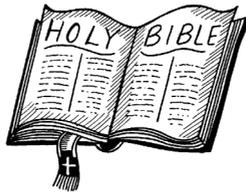


*The
Broadsheet
May
2014*



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

The Revd. Canon Michael Thompson
Rector, Humshaugh with
Simonburn & Wark
Tel: 01434 681304
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HUMSHAUGH BENEFICE

Humshaugh Vicarage

Dear Readers,

Christus Victor

In the second half of the 20th century a great many new churches were provided in urban areas as larger towns and cities spread their bounds during the post war re-housing boom. Because many of these towns and cities already had churches dedicated to the Virgin Mary or one of the Apostles, the question of what dedications to provide for these new churches caused some perplexity. The problem was solved by giving them names associated with the Christian Calendar, rather than individual saints. Thus we find that churches with names like: the Church of the Epiphany, the Church of the Ascension, or the Church of the Holy Nativity, can usually be dated to somewhere between 1950 and 1980.

After my first assistant curate's post, I became curate in charge of the Church of the Ascension in Harrowby, a suburb of Grantham. The striking feature of the interior of that Church was a very beautiful aluminium crucifix suspended on the East wall, above and behind the altar. That crucifix depicted not a tortured semi naked Christ but a serene majestic Christ clothed and crowned in kingly glory. That image, the 'Christus Victor', found in many variant artistic forms, gets us as close as may be to what the Feast of the Ascension is all about.

Ascension Day, this year May 29th, is essentially Jesus' coronation day. It is the day when the crucified risen messiah is acknowledged as occupying a kingly throne at his Father's right hand. Whilst such a statement may be a verbal sketch of a great mystery, it is one of the best expressions of what Jesus meant when he remarked to Pontius Pilate: "*My kingship is not of this world*". More than that, it gives substance to our constant prayer, "*Thy kingdom come*". When we pray for the coming of God's kingdom we are not vaguely asking for a 'better tomorrow'; we are asking that something already actively established in another order of being will indeed break into this world.

Ascension Day is the final 'paragraph' in the account of Easter, and marks a final parting between Jesus, in some recognisably human form, and his first disciples. Without this clear 'departure' to occupy a place in 'heavenly splendour', Christians would be in a strange dilemma. The immediate post Easter Church, without the Ascension and the subsequent gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, might have rapidly disintegrated as an apparently 'ghost led' faction. God's plan for the people who call themselves Christians was that they should seek to follow his Son's teaching, strengthened by the Spirit and aided by Christ's sacramental presence. The Ascension not only completes Jesus' Easter triumph, it also gives coherence to the Christian life.

With good wishes for the coming weeks,

Michael Thompson

N.B. Ascension Day this year falls in a half term holiday, and the customary services in our Church Schools cannot take place then. It is therefore intended that there should be a Schools' Eucharist at St. Mungo's Simonburn, at 10.45 am on **Thursday 22nd May**. I hope that many of you will be able to join our young people and School communities in worship on that day. (Details to be confirmed.)



Humshaugh Benefice Registers



On 23rd March **Lauren Elise Ward** was welcomed into the fellowship of Christ's Church through baptism at St. Michael's Church Wark.

On 24th March a funeral service was held at Newcastle Crematorium for **Mrs Audrey Peacock** following her death at Lowgate Nursing Home. Audrey was born at Simonburn, grew up in Wark and returned there during some of her latter years. Appropriately, Audrey's cremated remains have been laid to rest with those of several of her relatives in the Robson family grave at Wark. We condole with Susan and Jennifer in their loss, and pray that Audrey may indeed rest in peace.

On 7th April the cremation of **Mrs Betty Graham** of Chollerford was preceded by a funeral service in Humshaugh Parish Church. Whilst Betty had laboured bravely with health problems for some while, her passing came as a great shock to both family and friends. Betty was a multi-talented and widely respected lady, and we must hope that her example of making the most of life brings comfort to those closest to her, and is taken to heart as a good example for us all.



St Peter's Humshaugh Summer Fete

Saturday 31st May, at 1.30 pm



Books, Produce Stall, Tombola, Garden Centre, Bric-a-Brac,
Fashion Accessories, Children's Toys,
Teas on the Vicarage Lawn with music by 'Canny Crack'
Games - Competitions - Grand Prize Draw
New this year !!!

Spectacular demonstration of championship trampolining

Round and about Humshaugh

This last month has been tinged with great sadness as we have learned of the deaths of several long standing residents of our village. As we come to terms with the loss of friends and neighbours, our heartfelt sympathies go out to their families.

On a happier note, Angela Steele has asked for this note to be included in the Humshaugh news following her retirement.

-oOo-

I cannot thank you all enough for my retirement cards and leaving gifts. I was overwhelmed by the presents I have received, both from the children, and from families, staff, governors and the community. My arbour is awaiting the sunshine in my garden; the beautiful Angela rose is ready to be planted; the painting by Judith Anderson and my personalised plate are already on display along with numerous cards and flowers.

*My Leaving Service on Friday 4th April will remain with me forever, **many many thanks** to those involved, and for the fantastic singing of 'So long, farewell, Mrs Steele'. Thank you to all the staff, children, parents, governors and Friends who I have worked with over the years for helping to create such a happy and caring school. I really have appreciated all the support I have received during my years at Humshaugh.*

Humshaugh CE First School has been my life for the last ten years; I have very fond memories of so many very happy occasions that have happened within this time at Humshaugh. The children have been a joy to teach, as every one of them has their own special and individual personality; it has been a pleasure to see them grow and develop. I hope to be able to continue to follow their education and progress on life's long road, as they become young adults. It still gives me great pleasure to be informed of the progress former children make, as well as a friendly acknowledgement whenever I see them. Remember "All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today".

-oOo-

Many people will now know that our school is to be jointly managed with Newbrough First School by the current head teacher there. A good number of residents attended a meeting recently to hear about the arrangements for this, and there was a positive feeling of optimism, since there are a number of other schools in the county which are being successfully run in this way.

The members of the Mothers' Union decided to cancel the talk which was going to be given by Marjorie Baillie in April, because, through several circumstances, very few could come to the meeting. It seemed unfair to Marjorie, so she will now be giving her talk later in the year. The few of us had a very nice, relaxed afternoon. Anne Race took the service, and Liesbeth

told a bit about the consecration of Graham Usher as Bishop of Dudley, held in St Paul's Cathedral in London.

The May meeting, on Thursday 1st, will be held in the vicarage from 2pm, when the Revd Canon Michael Thompson will speak on: "*Not the Whole Truth*" - an intriguing title, and as always, all are very welcome to join us!

In 1998 a group of friends in Humshaugh began to meet to play whist, once a month in January, February and March. The first four years were hosted by Fred and Jean Slater at Haughton, then they moved to Hexham, so Patricia Blackler, Nora Longdin and Patricia Prest hosted one month each. As well as enjoying a very good evening of whist and delicious pooled suppers, each member gave a donation. Charities ranging from a school in Gambia, the Village Hall, Air Ambulance, Tynedale Hospice at Home and many more were recipients of donations. In the sixteen years of playing whist the group has raised some £6,000. The Group decided to finish this year with the last meeting in March. We have enjoyed great fun, but as the members get older each year it was decided to 'put away the cards'. This final year raised £320 for Help for Heroes.

For those quiz aficionados in the community, the next quiz will take place in The Crown at 8pm on May 20th with all monies going to support the Playing Field Trust.

The National Park Authority has asked if the following request can be broadcast to as many residents as possible.

Hen Harriers are one of England's rarest birds, with only two known breeding attempts in England last year. One of these was in Northumberland National Park, and we are keen to know about, and protect, any nests that may be set up this year. We are working with Natural England, RSPB, local raptor workers and the Police, co-ordinating with landowners and managers.



This is a request to report any sightings you have of hen harriers to the Hen Harrier Hotline (0845 4600121 - local rate or e-mail: henharrier@rspb.org.uk) and tell other people to do this as well. By doing this it helps us confirm breeding, and narrow down potential nest locations, so even a fly-by record could be useful.

If you are unsure about identification, have a look at the RSPB identification page, and their Skydancer project website:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/h/henharrier/index.aspx>

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/skydancer/>

If you have any queries or would like to discuss further, please get in touch with Gill Thompson, Ecologist (01434 611517 Mob: 07917 284375) Web:

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk

Would you like to learn more about the surveying and identification of invertebrates? Then why not join Northumberland Wildlife Trust on one of

their insect identification training courses this summer? As part of national insect week Northumberland Wildlife Trust is running two one-day courses on invertebrate identification for beginners, in partnership with Buglife, the Environmental Records Information Centre North East and Northumberland County Council. Both sessions will be run by Suzanne Bairner, entomologist and project officer for Buglife. Each course will start with a short talk on the ecology of invertebrates. The remainder of the session will focus on collecting and surveying techniques, followed by specimen identification to the correct taxonomic group. Where appropriate we will endeavour to identify to species level. The purpose of these courses is for local people to improve their knowledge on invertebrate identification, and encourage them to continue recording. This will help to increase our collective records of less popular taxa from the invertebrate world across the North East.

Course 1 - Thursday 26th June 2014: East Chevington Nature Reserve, Druridge Bay, 10:00 - 15:30. Cost £25

Course 2 - Friday 27th June 2014: St. Nicholas Park Nature Reserve, Gosforth, 10:00 - 15:30. Cost £25

For further information and to book a place please visit:
<http://www.nwt.org.uk/invert-training>.

-oOo-

The cricket club held its annual jumble sale in the village hall in April and, even though fewer people than usual seemed to come through the doors, the club was delighted to have raised around £500 for club funds. Thank you to all those who did come along to support us, and to all the villagers who donated items for the sale or made cash donations.

Elizabeth Hayward

Simonburn News

As I write these notes, it is another glorious day and it is a Bank Holiday! The Easter flowers in church looked beautiful for the Easter Day service, as usual. Many thanks to all who helped. We hope the children have had good Easter holidays and are back to school, refreshed, ready for a new term then another Bank Holiday.

We would like to welcome back Norman Griffiths, who is looking after our churchyard. It is nice to see it looking tidy again, after the winter months. The village green is looking much tidier also, now that the work to replace the water mains is complete. Many thanks to Bill.

The Simonburn Village Fete, in aid of St.Mungo's, is on 26th July this year. Please put this in your diaries. Helpers are always needed to make this annual event possible. It is a great day, so please support it! If you are available to help, please contact Roger Hadley, on 681077.

Sharon Hadley

Wark Parish News

It is beautiful spring morning as these notes are compiled; how wonderful the flowers around the village are. Easter is only three or four days away, so the hope is that we shall have a good congregation for each of the services.

Reflecting over recent events, the Lent Lunch comes to mind. This year we met in Westacres Community Room, where the gathered crowds were closer together, so the chat was easier. You may recall part of the proceeds are to go to Rest and Recover Menorca, and I am delighted to say, along with the sponsorship from friends, £300 will be donated to the organization. A huge thank you to all who assisted and supported the event.

The Annual General Meeting was without any contention, with all officers reappointed. Our way forward now as a PCC is to push on with the window restoration. The slightly younger of your two writers is delighted to say a grant from The Green Rigg Wind Farm Community Fund has been received. Speaking of the windows, a group of local musicians, 'Cross the Wannies', are to give a concert at St Michael's on Monday 19th May 2014, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are £8.00 with supper included. Please come along to enjoy and support. Tickets from Ann (230259) or John (230367).

On Sunday 23rd March we welcomed Lauren Ward at her baptism. It was a glorious sunny day and Lauren never cried. The following day a number from the Parish gathered at Newcastle Crematorium to attend the funeral of Audrey Peacock. Audrey was charismatic, enthusiastic and, as Jenny her granddaughter said during the service, a wonderful singer. Audrey's ashes were later interred within the family grave at St Michael's.

Monday 14th April was not such glorious weather, though the sun shone as on the brightest of days for the slightly younger of your two writers, when, behold, the carriers of the cross appeared in the village. The Northern Cross Pilgrims, who annually walk, carrying a cross from Carlisle to Holy Island, were staying overnight in The Town Hall. Although they had a cross, sleeping bags and foot bowls to relieve the swollen feet, they had no pans to cook their meal in! Fortunately, I could help them out, and was invited to join them for their meal. The pilgrims were such a light on what had been a dull day. Leaving Wark on Tuesday morning, their route was via Elsdon, Ingram and Belford, arriving on Holy Island on Good Friday for an Easter vigil. We'll look out for them next year, and perhaps provide their supper.

A reminder to those fortunate to have obtained tickets the Charity Lunch is on Wednesday 14th May. This is the 25th year for this event, with the proceeds going to Tyndedale Hospice.

From the school newsletter we pick up they are staging a 'Race at Your Place' in aid of Cancer Research on the village green at 2pm on 16th May. Come along to cheer them around, at the same time supporting a good charity. The school are also planning a sponsored walk for Sunday 8th June.

Although this may sound a long way off a reminder the annual Garden Fete will be on Saturday 5th July, so get baking and making jams. Which brings us to our final words: "*Try our Sundays - they're better than McDonald's*".

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

Love, Cyril and John

SERVICES FOR MAY 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 4th May - The Third Sunday of Easter	
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: No reading Gospel: Luke 24, 13-35	Epistle: Acts 2, 14a & 36-42 Psalm: 116, 1-7
Sunday 11th May - The Fourth Sunday of Easter	
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: No reading Gospel: John 10, 1-10	Epistle: Acts 2, 42-end Psalm: 23
Sunday 18th May - The Fifth Sunday of Easter	
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: No reading Gospel: John 14, 1-14	Epistle: Acts 7, 55-end Psalm: 31, 1-5
Thursday 22nd May	
	10:45 Simonburn Church School's service
Sunday 25th May - The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)	
9:00 Thockrington Holy Communion (1662) 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
Old Testament: No reading Gospel: John 20, 15-21	Epistle: Acts 17, 22-31 Psalm: 66, 7-18
Thursday 29th May - Ascension Day	
7:30 Thockrington Holy Communion	11:00 Wark (Westacres) Holy Communion 6:30 Simonburn Holy Communion 7:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion
Old Testament: No reading Gospel: Luke 24, 44-end	Epistle: Acts 1, 1-11 Psalm: 47

SERVICES FOR MAY 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 1st June - The Sunday after Ascension Day	
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: No reading Gospel: John 17, 1-11	Epistle: Acts 1, 6-14 Psalm: 68, 1-10
Sunday 8th June - Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)	
9:00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10:30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6:00 Wark Holy Communion (1662)
Old Testament: No reading Gospel: John 20, 19-23	Epistle: Acts 2, 1-21 Psalm: 104, 26-37

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details	Pg
Thu 1 May	10:30 am	Coffee morning, Birtley Village Hall	15
Sat 3 May	5:00 pm	Friends of Chollerton Churches: Heart of All England Race Meeting, Hexham	14
Wed 7 May	2:00 pm	Let's Bake Cake!, Wark CofE First School	16
Wed 7 May	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI, Barrasford Hall, Sheila Matheson: <i>'Beekeeping & Plants to Grow'</i>	14
Sat 10 May		Deanery Day meditation, Revd Canon Christopher Lewis, at Shepherds Dene	
Sat 10 May	7:30 pm	North Tyne and Redewater Coral Society Concert, St Cuthbert's Church, Elsdon	16
Sun 11 - Sat 17 May		Christian Aid Week: collection Wark and Stonehaugh	16
Wed 14 May		Wark Charity Lunch, in aid of Tynedale Hospice at Home, Ann Bell, 230259	7
Fri 16 May	2:00 pm	Wark School 'Race at Your Place', in aid of Cancer Research, on the village green	7
Sat 17 May	3:00 pm	Messy Church, Barrasford Village Hall, messy activities, worship, family meal.	13
Mon 19 May	7:00 pm	Cross the Wannies, St Michael's Church, Wark, in aid of the Window Appeal	7 / 16
Tue 20 May	8:00 pm	Quiz, The Crown Inn, Humshaugh: to support the Playing Field Trust	5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details	Pg
Wed 21 May	7:00 pm	New Songs of Praise, St Christopher's Gunnerton,	12
Thu 22 May	10:45 am	Schools' Eucharist, St. Mungo's Simonburn	3
Thu 22 May	2:00 pm	Humshaugh MU, " <i>Not the Whole Truth</i> ", Michael Thompson, at the Vicarage	5
Wed 28 May	12:00	Gunnerton Lunch Club: home made soup, etc.	14
Sat 31 May	1:30 pm	St Peter's Humshaugh Summer Fete	3
Sat 31 May	7:00 pm	Concert by Stanley Men's Forum Gospel Choir, Barrasford Methodist Chapel Anniversary w/e	14
Sun 1 Jun	6:30 pm	Celebration service with the Rev'd Mike Slade, Barrasford Methodist Chapel Anniversary w/e	14
Sun 8 Jun		Wark School sponsored walk (details tbs)	7
Sun 8 Jun	2:30 pm	Birtley Church Fete & Canine Capers, Chipchase	12
Fri 13 Jun	7:30 pm	Marvellous Madeira - Wine Tasting at Ken & Alison's, Barrasford, 689996	13
13-15 Jun		Wark Scarecrow Trail: Laureen Kirtley, 230858	16
Sat 21 Jun	From 2:00 pm	Messy Church, Chollerton Church, Teddy Bear jump at 3.00pm, family barbecue	13
Thu 26 Jun	10:00 am -3:30 pm	NWT Invertebrate Identification course, East Chevington Reserve, Druridge Bay	6
Fri 27 Jun	10:00 am -3:30 pm	NWT Invertebrate Identification course, St. Nicholas Park Reserve, Gosforth	6
Sat 5 Jul		Wark Garden Fete (see next issue)	7
Sat 26 Jul	2:00 pm	Simonburn Village Fete, on the Green	6
Sun 27 Jul	11:00 am	Deanery Confirmation, St Mungo's, Simonburn	
Sun 17 Aug	2:30 pm	Thockrington Fete at Carrycoats Hall	13
Sat 30 Aug	10:00 am	Vicarage Barbecue, Chollerton	13
Sun 7 Sep	6:00 pm	Songs of Praise, Chollerton Church	13

CHOLLERTON BENEFICE

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

Isn't it amazing what a few sunny days can do? With the children off school, many will have been away to enjoy a break, what with the weather being lovely and warm. Part of yesterday - spent at the coast with some friends and dogs, and delicious fish and chips - raised my spirits. Then, later that afternoon, I was sat on a bench in the churchyard of Chollerton when I spotted my first swallows and house martins. They were heading north I think, so they still had some way to go. That, along with the smell of warm,

newly mown grass, made me feel so thankful for my blessings and mercies; and what with the view across those fields beyond the war memorial – unforgettable, magnificent Northumberland!

I have many other things for which to be thankful. Thinking back over the last few weeks, parishioners have made the churchyards and interiors of Birtley, Chollerton and Gunnerton churches splendid once again. Of course, these one-off events support those who give some of their spare time to this during the year. It is a helping hand to do just a little bit more to make things extra clean and tidy. As we did this at Gunnerton, we enjoyed the heady smell of sausages and bacon, which helped to raise funds for Chollerton WI at the same time – well done Jen and Den.

This all seems so far from the challenging readings of the story of Jesus' journey to the cross in Holy Week. Some will think it is a different world perhaps, or from so long ago as not to matter anymore. I can quite understand people thinking that. For me, it is a story with so many resonances with today that I have difficulty knowing where to start. When things got tough for Jesus, you would hope his friends would rally round; step up to the mark; put into action what they had been taught. But they disappeared in a way something like the morning mist, and Jesus was left alone and abandoned, except by a few women who went the distance.

And once again it was the women who first realised a tremendous thing had happened. Jesus, well beyond First Aid, is raised back to life and walked among them - eating fish, breaking bread and meeting up again with those followers who had abandoned him. Some of them still could not believe; putting to death the lie that seeing is believing! But they followed; still with their doubts and uncertainties; still finding their way. There is hope in this for all of us. When we hear of wars and rumours of wars, let us place our faith in the living God, and His Son Jesus Christ, even beyond the cross and the empty grave, to the day of Ascension, when Jesus went to heaven to prepare a place for all who place their trust in him. A triumphant Christ: risen above all that hero-worship, betrayal, abandonment and suffering, to a place which - with awe and wonder, whom we can seek out today by following in his footsteps with faith, hope and love - is still there for the taking.

Ascension Day, God willing, will see me once again at St Aidan's Thockrington, on that lonely hill. The swallows will be screaming in and out of Peter's barns again. There can be few better places to celebrate that ending of Jesus' resurrection and ascension. And when I think of that place, and the Holy Communion of bread broken and blood shed for us, which together we shall share, I find that I am already giving thanks for that which is to come – which are yet more blessings and mercies.

With love and prayers for a Happy Easter season,

Mike

From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice

Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the Family of the Church, **Mason Alexander Murray**, at Gunnerton St Christopher, on Palm Sunday April 13th



Funerals and Memorial Services

We celebrated the life of **Alan Suddes**, 80, at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Hexham on March 24th

Forthcoming events in Chollerton Benefice Churches

We have lots to tell you about over the coming months!

New Songs of Praise - Wednesday 21st May, 7.00pm

After our last successful and enjoyable evening, we have decided to come together again to learn a few new hymns, and also to sing one or two of our well known favourites. All are welcome to come along for this informal sing, and to enjoy refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuits. It is on Wednesday 21st May at 7.00pm, at Gunnerton St Christopher's.

Chipchase Canine Capers - Sunday 8 June, 2.30pm

The Birtley Church fete will never be the same again! This year, for the first time, our canine companions – be they large, small, hairy, smooth, young or old - will be welcomed for a fun dog show, as part of Birtley Fete at Chipchase Castle. Alongside the usual amazing stalls selling teas, cakes and plants etc, families can enjoy the fun classes designed for themselves, their children and their dogs - all to raise much-needed church funds.

Who has the hairiest legs? You or your dog? So let's see them on parade! Could you run an egg and spoon race round obstacles with your dog? What is your dog's best trick? Who looks most like their dog? Who is the best child handler? Which is the best groomed dog?

These and other classes will be held in the Dog Ring on Fete day, **Sunday 8 June at 2.30pm**. Entry of your dog to the Canine Capers is just 50p per class per dog. You may enter as many classes as you wish. There are rosettes for the winners and other special prizes.

Please note: The event will be staged by kind permission of Jonathan and Zoe Elkington of Chipchase Castle, so please keep your dogs on leads at all times. Dog 'poo bags' will be given to all entrants. We ask that you respect the environment and dispose of your poo bags responsibly in the dustbins

provided. Finally, please ensure any puppies you bring have had all their inoculations!

Finally, the Castle will be open during the Fete for a separate entrance fee, and is well worth a visit.

-oOo-

Looking to the future, we hope to hold a **Safari Supper in July** (more details to follow) and **Thockrington Fete** will be once again held at Carrycoats Hall by kind permission of David and Eileen Burn on **Sunday 17th August** at 2.30pm. A **Vicarage Barbecue** is planned for **Saturday 30th August** at 10.00am (a balmy summer day is hoped for) and a service of Songs of Praise will be held at Chollerton church on Sunday September 7th at 6.00pm. Keep your eyes on the Broadsheet for more details of these and other events.

Marvellous Madeira - Wine Tasting at Ken & Alison's

6 Mill House Farm, Barrasford, Friday 13th June 7.30pm
Booking for this popular event essential! Tel: 689996



Messy Church...

... meets again...
on **Saturday 17th May**, at 3pm,
for messy but creative activities,
simple prayer and worship and a
lovely family meal.



All warmly welcome as usual.

AND... on Saturday 21st June, from 2pm,

... at Chollerton Church, with our popular Teddy Bear jump at 3.00pm, followed by family barbecue. Entries can be booked in from 2.00pm. Adult entries welcome, as in previous years. Please ensure teddies are appropriately equipped with a parachute. (Someone has very kindly given me some ready-made parachutes, if you have difficulty with yours.) There will be various different categories, including best dressed teddy.



Birtley Village Hall

Birtley & District Gardening Group

The group has had its final meeting of the season.

The group always welcomes new visitors or prospective members whether experienced or rookie gardeners.



Annual membership for 2013/14 season is £20.00. Guests/single talks £4.00



Community Events in Gunnerton Church

Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday 28th May, 12noon- 1.00pm
£2.50



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

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

Other Church services within the Chollerton Benefice

Barrasford Methodist Chapel: Services at 6.30pm each Sunday in May.

Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June: Church Anniversary weekend:

Saturday 31st May at 7.00pm: Concert by Stanley Men's Forum Gospel Choir

Sunday 1st June at 6.30pm: Celebration service with the Rev'd Mike Slade, our Vicar.

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

Chollerton WI

The next meeting is on Wednesday 7th May at 7.30pm in Barrasford Village Hall, when the talk will be about Beekeeping. Visitors always welcome. In June we have an 'Away Meeting', when we will be visiting a member's garden in Darras Hall. Many thanks to everyone who supported our Bacon/Sausage Butties morning in Gunnerton.

Pauline

Friends of Chollerton Churches

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

The Flower Garden in St Giles' Chollerton Old Churchyard

Following a talk given at Birtley and District Gardening Group about two years ago, Chollerton Parochial Church Council agreed to plant a garden in part of the old churchyard at St Giles'. We found that the grass there at the time was too thick and lush to plant just wild flowers, so we have planted up the area with a mixture of shrubs, perennials, bulbs and wild flowers. The idea is to create an area to encourage birds and insects (especially bees), and to grow flowers which can be cut for church arrangements and to make for a more interesting and inspirational area of the churchyard, rather than having just mown grass.

Marilyn Grant visited All Saints' Church, Bolton Percy, south of York, where the whole churchyard has been planted rather like a herbaceous flowerbed, and is looked after by one person who spends about an hour a week keeping it under control. This is an inspirational churchyard and villagers are rightly proud of it. It can be viewed on line by going to www.allsaintsboltonpercy.co.uk and following the link to the churchyard. It is not our intention to put the whole of the churchyard over to a herbaceous churchyard here, simply the area presently under development.

St Giles' churchyard and garden is always open to all to visit, and we would love families to become involved, by discussing with us how this area can be improved, with your suggestions of plants to encourage wildlife. we are always looking for more people to join the team who look after the whole churchyard.

Marilyn Grant and Richard Hay (Chollerton PCC)

Birtley Village Hall



Coffee Morning

Thursday 1st May from 10.30am
Delicious coffee, home bakes and
great conversation guaranteed!

Birtley Local History Group

Further details from Mary White on
01434 230307

The Broadsheet Editor - Roger Hadley

tel: 01434 681077 - email: roger.hadley@btinternet.com

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St Cuthbert's Church, Elsdon



The North Tyne and Redewater Choral
Society presents

FOUR CORONATION ANTHEMS - Handel
and CORONATION MASS IN C - Mozart
Conductor - John Roper / Leader - Andrew Uttley
Saturday 10th May at 7.30pm - Admssion £10.00



Wark Scarecrow Trail



Around Wark Parish, 13th - 15th June.

The cost to each competitor will be £3. First and second prizes of £30 and £10. Scarecrows to be in position from Thursday evening (12th), to be on show over the weekend.

Presentations on the Sunday afternoon at the Town Hall, where afternoon tea can be purchased. All those in Wark and surrounding area who wish to submit a scarecrow, contact Laureen Kirtley, 230858.

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

Let's Bake Cake!

Wednesday 7th May, 2.00pm

Wark CofE First School

Join us for our Christian Aid Week coffee afternoon. Come along and buy a cake (or 2!) to raise money for the world's poorest communities. All cake contributions are very welcome.

Contact: Sally Napier 230223 /
wannies30@btinternet.com

Cross the Wannies

Monday 19th May

In St Michael's Church, Wark
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Ticket including supper £8.00
From Ann (230259) or John
(230367)

**In aid of the Church Window
Appeal**

Christian Aid Week, May 11th - 17th

Collection in Wark & Stonehaugh, to help people caught up in conflict to rebuild their lives and live free of fear. War tears lives apart. Love can piece them back together.

Contact: Sally Napier 230223 / wannies30@btinternet.com

*'Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the children of God' -
Matthew 5:9.*