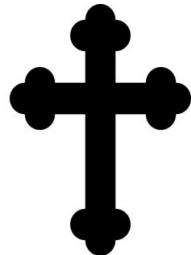




The Broadsheet

July - August 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

email: humpc@globalnet.co.uk

www.humshaughbenefice.org.uk

The Revd. Michael J Slade

Vicar, Chollerton with Birtley,

Gunnerton & Thockrington

Tel: 01434 681721

email: chollertonvicar@gmail.com

www.chollerton-churches.org.uk

HUMSHAUGH BENEFICE

Humshaugh Vicarage

Dear Friends,

“The measuring line marks out delightful places for me; for me the heritage is superb indeed.” (Psalm 16 v6, JB)

As I write my last offering for the Broadsheet, I feel impelled to return to the theme which was uppermost in my mind when, some months ago, I wrote of my intent to finish duty as your Rector on August 24th. Whilst Marion and I feel sadness that our ‘daily dealings’ with the people of North Tynedale are coming to their conclusion, we cannot but be deeply grateful for having been given the opportunity to live and work amongst you for 17 years.

Amongst the contemporary clergy, I have had the very rare privilege of returning, in middle life, to an area I knew well as a child and a teenager, after an absence of many years. It is well said that ‘absence makes the heart grow fonder’.

When, late in 1996, Bishop Alec approached me informally to enquire about any interest I might have in being considered as successor to Canon Stanley Prins, I was both delighted and apprehensive. I pointed out to Alec that I was concerned that I had lived and worked away from Northumberland for so long that I might be unable to ‘fit in’. His response was not immediately intelligible: “Oh”, he said, “they are so understated, you will love them”.

Quite what Alec had meant by that remark was revealed to me during the first couple of years in which I was amongst you. Whilst I had greatly enjoyed my 20 years as a Lincolnshire clergyman, and owe a great deal to the people and clergy of Lincoln and Lincolnshire, there is no denying that, in my time there, ‘peace of mind’ was a rare commodity for Lincolnshire clergy. Though one had daily dealings with charming, kindly, godly people, storms were for ever brewing! If you do this, we won’t come to church any more; if you ask him to do that I won’t do the other. That febrile atmosphere expressed itself right at the ‘top of the tree’, in the nationally reported, troubled atmosphere which surrounded the warring parties who worked in the glorious Cathedral Church at Lincoln.

You may feel that the Bishops of Newcastle know little about North Tynedale; you would be entirely wrong! Bishop Martin has a very perceptive eye and heart, as had Bishop Alec when he made that remark about your ‘understatedness’.

That ‘understatedness’ has never meant that all has been ‘sweetness and light’. I have been surrounded by conscientious Parish Officers who have been very open in telling me when I am wrong, but who have never resorted to histrionics, and have been marvellously patient in trying to keep me ‘on track’.

I retire deeply conscious of things neglected and tasks uncompleted, but I would like you to know that your ‘understatedness’ has provided the encouragement which has enabled me to do what little I have achieved, and that your many kindnesses have daily strengthened my resolve to ‘do my best by you’.

It may seem odd that my concluding article contains much mention of you and me and the Church, and little mention of God! To think that is to rather miss the point. It was a basic assumption on our former Bishop’s part that any personal attributes of mine, which might enable me to ‘fit in’ amongst you, were not ‘Thompson’s personal possessions’, but rather gifts from God. Likewise the very real qualities to be found in you, which have enabled me and my family to find so much happiness in our time amongst you, are not mere personal possessions, but God’s very real blessings upon a particular corner of His World, to Him be the Glory.

With thanks and sincere good wishes,

Michael

From our Registers



On June 15th **Katlyn Anne Hawkins** of Humshaugh was welcomed into the family of God’s Church by baptism at St. Peter’s Church Humshaugh.

On June 14th a funeral service, followed by burial in the Churchyard, was held at St. Peter’s Humshaugh for **Mr. Ronnie Nixon** of Hexham. We condole with Jean and all Ronnie’s family on his passing, but are glad that it was possible to accommodate Ronnie’s wish that his mortal remains should rest in the village of his upbringing, and for which he always retained a strong affection.

Round and about Humshaugh

Once again we had wonderful weather for the St Peter’s Church Fete, which was opened by Canon Michael Thompson and his wife, Marion. It was their last fete, and we wish them well in retirement. Congratulations to all who entered the competitions and to those who won prizes. A very pleasing £3,085 was raised, none of which could have been achieved without the huge army of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event happen, and those who came to enjoy the day. Many thanks to all involved.

On June 5th in St Peter’s Church, Humshaugh Mothers’ Union held their annual ‘Wave of Prayer’ service, when prayers are said for M.U. branches in many parts of the world.

There is no meeting in July. In August, some of the members will take part in a ‘Quiet Day’ at Shepherds Dene.

Two residents of Humshaugh completed the Edinburgh Marathon on the last Sunday of May. Chris Francis covered the 26 mile, 385 yard course - from Holyrood Park out to Portobello and along the coast of the Firth of Forth beyond Prestonpans and Longniddry, and back to Musselburgh - in a most impressive time of 3 hours 37 minutes - a good 11 minutes quicker than his previous personal best for the distance. Marathon debutant Mick Jonas was likewise happy with his 4 hours 17 minutes, and was especially pleased to have exceeded his target of raising £500 for the National Autistic Society. Generous donations from Humshaugh residents contributed in no small measure to this very gratifying total, and Mick would like to thank all who sponsored him for their kindness.

The Friends of Humshaugh School are still raising money for some new equipment, so the next fund-raising event is on Sunday 13th July, from 3 till 5pm. It will include a barbecue, fun games, a grand raffle with luxury prizes, and, to finish, a wheelbarrow race up to the pub, with a prize for the winner! This will be after 5pm, from school to The Crown, with a pit stop at the hall! So we are looking for people to rise to the challenge, or come along to cheer folk on! For more information, contact Louise Armitage on 689438.

A barbecue will be provided by the Northumberland Sausage Company, and at 6pm our lovely postman, Shaun, will be playing music in The Crown - so a great way to finish off the day.

News from Humshaugh Arts Project

We are pleased with how well everyone enjoyed 'Oh What a Lovely War', with a spectacular turn out for every night's show. And we are carrying on our WW1 theme with a fantastic Community Archive Project about the war [see '*Humshaugh Village Hall*', next item, for full details - Ed].

Advance notice of two events to be held later in the year: our ever-popular **Film Night** will be happening on Friday 7th November - film yet to be disclosed - so look out for posters. Food will be themed, as we have done before, and we will be keeping our prices low, with families in mind!

This year will be the 20th year of the **Christmas Show**, and we will celebrate this by performing the very first pantomime, The Real Adventures of Sleeping Beauty. We are sorely in need of some volunteer helpers for the theatre group. Rehearsals start on Wednesday 10th September, and we meet every Wednesday, from 7.00-9.00 (apart from half term week).

You don't have to have any experience. We will support your learning, and help you learn about our safeguarding policy. If you are an 'older' young person, we are running a peer mentor opportunity, and will help you use your mentoring experience as part of a reference for any future job or further education application. To find out more, please get in touch with either:

Jill Bauld, jillbauld@yahoo.co.uk

Maurice Gilmore, mauricegilmore@btinternet.com

Humshaugh Village Hall

A very special event for the whole village will take place in the Village Hall on **Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September, from 10am to 4pm**. Over the past few months, families in the village have given us information, photographs and stories of relatives who were involved in World War 1. In some cases, precious memorabilia has been loaned. All will make a fascinating display to share with the whole village.

Besides a fascinating glimpse into the family histories of friends and neighbours, there will be a chance to see again much of the hall setting that was devised for the play, ‘Oh What A Lovely War’, at the end of March. To further enhance the event, a café in the style of the period, circa 1914, will be open throughout the two days, so do pop along for tiffin! Under the imaginative direction of Marilyn Robins, the café will serve light snacks and drinks.

At times to be announced, the ‘Oh What A Lovely War’ cast will perform a selection of songs from the play, and it is hoped to present a programme of poetry and play reading.

There is still more room for family histories, whether they relate to Humshaugh or a distant community. If you have any link within your family to World War 1, give one of us a ring, or drop off the slip below, and we will get back to you. Contacts are:

Jen Ogle, Stonerigg, East Farm, Humshaugh	681193
Elizabeth Hayward, 2 Beechcroft, Humshaugh	681463
Maurice Gilmour, Keepers Cottage, Burn Lane, Humshaugh	681587

The **July Quiz** will be held in The Crown on Tuesday 15th with proceeds going to Barrasford Scout Group.

For those who have not already picked up a discount card, you might like to know that Jewson’s, who now own Matthew Charlton, have given a supply to Humshaugh Community Ventures. These are available free of charge from the village shop, and can be used to buy DIY goods at reduced prices.

Elizabeth Hayward

Humshaugh School

On Thursday 10th July at 9.15am there will be a ‘Leavers’ Service’ for the children from year 4 who leave at the end of term to move up to Middle School. **ALL ARE WELCOME** at this important service, to be held in school. There will be refreshments afterwards. You will be aware that this will also be Revd. Canon Michael Thompson’s last leaving service for the school!

The Church Fete

The sun shone down on a very traditional Village Fete in aid of Church Funds for St Peter's Humshaugh on Saturday 31st May. The Fete was opened by Canon Michael Thompson and Mrs Marion Thompson this being their final fete before retirement at the end of August. Teacups tinkled against the colourful music of Canny Crack as everyone enjoyed delicious plates of homemade goodies whilst soaking up the balmy atmosphere in the Vicarage garden. There was plenty to entertain, lucky dip and animal hunt for the younger children and hoopla and prize ball for the older ones, face painting, accessory and toy stall and the intriguing puzzle to pinpoint under which photo the vicar was hiding. There were other competitions displayed in Church, including Apple Pies, Flower Arrangements, Fancy Dressed toys and photography.

The Village Hall provided a picturesque welcome for visitors arriving in the village with Tombola, Cakes and Produce and books. The hall was most colourful with flags, banners and bunting. The prize for the Best Dressed Stall was awarded to the Bric a Brac organised by Brian Earl.

Many people helped on the day but also particularly the week beforehand, and grateful thanks are due to Corinne Campbell and all the helpers - very much a team performance. Thank you to Marion and Michael Thompson for opening their home and garden every year. This really does feel like the end of an era, and grateful thanks are due to everyone who has helped to run the fete in this manner for over thirty years. The Church appreciates this, and so much pleasure has been given to residents and visitors.

Anne Race, John McCollum

An invitation from the Benefice Church Wardens

on the retirement of The Revd. 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



Simonburn Village Fete

Saturday 26th July at 2pm

A traditional fete on the Village Green



Cake stall, Produce stall, Books, Bric-a-brac,
Ice-creams, Refreshments,
Scottish Country Dancers, The Sunshine Panners

FREE ENTRY - FREE PARKING

Come along and have a great afternoon

Simonburn Notes

We would like to welcome a new arrival into our village: Eva Louise Milne was born, at 5 lb 11oz, on 28th May - another gorgeous little girl for Chris and Rachel, and a sister for Hannah. Congratulations to you all.

On Sunday 27th July, Bishop Frank will be coming to St. Mungo's Church to hold a Deanery Confirmation. We look forward to his visit, and send our best wishes to all those being confirmed.

As I mentioned in last month's Broadsheet, our Village Fete is being held on Saturday 26th July, starting at 2pm. Here is a little reminder, if you are able to donate anything towards any of the stalls:

Tombola prizes: can be left at Simonburn Tearoom

Cakes: can be brought to the stall on the day, or left with Kay Hadley
(1 Red Lion Terrace)

Bric-a-brac: Kay Hadley

Produce stall: Mrs Allgood, on the day

Teas: are served in the Village Hall, and any donations of sweet or savoury items, would be much appreciated, by Janice Rowcroft at the Village Hall on the morning of the fete.

This is our one and only fundraising event of the year, so let's get together, have fun - whether helping on a stall or attending - and make it a good one!

Finally, we would like to give huge congratulations to Nigel Sherlock, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, who has been made a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO) in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. The KCVO is in the personal gift of the Queen, so what an honour it is.

There is no Broadsheet in August, so I hope everyone has a great Summer, and we'll see you all again in September.

As ever, if you would like anything including in future Simonburn Notes, please contact me on 681077. **Sharon Hadley**

Wark Parish News

There was dancing in the aisle - at least, the treasurer and a churchwarden were - on Monday 19th May in St Michael's, when *Cross The Wannies* entertained us in church. What a night. A sincere, grateful thank you to Alan Nichol for bringing together the collection of local talent. We enjoyed poems, stories, music and singing. Around £1,200 was raised for St Michael's window appeal. When telling the slightly older of your two writers about the evening he commented: "*Wark people always come out well and support; it is amazing.*" Thank you to all who supported us. The Window Appeal is well on the way to achieving the amount required for the work to be undertaken, and the all-important legal side is also underway, as we write. It is amazing the amount of paperwork required, when all we wish to do is maintain St Michael's for future generations.

Another great Wark success was the Scarecrow Trail, over the weekend of 13th to 15th June - this being arranged by Laureen Kirtley, who did a fabulous job in managing the event. We believe she had one or two sleepless nights, panicking as entries were, in normal Wark tradition, initially slow in coming in. However, in the end, such fun was had by all. We understand that behind closed garage doors, in the week leading up to the event, hoots of laughter could be heard. Then, on the Thursday evening, when 22 or so scarecrows appeared, the imagination and talent of many were on show. The whole weekend was a great success, with £550 being raised and donated towards the Senior Citizens' Festive Meal. The overall winner was The Three Witches, with The Three Little Pigs second. The special display put on by the 'Monday Men' was admired by all, and, had they been in the competition, would no doubt have won. We received many favourable comments, both on the display, *and* the work the Monday Men do around the village. It was great walking around the village, seeing just how well cared-for it is. So get your thinking cap on, and plan your scarecrow for next year.

So, you may just receive this edition of *The Broadsheet* in sufficient time to make or donate something towards the Garden Fete, being held on the village green on Saturday 5th July from 2pm. The funds raised are for the general maintenance and upkeep of St Michael's. It may surprise many when we say that, to maintain St Michael's, we are faced with around £15,000 annually in bills. Please do come along and support where possible.

Again, one of the events just on the borderline of taking place, as you receive this edition of *The Broadsheet*, is the retirement of Dr Keep. To mark this there will be a presentation in Wark Town Hall on Monday 30th June at 7.30pm. There will be a shared supper, along with a pay-as-you-go bar. All are welcome. Your two writers can safely say retirement is a great thing. We hope Neville and Jani enjoy theirs.

Yet another retirement follows in August when we say farewell to Rector Michael. Although not moving out of the Benefice until late September,

Michael will lead his last service in the Benefice, at Simonburn, on Sunday 24th August at 11am, followed by a party in Simonburn Village Hall. Michael has chosen Simonburn, as it was here that he was installed as Rector of the Benefice some 17 years ago. Full details on this, and on contributing towards a retirement gift, are detailed in this edition of *The Broadsheet* [see page 6].

From the school we learn that the sponsored walk on 8th June raised around £500. Well done to the parents, children and a few dogs that walked the route from Birtley to Stonehaugh. As they passed by us in Wark, it was reassuring to hear that one parent had a bottle of wine in her rucksack to help her along! Now that is the spirit. Thursday 10th July will see the whole school go off to Warkworth Castle and beach for a trip. Ah, memories of school trips, with egg and tomato sandwiches out of an old biscuit tin, which probably finished up with more sand in it than anything else.

Earlier we made mention of the work done by the Monday Men around the village. They also undertake the maintenance of the churchyard for which we are most grateful. It does look wonderful. We understand one of the men and his lady wife recently had tea with the Queen. Are they looking to get the contract to maintain Buck House?

That's July and August out of the way, so when we next chat with you, in September, we shall be thinking of things like Harvest Festivals and all the uncertainty of how good the harvest will be. One certainty is that we at St Michael's, along with Simonburn and Humshaugh, will be approaching an interregnum, having said goodbye to Michael and Marion on 24th August. Life will now be in the hands of 'the powers that be'. We only hope they get on with sorting things - sooner rather than later.

This month we have not received any other magazines to supply an end piece, however the slightly younger of your two writers was, a couple of weeks ago, down in the Brighouse area, and spotted a poster, outside a church, with the following message: "***Ears pierced while you wait - Sunday 6.00 pm.***"

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

Love

Cyril and John

St Michael's Church Fete
Saturday 5th July at 2pm
on the Village Green, Wark
Teas in the Town Hall, Cake stall,
Tombola stall, Book stall, and more.
DO COME ALONG



SERVICES FOR JULY & AUGUST 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 6th July - The Third Sunday after Trinity	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion (1662)
10:30 Birtley Holy Communion	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: Romans 7, 15-25a Psalm: 145, 8-15
Sunday 13th July - The Fourth Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion
10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer
	6.00 Wark Holy Communion
Old Testament: Genesis 25, 19-34 Gospel: Matthew 13, 1-9, 18-23	Epistle: Romans 8, 1-11 Psalm: 119, 105-112
Sunday 20th July - The Fifth Trinity after Trinity	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion
10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion
	6:00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Genesis 28, 10-19a Gospel: Matthew 13, 24-30, 36-43	Epistle: Romans 8, 12-25 Psalm: 139, 1-11
Sunday 27th July - The Sixth Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion (1662)	11:00 Simonburn Deanery Confirmation and Eucharist
10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	6:30 Humshaugh Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Genesis 29, 15-28 Gospel: Matthew 13, 31-33, 44-52	Epistle: Romans 8, 26-end Psalm: 128
Sunday 3rd August - The Seventh Sunday after Trinity	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion (1662)
10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion
	6:00 Wark Holy Communion (1662)
Old Testament: Genesis 32, 22-31 Gospel: Matthew 14, 13-21	Epistle: Romans 9, 1-5 Psalm: 17, 1-7
Sunday 10th August - The Eighth Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion (1662)
10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	11:00 Simonburn Morning Prayer
	6:00 Wark Holy Communion
Old Testament: Genesis 37, 1-4, 12-28 Gospel: Matthew 14, 22-33	Epistle: Romans 10, 5-15 Psalm: 105, 1-10
Sunday 17th August - The Ninth Trinity after Trinity	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion
10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion
	6:00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Genesis 45, 1-15 Gospel: Matthew 15, 21-28	Epistle: Romans 11, 1-2a, 29-32 Psalm: 133
Sunday 24th August - St Bartholomew	
9.00 Chollerton Holy Communion	11:00 Simonburn Benefice Eucharist
Old Testament: Isaiah 43, 8-13 Gospel: Luke 22, 24-30	Epistle: Acts 5, 12-16 Psalm: 145, 1-7

SERVICES FOR JULY & AUGUST 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 31st August - The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	
10:30 Thockrington Benefice Holy Communion & Patronal Festival, Guest Celebrant & Preacher, The Rev'd Canon Michael Smith, of York Minister	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6:00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Jeremiah 15, 15-21 Gospel: Matthew 16, 21-end	Epistle: Romans 12, 9-end Psalm: 115

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details	Pg
Mon 30 Jun	7:30 pm	Presentation to Dr Keep, Wark Town Hall	8
Wed 2 Jul	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI talk by Ingrid Kilner " <i>A Year Behind the Veil</i> ", Barrasford Village Hall	14
Thu 3 Jul	10:30 am	Coffee Morning, Birtley Village Hall	15
Sat 5 Jul	10:30 am	Barrasford Methodist Chapel coffee morning	14
Sat 5 Jul	2:00 pm	St Michael's Church Fete / Wark Garden Fete	8/9
Mon 7 Jul		Chollerton WI Guided Walk in Newcastle, contact: Jen Dover, who is co-ordinating transport	
Thu 10 Jul	9:15 am	Humshaugh School Leavers' Service, all welcome, and trip to Warkworth Castle & beach	5
Sat 12 Jul	7:30 pm	Antiphon: " <i>If music be the food of love</i> " - musical celebration at St Cuthbert's Church, Bellingham	16
Sun 13 Jul	3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Friends of Humshaugh School Barbeque, followed by music in The Crown from 6:00pm	4
Tue 15 Jul	8:00 pm	Quiz night, The Crown, Humshaugh	5
Fri 18 Jul	6:30 pm	Benefice Safari Supper (Ann Wainwright, 230464)	14
Sat 26 Jul	2:00 pm	Simonburn Village Fete, on the Green	7
Sun 27 Jul	11:00 am	Deanery Confirmation, St Mungo's, Simonburn	7
Wed 30 Jul	12:00	Gunnerton Lunch Club: home made soup, etc	15
Wed 6 Aug		Chollerton WI Supper Night, Gunnerton	14
Thu 7 Aug	10:30 am	Coffee Morning, Birtley Village Hall	15
Sun 17 Aug	2:30 pm	Thockrington Fete at Carrycoats Hall	14
Sun 24 Aug	11:00 am	Rev Canon Michael Thompson's final service, St Mungo's, Simonburn, and party in the Village Hall	6
Sat 30 Aug	10:00 am	Vicarage Barbecue, Chollerton	14
Sun 7 Sep	6:00 pm	Songs of Praise, Chollerton Church	14
Wed 10 Sep	7:00 pm	Humshaugh Arts Project: rehearsals for Christmas Show start, Humshaugh Village Hall	4
Sat 13 & Sun 14 Sep	10:00 am -4:00 pm	Humshaugh Arts Project: Community Arts Project on WW1, Humshaugh Village Hall	5
Fri 19 Sep	6:00 pm	Friends of Chollerton Churches: at Capheaton Hall	14
Sun 21 Sep	4:00 pm	Bishop Martin's final service, Newcastle Cathedral	

CHOLLERTON BENEFICE

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

I am sure I have tested my colleague Michael Thompson from across the water these past few months. Every time I have seen him I have said: "So, Michael, your last [*insert any event, be it social or formal*]." Over time, I sense his teeth have started to grind!

When I left Somerset for Northumberland, I had just three months to say my goodbyes. It was not nearly long enough, and many goodbyes could not be said in person, or in the way I would have wished, given more time. Although Michael has had a little more time than this, I suspect he will not be able to get around to everyone he would wish to do in the time allotted to him. If he feels anything like I did, I am sure he will regret not being able to see everybody personally, but, as I found, that's just the way it is.

For seventeen years, Michael has, with great faith and dedication, served the people of his parishes. In a way similar to marriage, he has been with them in good times and bad, in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer. His sensitivity and perception in parochial matters has enabled him to discern the best way forward over those years, and his clear memory of past events means he can help make wise decisions based on history and experience. My own responsibilities for worship mean I have rarely been able to attend services in the Humshaugh Benefice, but occasionally, when clergy meet as a Chapter for fellowship and food, we usually precede that with Holy Communion. When it has been his turn, Michael has always brought the presence of God near, through his prayerful and gentle celebration of the Eucharist, resulting in a moving and close encounter with God. I shall miss that immensely.

I shall also miss his personal friendship; his support, covering for me, should a priest be required in an emergency when I am away on holiday; having convivial chats about this and that; and his sense of humour. Rarely would we speak without seeing the amusing side of something or other.

I am sure Michael would be the first to say that his ministry has been enriched by the support and encouragement of Marion over the years. Quite how single people cope with ministry, I really don't know.

The time will soon approach when we shall celebrate this faithful ministry, with of course Holy Communion, surrounded by friends and family, colleagues and parishioners. So on behalf of everyone this side of the water, we wish Michael and Marion well for the future; that they may have a long, enjoyable and well deserved retirement. May they enjoy these last few weeks of ministry, despite the inevitable fact that there will be emotions of joy and sadness, intermingled with gratitude to God for being able and willing to serve Him so faithfully in the North Tyne Valley, over so many years.

Someone said to me that clergy retirement is more like ‘retyrement’! There will be new challenges ahead, for few priests do absolutely nothing when formal ministry has ended, and no doubt I shall set his teeth on edge again when, every time I see him, I ask, “So, Michael, how are you enjoying retirement?”

With love and prayers, especially for Michael and Marion,

Mike

From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice

Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the Family of the Church, **Finley Herbert Manabendra Chatterjee** at Chollerton St Giles on Sunday June 8th (Day of Pentecost)

Funerals and Memorial Services

We celebrated the lives of:

Freda Mary Johnson, 77, at Chollerton St Giles on Tuesday May 20th
John Bell, 79, at Chollerton St Giles on Thursday June 5th

Cleaning of Chollerton Church

Volunteers are invited to join the cleaning rota. There is a small band of loyal helpers who help keep the church clean on a regular basis, but none have access to the elixir of eternal youth! It takes two hours for two people to dust and vacuum, etc.

Anyone willing to assist, or for more information, please contact Ken Carlisle on 689996 or e-mail: kencarlisle@btinternet.com

St Giles' Church Chollerton invites you to an evening of

Traditional, Country and Gospel Music

in the company of Roddy Matthews, Roly Johnson and Kathy Anderson, on Thursday July 24th at 7.00pm at Barrasford Village Hall. Guest speaker is Tim Thorpe from Ponteland. £5.00 per person. Pie and Pea supper and light refreshments included. The evening will help support the work of the Cedarwood Trust in North Shields and St Giles' Church.

To book please contact:

Mike Slade, 01434 681721
Richard Hay, 01434 689349

Ann Wainwright, 01434 230464
Richard Dodds, 01434 681847

Forthcoming events in Chollerton Benefice Churches

A Benefice **Safari Supper** will be held on July 18th (details: Ann Wainwright, 230464), and **Thockrington Fete** will be once again 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 service of **Songs of Praise** 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 during the summer.

Friends of Chollerton Churches

An evening at Capheaton Hall, Friday 19th September

By kind permission of Willy and Eliza Browne-Swinburne, the Friends of Chollerton Churches invite you to Capheaton Hall from 6.00pm on 19th September 2014 to walk around the beautiful walled garden, followed at approximately 7.00pm. by a tour of the house and its contents with a talk from Willy about the history of the house. Afterwards supper will be served.

Ticket price £25 (Friends £15.) Drinks not included but a pay bar will be available.

Tickets from Ken Carlisle at: kencarlisle@btinternet.com, or tel. 689996

Ken Carlisle, Chairman

Chollerton WI

On **Wednesday 2nd July** Ingrid Kilner will talk about her experiences in '**A Year Behind the Veil**'. As usual we meet at 7.30pm, and visitors are welcome. Our **Members' Supper Night**, on **Wednesday 6th August**, will be held in Gunnerton, when we hope to discuss future work on our Centenary proddy mat [*Wot? - Ed.*]. **Pauline**

Other church services within the Chollerton Benefice

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

Great Swinburne: St Mary's RC Church – services will resume again when announced.



Barrasford Methodist Chapel

Coffee morning and cake stall.

Saturday July 5th at 10.30am - all welcome





Birtley Village Hall

Birtley & District Gardening Group

The group meets again in the autumn.

We 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



Coffee Morning, Birtley Village Hall

On Thursdays 3rd July AND 7th August
from 10.30am. Delicious coffee,
home bakes and great conversation
guaranteed

Birtley Local History Group

Further details from Mary White
01434 230307



Community Events in Gunnerton Church



Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday 30th July, 12noon-1.00pm
£2.50



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

Please note: we take a holiday in August!

**Please ensure that all bookings for Gunnerton Church are made by
contacting Susan Reay on 01434 681852**

The cost of hiring the church for meetings, etc, has been reviewed by the PCC, and the new price is £15 per session (morning, afternoon or evening), to include the use of the kitchen and heating during colder months.

The Broadsheet Editor - Roger Hadley

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

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*Antiphon, directed by John Roper,
together with the Bellingham & District Amateur
Dramatic Society
presents*

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE

*a celebration in words and music of
the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth*

Saturday July 12th 2014, 7.30pm
St Cuthbert's Church, Bellingham



*In association with
The Friends of St Cuthbert's, Bellingham*

WARK BRIDGE WORKS

The final phase of bridge work is due to begin on Monday 28th July 2014. It is estimated that the bridge will be closed for up to ten weeks from this date [presumably until Friday 3rd October - Ed.].

Notices of imminent closure will be posted at least one week in advance, at both ends of the bridge, the Gunnerton junction, Bellingham, Barrasford, the A68 junction into Birtley, and in Wark village. Emergency services will be advised, along with parish councils and the Hexham Courant.

The closure, which will affect vehicular traffic at all times, is to enable the (Birtley end) bollards to be replaced; the current bridge road surface to be replaced, and painting of the entire structure. Adverse weather conditions may affect the timetable. There will be no access for vehicles during the closure period, and no separate pedestrian walkway during this phase – pedestrians will walk along the road.

The first two weeks (subject to weather) will be used to replace the bollards and resurface the road. During resurfacing works pedestrian access across the bridge will be restricted... to before 8am and after 5pm daily. This work will last up to five days, as it is weather dependent.



Once the resurfacing operations are completed, grit blasting of the steelwork will start from w/c 11 August. When grit blasting is finished the road will fully re-open to pedestrians and traffic, while painting of the underside of the bridge continues.

(Information taken from Newsletter #9, June 2014)