please come and support the team. No bats allowed – just your thinking caps, please!

As World Book Day approaches, the Friends of the School are hoping to add some more books to the popular school library, and are especially keen to restock with fiction books that would be suitable for the 7-9 year old readers, either to enjoy by themselves or to read with a parent at home. In addition they are always keen to build up the non-fiction section with reference books, as these prove popular with children of all ages. If you do have any suitable fiction or non-fiction books that you no longer want and would be willing to donate, then please leave them with the volunteers at the shop, or drop them off at the school after the half term break.

Following on from last month's invitation to come to the school to share in wishing the Head Teacher, Mrs Steele, an enjoyable retirement, this is to remind everyone that the party will take place in school from 3.30 – 6pm on Friday 28th March.

Also, a reminder about the Shrovetide party, to be held in the village hall at 7pm on Tuesday 4th March. A delicious free buffet will be followed by the usual eclectic entertainment – music, dance and all manner of fun to be had – with an opportunity to contribute to charities, including Help For Heroes.

While some things in the village seem never to change – festivals come and festivals go (we can't say that about seasons any more!) – the next six months will see the building of fourteen new houses, near The George Hotel, to add to the housing stock in Chollerford. Some people may have been at the recent meeting to hear about the proposals, including the changes to build with artificial stone and non-slate materials for the roofs. Whatever the

aesthetics, we await the completion of the new development towards the end of the year. The building team are hopeful that there will be as little disruption as possible, but if anyone needs to contact a member of the site team, the Resident Liaison Officer is Heather Miller, and her phone number is 07974 265303

Elizabeth Hayward

Mid week Lenten Services will take place at 7.30pm on:

Ash Wednesday 5th March:

Holy Communion at Westacres, Wark ,11:0am

Holy Communion at Simonburn, St. Mungo's, 6.30 pm

Holy Communion at Humshaugh, St Peter's, 7.30 pm

Wednesday 12th March: Compline & address at St Peter's Humshaugh, 7.30pm - Theme: *Lazarus and the Tower of Babel - time and eternity*

Wednesday 19th March: Holy Communion at St. Mungo's Simonburn, 7.30pm

Tuesday 25th March: Holy Communion and address at St Peters Humshaugh, 7.30pm - Theme: *The Servant and the Leader in an inclusive Church*

Wednesday 2nd April: Holy Communion St. Michael's Wark, 7.30pm

Monday 7th April: Compline and address at St. Peter's Humshaugh, 7.30pm - Theme: *The Hebrew Kings - election and sanctification*

Simonburn News

Firstly, we would like to thank Pat Fairless for writing the Simonburn notes over the past couple of years. Due to her work and family commitments she is unable to carry on with this task.

There will be an Easter bingo in the Village Hall on Thursday 3rd April. Prizes would be gratefully received by any committee member.

We are still experiencing mud, mud, glorious mud on our roads. By the time you read this it should be coming to an end. As we have seen on the news, the devastation down in Somerset is heart-breaking to see. Our thoughts and hearts go out to them.

We are so lucky living where we live: the snow drops are out; the daffodils and crocus are coming up; we have nothing to complain about!

If you would like something in the Simonburn news, please contact Sharon Hadley on 01434 681077 or email:- shazzahadley@hotmail.co.uk

Sharon and Roger

Wark Parish News

The preparation for these notes is being done under a blue Mediterranean sky. Friendships have been re-kindled with the congregation of Santa Margarita Church, the Anglican Church in Menorca (anglicanchurchmenorca.com). The thousand or so miles from St Michael's to here have not eased any of the church's problems, however the warm air and blue sky certainly help.

Santa Margarita have recently come to the end of an interregnum (the previous incumbent having left the island with a parishioner!). Duncan advises me an interregnum is a period between reigns. The new Chaplain here appears very pleasant. He, along with three others from the congregation, have just returned from The Archdeacons' Synod in Alicante. Now, should we ever have a Synod in Alicante, I may just change my mind about their purpose! However, it has to be said, the microphone system used here is so antiquated the Chaplain wears some contraption on his head, looking as if he has just walked off the set of some Sci-Fi movie. Their music comes from a hurdy-gurdy, which is high tech. The lady sits with her touch screen panel and it just happens.

One of our undercover reporters went along to Ethel's birthday bash on 20th January, sending in this report: *'Ethel was quite the party girl, and happily wore her tiara - which had pink feathers attached to it - all afternoon. She had a very large white and pink cake, but only 1 candle - thank goodness - and no 'bumps' afterwards. There must have been about 40 people there. Ethel was the star of the show, of course, but mention should be made of her two delightful great, great nephews (identical twins) who behaved impeccably'*.

Looking ahead, could we remind you of the weekly Friday Coffee Mornings in The Town Hall. It all happens between 10am and 12noon, with the usual village chat, along with the opportunity to purchase used books.

Picking up from the latest School newsletter, it is interesting to read there is a pupil-led worship, where the children work together in small groups to present worship on a chosen theme. There will also be a Science afternoon on Wednesday 19th March from 1.15pm, and a Mother's Day Service on Friday 28th March at 2.15pm.

The Lent Lunch this year will be on Thursday 10th April, probably in Westacres Community Room, however look out for the posters in the village, as well as April's Broadsheet. It will be from 12noon to 2pm, with simple soup, bread and fruit, and a charge of £3.50. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Rest and Recover, an organization established in Menorca which provides a week's stay, May and September, for injured UK armed forces personnel. The stories and bravery of these people certainly bring tears to eyes. Please come along and support. Copies of the stories from some of the people who have been supported on these weeks will be available at the lunch.

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 2nd March - The Sunday next before Lent	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10:30 Birtley Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 1662 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6:00 Wark Holy Communion 1662
Old Testament: Exodus 24, 12-end Gospel: Mathew 17, 1-9	Epistle: 2 Peter 1, 16-end Psalm: 99
Wednesday 5th March - Ash Wednesday	
7:30 Gunnerton, Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes	11:00 Holy Communion, Westacres, Wark 6:30 Simonburn, Holy Communion 7:30 Humshaugh, Holy Communion
Old Testament: Isaiah 58, 1-12 Gospel: John 8, 1-11	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 Psalm: 51, 1-18
Sunday 9th March - Lent 1	
9:00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10:30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11:00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6:00 Wark Holy Communion
Old Testament: Gen. 2, 15-17 & 3,1-7 Gospel: Matthew 4, 1-11	Epistle: Romans 5, 12-19 Psalm: 32
Sunday 16th March - Lent 2	
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
Old Testament: Gen. 12, 1-4a Gospel: John 3, 1-17	Epistle: Romans 4, 1-5 & 13-17 Psalm: 121
Sunday 23rd March - Lent 3	
9:00 Thockrington Holy Communion 1662 10:30 Chollerton Holy Communion	8:00 Humshaugh Holy Communion 9:30 Wark Holy Communion 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6:30 Humshaugh Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Exodus 17, 1-7 Gospel: John 4, 5-42	Epistle: Romans 5, 1-11 Psalm: 95

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday	
10:30 Benefice Family Communion at Gunnerton St Christopher	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11:00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6:00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Exodus 2, 1-10 Gospel: John 19, 25b-27	Epistle: Col. 3, 12-17 Psalms: 23
Sunday 6th April - Passion Sunday	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10:30 Birtley Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 1662 11:00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6:00 Wark Holy Communion 1662
Old Testament: Ezekiel 37, 1-14 Gospel: John 11, 1-45	Epistle: Romans 8, 6-11 Psalms: 130

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details	Pg
Tue 4 Mar	7:00 pm	'Pineapple Poll' Shrovetide Party, Humshaugh Village Hall. Refreshments from 7pm, entertainment at 7:30pm	5
Tue 4 Mar	5:30 pm	Pancake races and family meal, with the Scout troop at Barrasford Village Hall	13
Tue 4 Mar	7:30 pm	Wark Ladies Guild Spring Bingo, Wark Town Hall	11, 16
Wed 5 Mar	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI Annual Meeting, then a discussion on our WI Centenary	15
Thu 6 Mar	10:30 am	Coffee morning, Birtley Village Hall	14
Thu 6 Mar	2:00 pm	Humshaugh Mothers' Union Meeting at Bell Wilson's house	4
Fri 7 Mar	7:00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at the Methodist United Reform Church Wark	5, 16
Tue 11 Mar	7:00 pm	Birtley & District Gardening Group AGM	15
Wed 12 Mar	7:00 pm	Lent Bible Study Course, 7 Chishillways, Barrasford; meal of soup and bread	14
Thu 13 Mar	11:00 am	Lent Bible Study Course, Buteland House, lunch of soup and bread	14

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details	Pg
Sat 15 Mar	3:00 pm	Messy Church, Barrasford Village Hall	12
Tue 18 Mar	8:00 pm	Quiz Night at The Crown, Humshaugh	5
Tue 18 Mar	7:00 pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Wark	3
Wed 19 Mar	1:15 - 3:15 pm	Wark School Science Afternoon, part of National Science & Engineering Week	7
Wed 19 Mar	7:30 pm	Birtley Local History Group Birtley Village Hall	14
Fri 21 Mar	2:50 pm	Chollerton CofE First School, Community Assembly on the theme: Mother's Day	13
Sun 23 Mar		Revd Christine Bull will be installed as an Honorary Canon of Newcastle	3
Mon 24 Mar	7:00 pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Humshaugh	3
Wed 26 Mar	12:00 - 1:00 pm	Gunnerton Lunch Club: delicious home made soup, etc.	14
Wed 26 Mar	7:00 pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Simonburn	3
Fri 28 Mar	2:15 pm	Mother's Day Service, Wark School	7
Fri 28 Mar	3:30 - 6:00 pm	Mrs Angela Steele's retirement party, Humshaugh school	5
Wed 2 Apr	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI: ' <i>Badgers - Friend or Foe?</i> ', Barrasford Village Hall	15
Thu 3 Apr	7:30 pm	Easter Bingo, Simonburn Village Hall	16
Fri 4 Apr	10:00 am - 2:30 pm	Time Out for Reflection at Buteland Bothy; contact: Alison Williams, 220389	13
Thu 10 Apr	12:00 - 2:00 pm	Lent Lunch, Westacres Community Room, Wark (see April Broadsheet)	7
Fri 13 Jun - Sun 15 Jun		Wark Scarecrow Trail: contact Laureen Kirtley, 01434 230858	16

Annual Parochial Church Meetings, Humshaugh Benefice



Wark: Tuesday 18th March

Humshaugh: Monday 24th March

Simonburn: Wednesday 26th March



St Michael's Ladies Guild are holding their Spring Bingo on Tuesday 4th March, in The Town Hall, with eyes down at 7.30pm. The following day is Ash Wednesday, with a short service in Westacres Community Room at 11.00am. So we are then into Lent with - should you be strong - promises to give up something or to do something different.

At the time of writing these notes there appears to be a provisional date for the Annual Meeting of St Michael's for Tuesday 18th March at 7.00pm in church [*now confirmed - Ed*].

Next time we write, spring should be here, with lots of colour around the village. Meanwhile, we will leave you with another of our recently obtained quotes: *God so loved the World that He didn't send a committee.*

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

Love,

Cyril and John

CHOLLERTON BENEFICE

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

Change is in the air, and nobody likes it much.

With hope we pray that the wet weather we've had in the North East will begin to ease off a bit, despite the fact we have not had it in any way as severe as those down south. By my reckoning we have had less than half the quantity of rain here, compared with the Somerset Levels. Longer days and slightly warmer, dryer weather will help, especially with lambing starting soon.

Last month, my colleague Michael announced to his congregations that he would be retiring in August from his Living 'across the water'. In preparing to move he will no doubt be having a 'bit of a clear out', with regular trips to recycling depots and charity shops. I do not envy him his task. If he is anything like me this will be an extensive and long-lasting operation. Change will come with the move, for him, his family and for the parish. We, on this side of the water, can usefully pray for them all during this time of preparation.

Change will also come along on 5th March: it is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Church 'colours' change from my favourite green to austere purple. At the evening service in Gunnerton I shall offer to smear upon the foreheads of those who come forward, the sign of the cross, with ash made from the ashes of left-over palm crosses from last year, mixed with holy oil into a paste. It feels cold and slimy, and a bit 'gritty'. But it is a sign – that our journey in Lent has begun, and that we are prepared to mark its beginning

with a cross in black ash, looking to the darkness of Holy Week and Good Friday. It may make us feel a bit self-conscious – which is probably quite a good thing in Lent, as we become aware of our need of God and what he did for us: that Jesus died so we may have eternal life.

Lent lasts forty days and nights, reflecting the particularly difficult time that Jesus spent in the Wilderness, being tempted by Satan. Because Jesus didn't eat anything during this experience, many, including lots of people who do not come anywhere near church, engage with the idea of giving up something for Lent. As with New Year's resolutions, they have varying levels of success in keeping to this intention. I have found that more simple eating during Lent - fasting if you like - works better if I resolve to take up something spiritual at the same time.

Whether or not you decide to give up something in Lent, may I ask you to take up something spiritual? On the face of it, it is quite simple: please pray for five people you know; pray for each of them, by name, for one minute each day in Lent. That will be five minutes-worth of prayer each day. You could pray for family members - paying attention to those who are in need. You could pray for someone who visits you - say a carer, or the postman. Or you could pray for a neighbour - someone you find difficult maybe. You could pray for a policeman you know, or a school teacher, or someone who is bereaved even if it was a long time ago. Make a note of their names. Have the piece of paper before you each day. Imagine them as you pray. Ask God to meet their deepest needs, whatever they may be. Five people, a minute-a-day each, for the forty days of Lent. Then, end your time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer, and if you do not know it, you can find it on the Internet or in the Holy Bible at Luke Chapter 11 verses 2 to 4, where it is a bit shorter than we pray, but it will do fine. Don't be surprised if you find that five minutes of prayer isn't enough time. If some days it is ten minutes, then so much the better.

If you see me around, let me know how you are getting on, and especially how praying is affecting you, because the thing I have always found interesting is how prayer changes me.

May God bless you as you pray.

With love,

Mike

Messy Church...

... meets again on Saturday 15th March at 3pm for messy but creative activities, simple prayer and worship and a lovely family meal.
All warmly welcome as usual.

Funerals and Memorial Services



We celebrated the lives of:
Richard Burgon, 51, at Hexham Abbey on 3rd February, and
Winifred Mary Robison, 97, at Chollerton St Giles on 17th February.



Our prayers and good wishes are with **Rebecca Heslop**
(formerly of Colwell) and **Craig Johnston** who married
on Waiheke Island, New Zealand on 7th February 2014.



Forthcoming events in Chollerton Benefice Churches **Shrove Tuesday**

For the past three Shrove Tuesdays we have held races and a family meal at Gunnerton Church. This year I approached the new Scouts troop in Barrasford to see whether they thought it would be a good idea if they hosted it at their evening session on 4th March at Barrasford Village Hall. They agreed it would! So I hope to see you there at 5.30pm. I am sure it will be flipping good!

Mike

Confirmation

A service of Confirmation will be held in the deanery on 27th July 2014. If you would be interested in being confirmed then please speak to me to see what would be involved. In previous years that 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 (681721)

Time Out for Reflection

at Buteland Bothy on Friday 4th April, 10:00am - 2:30pm

After an introduction to the theme, 'The Lord is my Shepherd', there will be time to reflect quietly indoors or outdoors (be prepared for all weathers!), followed by lunch together and a short time of worship, before returning home. Apply soon to Alison Williams on 01434 220389

Chollerton CofE First School

would like to invite you to their Community Assembly
on Friday 21st March at 2.50pm. Our theme is: Mother's Day.

Refreshments to follow

Lent Bible Study Course

The Lent Bible Study Course begins on **Wednesday 12th March** at 7.00pm at 7 Chishillways, Barrasford, with a simple meal of soup and bread; AND on **Thursday 13th March** at 11.00am at Buteland House nr Birtley (NE48 2EX), ending with a simple lunch of soup and bread. There are five sessions, and, including the meal, we should be finished in two hours. You will be warmly welcomed at each session.

Please sign up on the lists which have been placed in each of the Chollerton Benefice churches, or email or message me if you would like to come. Course booklets greatly enhance the engagement with the sessions and cost £3.40. This year's course is entitled: '*Build on the rock: Faith, doubt – and Jesus*'. Contributors on the CD this year are: Rev'd David Gamble (Methodist minister), Rev'd Joel Edwards (Director of the Micah Challenge), Dr Paul Gooder (CofE Lay Reader and New Testament Scholar), and the Rt Rev'd Richard Chartres (Bishop of London).

No charge is made for the meal; participants will be invited to give a donation to the two charities being supported this year: the Cedarwood Trust (Meadow Well Estate) in the morning session; and Kids for Kids (in Sudan) for the evening session. It is fine to split the donation between both charities.

I am grateful to Geraldine and Derek and Alison for agreeing to host this year. Further details from Mike (see front cover) or via Facebook.

Community Events in Gunnerton Church



Gunnerton Lunch Club



Wednesday 26th March at 12noon-1.00pm, £2.50
Delicious homemade soup, pudding, tea or coffee and Raffle
and, as always, good conversation.

Birtley Village Hall



Birtley Local History Group

Wednesday 19th March at 7.30pm
To be held at the Village Hall, Birtley
Further details from Mary White 01434 230307



Coffee Morning

Thursday 6th March from 10.30am
Delicious coffee, home bakes and great conversation guaranteed!





Birtley & District Gardening Group

Tuesday 11th March, at Birtley Village Hall

7.00pm AGM followed by

'Art in the Garden'

with Robert Germany – landscape gardener

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



Other Church services within the Chollerton Benefice

Barrasford Methodist Chapel: Services at 6.30pm each Sunday in March, except on 16th when there is a United Service at Kielder Castle.

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

Chollerton WI

Wednesday 5th March at 7:30pm: Annual Meeting, followed by a discussion on our WI Centenary Proggy Mat.

Wednesday 2nd April at 7:30pm: '*Badgers - Friend or Foe?*', a talk by Dr. Jane Young.

Both meetings are at Barrasford Village Hall. Visitors always welcome.

Pauline

Friends of Chollerton Churches

Following upon the sad loss of our Patron, Paul Torday, the Friends have approached Lord Curry of Kirkharle (better known to many as Donald Curry of The Middle Farm), and Jonathan Elkington of Chipchase Castle, to become joint Patrons. Both have accepted the invitation and the Friends Committee are sure that both will do all they can to promote the objectives of the Friends.

A Gourmet Evening was held at the Barrasford Arms on 14th February and everyone enjoyed the excellent menu devised by Tony. Thanks go to Tony for another great success; approximately £600 was raised.

The next event will be the Heart of All England Race Meeting at Hexham on 3rd May. Thanks to the generosity of Charles Enderby, the Friends have a box available to them and tickets can be purchase for £20, to include sandwiches and wine. Tickets from Bob Fletcher at bob.fletcher@sw.co.uk.

Ken Carlisle, Chairman



Women's World Day of Prayer



There will be a service for the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 7th March at 7.00 pm at the Methodist United Reform Church in Wark. The speaker will be the Methodist Deacon, Anne Taylor.

The service this year has been prepared by the Christian women of Egypt and is entitled: '*Streams in the Desert*'. Everyone is very welcome and after the service light refreshments will be served.

Easter



**Simonburn Village Hall
Thursday 3rd April**

Eyes down 7.30pm - doors open at 7pm.

All welcome.

Any contributions gratefully received by any committee member.

Wark Ladies Guild

Spring Bingo

Wark Town hall

Tuesday 4th March

Eyes down 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME



Wark Scarecrow Trail



Scarecrow trail around Wark Parish, 13th -15th June. The cost to each competitor will be £3. First and second prizes of £30 and £10 will be awarded. Scarecrows should be in position from Thursday evening of the

event, and will stay on show over the weekend. Presentations will take place on the Sunday afternoon, at the Town Hall, where afternoon tea can be purchased. All those interested in Wark and in the surrounding area who wish to submit a scarecrow, please contact Lauren Kirtley, 230858, for more information



All monies raised will go to support the Senior Citizens' Festive Meal.

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