



The
Broadsheet
JUNE
2014



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

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HUMSHAUGH BENEFICE

Humshaugh Vicarage

Dear Readers,

Choosing the right fuel

It is said that a few years ago an Irish Bishop got so fed up with picking up parish magazines which included prominent appeals for money, that he felt moved to write an article in his Diocesan Leaflet. The Bishop's article is said to have contained the tag line: "*The basic fuel of the Christian Church is prayer not cash!*"

Over the years since I heard that tale, I have come to question whether, in his attempt to go 'back to basics', that Bishop did indeed quite 'nail' the point! Insofar as it ought to be true of Christian people that 'praying comes before giving', the Bishop was entirely correct. But surely there is something yet more basic than praying? Is it not the case that before there is prayer, there needs to be faith?

On June 29th the Churches keep the Feast of St. Peter the Apostle. The Gospel for St. Peter's Day makes it entirely clear why St. Peter has been accorded a certain primacy amongst the Apostles. It tells us how, one day, when they were at Caesarea Phillipi, Jesus enquired of his Disciples as to what they had heard people saying about him. The disciples reported vague confusion amongst those who had heard and seen Jesus: some thought he might be one or other of the great figures of the past, returned to life. Jesus then asked the Disciples who **they** thought he was, and it was Simon, later called Peter, 'The Rock', who spoke up. Peter was the first to tell Jesus that he thought he was the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus made it quite clear that Peter's recognition of him as the Messiah, the Christ, was a gift from God, not a product of human calculation.

That exchange between Jesus and Peter lays the foundations for our individual discipleship, and for the life of the Christian Church. It is from Peter's blessedness in having been gifted to see Jesus for who he is, that we draw down the attitude expressed in the offertory prayer, which remarks, "*All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own do we give unto thee*".

Without that attitude, the giving of time to prayer, and the giving of cash to 'churchy' causes, can have a tendency to make us feel a bit more smug than perhaps we ought. If we are fuelled by an understanding that sees all things as coming from God (fine days and stormy days included!), we have a better basis, and indeed motivation, for our prayer, our generosity and our willingness to be of service.

The keeping of St. Peter's Day in Parishes and Deaneries is an important opportunity to celebrate that gift of faith, without which the routines of

Christianity have only the most limited point and purpose.

With every good wish,

Michael Thompson

Be safe in the dark

In recent months, Mr Guy Opperman, our MP, has organised the publication of a leaflet which provides suggestions for saving energy and reducing fuel costs. A few weeks ago I was asked to complete a questionnaire about this excellent leaflet. In my response to Guy, I remarked that I was concerned about the possibility of more and more elderly people having falls in the night, because energy-saving bulbs often need several seconds, or more, to achieve full illumination.

I now have a helpful response from one of Guy's staff, pointing out that there is a new generation of energy-saving bulbs, based on the LED, which comes to full luminance immediately. I am told that these newer, low-energy bulbs are rather more expensive, but last longer.

Michael

Round and about Humshaugh

What a wonderful Mothers' Union meeting there was at the Vicarage on the first day of May (even if the weather did not make us feel that summer had really begun....).

Michael Thompson gave his talk, called "Not the Whole Truth", during which he told us some anecdotes from the time he was a vicar, and when he was being trained before that. Here are just a few:

When Michael was on his way to his very first cremation service, he was met by the undertaker, who, in the porch, tapped the coffin and said to it: "Don't worry son, it is his first time too".

There was wisdom in what one of his rectors taught him: "There is a great difference between being scared to annoy somebody and being sad to disappoint someone"....

And then the lovely story of a small boy at Wark Fete, who, seeing Michael dressed in a smart linen jacket, said to him: "That is cool: I want a jacket like that when I am old."

Thank you Michael – **we'll miss you.**

The next meeting will be in St Peter's Church on Thursday, June 5th, when the members will hold their "Wave of Prayer". Tea will be in church afterwards.

Dr Keep will be retiring this month, and there will be a presentation to him by the staff of his surgeries. Please look out for any further information, which will include an opportunity for his patients to wish him well. In the meantime, anyone who wishes to contribute to his retirement gift can do so through any of the village shops or via the Wark or Humshaugh surgeries.

Dr Beth Gregory Smith will be a welcome return to us after maternity leave, and we will be welcoming a new doctor from Wylam to the practice. It will be sad to see Dr Mary Neesen leave our practice, but in life there is always change, and we send all good wishes to all of our doctors.

The next quiz will be held in The Crown on Tuesday June 17th at the usual time of 8pm. The proceeds this month will go towards the upkeep of the village hall. Please come and join in if you can.

The mobile library comes to Humshaugh every second Tuesday, and stops near The Crown from 11.40am to 12.20pm. So, for anyone who finds it difficult to get into Hexham, do consider using this wonderful free service. Again, it is one of those old sayings, "Use it or lose it". For some people in the village it is a lifeline, especially as it brings large print books for those with sight problems.

Work is well underway now on construction of the new houses next to The George hotel, and disruption to those who live at the southern end of the village has been minimal so far. It will be interesting to see what the final decision is on naming the development, after a good number of suggestions were left in the deposit box at the shop.

There was a wonderful afternoon in the village hall in May, when £300 was raised for our school from the array of tasty baked goods offered for afternoon tea, and from all sorts of children's clothes and bric-a-brac which had been donated. The Friends of the School were delighted with the support. Look out for their ideas for end-of-year activities next month.

Elizabeth Hayward

Humshaugh Children's Playing Field

Following some recent incidents of dog fouling, the Humshaugh Children's Playing Field Trust would like to remind dog owners that, for health and hygiene reasons, dogs are not allowed on the playing field. Please help to protect the village children from the dangers of 'toxocara canis'. And if your dog does happen to foul the playing field, do please PICK IT UP.

The Broadsheet Editor - Roger Hadley

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

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Simonburn News

Well, it's that time of year again, when we are thinking about the Village Fete, which this year will be on Saturday 26th July at 2pm. A meeting was held in the Village Hall, where a few of us got together to gather ideas. Please note that there will be another meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25th June at 7pm - all welcome.

We will be making up a food hamper as a prize for the Grand Raffle, so if you are feeling generous, please donate something towards this prize. Your donations will be gratefully received by Roger Hadley, 1 Red Lion Terrace (681077). There will also be the popular cake stall, so, as always, cakes will be needed to sell on the day (wrapped items please).

If you have been spring cleaning or de-cluttering, and have items that you no longer need, but that someone else might, do remember the bric-a-brac stall. Items can be left with Kay Hadley, 1 Red Lion Terrace. There will also be a produce stall, and contributions can be brought to Mrs Allgood on the day.

Refreshments will be in the Village Hall, and contributions can be given to Janice Rowcroft. Flyers will be coming through your letterboxes nearer the time!

We would like to thank Russell Fairless for all his hard work over the last six years, as he has now stepped down as one of the fete organisers. Thank you.

A warm welcome to Nathan and Abigail, who have recently moved into The Green. We hope you will be very happy in your new home.

Sharon Hadley

Wark Parish News

To take a phrase from Victor Meldrew: I don't believe it! What don't we believe? Well, it is Garden Fete season. By the time you read this, our friends at St Peter's Humshaugh will already have experienced the delights of planning and running their Fete. Let us hope the sun did shine for them; it does make the job so much easier. Here in Wark, preparations are underway for St Michael's Fete on Saturday 5th July, from 2.00pm. This will be staged on the village green, with tea in the Town Hall. Offers of assistance, along with donations for any of the traditional stalls, will be gratefully received by Ann, Jani or John, and let's hope the sun does shine for us also. Then, coming up on the 26th July, is Simonburn Fete - again hopefully with the sun shining.

Following quickly on the heels of Simonburn's Fete, is the Deanery Confirmation in St Mungo's, on Sunday 27th July at 11.00am. Should any reader of this have children, or for that matter themselves, wishing to be confirmed, please make contact with Michael (details on the front cover).

It is an odd thing they say, that, when waiting for a bus, none come for a while, then two come along together. This summer, not only in Wark, but

throughout the Benefice, we have the retirement of two of the essential professions required to hold a community together: a doctor and a priest. First off will be Dr Keep, who leaves us at the end of June. A presentation will be made, from the donations collected, in Wark Town Hall on Monday 30th June at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along to this, perhaps contributing to the shared supper. A couple of months later, we say farewell to our Rector, Michael, who retires from the Benefice with his final service being at St Mungo's Simonburn on Sunday 24th August at 11.00am. There is a separate announcement in the Broadsheet concerning this (see page 7).

It appears to be a season of retirements – the slightly younger of your two writers just having done so – as churchwardens have recently been advised of the retirement of the Bishop of Newcastle (see page 15). Bishop Martin invites us to his final service on Sunday 21st September at 4pm in the Cathedral. All welcome; no ticket required.

It is odd writing these notes, when some things have taken place and others are about to. We cannot let pass the wonderful 25th Wark Charity Lunch on Wednesday 14th May. This year the proceeds were for Tynedale Hospice at Home – such a wonderful organization. You will never know how much care they provide until you need them. Around £4000 will be presented later this month. How those ladies do it (along with a few men) I do not know. From 9.00am, car upon car draws up at the Hall doors to offload copious amounts of home-made, delightful food. Then the crowds arrive, supporting so well. Copies of the cookery book are still available from Ann for £6.00 each They will make a wonderful Christmas gift.

We also held a concert in church with **Cross the Wannies**, which, going by prior ticket sales, will have been a hit – the proceeds going towards our Window Appeal. To follow this up, we are delighted to say the Green Rigg Wind Farm Community Fund have allocated £2000 towards the work. We just now need to keep pushing the architect to get on with the job.

These notes are being prepared during Christian Aid week, which we do hope you have been able to support. The latest School newsletter indicates that their afternoon of **Let's Bake Cake**, supporting Christian Aid, raised £125.00. Sally tells me it was so enjoyed by the children, and well supported by parents.

Coming up is the Scarecrow Trail. As Lauren says: you've heard about it, read about it, talked about it and thought about it; now it's time to join in the fun. The weekend of 13th – 15th June is when the Parish will be decked out with scarecrows. Ring Lauren on 230858 to register. Proceeds go to the Senior Citizens' Festive Meal.

Earlier *this* evening (15th May), Ann and the slightly younger of your two writers went off to Hexham Abbey to be admitted as Churchwardens of St Michael's. This year Bishop Martin officiated at what will be one of his last duties for us in the Benefice. Our duties, as his officers, were clearly stated to us, and we do believe we have committed to a challenging year with the retirement of Rector Michael. The Archdeacon, when calling us up, commented on his hopefully correct pronunciation of 'Wark', and how wonderful the cakes at Wark are! Meetings are currently being held with churchwardens from the three parishes, the Rural Dean and the Archdeacon,

to continue with, as near as possible, a continued form of worship within the Benefice. Perhaps we could say, as they did in early days of TV, "normal service will be resumed as soon as possible".

So, to conclude, we have received another wonderful newsletter that reminds us: "As you pass this little church, be sure to plan a visit, so when at last you're carried in, God won't ask 'Who is it?'"

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

Love

Cyril and John



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 Lauren Kirtley, 230858.

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



St Michael's Church Fete

Saturday 5th July at 2pm

on the village green

Teas in the Town Hall, Cake stall,
Tombola stall, Book stall, and more.

DO COME ALONG



AN INVITATION

Retirement of The Rev. Canon Michael Thompson

Michael will retire in August and his final service in this Benefice will be on **Sunday 24th August 2014 at 11am, at St Mungo's Church, Simonburn.** This will take the form of Holy Communion, to be followed by a party with Marion and Michael in Simonburn Village Hall.

All will be welcome on this occasion, and should you wish to contribute to a retirement gift, you may send this directly to Lloyds Bank, Hexham:

"PCC of Humshaugh No. 2 Account"

Sort Code: 30-94-19, Account No: 28139560

... or your donation may be left at the Village Shop in Humshaugh, Simonburn Tea Rooms, Wark Post Office, or with any PCC member.

John McCollum

SERVICES FOR JUNE 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
Sunday 15th June - Trinity Sunday	
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: Isaiah 40, 12-17, 27-31 Gospel: Matthew 26, 16-20	Epistle: 2 Cor 13, 11-13 Psalm: 8
Sunday 22nd June - First Sunday after Trinity	
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: Jeremiah 20, 7-13 Gospel: Matthew 10, 24-39	Epistle: Romans 6, 1b-11 Psalm: 69, 8-11
Sunday 29th June - St Peter's Day	
10:30 Birtley Benefice Holy Communion	10:30 Humshaugh Benefice Eucharist
6:00 Falstone St Peter Deanery Service	
Old Testament: Ezekiel 3, 22-27 Gospel: Matthew 16, 13-19	Epistle: Acts 12, 1-11 Psalm: 125
Sunday 6th July - The Third Sunday after Trinity	
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: Zechariah 9, 9-12 Gospel: Matthew 11, 16-19, 25-30	Epistle: Acts 1, 6-14 Psalm: 145, 8-15

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details	Pg
Sat 31 May	1:30 pm	St Peter's Humshaugh Summer Fete	
Sat 31 May	7:00 pm	Concert by Stanley Men's Forum Gospel Choir, Barrasford Methodist Chapel Anniversary w/e	13
Sun 1 Jun	6:30 pm	Celebration service with the Rev'd Mike Slade, Barrasford Methodist Chapel Anniversary w/e	13
Wed 4 Jun		Chollerton WI visit to a member's garden at Darras Hall	13
Thu 5 Jun	10:30 am	Coffee Morning, Birtley Village Hall	12
Thu 5 Jun		Humshaugh MU 'Wave of Prayer' at St Peter's	3
Sun 8 Jun		Wark School sponsored walk (no further details)	
Sun 8 Jun	2:30 pm	Birtley Church Fete & Canine Capers, Chipchase	11
Fri 13 Jun	7:30 pm	Marvellous Madeira - Wine Tasting, 689996	12
13-15 Jun		Wark Scarecrow Trail: Laureen Kirtley, 230858	7
Tue 17 Jun	8:00 pm	Quiz night, The Crown, Humshaugh	4
Sat 21 Jun	From 2:00 pm	Messy Church, Chollerton Church, Teddy Bear jump at 3.00pm, family barbecue	12
Wed 25 Jun	12:00	Gunnerton Lunch Club: home made soup, etc	13
Wed 25 Jun	7:00 pm	Simonburn Village Fete meeting, Village Hall	5
Thu 26 Jun	10:00 am -3:30 pm	NWT Invertebrate Identification course, East Chevington Reserve, Druridge Bay	
Fri 27 Jun	10:00 am -3:30 pm	NWT Invertebrate Identification course, St. Nicholas Park Reserve, Gosforth	
Mon 30 Jun	7:30 pm	Presentation to Dr Keep, Wark Town Hall	6
Wed 2 Jul	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI talk by Ingrid Kilner " <i>A Year Behind the Veil</i> ", Barrasford Village Hall	13
Sat 5 Jul	2:00 pm	St Michael's Church Fete / Wark Garden Fete	7
Mon 7 Jul		Chollerton WI Guided Walk in Newcastle, contact: Jen Dover, who is co-ordinating transport	13
Fri 18 Jul		Benefice Safari Supper (details to follow)	12
Sat 26 Jul	2:00 pm	Simonburn Village Fete, on the Green	16
Sun 27 Jul	11:00 am	Deanery Confirmation, St Mungo's, Simonburn	5
Sun 17 Aug	2:30 pm	Thockrington Fete at Carrycoats Hall	12
Sun 24 Aug	11:00 am	Rev Canon Michael Thompson's final service, St Mungo's, Simonburn, and party in the Village Hall	7
Sat 30 Aug	10:00 am	Vicarage Barbecue, Chollerton	12
Sun 7 Sep	6:00 pm	Songs of Praise, Chollerton Church	12
Sun 21 Sep	4:00 pm	Bishop Martin's final service, at Newcastle Cathedral; no tickets and all are welcome	15

CHOLLERTON BENEFICE

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

Do you remember when the Spring Bank Holiday was called Whitsun? If you do, you will have to be of a 'certain age'. The holiday was moved, for a trial period in 1965, from the Sunday following Pentecost to a fixed day at the end of May, and then made law in 1971. Some of you may remember being dressed in white robes to be baptised, confirmed, or for some other church ceremony at Whitsun. These were special occasions of blessing, when the Church celebrated the day on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in Jerusalem – just as Jesus promised – and it has come to be recognised as the day when the church began. So it could be said to be the church's birthday.

The Church now calls it Pentecost, a word meaning 'fiftieth', which reflects the number of days since Easter Day. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Bible tells us that the Spirit moved and filled the Apostles with power to speak in strange, foreign-sounding tongues. People didn't understand what they were saying, and it unsettled some. Christians, even today, experience this kind of effect. They see it as a blessing. Other Christians sometimes look on, thinking '*It's not for me*'.

I believe all baptised Christians have the Holy Spirit within them. How can I be sure? During the baptism service, I pray for the Holy Spirit to fill the person. I anoint them with Holy Oil, lay a hand on them, say a prayer for them, and invoke the Holy Spirit. It is a mystery that God should then bless a person with the Holy Spirit, but I truly believe it happens today, in our local churches, in the same way as he did with his Son in the River Jordan. Having received the Holy Spirit, the gifts and fruit of the Spirit need to be developed in the life of the person, as they grow in their Christian faith. If they are very young, they will not be aware of these things; but when they grow older, a Christian can show the Holy Spirit in their lives. These gifts from God are listed in the Bible as: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, speaking in tongues and interpreting tongues (1 Corinthians, Chapter 12). With some of these within us (very few of us will have all of these), we can begin to show the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. In Galatians, Chapter 5, this fruit is identified as: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If at first you were worried you didn't have any of the gifts, perhaps now you believe you do, because of the fruits of the Spirit which you show in your life.

The Bible also talks about the signs of the Spirit. For me the Holy Spirit can sometimes be like a fierce wind, bringing change in a spectacular way; at

other times the same Spirit can be like a gentle whisper, speaking to us – if only we could find the time to listen. Sometimes it can be like a fire, refining things to make them something different and better.

My prayer is that the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit will be nurtured, seen, and celebrated among all who profess to be Christians, as Pentecost approaches on June 8th, when this year, wonderfully, we shall have a baptism at Chollerton Church.

With love and prayers,

Mike

Forthcoming events in Chollerton Benefice Churches

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

Birtley Church Fete

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 fun competition ‘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 judged in the Dog Ring, on Fete day, **Sunday 8 June at 2.30pm**. Entry of your dog for these ‘*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.

Marvellous Madeira Wine Tasting at Ken & Alison's – on Friday 13th June 7.30pm, at 6 Mill House Farm, Barrasford – is now fully booked, but a reserve list has been started (tel: 689996).

A **Benefice Safari Supper** will be held on **Friday 18th July** (details to follow), and **Thockrington Fete** will once again be held at Carrycoats Hall, by kind permission of David and Eileen Burn, on **Sunday August 17th at 2.30pm**. A **Vicarage Barbecue** is planned for Saturday August 30th at 10.00am (a balmy summer day is hoped for), and a **Songs of Praise** service will be held at Chollerton Church on **Sunday September 7th at 6.00pm**.

Keep your eyes open for Bacon Butties on Saturday mornings at Chollerton church – AND on the Broadsheet for more details of these and other events..



**Coffee Morning,
Birtley Village
Hall**

Thursday 5th June from 10.30am.
Delicious coffee, home bakes and
great conversation guaranteed

Birtley Local History Group

Further details from Mary White
01434 230307



Messy Church...

... meets again 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: £20.00. Guests/single talks £4.00



Community Events in Gunnerton Church

	<p style="text-align: center;">Gunnerton Lunch Club Wednesday 25th June, 12noon-1.00pm £2.50 Delicious homemade soup, pudding, tea and coffee and, as always, good conversation. Raffle</p>	
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**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 June (local arrangement on 15th).

Saturday 31st May & 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 - no services until further notice

Chollerton WI

Our meeting on **Wednesday 4th June** is a visit to a WI member's garden in Darras Hall, and on **Monday 7th July** a Guided Walk in Newcastle has been arranged. Please contact Jen Dover, who is co-ordinating the transport arrangements. Our meeting on **Wednesday 2nd July** is a talk by Ingrid Kilner - "*A Year Behind the Veil*". As usual we meet at 7.30pm, in Barrasford Village Hall, and visitors are welcome.

Pauline

Friends of Chollerton Churches

Over £1000 was raised at the Heart of All England Race Meeting at Hexham on 3rd May, thanks to the generosity of Charles Enderby, who made a box available to Friends.

Ken Carlisle, Chairman

Church Buildings News

Chollerton St Giles

Much progress has been made by our new architect in surveying the parapets and pinnacles of the tower, the boilerhouse roof, and the bell in the spirelet, which is very unsafe and dare not be rung. This bell has been silent for some years. Proposals for action on these three items have been submitted to, and approved by, English Heritage. That leaves the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches to be approached to seek their approval. A bat survey will take place in early June. A tight schedule is in place to ensure that the works are finished by Christmas. It is also proposed to paint exterior rainwater-goods and doors soon. We are very grateful to James and Sally Dickenson for maintaining the grass in the churchyard, since the unexpected illness of our existing contractor, Roy Bland. Linen towels have been replaced by paper towels in the toilet. Thank you for the hard work by a few people who recently tidied up inside and outside the church.

Gunnerton St Christopher

A splendid tidy-up occurred recently, and it made a great difference to the churchyard and interior. The doors, rainwater-goods and exterior wood will soon be painted, and James Feeley will be doing some preparatory work on the doors. We hope to fit internal curtains to keep out the draught in winter, and, once we have a new church architect appointed, we shall instruct him or her to prepare for repair works to some internal wall surfaces. A new piano has been sourced which – when she knew it was for the church – was given to us, free, by a kind lady in Darras Hall. We shall pay for transportation and tuning. Following approval by the DAC, a lovely new slate church sign, made of slate by a craftsman in West Woodburn, has been fitted, replacing a very tired-looking wooden sign. Linen towels have been replaced by paper towels in the toilet. We are grateful for the regular grass cutting, which keeps the front of the church looking cared for and tidy.

Birtley St Giles

We are grateful to generous local men who keep the churchyard looking first class, and cover for one another when sickness unexpectedly strikes. The new Mission Action Plan, discerned at Shepherds Dene in January, includes a proposal for a special garden in the churchyard. The PCC will wish to be sensitive to the needs of parishioners and visitors, and to the look of the churchyard, by consulting before any proposals are made. Some of the windows have been cleaned, and the increase in light coming into church has been most noticeable – though others still need cleaning.

Thockrington St Aidan

We have a new grass cutting contractor, who is making a very good job of the churchyard, which is a challenging one to cut. At our Away Day in Shepherds Dene, it was decided to consider replacing a plain glass window with one made of stained glass. We have noticed that the internal west wall is showing signs of fatigue, and it appears that some external work will be required on this wall soon. The cost is likely to be eye-watering. An anti-clutter campaign has taken place, with the west end of the nave looking more simple and attractive, for visitors and regulars alike.

Thank you to everyone who helps keep our four wonderful and different churches looking so good.

Mike Slade

A letter from Bishop Martin

Dear Friends,

Many of you will know that I reach my 70th birthday in August, when I will have served for seventeen years as your Bishop. I am writing to let you know that Her Majesty the Queen has graciously accepted my resignation.

It has been a privilege to serve the people and communities of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland as your Bishop since 1997, and over these years I have formed a deep and lasting attachment to so many people in the parishes and deaneries.

I wish to invite as many of you as possible to join me in the Cathedral at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 21st September 2014, to say goodbye, and to give our thanks for God's gracious love to us all. No tickets are required, and all are welcome.

Bishop Frank will lead the Diocese during the vacancy, ably supported by the Dean and the Archdeacons, and the dedicated team at Bishop's House and Church House. Please pray for them as they carry extra responsibilities during the coming months.

Marlene and I have been constantly humbled and encouraged by the faithful dedication and service of the clergy and laity of the Diocese. You have been the greatest support to us in countless ways, and it has been a joy to serve as your Bishop. We will always treasure the friendships we have made, and will continue to hold this wonderful Diocese and its people in our prayers during these coming months, as the process begins for the appointment of the twelfth Bishop of Newcastle.

With every good wish and blessing.

+ Martin

A letter from the Rural Dean

Dear Friends,

They're coming! Would you like to be involved? Help is needed, in the tradition of this area, with a welcome to strangers. Would you be able to help in various ways with providing true Northumbrian hospitality?

We are looking for people who live in the area of Bellingham Deanery (which means from Wall to the Border), who are willing to do a little driving, or provide a night's accommodation, or produce a small amount of food, or sing in church, or be a companion to visitors exploring your local area.

In case it makes a difference to your offer, perhaps I should say that, when some of us from this deanery went on pilgrimage to Canterbury in 2012, we were put up on the way in private houses in several different counties. Some of our hosts and their neighbours, from Castor near Peterborough, are coming to visit Northumberland at the end of July. We would like to be able to offer them hospitality as they explore the theme of "*Cuthbert and Countryside*". We also need a few people this month to help us to work out suitable routes for walking during their stay.

Please let me or Sally Napier (230223, wannies30@btinternet.com) know as soon as possible, if you are interested.

While on the subject of welcoming travellers, I might add that we are planning another Deanery Pilgrimage. Having been to Oberammergau in 2010, and to Canterbury in 2012, we are now going to Iona next year. If you're interested, make a note of the dates, which are **Monday 28th September to Saturday 3rd October 2015**. Also tell Sheila Cameron (220900, shmcameron@btinternet.com), so that she can let you know more in due course.

One way or the other (as guests or hosts), we will have a great chance to be involved in the hospitality which is a vital part of pilgrimage. Meanwhile I send you all my best wishes for your activities in June and July.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Ramsaran (01434 220019 SMRamsaran@aol.com)



Simonburn Village Fete

needs YOU to enjoy a traditional fete

on Saturday 26th July at 2pm

in aid of St Mungo's Church.

Lots of attractions – details next month.

DID YOU KNOW you can now read the Broadsheet on your PC, tablet or smartphone, using the Humshaugh Benefice website? Just follow the link on the front cover - or **HERE**: www.humshaughbenefice.org.uk - Ed.