

# *The Broadsheet*

## *November*

# *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  
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[www.chollerton-churches.org.uk](http://www.chollerton-churches.org.uk)

## Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

It has been typically autumn weather recently. Mornings have been foggy with not a breath of wind. Going outside into the garden has been a pleasure in the stillness of the morning.

There are not many sounds you will hear at such times which you will have heard 800 years ago: similar bird song perhaps; the sound of a person walking through wet grass; leaves falling to the ground, and maybe you can think of a few others. About a week ago one such ancient sound really stood out; the sound of a stonemason's hammer hitting a chisel. The sound came from the masons working on Chollerton church tower's pinnacles. The unmistakeable ring of metal chipping away at stone.

Similar tools would have been used to build Chollerton church in the thirteenth century. Over time the same sound would have been heard as the building was reshaped and extended. Again it has been heard in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as wobbly pinnacles have been dismantled, restored and reassembled, providing stability and security. Our architect is very pleased with their work. We both hope we shall be long dead before any further work is required up the tower.

Across the road from the church, stonemasons will have fashioned our prominent war memorial. On ITV Downton Abbey is running with a storyline about a suitable place for the erection of a war memorial, set in 1924, and there was some debate about the best place for it. I wonder whether there was a similar discussion locally about the best place for ours. Personally I think the location is superb with the beautiful countryside forming a backdrop, and it being especially visible as we approach it from Barrasford. My only regret is the nearby electricity lines.

The most important thing is the names etched into the stone. Will there be anybody still living who remembers meeting any of them? It is becoming increasingly unlikely. Nevertheless we continue to remember them with gratitude in two short minute's silence.

Much has been in the media about the Great War this year, and rightly so; though the 'War to end all wars' simply wasn't. A hundred years on and Parliament votes overwhelmingly to fight again; and over the years we have continued to supply arms, often it turns out to the wrong people. Human creativity is used in ever more clever ways, not to shape stone or join wood or stained glass, but to kill: efficiently, quickly, from high up out of reach in a clear blue sky, captured digitally in close-up for showing on the early evening television news.

I sense we have had enough of it. Even more reason then to pray for peace, an end to barbaric killing and an end for the need to be deeply challenged by Jesus' command to love our enemies.

My hope is that the sound of the stonemason's craft will not be needed to be heard exercised on our war memorials to add names of future combatants who die for their country. We shall however continue to remember the special people who paid the ultimate price of obedience to the call of their nation.

With love, peace and blessings,

**Mike**

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

### **Mothers' Union**

The Mothers' Union report of the September meeting when Dr. John McCollum gave a wonderful talk about child care, especially the *very* young, was inadvertently omitted from the Humshaugh notes. At the meeting members were fascinated to hear how vitally important it is for the expectant mother to talk to her yet unborn child and how this will make the baby, straight after birth, recognise his or her mother's voice. The first 1000 days in a baby's life are hugely important for its development and a safe, friendly atmosphere is essential for the brain to develop steadily and fully. Thank you John, for your moving talk which taught us so much.

In October we had to change to an informal meeting because Anne Price, one of our Kielder members, who was going to bring our speaker, had tragically and totally unexpectedly, lost her son. We all wish her strength at this very difficult time and hope she will be able to join us again soon.

Fortunately Margret Jacot, had just been to a weekend course in Higham Hall on Bassenthwaite Lake and had heard lectures on "Rituals in Religion." She told us the outlines and took us through the seven Holy Sacraments: Baptism, Confession, Eucharist, Confirmation, Ordination, Marriage and Funerals – the way all of these have rituals in many different countries, cultures and religions.

On Thursday November the 6<sup>th</sup> Marjorie Baillie will give her talk "In the Land of the Sacred Cow" and show some of her beautiful photographs.

We will meet at the Baillie's home, The Beeches, at 2 pm on that afternoon.

**Liesbeth Langford**

**The Quiz at the Crown Inn** on Tuesday 16th September was won by the "Canberra Beauties". £130 was raised for the play Group.

The next quiz will be held on Tuesday 27th October and the money raised will be for the Humshaugh Firework Display. The date is a week later than the one given you earlier this year.

### **Humshaugh School and Preschool**

The traditional firework night will take place on Wednesday November 5th at 6.30 pm on the playing fields. As usual tempting hot food will be served. No personal fireworks or sparklers please.

This event depends on donations on the night to fund the display. There will be buckets in the shop and the Crown Inn.

***On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November there will be a Christmas market from 12 until 4pm in aid of school and pre school funds. More than 14 local trade stalls will be present and there will be afternoon teas, a raffle and a hamper to be won.***

***Date for the Diary: Community advent soup lunch Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December***

## **Harvest Festival**

When a group of volunteers were decorating the church for the Harvest service, they found a wonderful amount of produce which the children from Humshaugh school had brought into the church. And what was even nicer: the produce was given in beautifully decorated boxes – so beautiful, that they were also displayed for the Harvest service.

And then, on the following Monday morning, in the pouring rain, the children took those same boxes to the elderly in the village. Well done!!

## **Humshaugh Cricket Club**

would like to thank its shopping supporters for all the green tokens they dropped into the club's box as part of the Waitrose Community Matters scheme earlier in the summer. Club secretary, Nick Hayward, and juniors, Cavan Scott and Will Turnbull, collected a cheque for £240 from the store at the end of the season. For its next fund-raising venture, the club has come up with a Christmas 'stocking-filler' idea: a 2015 desktop calendar featuring scenes from around the village. Contained in a CD-type perspex case and costing only £5, the calendar makes an ideal gift for sending through the post to family and friends. It will be on sale in the village shop, so pop along and buy one or five. If you can't make it to the shop, Nick would be delighted to take your order on 681463!

## **Humshaugh Wildlife Group**

On a sunny Sunday at the end of September the wildlife group met outside the pub for a fungi foray, led by the ever enthusiastic Gordon Beakes. Despite the fact the weather had been so sunny and dry, not good for moisture loving mushrooms, the 22 of us and a dog, had a lovely long walk with an array of interesting fungi to look at. One of the highlights of the walk was the number of different species of Waxcap found in the pasture near to Keepersfield, these are indicators of unimproved grassland and are colourful and delicate little mushrooms, species found included Snowy, Meadow and Blackening Waxcaps, the latter fully black when we found it. A giant Puffball, almost the size of a football was found and collected, this was divided up among those of us brave enough to fry it up later and eat it, delicious with butter and garlic! Thanks to Gordon for leading us and to Suzanne for organising the route.

Notes compiled by Anne in Liz's absence

## **Simonburn Notes**

We didn't have a Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St.Mungo's this year, instead we joined with Humshaugh on Sunday 5th October. It was a lovely service taken by Rev. Canon Murray Haig, who reminded us of the importance of saying "Thank You". There was tea, coffee and cake served after the service, which was very welcome. Thank you to all!

A couple of weeks ago, the church gates disappeared! We all wondered where they had gone. Had the thieves been at work again? Luckily they hadn't and the gates are back in place, oiled and looking good. Thank You to Dave Rosemurgy.

Congratulations to Henry and Mary Lobb on the birth of Arthur Edward Hunter, we look forward to meeting him.

Sharon Hadley

## WARK PARISH NEWS

Sitting looking out of the window today onto a very misty village it certainly is autumn. St Michael's enjoyed two well attended Harvest services. The school set us off in the mode with their service on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Which was great. I know I go on about these school services however until you come along you will not be aware of the talent – yes Wark has talent! The next will be their Christmas service (date to be confirmed) which Head Teacher Amanda Lewis let slip she was working on. We wait expecting great things. I have just saved these notes into a file called November 1014. Mad or what? Special date? However back to reality. The soup and pudding night on Monday October 6<sup>th</sup> went down well. Great soup, great puddings and thankfully not so hot a room as previous years. Proceeds have been donated between Water Aid and Farmers' Mission.

Preparations for these notes is being done slightly ahead of some events to come (editor requests we have these with him by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month) so it is with a great amount of hope we report a successful concert on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October with the Amadeus Chamber Choir. A new venture for St Michael's.

Things are back to normal within the church; shrink wrap is off the organ, which has been tuned. Lewis has tinkled the ivories whilst Jani was enjoying a well-deserved break, and reports it's working better than ever. We now await, projected to be in early January, the removal and restoration of the two south side windows then we shall take a look at the window, again. Very few see the vestry—the inner sanctum where all the gossip takes place!

We shall also have had a PCC meeting with The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, The Ven. Peter Robinson who may or may not have guided us with information regarding the appointment of a new incumbent for the Benefice. Probably he will have said we need to wait for a due process to take place. Time is a great thing we only wish it would, at times, move slightly quicker.

Moving ahead into November; Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> is a meeting of The Ladies Guild with Ann Bell being the host. This as at 7.30pm when the finishing arrangements will be made for the Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December in The Town Hall at 2.00pm. Donations for any of the usual stalls would be gratefully received.

This November Remembrance Sunday will be observed on the 9<sup>th</sup> with a service in St Peters, Humshaugh at 10.45am. The Royal British Legion within the Benefice area has arranged for a bugler to be present at the service along with the laying of wreaths. Commemorative times at the war memorials are: Humshaugh at 12noon, Simonburn at 12.15pm and Wark at 12.30pm. The timings may vary depending upon travelling conditions. We do hope many will make a visit to these marks of respect for those who gave their lives for us.

So we are in November with much ahead so let us conclude with a message from week 3 of Children's Wisdom notices on a board outside Paul Sinclair's church in Willesden:

***'When your Mum is mad at your Dad don't let her brush your hair'***

So that is it for this month, slightly younger away, again, as many say, for a week in the sun so we shall report on the working of the Church on Menorca next time (believe me it is different)

What more can or should we say!  
Until we chat again.

Love

**Cyril and John**

## SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2014

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
<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
<b>Old Testament:</b> (Revelation 7:9-end) <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5:1-12	<b>Epistle:</b> 1 John 3:1-3 <b>Psalm:</b> 34:1-10
<b>Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Sunday</b>	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10.00 Birtley Wreath Laying 10.40 Chollerton Morning Worship Service of Remembrance & Wreath Laying 6.30 Birtley Evensong	10.45 Humshaugh Benefice Service and wreath laying at the war memorials including Simonburn and Wark
<b>Old Testament:</b> Amos 5:18-24 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 25:1-13	<b>Epistle:</b> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end <b>Psalm:</b> 70
<b>Sunday 16th November - The Second Sunday before Advent</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> Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 25:14-30	<b>Epistle:</b> 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 <b>Psalm:</b> 90:1-8
<b>Sunday 23rd November - Christ the King</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> Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 25:31-end	<b>Epistle:</b> Ephesians 1:15-end <b>Psalm:</b> 95:1-7
<b>Sunday 30th November - Advent Sunday</b>	
10.30 Chollerton Benefice Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 6.00 Simonburn Songs of Praise Benefice Service
<b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 64:1-9 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 13:24-end	<b>Epistle:</b> 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 <b>Psalm:</b> 80:1-8
<b>Sunday 7th December - The Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Holy Communion
<b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 40:1-11 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 1:1-8	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Peter 3:8-15a <b>Psalm:</b> 85:8-end

## Chollerton Benefice

### From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice



#### Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the Family of the Church  
Grace Olivia Wyn Batten at Gunnerton St Christopher on Sunday  
September 28<sup>th</sup>



#### Funerals and Memorial Services

We celebrated the life of  
Donald Arthur, 101, at Chollerton St Giles on Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>  
Joan Tulip, 73, at Chollerton St Giles on Friday October 10<sup>th</sup>



#### Weddings

We witnessed and celebrated the marriage of  
Lee Buckingham and Kate Miller at Chollerton St Giles on Saturday  
October 18<sup>th</sup>

Howdee folks!

If you enjoyed our last Chollerton church safari supper then please join  
us to celebrate

#### **American Thanksgiving Day**

in traditional style  
Friday November 28<sup>th</sup> from 7.00pm  
Booking is essential

Tickets £12.50

Please telephone Ann on 01434 230464 or Mike 681721

#### **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

Thank you for the fresh produce donated to Dilston College and the cash donations and tinned and packaged foods given to the food bank run by the Cedarwood Trust in North Shields. It has all been distributed and very gratefully received.

### 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 Stable and Hearse House

We welcomed many people to have a look around the Chollerton church Stable and Hearse House on a cold and wet Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Many people said they were pleased to hear that the building would be restored and brought back into use. We have had several suggestions which the Parochial Church Council will consider and to think about the way forward. As they say: watch this space! Many thanks to Ann and Denny for providing delicious bacon butties and home bakes.

In anticipation of works being undertaken on this building and the roof of Chollerton church I am thankful that the Friends of Chollerton Churches have been very busy contacting various charities on our behalf with some considerable success already. A number of local people were approached to be patrons of this fundraising and already they have proved helpful by inviting their contacts throughout the UK to make a donation to the improvements. One such charity has already awarded us £7000. That would be an awful amount of coffee mornings if we were left to raise that sum of money locally! So the financial challenge of restoring and improving our ancient and significant buildings is being shared far and wide, broadening what would be for us a very steep task of raising this amount of funds within our own small villages among people, many of whom already support their parish church. We shall all have the opportunity of making a special donation towards these works in the coming months to enable us to continue to offer an inviting and an improving Church for all Seasons.

**Mike**

## Works on Chollerton Benefice churches

Works at Chollerton church to stabilise the pinnacles has finished. The stonemasons made excellent progress in ideal weather conditions and, as I write, the reroofing of the boiler house and bringing the second, smaller bell in the bell cote back into use is progressing.

Our church architect has looked at the internal water damage problems we have experienced at Gunnerton church. He has made some suggestions which we are considering. In the meantime Brian Long has repainted the external wood with the help of James Feeley and the church looks splendid. We are grateful to the Friends of Chollerton Churches for meeting the cost of this work.

Work began on Thockrington church's exposed west gable wall. The contractor quickly found that the work was going to take much longer than anticipated because of the condition of the wall. The PCC Standing Committee has therefore decided to rewrite the specification and invite a retender for the work. We expect the cost to be more expensive than originally thought. Work will not now start until next year.

## Community Events in Gunnerton Church



### Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup>

£2.50

12noon-1.00pm

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

Raffle

This year's Christmas Special will be on Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at  
£4.00 per head,  
for that little bit extra!



**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**  
Next meeting is on Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup>  
7.30pm for 7.45pm.  
Halls of Heddon – a history of the nursery  
with David Hall



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

The annual membership for 2014/15 season is £20.00  
Couples £40.00. Guests/single talks £4.00

### **Birtley Coffee Morning**

Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> from  
10.30am  
Delicious coffee, home bakes and  
great conversation guaranteed!



### **Birtley Local History Group**

Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> at  
7.30pm (NOTE DAY CHANGE)  
Alastair Murray 'Bastles in the  
Tasset area'  
Further details from Mary White  
01434 230307  
£2.00 per person



### **Traditional Rug Making**

Come along to a taster session in hooky and proggy mat-making on  
**Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup>** from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Limited numbers, so best book early.

Cost is £15 including light refreshments and materials.

Monthly rug making groups for all skill levels will follow in the New  
Year.

Contact Sally on 01434 230519.

### **Other Church services within the Chollerton Benefice**

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

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

## Thank you for the Music Night at the Mart

To all those who so generously gave to the appeal for help in funding the supply of food, water and blankets to the thousands of displaced Christians who have been forced to flee from Northern Iraq to Kurdistan, Richard and Alison Dodds, who helped organise the charity night at the Mart on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, would like to say a huge thank you. The aid is being distributed by the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East established by the Rev. Andrew White, better known as the Vicar of Baghdad. After expenses and generous donations over £350 was raised.

## Afternoon Tea Parties

Tea parties will take place once a month at Newton Village Hall from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome and they are particularly for the elderly, people who feel lonely and the less mobile.

The dates are:

Wednesdays on 12th November, 10th December, 14th January, 11th February, 11th March, 8th April and 13th May.

Newton Village Hall has excellent facilities for disabled people - parking, level entrance, loos. It is warm and clean and I hope the perfect venue. Also it is easy to find from most routes.

There are several volunteers who are willing to provide transport to and from. The whole thing is free of charge to everyone. There will be tea/cakes/sandwiches provided - and hopefully lots of happy smiles, friendship and laughter.

More details from Alice Murphy, 01434 689387 or 07968 396938.

HOST is looking for kind, friendly, hospitable people of all ages whose imaginations are caught by the idea of welcoming an international student at university here, far from his or her own family, to their home. This could be for a day, a weekend or at Christmas, and you don't need to live near a university, as students will travel for the privilege of meeting you, learning about real life in this country, and sharing their own culture. HOST is a voluntary activity which makes ambassadors for international goodwill of us all. Please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call Graeme Davies 01661 834449.

*Antiphon*

*“a time for War  
and a time for Peace”*

Includes music by Stanford, Butterworth, Josquin and

**Duruflé’s Requiem**

Conductor – John Roper  
Organ – Michael Haynes

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45pm  
St Andrew’s Church, Corbridge

Tickets £10; available from *Forum Books, Corbridge* and  
*Allegretto Music and Pianos, Hexham*



Simonburn Village Hall  
Halloween Prize Bingo  
In aid of village Hall funds  
Thursday 30th October  
7pm, Eyes Down at 7.30

Simonburn Village Hall  
**CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO**

In aid of the Village Hall  
THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER

7pm

Eyes Down at 7.30



The Committee of Birtley Village Hall  
Invite you to join them on  
Friday November 14<sup>th</sup> for a  
**Northumbrian Evening**

7.30 for 8.00pm

A delightful evening in the company of local talent  
Stephen Fry, Pete Stenhouse and Bob Bolam  
Tickets at the door £7.30 includes supper



**The Broadsheet Editor – Roger Hadley**

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Please don't forget the deadline for the Broadsheet is 14th of each  
month