

The Broadsheet

September

2014



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

*During the Humshaugh Benefice vacancy
please contact the Churchwardens:*

Humshaugh: John McCollum (681682) or
Roger Langford (681195)

Simonburn: Judith Brown (681371) or
Veronica Allgood (689533)

Wark: Ann Bell (230259) or
John Cooper (230369)

For clergy matters, contact the Rural Dean:

The Revd. Dr Susan Ramsaran (220019)
www.humshaughbenefice.org.uk

The Revd. Michael J Slade
Vicar, Chollerton with Birtley,
Gunnerton & Thockrington
Tel: 01434 681721
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HUMSHAUGH BENEFICE

The Churchwardens from Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark all warmly thank Michael for his widely appreciated 17 years of dedicated service to the three Parishes of the Benefice, and wish both him and Marion a very happy retirement.

Following Michael's last service on Sunday 24th August, with the help of visiting clergy, there will continue to be regular services in each of the three Parishes. During the interregnum, until another priest is appointed, the Churchwardens welcome support from all Parishioners.

From our Registers

The death of **Penny Steele** on July 29th brought a deep sense of sadness to a great many people over the several communities of which she has been a part, whether as a daughter, wife, mother, friend or colleague. Her quiet burial service at Humshaugh on July 7th was followed by a public service of thanksgiving on July 9th. 'Thanksgiving' was an apt description of the occasion because, despite the sense of loss, there was, overwhelmingly, a real feeling of gladness that Penny had touched so many lives for good, and had become one of those people who have left this world a better place than they found it. Those of us who were privileged to meet Penny in the final weeks of her life know that her faith and strength of purpose were undimmed by a cruel, protracted illness, and will not forget that courageous faithfulness. We continue to pray God's comfort and strengthening for Tony, Harriet, Charlotte and Emily, and for Penny's parents, Noel and Marcia, and for her sister, Sarah.

Recent weeks have seen a number of 'welcomes' into the family of God's Church, through Baptism, and four individuals deepening their commitment through confirmation.

On July 20th **Isabelle Thirlwell** was baptised at Simonburn.

On July 27th **Jade Smith** and her son **Morgan** were baptised at Simonburn.

On August 3rd cousins **Francesca Thompson** and **Oliver Jackson** were baptised at Wark.

On July 27th we welcomed Bishop John Richardson to St Mungo's Simonburn where he conducted a confirmation service at which our local candidates were:

Esther Brown, Jade Smith, and Robert & Andrew Langford.

"Defend, O Lord these thy children with thy heavenly grace, that they may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit, more and more until they come unto thy everlasting kingdom."

Round and about Humshaugh

Sadly all good things have to come to an end. The sunny summer days are now beginning to shorten, and our thoughts are turning towards September when the various clubs and societies will be starting up again after the summer break.

Mothers' Union

Five members of Humshaugh Mothers' Union spent a "Quiet Day" in Shepherds Dene on August 7th. The day was led by Revd. Dr John Harrison, and the theme was "Reconnecting with God's Creation."

It became a day of contemplation and discussion. Lunch was held in total silence – it really felt as if one were in a monastery – there were quiet times in the beautiful garden, where a Communion Service was held. It was a lovely way to celebrate the birthday of our founder, Mary Sumner.

On Thursday September 11th, Dr John McCollum will give his talk on "*Child Health: The Magic Years*". As always, we expect his talk will be very interesting, and anybody is most welcome to join us. The meeting will be held at the Langfords' home and will start at 2 pm.

Family Memories of World War 1

On Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September there will be a second chance to see much of the hall setting that was devised for the play, "Oh What a Lovely War", plus a fascinating display of information and photographs about friends, relatives and neighbours of people living in the village who were connected with the First World War.

The cast of "Oh What a Lovely War" will also perform a selection of songs from the play, and you will be able to buy light snacks and drinks from a café in the style of the period. This special event will take place from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm on both days.

Pub Quiz

The Quiz on Tuesday 15th July was won by "Jim Outnumbered". A total of £120 was raised for the Barrasford Scout Group. The next Quiz will be on Tuesday 16th September.

Humshaugh Women's Institute

On Thursday 18th September John Sadler will give a talk on "*Slavery and the North East Connection*". This is an Open Evening, and everyone is very welcome to attend. Please come at 7.30 pm at the end of the business meeting. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the talk.

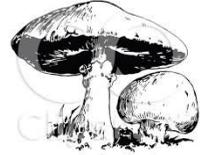


Humshaugh Leek Club

Show Day, or the highlight of the Leek Club year, is on Saturday 20th September. Anyone can go and view the leeks in The Crown. Leek soup will be served in the evening, and there will be the usual raffle.

Wildlife Group

The Wildlife Group is holding another fungus foray led by Dr Gordon Beakes of Newcastle University. Dr Beakes is a mycologist who is hugely knowledgeable and very enthusiastic about his pet subject. Anyone interested in joining the foray should meet at The Crown at 2.00 pm on Sunday 28th September.



www.clipartof.com · 1121380

Anne Race (whilst Liz is on holiday)

MONDAY BADMINTON GROUP

HUMSHAUGH VILLAGE HALL

8pm, Mondays

Recommences Monday 15th September.

This is a friendly sociable group. Beginners and new members welcome. The cost varies depending on numbers attending.

Do come along and join us. All Welcome!

Great fun and lots of laughs.

For further information telephone Joy McCollum, 681682,
Joyce Burgon, 681571, or Fiona Charlton, 681272

PROSPECTIVE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The Evans Trust may be in a position to award small grants of, say, about £200 to those students successful in A levels this Summer and commencing university in the Autumn of 2014. The terms of the Trust specify that such students must be resident within either Humshaugh, Simonburn or Wark. The purpose is to assist with book purchase to help at the beginning of the course of study. Applications should be sent to Mr Antony Braithwaite at Haughton Castle, Humshaugh, Hexham, NE46 4AY, or to any of the trustees. We all wish the students good luck and much satisfaction in their courses and chosen careers.

John McCollum.

Simonburn Notes

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable Summer, and the children are ready for the start of the new term and – for some – new schools. We have many people to congratulate this month.

We send our congratulations to Jane, Jim and Robert Lamb on the birth of Guy George Allgood on 13th July. On Sunday 20th, we welcomed into the church, Isabelle Thirlwell, when she was baptised at St. Mungo's.

Saturday 26th July brought the sunshine and lots of visitors into the village for the annual fete. There was a great atmosphere as The Sunshine Panners brought music from the Caribbean, and well done the Scottish Country dancers who still managed to dance in the heat! Everyone seemed to have a lovely afternoon, and a Grand Total of £3,476 was raised. It was a very successful day – hard work but enjoyable. A big THANK YOU to all. Even the Red Arrows flew over to finish the day. Phew, that's it for another year!

If anyone has any empty jam jars, Mrs Allgood would be very grateful. The jars can be left with Mrs Allgood, or at the back of the church.

It was a busy weekend for Michael, as on Sunday 27th July, Jade and Morgan Smith were baptised and welcomed into the church. Then the Deanery Confirmation was held, and Jade Smith, Robbie Langford and Andrew Langford, from Simonburn, were confirmed by Bishop John. We thank the Bishop for a lovely service, with lots of laughter, and we hope he will visit us again.

Congratulations to Peter and Gemma Richardson, at Hallbarns, who were married on Thursday 14th August at St Mary's Lighthouse, Whitley Bay. We wish them every happiness.

We will be saying a sad farewell to our good neighbours and friends, Russell, Pat, Hannah and Sam Fairless, as they leave Simonburn to make a new home in Hexham. The family have played an important part in church and village life over the years, and they will be sorely missed (especially their Lemon drizzle cake – my favourite!). We hope that they will come back and see us.

As I write these notes, preparations are under way for Michael's last service and Retirement Party on 24th August. Michael has been with us for 17 years; he will leave a big hole and will be much missed. We wish Michael and Marion a very happy retirement. I will write more next month.

Sharon Hadley

As a postscript to Sharon's 'Notes', if YOU would like to help proofread the Broadsheet, I'd be more than happy to 'mentor' you over the first few months. You only need a computer, yet think of the benefits: learn new computing skills, enhance your CV, hear Benefice news first, drink coffee, make new friends. If you'd like to give it a go, contact Roger (see p15).

Russell

Wark Parish News

Here we are, already in the early stages of autumn, however before becoming too involved with that, let us reflect on the events since we last chatted. It certainly has been a busy couple of months. Things kicked off at the end of June with the retirement party for Dr Keep, which certainly was a good night. Jani and Neville have a great deal lined up for retirement, and we wish them well. The only down-side being that we lose our organist more often, now that they are able to have longer times away!

The first of a number of celebrations to mark the retirement of Michael was held in Wark School on 16th July, where many gathered to wish Michael and Marion a happy retirement, and to enjoy a wonderful tea. St Michael's arranged a mystery tour for Michael on 23rd July; a full report on the day can be found in this edition of the Broadsheet, on page 9. The Deanery Confirmation was held on 27th July in St Mungo's, with the jovial and larger-than-life Bishop John Richardson officiating.

The first weekend in August was one with many mixed emotions. Sadly, earlier in that week, Lena Cherryman died, with her funeral being held on Saturday 2nd in Wark Methodist United Reformed Church, where many gathered to pay their respect to a lady who had contributed so much to the local community over her many years living in the village. Earlier that morning a good number of locals gathered in Westacres Community Room to support a coffee morning for MURC, where around £350 was raised. On Sunday 3rd August, St Michael's was alive with children, when Mandy and Jamie Thompson, from The Ash, had not one, but two of their grandchildren baptised. We welcomed Oliver Peter and Francesca Jane into the church.

As part of the commemorations for the outbreak of the 1st World War, the Wark branch of The Royal British Legion held a poignant and moving event in the Town Hall on Monday 4th August, with all proceeding out to the war memorial where the last post was sounded.

It is slightly odd writing the next bit, as it is still to take place! Sunday 24th August is the final date Michael will preside at a service within the Benefice, and it will be (was) in St Mungo's Simonburn at 11.00am, followed by a lunch in Simonburn Village Hall. If the lunch turns out to be as good as the plans made it sound, it will have been wonderful. Michael and Marion will spend a couple of weeks following this service arranging a 'downsizing', as they prepare to move to Corbridge. One of the obscure and irritating workings of the Church of England is that Michael is not permitted to return to the Benefice for at least six months – no matter what the circumstances – however there are many good coffee shops in Corbridge, to which one could retire for a non-religious chat, should anyone bump into him whilst shopping.

Arrangements are in place for services to continue to follow a pattern as near as possible to that currently enjoyed. On Sunday 7th September at 6.00pm,

we have Holy Communion at St Michael's, with the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, The Ven. Peter Robinson, presiding. Perhaps a hint of our future will then be explained. A full list of September's services can be found on page 9 of the Broadsheet. Perhaps we could bring to your notice the Benefice Service to celebrate Michaelmas, at 10.30am on Sunday 28th September, which will be led by The Revd. Canon Frank Dexter.

The Ladies Guild are meeting on Monday 1st September, when, no doubt, amongst the many topics they cover, will be initial arrangements for the Christmas Bazaar, which is marked in diaries for Sunday 7th December, in Wark Town Hall.

Jumping ahead into October, we shall hold our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 5th at 6.00pm. Look out for posters around the village with further details. The next evening, Monday 6th, in the Westacres Community Room, will be the traditional Soup and Pudding evening. It is a hot place to be; not only will the soup be wonderful, but in years past the temperature in the room has been boiling! This all gets going at 7.00pm. A little later in October, Saturday 25th at 4.00pm, there will be a teatime concert in church, with the Amadeus Chamber Choir from Crosby, Liverpool. We will give more details in the October Broadsheet. The programme will include unaccompanied madrigals, etc, with the second part being popular Broadway songs (when the slightly younger of your two writers could dance in the aisle). The Choir is giving freely of its time and talent. Please come along and enjoy.

No doubt many will be wondering about the current status of the window restoration project. The good news is that there appears to be light at the end of a very long and dark tunnel. Funding for the work is confirmed from various events, donations and grants. A minor blow was that the original contractor informed us that he was unable to proceed with the work until spring of 2015. A new contractor has been appointed, and the organ is now in shrink wrap – though still playable – in preparation for the removal of the 'unseen window'. We await confirmation from the Diocesan Advisory Committee that stainless steel, as opposed to lead, ventilation diamond panels will be allowed. Then it is all go, with, hopefully, the first window being completed by early September.

All these problems remind us of a notice seen outside a Cumbrian church: "*If your problem is long standing, try kneeling*".

We shall tell you next month if kneeling helped speed the window project along. There is much more we can say about this project, however perhaps we should save it for another time!

Until we chat again, love,

Cyril and John

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Details	Pg
Sat 30 Aug	10:00 am	Vicarage Barbecue, Chollerton	
Mon 1 Sep		Ladies Guild meeting, Wark Town Hall	7
Wed 3 Sep	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI: Pauline Rawe, talk on “ <i>Quilting</i> ”, Barrasford Village Hall	15
Thu 4 Sep	10:30 am	Coffee Morning, Birtley Village Hall	14
Sat 6 Sep	10:30 am	Coffee Morning, Barrasford Village Hall	15
Sun 7 Sep	6:00 pm	Songs of Praise, Chollerton Church	9
Wed 10 Sep	7:00 pm	Humshaugh Arts Project: rehearsals for Christmas Show start, Humshaugh Village Hall	4
Thu 11 Sep	2:00 pm	Humshaugh MU: Dr John McCollum, “ <i>Child Health: The Magic Years</i> ”, at the Langfords’	3
Sat 13 & Sun 14 Sep	10:00 am -4:00 pm	Humshaugh Arts Project: Community Arts Project on WW1, Humshaugh Village Hall	3
Sat 13 Sep	10:00 am -4:00 pm	Northumbria Historic Churches Trust, Steeplechase & Antiphon visits to churches in Coquetdale	16
Mon 15 Sep	8:00 pm	Monday Badminton Group, Humshaugh Village Hall	4
Tue 16 Sep	8:00 pm	Quiz night, The Crown, Humshaugh	3
Thu 18 Sep	7:30 pm	Humshaugh WI: John Sadler, “ <i>Slavery and the North East Connection</i> ”, open evening	3
Fri 19 Sep	6:00 pm	Friends of Chollerton Churches: at Capheaton Hall	15
Sat 20 Sep		Humshaugh Leek Club, Show Day, The Crown	4
Sat 20 Sep	2:00 pm	Messy Church, Barrasford Village Hall	12
Sun 21 Sep	4:00 pm	Bishop Martin’s final service, Newcastle Cathedral	9
Wed 24 Sep	12:00	Gunnerton Lunch Club: home made soup, raffle	14
Fri 26 Sep	7:30 pm	Antiques Evening, Birtley Village Hall	14
Sun 28 Sep	12:30 pm	St Giles’ Harvest Lunch, Birtley Village Hall	12
Sun 28 Sep	2:00 pm	Humshaugh Wildlife Group “fungus foray” led by Dr Gordon Beakes; meet at The Crown	4
Wed 1 Oct	7:30 pm	Chollerton WI: Andy Bates, talk on “ <i>Hexham’s Leatherwork Heritage</i> ”, Barrasford Village Hall	15
Sat 4 Oct	10:30 am	The Hearse House, Chollerton Church, bacon butties	13
Mon 6 Oct	7:00 pm	Soup & Pudding evening, Westacres Community Room, Wark	7
Sat 18 Oct	7:30 pm	Friends of Chollerton Churches: Father Smith Organ, a talk by Mr Richard Hird, Chollerton Church	16
Sat 25 Oct	4:00 pm	Teatime concert, St Michael’s Wark, with the Amadeus Chamber Choir from Crosby, Liverpool	7
Sun 7 Dec		Christmas Bazaar, Wark Town Hall	7

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 7th September – The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10:30 Birtley Holy Communion 6:00 Chollerton Songs of Praise	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion (1662) 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6:00 Wark Holy Communion (1662)
Old Testament: Ezekiel 33: 7-11 Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20	Epistle: Romans 13: 8-end Psalm: 119: 33-40
Sunday 14th September – The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	
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: Genesis 50: 15-21 Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35	Epistle: Romans 14: 1-12 Psalm: 103: 1-13
Sunday 21st September – Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	
9:00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10:30 Birtley Holy Communion	9:30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11:00 Simonburn Holy Communion
4:00 Service for Bishop Martin, Newcastle Cathedral	
Old Testament: Proverbs 3: 13-18 Gospel: Matthew 9: 9-13	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6 Psalm: 119: 65-72
Sunday 28th September – The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9:00 Thockrington Holy Communion (1662) 10:30 Chollerton Holy Communion	10:30 Wark Michaelmas Benefice Service of Holy Communion, led by The Revd. Canon Frank Dexter
Old Testament: Ezekiel 18: 1-4,25-end Gospel: Matthew 21: 23-32	Epistle: Philippians 2: 1-13 Psalm: 25: 1-8
Sunday 5th October – The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9:00 Gunnerton Harvest Festival Holy Communion 10:30 Birtley Harvest Festival Morning Prayer	9:30 Humshaugh Harvest Festival Holy Communion 6:00 Wark Harvest Festival Holy Communion
Old Testament: Deuteronomy 8: 7-18 Gospel: Luke 12: 16-30	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-end Psalm: 65

An excursion on the miracle line

What a pleasure it was to enjoy a day travelling on the minibus and the railways from Wark and Humshaugh to Hexham, Carlisle and Ribbleshead on Wednesday 23rd July.

The Midland Railway was the last of the three London to Scotland routes to be cut through England. The West and East Coast lines were already established by the 1860s, and the only available piece of country for the new main line navigation was down the middle (hence The *Midland* Railway). The terrain is daunting and necessitated 1½ miles of viaduct, and almost four

miles of tunnels, just between Carlisle and Ribbleshead, where the longest of each of the 17 viaducts and 12 tunnels is located.

The story of the Midland Railway bears some comparison with our Anglican Church, being built (and surviving) despite appalling odds, and constructed on somewhat dodgy ground. It meanders over and through some wild and some picturesque scenery, skirting settlements, but providing a unique and well-used link – with standing room only for some, and for part of our return journey.

Reverend Canon Michael (a former Railwayman) last travelled on this line in the late 1970s after a British Rail meeting in Leeds, and sometimes took the scenic route back home (via Carlisle).

After BR threatened to close the line, because of the expense of repairing the 24-arched Ribbleshead Viaduct, a volunteer group (www.settle-carlisle.co.uk) was established to keep the line open in the early 1980s. Their publicity generated more traffic throughout the decade, and in 1989 the line was reprieved (for the time being).

The secured line is now building its own legends, like Ruswarp, the dog who remained with the body of his master (a co-founder of the Friends of The Settle-Carlisle Line) for 11 winter weeks, until they were found in April 1990. Ruswarp is now commemorated by a bronze, life-size statue on Garsdale Station – looking up to the high ground – which was unveiled to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the reprieve of the line.

We perhaps look around our congregations and wonder how God will work a miracle to keep our churches open, with diminishing numbers (many of us increasingly antique), as well as the expense of maintaining the old buildings. I am reminded of what John Bell, of the Ionia Community, said at a Deanery Synod at Maryport before last Christmas, when he told us not to despair, because all the characters in the Nativity story were *elderly* except Mary, John the Baptist and the baby Jesus. If God can work a miracle like that, with all those old folks, in that situation, then He can do it again and again.

The Settle-Carlisle Guide Book also speaks of the double miracle: it being built in the first place, and its reprieve from closure in 1989.

I will remember the excursion for its warmth (brilliant sunshine and company), and the good feeling that comes from being on the right line, heading in the right direction (albeit taking some unexpected meanders), and arriving safely home with everyone accounted for – thanks to Paddy, who organised the event.

All of us wish Michael and Marion a happy retirement, and thank him for keeping the show (the Church) on the road, blowing the whistle (where appropriate), making the announcements, and, most importantly, maintaining the old signals to show all Christian travellers that the line ahead is open.

From a fellow traveller, **Duncan Stuart**

CHOLLERTON BENEFICE

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

For some, work begins again in earnest once the children go back to school. For others, holidays will be taken when locations are quieter and accommodation cheaper. I can fully understand parents wincing at the increase in prices applied to families during the school holidays. Take your child out of school during term time and don't expect much sympathy from the government – only fines!

I didn't like going back to school in September. I loved being on holiday. Going out on my bike, running to and from friends' houses, playing football, playing cricket in the short rough of the local golf course (nobody seemed to mind and we were never told off) – these are the memories I have of my summer holidays, and, of course, baking hot weather and it never seemed to rain.

My holiday in the Lake District in early July seems a far distant memory now. A tremendous amount of water has flowed under the bridge since then. Some things I expected: a funeral, a memorial service, a wedding, Sunday services, conversations. Others have come as a surprise and still others a shock. Having a time away helped recharge the batteries. And although I felt just a bit sad leaving Westmorland, it was good to be back here, soon into the swing of things again, and delighted to be doing so.

As Michael departs from across the water, it may seem for him to be a bit like a holiday – to begin with. When my late father retired, he had shingles leading up to it – the doctor put it down to worry – and then he painted everything in sight. He needed to keep himself busy. Perhaps Michael will be focusing on his house. He will need to do something, that's for sure. It may feel a bit like a holiday, but many who have retired have said to me that it is different. One won't be 'going back'. That can be something similar to bereavement – it has permanence about it; a page in our story is turned; it can be blank – until we begin to write down the next story of our lives, make new friends, see new places, experience new things, and learn to do something new. The opportunities will be what we make of them.

It is the same for us going back to school, or to university for the first time, or taking up a new job after being with the same company for over 30 years, or retiring. What an opportunity!

As I write, we are approaching Michael's final service. We shall continue to pray that retirement goes well for Marion and Michael; that they will know God's blessing upon them, and see his Way for them in the months ahead.

With love and blessings,

Mike

Forthcoming events in Chollerton Benefice Churches

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



Messy Church...

... is back again after the summer break. It seems like a long time ago since our wonderful Teddy Bear jump and Barbecue in June. We are meeting in Barrasford Village Hall on Saturday September 20th at 3.00pm. Families welcome, with something creative to do for adults and children of all ages. A short time of singing and a prayer or two follows, before we have a family meal together.

For further information, please ring Mike the Vicar on 681721.

St Giles' Birtley Harvest Lunch

This year the church invites you to come and celebrate harvest over lunch at Birtley Village Hall from **12.30pm for 1.00pm on Sunday 28th September.**

Lovely home cooked food will be prepared, which will include soup and bread, ham and turkey, with salad and hot new potatoes, a selection of puddings, and coffee and chocolates. There will also be a raffle.

To book a ticket please contact either Eileen Burn on 01434 270228 or Alison Williams on 01434 220389.

Adults £12.00, children aged 12 and under £6.00.



From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice Funerals and Memorial Services



We celebrated the life of:

Philip Maughan, 76, at Chollerton St Giles on Friday June 27th 2014
James Harrison, 38, at Chollerton St Giles on Saturday 12th July 2014
Susan Robertson, 52, at Chollerton St Giles on Thursday 17th July 2014

The Hearse House

I suspect everyone on the Chollerton side of the water will be familiar with the Hearse House, situated directly in front of Chollerton church at the road side. Most will not know that it is a Grade 2 listed building. In the 1920s it was proposed to demolish it, and over 10 years ago the church architect's quinquennial inspection warned that it was close to collapse. It is still there!

Can you remember what it has been used for over the years? I am told the Post Office was situated in it (we still have the old sign), but nobody can remember it being used for anything else.

It is time to bring the building back to life. It will need considerable work to make it safe and useable. Our church architect has already had a look at it. But before anything is done we need to capture a vision of what it could be used for. We have had two suggestions already: a bunkhouse for passing cyclists and walkers, and a tea room for bacon butties, etc. Do you have any other ideas? It is quite small, there is electricity but no sanitation at the moment.

Why not come down and have a look inside? We shall be opening it for viewing on Saturday 4th October from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Bacon butties will be on sale (weather permitting), at £2.00 including a cuppa. Do let me know what you think it could be used for in the future. It would have to be sympathetic to our Christian mission of welcome, hospitality and outreach to the community, and pass through all the various stages of official approval, so we shall have some way to go.

Mike

Works on Chollerton Church

Works on stabilising the pinnacles, reroofing of the boiler house, and bringing back into use the second, smaller bell in the bell cote – which currently is dangerously unsafe if rung – will begin towards the end of September. The work is expected to be finished by Christmas. There will be a visual impact from these works, but, all being well, it is unlikely they will affect the use of the church at any time.

The Parochial Church Council is grateful for the substantial financial support from the Friends of Chollerton Churches, English Heritage, Northumbria Historic Churches Trust, the Community Foundation, and from you the parishioners, towards this important and necessary work.

Community Events in Gunnerton Church



Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday 24th September

12noon-1.00pm, £2.50

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



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.



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 the 2013/14 season is £20.00. Guests/single talks: £4.00



Birtley Village Hall Coffee Morning

Thursday 4th September
from 10.30am

Delicious coffee, home bakes and great conversation guaranteed!



Birtley Local History Group

Further details
from
Mary White 01434 230307



You are invited to an ANTIQUES EVENING

to be held at Birtley Village Hall on Friday September 26th at 7.30pm.

Now's the time to search the loft, the garden shed, the garage, or behind the wardrobe. Who knows what unusual, valuable items will be hiding there!

Jewellery, furniture, silver, china, etc – our expert may surprise you.

Barrasford Village Hall

Coffee morning, Saturday 6th September at 10.30am
Cake stall and raffle, in aid of the Stroke Club and Cancer
Research UK. All welcome.



Other Church services within the Chollerton Benefice

Barrasford Methodist Chapel:

Services at 6.30pm on Sundays in September.

Great Swinburne, St Mary's RC Church:

Services will resume again when announced.

Chollerton WI

7.30p.m. Barrasford Village Hall

Wednesday 3rd September: Pauline Rawe – talk on *Quilting*

Wednesday 1st October: Andy Bates – *Hexham's Leatherwork Heritage*.

Visitors always welcome.

Pauline

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 6.00p.m. on Friday 19th September 2014, to walk around the beautiful walled garden, followed at approximately 7.00pm 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 pay bar available.

Tickets from Ken Carlisle at: kencarlisle@btinternet.com
or tel. 01434 689996

Ken Carlisle, Chairman

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Chollerton Church's Father Smith Organ

Chollerton Parish History Society and Friends of Chollerton Churches are hosting an evening with Mr Richard Hird on Saturday October 18th at 7.30pm in Chollerton Church.

Earlier this year Richard undertook historical research on Chollerton's pipe organ, for a conference in Birmingham. He has agreed to accept our invitation to return to Chollerton to share with us his findings, and to illustrate his talk by playing the organ. We shall have more details in time for next month's Broadsheet.

Richard Hird – a brief biography: Richard has lived in Durham since 1976, and has written about the Cathedral organs and their fates up to 1876. He is Durham's Diocesan Organ Advisor and Register Editor of the British Institute of Organ Studies, as well as being current President of the Darlington Organists' Association.

Mike

Northumbria Historic Churches Trust



STEEPLECHASE

Saturday 13th

September 2014,

10.00am – 4.00pm

Antiphon visits to churches in Coquetdale

Palestrina – Missa Aeterna Christi Munera – and other European Renaissance music – Directed by John Roper

10.45am – St Cuthbert's, Elsdon

11.40am – St Mary the Virgin, Holystone

12.25pm – St Michael and All Angels, Alwinton

3.00pm – All Saints, Rothbury

4.00pm – St John the Evangelist, Otterburn