

The Broadsheet

June

2015



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

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

Dear friends,

Change is in the air. Last month we had the surprise election of a majority Conservative government which confounded all the polls taken beforehand. At his first Cabinet meeting the Prime Minister must have sat down with great satisfaction, knowing that he can bring about his own policies without the need to consult a coalition partner with differing views. He has claimed to lead the 'real party for working people' and I am sure how his policies affect those people will be carefully watched.

As I write, congregations of the Humshaugh benefice know that change lies ahead because the advertisement for their new priest-in-charge has been posted on the Internet with closing and interview dates arranged. It has already provoked some interest among clergy seeking to discern God's next place for them. I hope and pray that they and others will consider it an attractive and interesting place to live with a ministry to stimulate and excite, as I do.

The Church of England is also facing change. A programme of reform and renewal is being worked up in every part of the Church of England. As I write I am preparing for the Newcastle diocesan synod in Rothbury on May 16th where attendees will hear from representatives of the Archbishops' Council and discuss questions which I hope will begin to stimulate thought and discussion more widely in the church for the reforms that lie ahead.

Reform and renewal is required to enable the Church to be more flexible in her ministry, be more easily able to make changes to buildings and patterns of ministry, encourage much more ministry among lay people, take a long hard look at how we support ministry financially, as well as consider how senior clergy are developed, lay people trained for ordination and how dioceses such as Newcastle, which hitherto has had substantial funding from the centre of the church each year, will be supported in the future. How all these things are done is being considered and I have no doubt that significant changes will take place in the coming years. Indeed the new priest-in-charge of Humshaugh will have, in addition to parochial responsibilities, a role in the development of the Bellingham deanery by supporting the growth of deanery life, enabling the parishes to plan for the future and work more closely together.

Now I suspect you are like me. You probably do not like change much. However in my years in ministry I have seen tremendous changes in working practices, and if I go back longer to my previous profession I see even greater change. I recalled to someone the other day how I got a letter typed before the days of computers and the Internet. It would take several days. Then it would be posted, and in a week or so I had a reply.

Now emails can enable that type of communication to take place in minutes.

We are immersed in constant change. And I would say, even in the Church! So as Spring changes into Summer and we see the beech hedges finally get round to greening up, the grass really get growing, and if talk of change unsettles us or makes us feel dispirited, then the unchanging nature of Jesus (the Holy Bible tells us) who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, can reassure us that God accompanies us when change occurs; such as when we feel the loss of a loved one, see illness in someone we love, move house, change our jobs, when children leave school, or change direction because of their exam results.

With much love,

Mike

Round and about Humshaugh

Humshaugh C of E First School

A FAMILY FUN DAY!!

The school will open its doors for the whole village on Sunday July 5th from 1 – 4 pm. There will be many stalls: Toys, Nearly New, Games, Books, John McCollum's famous Cakes, Jams and produce stall and a Jewellery and Fashion Accessory stall, run by the Mothers' Union.

There will be a Tombola and Raffle and Teas will be served.

The Playing Field Trust is putting on Activities on the Playing Field and later on, there will be a Wheelbarrow Race! (with Trophies to be won...) Entry Forms for this race will be available from the shop, the school and the Crown.

If any local association would like to join in, please contact Louise Armitage at 689438

Mothers' Union

The members met at the Langfords' home on the 7th of May and what a special afternoon that became. The Revd Michael Slade came to give us a wonderful and thoughtful talk about Freedom in Christ. And how appropriate with the following day being VE Day...

The meeting in June, the Wave of Prayer, will take place on Thursday 25th at St Peters church and will start at 2 pm.



Pub Quiz

On April 21st the Quiz was won by the "Wall Walkers." A £100 was raised for the Village Hall.

The next Quiz will take place on Tuesday 19th May at 8pm with proceeds going towards the Village Playing Field Trust.

Liesbeth Langford

WARK PARISH NEWS

Good news comes from Wark this month, with the annual Charity Lunch held on 13th May, raising the wonderful total of slightly over £4000. This will be shared between The Alzheimer's Society and Gateway to the Community. Over the 26 years this Lunch has been held, all volunteered, over £65,000 has been raised for local charities. A magical total in any terms. It is a hard worked day (or days for some) and many thanks are extended to all who help and of course, to those who 'come to Lunch'. Some 'Lunchers' have been with us from day one.

Other good news is the vacancy within our benefice has been advertised on The Diocese of Newcastle website with interviews being held towards the end of the month. The position will be combined with Deanery Development Officer for the Bellingham Deanery. At last progress, I have always warned you things would be slow ,however, they have moved up a gear (reverse appears to be lost)

While talking of the future, I would like to mention something from the past. I am aware one or two people, within our parish, will remember The Rev Spencer Wade, Rector here in Wark 1931 to 1938. He was responsible for obtaining the wonderful Altar Cross at St. Michael's from the royal private chapel within Buckingham Palace after preaching, twice, to King George V. We have obtained a copy of a book for St Michael's 'Both Hand Before The Fire – A Parson's Pilgrimage' which was compiled by his grandchildren (ISBN 978-1-4669-6519-5 www.abebooks.com) from notes and a draft of an autobiography The book is a most fascinating read, which was one of mine on a recent holiday, of his life along with the workings of the C of E from early 20th century. The copy we have, is available on loan from me ,however you may wish to obtain your own from the above website. Simonburn, Humshaugh along with a few notables are also mentioned within the text.

Towards the end of April, 200 or so villagers went along to the school to celebrate or maybe, in some cases, to say thank goodness I am no longer here, the 50th anniversary of the new school being opened. On Monday 27th the current pupils came along to St Michael's to join a form of celebration, at which time they left a banner. Sally writes:-*All things Bright and Beautiful*

Class two of Wark C of E First School have enjoyed making a piece of artwork for the Church. They were inspired by the hymn 'All things Bright and Beautiful' and the work of Janet Bolton. Using felt and collage material's, they have created individual pictures using the words from the hymn. These were then mounted together to make a lovely piece of art. The year four children will be taking the banner to Newcastle Cathedral as part of their leavers' service in June.

So before coming around to those three dreaded words `THE GARDEN FETE' I have the Scarecrow Weekend 12th – 14th June to mention. No doubt, loads of laughter will be taking place behind closed garage or garden doors, where wonderful, outrages and hilarious images are being created. Last year's inaugural event was a huge success, so let us build upon that. Get thinking, call Lauren on 230858 to enter. It is only £3.00 – believe me it is great fun – trust me- I am not going to say `I will eat my hat' as you will know just what one of those politicians had to do!

Now, those words again '**THE GARDEN FETE'** I am aware I make mockery of this but it is so important to St Michael's. Again it is hard work, however should anyone have an answer to fund raising, not involving frayed tempers or hard work, perhaps you'd like to send a postcard with that answer to me. This year's event will be on the green on Saturday 4th July starting at 2.00pm. Any offer towards assistance, contribution to the various stalls would be gratefully received. Importantly please come along to support and SPEND, SPEND SPEND. The funds raised from this makes a valuable contribution towards the annual cost of maintaining St Michael's here for all within Wark. This last year the cost was in the region of £15,000. We need your support.

To conclude, this time, I will share a conversation overheard within a toilet in Palma de Majorca, whilst en route to Menorca late in April. A very posh, however young voice came from the adjoining cubicle `daddy something appears to have gone wrong with my underpants' to which the equally posh daddy voice said `well you appear to have your whole body down one leg', then from another cubicle in a very Geordie voice came the response `why man I've been like that for the last 12 hours'. A wardrobe malfunction? No buts, but someone is always looking over us. Perhaps I should say no more.

Love to all

JOHN



St Michael's Church Fete
Saturday 4th July at 2pm
on the village green
Teas in the Town Hall, Cake stall,
Tombola stall, Book stall, and more.
DO COME ALONG



SERVICES FOR JUNE 2015

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 7th June - The First Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh 1662 Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Genesis 3:8-15 Gospel: Mark 3:20-end	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Psalm: 130
Sunday 14th June - The Second Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Morning Prayer 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.00 Wark Holy Communion
Old Testament: Ezekiel 17:22-end Gospel: Mark 4:26-34	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 Psalm: 92:1-8
Sunday 21st June - The Third Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Job 38:1-11 Gospel: Mark 4:35-end	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Psalm: 107:23-32
Sunday 28th June - The Fourth Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Thockrington 1662 Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	10.30 St Petertide Benefice Holy Communion at Humshaugh
Old Testament: Lamentations 3:23-33 Gospel: Mark 5:21-end	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 8:7-end Psalm: 30
Sunday 5th July - The Fifth Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh 1662 Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Ezekiel 2:1-5 Gospel: Mark 6:1-13	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Psalm: 123

From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice



Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the Family of the Church
Noah Michael Maughan at Chollerton St Giles on Sunday May 10th



Messy Church..... meets again in Barrasford Village Hall
on Saturday June 27th at 3.00pm. **Please note the
change from the usual Saturday in the month.**

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 then enjoy a family meal together. For
further information please ring Mike the Vicar on 681721.

Community Events in Gunnerton Church

Gunnerton Lunch Club



Wednesday June 24th

£2.50

12noon-1.00pm

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

*New volunteers are always welcome to prepare and/or serve the
lunches.*

*If you are interested in helping at this monthly event please contact
Alison on 689996.*

Afternoon Teas

Saturday 20th June 4.00pm to 6.00pm. in St Christopher's Church
Gunnerton.



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

Birtley Village Hall



Birtley & District Gardening Group

Evening meetings have finished for the summer.



Summer coach trip

Wednesday July 8th from Wark, Chollerford and Wall to Thornton Hall Gardens near Darlington, Crook Hall Gardens in Durham City followed by Harperley Hall Nursery in Stanley on the way home if we have time. Contact Margaret to book your seat.

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

The annual membership for 2015/16 season is £20.00

Couples £40.00. Guests/single talks £4.00

Subscriptions are due now

Coffee Morning

Thursday June 4th from 10.30am to 12.00 noon
Delicious coffee, home bakes and great conversation guaranteed!

Many thanks go to Mary who was host to a splendid coffee morning on Election Day.



Birtley Local History Group



The group will be having its summer rest now and will meet again in the autumn



Further details from Mary White 01434 230307
£2.00 per person

Afternoon Tea Party

A Tea party will take place on Wednesday June 10th at Swinburn, Great Swinburn NE48 4DQ from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome and they are particularly for the elderly, people who feel lonely and the less mobile.

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.

Other Church services within the Chollerton Benefice

- Barrasford Methodist Chapel: Normally services are at 6.30pm each Sunday.
- Great Swinburne: St Mary's RC Church. Mass at 10.15am and 12.00 Noon every Sunday, the 12 o'clock Mass in the Extraordinary Form, said in Latin. Enquiries to Fr Bede (Tel: 681968)

Chollerton WI

Our next meeting is on **3rd June**: Fransje Samsom will be talking about Woolcraft - from shearing to wearing. Visitors are always welcome. In July we look forward to our Nature Walk at Ladycross with Colin Jewitt and in August our Centenary Supper will be held in St Christopher's, Gunnerton, and on Saturday 20th June 4.00pm to 6.00pm. **Afternoon Teas** in St Christopher's Church Gunnerton.

Barrasford Village Hall:

The Village Hall needs a new chairman. Could it be you? If anyone is interested in this challenging but fulfilling position please contact the Secretary of the Hall on 681877. The Hall Committee would like to thank James Adshed for his hard work and guidance through the many phases of the Hall refurbishment over the last 4 years. James has resigned due to pressure of work.

The latest phase of the refurbishment programme has just been completed - the supper room and kitchen roof have been replaced and accessible toilet created. This work was funded by the Community Chest, the EDF Green Rigg Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, the Joicey Trust, Big Lottery Fund and local members of our community.

Deb

Gunnerton Playing Field

Plans for the Summer Family Fun Day and Picnic on Saturday 4th July are well underway. Here are a few things on offer. Tug of war, egg and spoon, sack race and much more!!!

Please bring a BBQ, bottle or 3.

We will also be holding the Great Gunnerton Bake-off so get your pinny at the ready.

Please put this date in your diary. All this will start at 2pm. If anyone has any gazebos please could bring them along. More updates on Facebook.

This is sure to be a great family day.

Chollerton Benefice Churches Social events

Birtley Church Fete and Canine Capers

Sunday June 14th from 2.30pm at Chipchase Castle

You are invited to the Castle for our Fete in aid of Birtley Church funds. Entry is £3.00 per adult, under 16s free and includes entry to the Castle's private gardens. (A separate fee is payable to enter the private house which is worth a visit too.) Teas/coffees/juice are £2.50 including up to three cakes etc and will be served in the Marquee. Many stalls including raffle, cakes and produce, Guess the weight of a cake, Tombola, buried treasure, baked bean can shy etc.

Canine Capers will be held with many classes to enter your dog, including cutest puppy (6-9 months) and agility classes. Entry is £1.00 per class, and entries are taken and paid for on the field. Dogs on leads only, poo bags available, poo must be removed and placed in bins provided. Puppies must be inoculated.

Friday June 19th Midsummer barbecue

in the grounds of Gunnerton church

from 6.30-8.30pm, to save you cooking supper! All welcome.

The Scarecrows are returning!

The Barrasford Hall Committee and Chollerton churches thought it would be great to make scarecrows again. Photos of our last scarecrow's weekend can be viewed on www.chollerton-churches.org.uk/social. We shall be meeting in Barrasford Village Hall on Saturday July 18th from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Tea, coffee squash and biscuits will be served. In the meantime please drop off no longer needed glasses, beads, hats and clothes to Chollerton Vicarage to help make these life-like figures. Any unused clothes and items will be donated to local charity shops or recycled.

The scarecrow weekend is September 12th and 13th and there will be afternoon teas and prizes.

Forthcoming social event in the Chollerton Benefice

- July 26th Birtley Champagne and Strawberries
- August 16th at 2.30pm Thockrington Fete at Carrycoats Hall
- September 4th Ken and Alison's wine tasting evening
- September 12th and 13th Scarecrow weekend with Barrasford village hall committee
- October 11th Birtley Harvest lunch at 1.00pm Birtley village hall
- October 25th Sing for your supper at Chollerton church, and
- November 27th Chilli evening (venue tba)

The Chollerton Safari Supper has had to be postponed for the time being, sorry.

Simonburn Notes

What a month it has been, weather-wise, it changes from one day to the next!. Surely, the warmer climate will grace us with its presence soon!!!

Many Thanks to everyone that came along to the annual Church Spring clean, many hands definitely made a difference. Tea and cake were very welcome.

At a recent service, we were joined by the family of the late Benedict Jackson, who was Rector of St. Mungo's from 1973 -1983. It was lovely to meet them.

The final meeting for the Fete will be held on Monday 29th June at The Stewards House at 7pm. We have had an 'empty' hamper donated for the Grand Raffle, which just needs to be filled, any donations can be given to The Hadley Family.

If you are doing any spring cleaning, we are always on the look out for items for the Bric a brac stall, anything welcome. As usual, contributions of cakes, books and produce is always very much appreciated.

Stacey Richardson, 2 Red Lion Terrace and Gemma Richardson, Hallbarns, (no relation!) have both entered the Race for Life this year, in aid of CANCER RESEARCH UK. If anyone would like to sponsor them, please contact them. A very worthy cause.

Best Wishes, Sharon

From the Rural Dean

Dear All,

As anyone who read the last newsletter will know, we recently hosted a “trial” pilgrimage to Bellingham Deanery.

Members of Ripon College Cuddesdon were willing to be treated as “guinea pigs” and gave us a very helpful and constructive review. There was a great deal of positive feedback, but naturally much could be improved – especially by way of better information longer in advance.

Part of our difficulty in planning was caused by the timing of their visit, which had to fit into their interval between keeping Holy Week/Easter in college and returning to the new term to prepare for exams and ordination. Unfortunately this meant a clash (for us) with lambing and Easter holidays.

We are considering putting what we have learnt into practice and inviting small groups from parishes elsewhere to visit us as pilgrims. If we go ahead, we will only schedule any visit for a realistic time of year, possibly October or late May.

If you are interested in being involved in any way, please get in touch with me or the Churchwardens of your parish so that we can get together to discuss Possibilities

DEANERY EVENSONG WITH VISIT TO THE CATHEDRAL

For a number of years Bellingham Deanery has a special Evensong when we all worship together.

This year on **Sunday 28th June** we are taking a coach to the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas – to give the cathedral of Newcastle Diocese its official title. Did you know that? Are you very familiar with your cathedral? Would you like to see some of the most interesting features of the building?

The plan is to board the coach at Otterburn at 2.00 p.m., Bellingham at 2.15 and so on down the valley, arriving in Newcastle for a conducted tour of the Cathedral, to be followed by tea and scones before Choral Evensong and return home arriving in the Deanery at about 8.00 p.m.

The total cost per person (including tea) will be a maximum of £8, which will be reduced if we have a full coach.

Please contact Mrs Paddy Waters on 01434 230894 or email : paddynorthumberland.19@gmail.com