

# *The Broadsheet*

## *October*



**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 (230367)

*For clergy matters, contact the Rural Dean:*

**The Revd. Dr Susan Ramsaran** (220019)  
[www.humshaughbenefice.org.uk](http://www.humshaughbenefice.org.uk)

**The Revd. Michael J Slade**  
Vicar, Chollerton with Birtley,  
Gunnerton & Thockrington  
Tel: 01434 681721  
email: [chollertonvicar@gmail.com](mailto:chollertonvicar@gmail.com)  
[www.chollerton-churches.org.uk](http://www.chollerton-churches.org.uk)

## **BENEFICE OF HUMSHAUGH, SIMONBURN AND WARK.**

The final service of Rev. Canon Michael Thompson in this benefice prior to his retirement took place at St Mungo's Church, Simonburn, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August, fittingly, where Michael was inducted to the Benefice 17 years ago. The Church was full for a service of Holy Communion. Michael was escorted in and out of the Church by his six Church Wardens. The hymns included 'We Believe in God The Father' and the 'Hymn to Northumbria', sung to Sullivan's music for 'Onward Christian Soldiers'.

Following this moving service a lunch party was held in Simonburn Village Hall which had been prepared by volunteers from the three parishes. 130 persons, young and old, attended a well-decorated hall for a delightful Sunday lunch. There was a much deserved ambience of goodwill and friendship and messages of thanks were expressed to Michael and Marion, with good wishes for a healthy and happy retirement in Corbridge. They were presented with a cheque to select and purchase a potting shed and greenhouse for their new garden, a magnificently decorated cake, silver earrings and an orchid plant.

Meanwhile, the activities and business of the Churches in the three parishes must continue during the interregnum. Service arrangements for the next few months, including Christmas, have been made, together with the dates for services with the schools, to which all are invited. Most immediately, the Michaelmas Benefice Service on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am in Wark will be taken by Rev. Canon Frank Dexter from Hexham and the Humshaugh School Harvest Service on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.15am in school followed by a Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St. Peter's on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am, conducted by the Rev. Canon Murray Haig from Prudhoe. This Harvest service will be shared with Simonburn. The Harvest service in Wark will be at 6pm on 5<sup>th</sup> October led by Reader Pam Nobbs from Hexham.

The memorial stone for the area of cremated remains within St Peter's Churchyard has been put in place and really looks most elegant and dignified.

The work of the PCC continues and already meetings have been held. The Archdeacon plans to visit each of the three PCCs and comes to Humshaugh on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and Wark on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, when discussions will take place about preparing the parish profiles and plans for advertising for a successor to Michael. We conclude by again thanking Michael for his ministry in this area and extend warm wishes to him and Marion for their new life in Corbridge.

2 Woodside Avenue, Corbridge, September 2014

Dear Friends,

'Thank you' hardly does justice to the sense of gratitude which Marion and I feel in light of all the kindness and generosity which have surrounded my retirement.

As I write we are clearing up at Humshaugh Vicarage but also enjoying settling in our new home. We are looking forward to the construction of the 'shed/greenhouse' (temporarily out of stock!) in the coming weeks and it will be one of many things which will serve to remind us of our happy years as part of the North Tyne communities.

With sincere good wishes and renewed thanks,

Michael

### **From our Registers**

#### **St Peter's, Humshaugh.**

**Baptism.** Thomas Dominic Coxon Crichton son of Ronald Crichton and Sarah Coxon of Perth, Western Australia, was baptised on 26<sup>th</sup> August whilst staying with relatives at Lincoln Hill. The service was conducted by Rev. Dagmar Winter of Kirkwhelpington.

**Funerals.** Gordon March aged 82 years most recently of Valley Court, Humshaugh, died on 20<sup>th</sup> August and was laid to rest on 29<sup>th</sup> August in Humshaugh Church Yard. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Michael Slade of Chollerton.

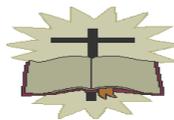
Also Dennis Hall aged 89 years of Abbey Court, Hexham formerly of Hadrian Court died on 25<sup>th</sup> August and was laid to rest on 1<sup>st</sup> September in Humshaugh Church Yard. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Dagmar Winter of Kirkwhelpington.

#### **St Michael's, Wark.**

**Marriage.** On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September between Suzanne Jane Swaile and Christopher Marc Dixon. The service was conducted by Rev. Susan Ramsaran from Bellingham. (Rural Dean)

#### **St Mungo's, Simonburn**

**Marriage** On Saturday 23rd August between Peter Norris and Kate Slade. Service conducted by Rev'd Canon Michael Thompson.



## **Round and about Humshaugh**

Firstly, a report from Humshaugh Parish Council on local matters:

*“Simmonds Court Development (New housing behind the George Hotel) Riverside Housing and Keepmoat, the developers attended the Parish Council meeting to give an update on progress and inform us about the letting policy. Works are progressing well and houses should be completed early in the new year. Keepmoat have been working with the school and are currently putting together a time capsule that will be buried at the site. They have also been working with the Playing Field Trust and have helped fund a new bike track for youngsters in the village. They do have a small grants scheme are keen to hear about any other projects, just contact the parish council clerk for details.*

*Riverside Housing are also urging anyone who may be interested in one of the Houses to register with the County Council's Northumberland Homefinder Service. You can do it on line at [www.northumberlandhomefinder.org.uk/Data/ASPPages/1/30.aspx](http://www.northumberlandhomefinder.org.uk/Data/ASPPages/1/30.aspx) or phone 0845 600 6400 or visit the Council Offices in Hexham. There will be an information sheet in the shop shortly that will also explain the process. Claire O'Shea from Riverside Housing was urging people to do this as soon as possible if they are interested. The allocation process works on a points system. If you have a local connection you will get extra points so local people are more likely to get a house. However if people score the same then the length of time they have been registered with Homefinder will be the deciding factor. If you have any problems then let the Clerk or one of your councillors know.*

### *Anaerobic Digester*

*People may be aware of the proposal for an anaerobic digester on the other side of the road from the electricity substation on the road to Fourstones. There have been fliers delivered around the village from some local residents who are not happy about this development. As a result the Parish Council asked the developers to attend the Parish Council meeting to provide information about the development and respond to the concerns that had been voiced around noise, odour, increased traffic and visual impact. Steve Barker from Prism Planning and Matthew Flint from FJS attended and provided a lot of very detailed information that the Parish Council felt allayed a lot of concerns. Re noise concerns, levels have been checked by independent specialists who took readings from a similar plant in Cumbria, which concluded that noise levels were barely discernible outside of the site. Odour is not an issue with the proposed development, it is digesters that deal with food waste where there can be issues with unpleasant smells, this will*

*not be the case here. This plant will be using slurry and grass/silage provided by local farmers. They have sourced sufficient material from farms in the area (Humshaugh, Simonburn, Wark, Wall, Ryall were mentioned) and as a result anticipate that the impact of traffic will equate to 3-4 trucks per day. If moved by tractor, 7-8 per day. It is likely they will use some of each of these options.*

*Consideration has been given to the visual impact on the area. The site was selected for a number of reasons, one of which being the proximity to the electricity substation, for connection to the National Grid. Secondly, they endeavour to find sites that have a natural ability to provide a screen for the plant, and this site has extensive tree cover along two sides of the facility. They will put in additional landscaping to further screen the other sides. Prism Planning are currently producing some computer generated images of what the plant will look like and these will be made available through the Parish Council.*

*This presentation was followed by a robust but well-mannered discussion. Having listened to the developers, the resultant discussion reviewed the information that had been circulated. Councillors felt the major concerns are addressed or can be by conditions placed by the planning authority. In addition we feel there are some real benefits to the rural economy and it is a much needed source of green energy. So the Parish Council will be writing in support of the development but would want some specific condition on permission with regard to preventing change of use to food waste and appropriate long term landscape plan.*

*Making these decisions is always the most challenging aspect of local democracy, we do take that responsibility seriously and look at evidence, understand local opinion but base our final response on the basic planning tenet the decision is based on whether it benefits the wider public interest even although there may be some individuals who may feel it is not in their interests. The County Council has received expressions of concern about this planning application from other groups and organisations, such as Warden Parish Council, Wall Parish Council, Northumberland County Scout Council and English Heritage, as well as from individual residents in Wall, Fourstones, Walwick and Humshaugh.*

*An exciting new programme of star gazing events are taking place at venues around the National Park, which started with a family event at Once Brewed in September. These events are aimed primarily at families and those interested in starting out on their journey through the Universe. They are led by Astronomer Robert Ince and newly recruited Star Makers, who are keen to share their knowledge and passion for our beautiful dark skies.*

*If you are interested in booking a place, please visit:*

*[www.visitnorthumberland.com/star-gazing-events/starmakers-stargazing-](http://www.visitnorthumberland.com/star-gazing-events/starmakers-stargazing-)*

[events&ssid=513892](#)

Prices are £7.50 for adults, £5.00 for children.

The events programme is one of many developments being delivered by the Animating Dark Skies project, which has been funded by the National Park Authority and partners including the Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust, North Pennines AONB, Northumberland County Council, Forestry Commission, Durham County Council and DEFRA, with support from Northumberland Tourism Ltd. Other benefits emerging from this initiative include: a series of dark sky workshops for tourism businesses, a training programme for new event leaders, a network of new Dark Sky Discovery Sites with on-site interpretation, visitor information and a portable planetarium and star gazing kit. Animating Dark Skies was designed to help residents and businesses capitalise on the success of achieving International Dark Sky Park status last November.

The new table tennis season for Humshaugh Table Tennis Club will start on Thursday 2 October 19.30-21.30 in the village hall. It will then meet every Thursday except for the third Thursday of each month. All are welcome. Please contact Michael Binks on 681741 for more information

Humshaugh Cricket Club's season has just finished with the first and third teams doing well in their respective leagues, even though it has been a struggle to field full sides at times. The challenge before the club in the off-season is to recruit more players and more adult support to organise and run the club, otherwise the prospects for the future of the club do not look rosy. The club needs players of all ages, especially in the 12-18 year age range, as well as older, and we also need people to help run the junior teams, organise fund-raising, run the club's website, monitor its presence on social media – to name but a few of the roles! If you can offer your support, please contact club secretary, Nick Hayward, on 681463 or e-mail [nick.hayward310@btinternet.com](mailto:nick.hayward310@btinternet.com)

There is no Soup Day being held in school this year but Harvest Open Worship will be held in school on Thursday 2nd October at 9.15 a.m.

Concern has again been raised by parents of young children about dogs being on the playing field and dog mess around the village too! Please remember that no dogs are permitted on the field at any time and if you do have a dog, please consider others and clean up after it so everyone can feel comfortable walking in the village.

And ending on a positive note: the commemorative event in the village hall over the week-end of 13-14 September won much praise from not just locals but those from far and wide who came along to read the poignant personal experiences, look at the fascinating memorabilia and listen to the very moving songs, poetry and personal accounts of families looking forward to seeing it reproduced more permanently in the form of a book.

Who lived through the First World War. The HAP group pulled out all the stops to make this a tremendous weekend, even creating a contemporary café with potted meat sandwiches and lots of delicious confectionary. The greatest contribution was made by Jen Ogle who has spent at least a year researching the stories of the men on Humshaugh's war memorial and who had the vision to collect, reproduce and assemble a vast amount of historical material from current village residents. Thank you Jen for all your hard work and, if all goes to plan, we look forward to seeing it reproduced

Wed 5th November Humshaugh playing field trust firework event 6-30 pm  
Sat 22nd November Humshaugh first school and pre school Christmas market  
12-4pm in Humshaugh Village Hall.  
Any queries contact Louise Armatage Tel. 689438

### Simonburn Notes

Firstly, I must mention Michael's last service and retirement party. The sun shone that day and it was lovely to see the church with a full congregation, with people coming from far and wide, for this special service.

There was a lovely atmosphere in the village hall as the three churches worked together to give us all an excellent lunch. Our thanks go to everyone involved for their hard work. We wish Michael and Marion every happiness for their new life in Corbridge. It's time to put their feet up, I think!

We would like to congratulate Peter and Kate Norris on their wedding on Saturday 23rd August.

As the nights are drawing in, curl up with a good book. There is a book sale in St. Mungo's and there are plenty to choose from.

**Sharon Hadley**

### Postponed Pilgrimage to Bellingham Deanery

Thank you so much to all those who offered hospitality and/ or transport when our friends from Caster eventually come!

As you have probably heard they had been double booked and their Bishop had to take priority.

However we shall let you know as soon as we have further news.

Best wishes,

**Sally Napier**

## SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2014

<b>Benefice of Chollerton</b>	<b>Benefice of Humshaugh</b>
<b>Sunday 5th October - The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9:00 Gunnerton Harvest Festival with Family Communion 10:30 Birtley Harvest Festival Matins	9:30 Humshaugh Harvest Festival with Holy Communion (with Simonburn) 6:00 Wark Harvest Festival
<b>Old Testament:</b> Deuteronomy 8:7-18 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 12:16-30 <span style="float: right;"><b>Epistle:</b> 2 Corinthians 9:6-end <b>Psalm:</b> 65</span>	
<b>Sunday 12th October - The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9.00 Thockrington Harvest Festival with Holy Communion 10.30 Chollerton Harvest Festival with Family Communion 6.30 Great Bavington URC Harvest	9.30 Humshaugh Morning Prayer 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 25:1-9 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 22:1-14 <span style="float: right;"><b>Epistle:</b> Philippians 4:1-9 <b>Psalm:</b> 23</span>	
<b>Sunday 19th October - The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 45:1-7 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 22:15-21 <span style="float: right;"><b>Epistle:</b> 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 <b>Psalm:</b> 96:1-9</span>	
<b>Sunday 26th October - The Last Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion (1662) 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9.30 Wark Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.30 Humshaugh Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> Leviticus 19:1-4,15-18 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 22:34-end <span style="float: right;"><b>Epistle:</b> 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 <b>Psalm:</b> 1</span>	
<b>Sunday 2nd November - All Saints' Sunday</b>	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion 6.00 Chollerton Service for All Souls	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Holy Communion

## **WARK PARISH NEWS**

All feels like a long time ago, but, didn't we have a wonderful service and lunch to say farewell to Michael and Marion on 24<sup>th</sup> August. I believe there were a few eyes with tears in them. How many of you spotted the 'thank you' ad in The Hexham Courant? Looks like a fabulous greenhouse they purchased from the donations the three parishes collected.

So we have officially entered the period of interregnum. A detailed list of services have been drawn up with October's being found on page 8 so it is very much business as usual. Contact details, at this time, are on the front cover of *THE BROADSHEET* (with the correct 'phone number for John). We are receiving a great deal of help from the Archdeacon and the Rural Dean however things do not move very fast in The Church of England so do not expect the announcement as to who has filled the vacancy for some time.

The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, The Ven. Peter Robinson presided at services in all three parishes early in September and outlined the process along with a possible timetable. The PCC are charged with drawing up a Parish profile to be supplied to anyone applying when the vacancy is advertised. Fortunately the Archdeacon is attending a meeting of the PCC on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October to assist in completing this. I say fortunately as some of the questions are very obscure. Could PCC members make a note of this date, Paddy will circulate more information.

Back on 5<sup>th</sup> September we had a village Wedding when Suzanne and Marc who live on Church Lane 'tied the knot' It was a lovely occasion with wonderful sunshine. They did look great in the old VW campervan as they left for their reception.

With the nights cutting in and a drop in temperature Autumn must be with us so thoughts turn to Harvest Festivals. Here at St Michael's this will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00pm. Any gifts of fruit or vegetables to help decorate the church would be most welcome. Please hand these to Ann or John by Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The school is holding its Harvest Festival in St Michael's on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 2.30pm. This service is open for anyone to attend and it comes highly recommended as the children do it all. There is no clergy intervention.

The observant readers will have noticed the 'unseen window' has been away to be restored and happily is back in place. The next phase will be underway soon. The restorer has another job to complete before commencing with the two remaining south side windows. He is also moving his workshop from Berwick to Morpeth at the same time – he must be a glutton for punishment! Hopefully when you read this the *shrink wrap* will be off the organ and it will be tuned and back in working order.

The Ladies Guild next meet on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Ann Bell's at 7.30pm when they will be putting the finishing touches to the arrangements for the Christmas

Bazaar which this year is on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December in The Town Hall at 2.00pm. An ideal time to start or, depending on how organised you are, finish your Christmas shopping. Donations for any of the usual stalls would be gratefully received.

Between Harvest and The Christmas Bazaar Paddy has arranged, through a colleague, a Teatime Concert in St Michael's on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 4.00pm given by the Amadeus Chamber Choir, under the direction of Davis Holroyd, the Director of Music at Merchant Taylors School, Crosby, Liverpool. The first half hour will be sacred music with an interval at 4.30pm when tea and cake will be served. The second part will be folk and show-time songs. Tickets are £7.00 on the door including the tea and cake. All this sounds very interesting and something slightly different for us.

Last month you may remember we said we'd try kneeling to speed the window project along, well it appeared to work so this month we will end with an advert from one of those parish magazines we receive *CARPENTER OF NAZARETH SEEKS JOINERS, APPLY WITHIN – SUNDAYS 6.00pm*. We will let you know next month if it worked. What more can or should we say!

Until we chat again, love

**Cyril and John**

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm there will be the usual Harvest Soup and Pudding Evening in Westacres Community Room. Well worth coming along to, the food is excellent and the crack good.

### Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

August was a difficult month for some of us. Tragedy can strike at a moment's notice and lives can be changed permanently. It is so obvious to us how precious life is. Hopefully it doesn't take a tragedy to make us all realise that. Yet people still feel it is right in their eyes to murder captured charity workers in cold blood in a blaze of publicity. These men, along with journalists who knew the risks they were taking to bring to the general public the suffering being endured by ordinary men, women and children, wanted to do something good among a people quite foreign to them. Man's inhumanity to Man seems not to have changed over the millennia; only that Man has become much more efficient and clever at killing their fellow human beings than ever they were. I am about to begin a new autumn course with some of my parishioners as we look at characters from the Bible.

It won't be long before we engage with the conflicts of the day in the stories of these people and what motivated the conflict. We shall shake our heads as we read these enduring stories and wonder why we seem unable to change for the better. My dream is that all wars stop and we have peace all over the world.

Those are not my words. They are the words of one of the children who left Chollerton School last July, read aloud at the leavers' service.

And there were others shared with us that day: 'I have a dream that everyone would bring peace to the world, that we would stop the war, show care for the world. I have a dream that people won't be judged by their skin but by their personality. I have a dream.'

And more: 'My wish is that we all treat animals nicely.' 'My dream is that everyone is kind and that all people are treated fairly and equally.'

No doubt parents have kept their children away from viewing such awful things as we have witnessed on the television, although that can be quite difficult at times - it literally is in our faces. Maybe what the children have seen or heard about shaped what they shared that day. Their words struck me as being something very special when I heard them in that service. I am sure they would be echoed by children caught up with violence all around the world.

And one more to finish with: 'My dream is that we are loving and kind to one another.'

My hope is that these children of ours will live out these dreams throughout their lives and by doing so, literally change the world. I thank God for them and I pray their dreams will come true.

And as for us older people, these children's display of faith, hope and love will, I pray, support those of us who feel that life has been hard of late.

With love, peace and blessings,

Mike

### From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice

#### Weddings

We witnessed and celebrated the marriage of  
Paul Scott Harrison and Jill Duncan at Chollerton St Giles on Saturday  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> also

Craig Thomas Routledge and Sarah Louise Hepworth at Chollerton St  
Giles on Friday September 5<sup>th</sup>



## Forthcoming events in Chollerton Benefice Churches

### Messy Church...



... meets again in Barrasford Village Hall on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Harvest Services

Services are planned for Sundays as follows:

**October 5<sup>th</sup>:** 9.00 am with Family Communion at Gunnerton

10.30 Matins at Birtley

and Thockrington parishioners are warmly invited to join Great Bavington URC at their Harvest Service this day at 6.30pm.

**October 12<sup>th</sup>:** 9.00am with Holy Communion at Thockrington

10.30am Family Communion at Chollerton

In giving thanks for a wonderful year fresh produce donated will go to Dilston College as usual, and cash donations and tinned and packaged foods will be given to the food bank run by the Cedarwood Trust in North Shields. Do please be generous in your support. Items can be left in the churches before the services above or on the Vicarage doorstep/letterbox in Chollerton. At the Great Bavington service tins and packets may be brought to give to the People's Kitchen.

### All Souls' Evening Service

On Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6.00pm we shall have the opportunity of gathering together at St Giles' Chollerton to remember loved ones we see no more. The service will include familiar hymns, a reading or two, a few words from the vicar, some prayers and most importantly, an opportunity to have your loved one's name read out aloud as a candle is lit and brought forward during the service. A cup of tea or coffee will be served afterwards. Names of loved ones may be given to the vicar in any way you find helpful, and there will be sheets provided in church to write them down on.

## 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 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 works 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 there but no sanitation at the moment.

**Why not come down and have a look inside. We shall be opening it for viewing on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Benefice churches

Works at Chollerton on stabilising the pinnacles, reroofing of the boiler house and bringing the second, smaller bell in the bell cote (which currently is dangerously unsafe if rung) back into use will, by God's grace, have started by the time the Broadsheet is distributed. It is hoped all works will be completed by the end of October, weather permitting, and assuming nothing untoward is found.

In the next month or so our church architect will be looking at the internal water damage problems we have experienced at Gunnerton church so that the area affected can be restored to its former glory once again.

Thockrington is the church most exposed to the weather in our benefice. Over the years the west gable wall has started to allow water to penetrate inside. We hope works will start later this year on making good this wall.

## Community Events in Gunnerton Church



### Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
£2.50

12noon-1.00pm

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

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

The annual membership for 2014/15 season is £20.00

Guests/single talks £4.00



### Coffee Morning

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from  
10.30am

Delicious coffee, home bakes  
and great conversation  
guaranteed!



### Birtley Local History Group

Further details from Mary White  
01434 230307



### Other Church services within the Chollerton Benefice

Barrasford Methodist Chapel: Services at 6.30pm on Sundays in October.

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

## Chollerton WI

Our next meeting is at 7.30p.m. on Wednesday, 1st October when Alan Bates will give a talk on 'Hexham's Leatherwork Heritage'. As always, visitors will be very welcome.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Entry will be £5 which includes a glass of wine (coffee/tea available)

## Barrasford Village Hall

Back by popular demand the **Barrasford Village Hall Christmas Gift Fair**, Sunday 26th October, 11am to 4pm. 14 unique gift stalls, delicious refreshments, Grand Christmas Raffle in aid of the final phase of the hall refurbishment. Come along and start your Christmas shopping early by shopping locally.

Barrasford Methodist Church Harvest Festival Weekend:

Saturday 11th October at 7.30pm Concert given by Tanfield Lea Choir

Sunday 12th at 6.30pm Service taken by Rev Tom Quenet.

## Colwell Village Hall

Colwell Village Hall Quiz Night

Saturday, 4th October, 7.30pm

£5 per person includes supper

Includes draw for the annual raffle in aid of the Tynedale Hospice Rainbow Project

## **Christian Aid Week**

11th-17th May 2014 in the parishes of Chollerton, Gunnerton and Thockrington.

**Thank you** for all your contributions and to the five collectors for the grand total of £613.15

**Claire Ridley**  
Christian Aid Organiser

On Tuesday October 7th at 7.00pm a night of **Traditional, Country and Gospel Music** with Roddy Matthews, Roly Johnson and Kathy Anderson is taking place in the Tynedale Suite at Hexham Auction Mart. Roddy Matthews is a very well known fiddle player; he has released several CDs and broadcast for the BBC. Roly is a singer/songwriter travelling and playing both nationally and internationally. From a Folk/Gospel musical background, he brings songs written while living amongst the wild hills and open spaces of Northumberland. His sister, Kathy Anderson is an accomplished musician and singer; she is a music teacher and folk group leader. The speaker is Sam Douthwaite from Newcastle. Sam helped launch Newcastle Street Pastors in 2008 at a commissioning service at Newcastle Cathedral. Street Pastors are there to offer help and assistance to those who are vulnerable or in need.

Tickets for the event on October 7th are £7.50 and include a Pie & Pea Supper. To book, or for more details, please contact

Richard Dodds 01434 681847

Katie Matthews 01434 672424

Peter Smith 01434 609485

The Cedar Tree 01434 604004

For any who wish it will be possible on the evening to make a donation to *Release International*, a charity supporting imprisoned and persecuted Christians Worldwide. [www.releaseinternational.org/](http://www.releaseinternational.org/)

**Pauline**

### **The Broadsheet Editor – Roger Hadley**

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The deadline for the November Broadsheet is 14th October.