

# *The Broadsheet*

## *July/August*

### *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](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)

Dear friends,

During a recent visit to a farmer towards the end of May the conversation soon got around to the weather. He said that during May he would expect to be able to hear the grass grow. Not this year; May was cold. And so too early June until we had a few days of warmth, with my in-the-shade thermometer getting to the giddy heights of 21C. It wasn't to last. The Birtley Fete weekend at Chipchase Castle (14<sup>th</sup> June) was cold and overcast, but thankfully dry in the afternoon. Someone remarked that we can cope with that. We had a splendid Fete. Delicious teas were enjoyed and the smiles on the faces of those who took part in the Canine Capers were lovely to see. With relief we packed the marquee away dry.

The weather has a habit of getting even. I hope we shall get a nice warm spell and some rain in due course. Recently a family moved from the Chollerton Benefice to California with their work, to a climate that is desperate for rain. Quite how farmers will cope there I do not know. With rising sea levels I have wondered why we cannot desalinate water on an industrial scale and do our bit to help stop the water brimming over. I don't suppose there is a will for it.

With all this weather going on people often look to me to pray for weather appropriate for what lies ahead, be it the fete, wedding, funeral, drilling, spraying etc. This is nothing new. In the Prayer Book prayers are included for rain and fair weather: one follows the other on the same page. I often retort that I have worn my knees out praying for good weather (or rain).

Can prayer change things like the weather? It is a good question. I am surprised how often the weather seems to 'play ball'. I am less surprised at how prayer can change how I deal with what comes my way, be it the weather or more likely other things in life. Prayer changes the pray-er. I recommend you try it.

Let us hope for some warm, sunny days to come.

With much love,

Mike

## Round and About Humshaugh

### Mothers Union

The members of the Mothers' Union will meet in Corbridge on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August to celebrate the birthday of the MU Founder, Mary Sumner. To do this, we will have a Sponsored Walk in aid of AFIA, the MU charity, which organises holidays for families who cannot afford them.

We will end the afternoon with tea at the home of Bell Wilson.

### Pub Quiz



On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, the pub quiz was won by the "Dog Walkers." It was, yet again, a great evening and £120 was raised for the Village Playing Field Trust.

The next quiz is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 8pm, with the proceeds in aid of Barrasford Scout Group.

### The 'Love Northumberland Hate Litter' Campaign 2015.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Northumberland County Council launched its first county wide campaign to help reduce littering. Key campaign messages include:

People who Love Northumberland don't drop litter

Local pride – don't drop litter, they are your streets.

Cigarette litter: No ifs, No butts dropping it can cost you £50.00.

Zero tolerance of litter - enforcement & the consequences.

Keeping our roads & roadsides free of rubbish.

The message from Humshaugh Parish Council is that on the whole the village is not bad but there is always room for improvement. The particular problem at the moment is dog mess and dog owners are requested to pick up after their pets and preferably take it home, or if they are unable to do that, to put it in the one dog bin in the village. It is a health hazard to the children of our village and the grass cutting equipment certainly does not like it!



## Bat Night Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 8.30pm

Back by popular demand, the bat walk will start in the church yard to watch pipistrelle bats flying and feeding before walking down to the river to see bats feeding over the water. Meet by the Village Hall for 8.30 pm.



## Humshaugh Swallow Project

Our swallows are back! We have already seen some familiar birds back on their territories, ringed females have returned to breed again at Chollerford and Low Brunton. At the latter site, the male from 2013 is also back at their nest site. We have also caught a swallow first ringed in North Yorkshire as a juvenile last year, let's hope she settles well into Humshaugh!

I am still looking for swallow nests in or around Humshaugh, so please do get in touch if you would be happy for us to monitor your swallows in 2015.

You can contact me on 01434 681051, 07717574151 or email [malinka1999@btinternet.com](mailto:malinka1999@btinternet.com).

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this project, to all of you who have allowed us access to your gardens and outbuildings, without your help this project could not work.

Many thanks Tina.



## Humshaugh Cricket Club

Sadly, the cricket club had to postpone last month's planned 'fun-day' because of the awful 'summer' weather. It is hoped to re-schedule the event later in the season, so watch out for notices in the village with further details.

Anne

## School-Leavers.

The Evans Trust may be in a position to award small grants to students leaving school this Summer and commencing a further course of education in the Autumn of 2015. 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 in order to help at the beginning of a course of study. Applications should be sent to Mr Antony Braithwaite, Haughton Castle, Humshaugh, Hexham, NE46 4AY, or to any of the Trustees. We all wish the students good luck and much satisfaction in their course and subsequent chosen career.

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

The work of the Church continues and we are most grateful to the clergy and readers who have visited week by week to take services. It is fitting to note that it is almost one year since Michael Thompson's final service and it has been interesting to meet so many and varied visitors to take the services during this clergy vacancy. One thing that we would appreciate is some further help with the altar flowers each week. There are some gaps on the rota for the Summer and it is a very good way of remembering an anniversary or other family occasion. Thank you!

In addition there has been progress with the plans for the building project of parapet restoration and realignment of the Church entrance to the front of the building. This latter is to make the Church look more welcoming and provide much needed ramp access and toilet facilities. We are pleased to say that we have been awarded a first round pass in our grant application to The Heritage Lottery Fund. This means that they believe that our project has potential to deliver high-quality outcomes and value for Lottery money. It does not guarantee that we will receive a grant and we are currently working on the Development Phase and the plan is for the second-round application to be submitted later this year. We are working closely with our Church architect Mr Peter Coote together with Mr Charles Blackett-Ord, heritage and conservation architect. Tina Wiffen is this Summer carrying out a survey of bats in the loft space of the Church. This offer from HLF represents a percentage of the total project costs and we will of course be using Church reserve funds and we are at present preparing other grant applications and will be launching an appeal this coming Autumn for those who might like to contribute to what is such an important development in the history of this

### **Northumberland Historic Churches Trust** **'Ride and Stride' Annual Steeplechase** **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

This is a preliminary notice and invitation to take part in this enjoyable event. You may visit Churches in Northumberland and Durham by any form of travel you wish, and be sponsored for this! The group of cyclists from Chollerton will be going out as usual and we hope for other enterprising forms of travel and that most of the Churches in the Deanery will be open. More information will be available but please contact me if you wish to be part of this interesting day.

**John McCollum.**

## WARK PARISH NEWS

Did anyone read during June, in the national press , that in the foreseeable future the Church of England would be out of business?. Not bankrupt or 'gone under' but overtaken. Let me tell you not here in Wark ,as I am living in fear I shall miss out a report on one of the many events that has taken place or will take place over the summer months.

I will start off with news from the school with their Christian Aid Coffee Afternoon where Year 4 did really make cow-pat biscuits and very good they were too! Next up, their Race for Life on the village green was good with yet more enjoyable cakes. Should this arrive in time the school are holding an Open Morning for parents, friends and family to see the children in their lessons between 9.00am and 12midday on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

The village green has been in great demand this last month or so, as St Michael's also held a Teddy Bears Picnic on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May. I suspect after all the running around, the bears would be tired that night, however a number did come along to the special service on the Sunday evening. Well done and thank you to all who helped.

As I write these notes, the Scarecrow Weekend is well underway with many good creations on show. Thank you to Laureen for the ground work in keeping this going. The monies raised go towards the Senior Citizens Meal in January.

Between writing the notes for the June issue of **THE BROADSHEET** and this edition ,Wark has been hit with two bereavements; first Walter Grieve. Walter could always sort your car out! To Brenda and family we all send you our thoughts and prayers. Then on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June a stillness descended over the village when the tragic news of the death of Alan Pigg got around. Alan was a colourful character, friend to many (he called our house 'Cooper's Stores') To Davis and all the family our thoughts are with you, so please do take comfort from the large attendance in St Michael's today (13<sup>th</sup> June) who were there to support you and show respect to Alan. Just what Alan would have said I can imagine, however as this is a church publication the words cannot be printed.

A reminder our **GARDEN FETE** is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July on the village green from 2pm. Please come along to support and help in anyway. As previously said ,this does provide a reasonable amount towards our ever increasing cost to maintain a church here for you in Wark. So please come along and SPEND SPEND SPEND

Keep an eye out for the posters for the Open Air Ecumenical Service to be held on Sunday, 12 July at 2.30pm on the village green whatever the weather! The speaker this year is from The Mission to Seafarers. So come along, sing a few

hymns and find out what The Mission does. Everyone is welcome, especially children. And there will be tea and cakes afterwards.

Now, this is a certainty! St Michael's are to hold a Summer Lunch at Wannies Edge by kind permission of Gordon and Anne Grieve on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2015, 12.30pm for 1.00pm. Tickets are £15.00 from Ann Bell (230259) or Anne Grieve (270245) Ladies it will be in a tent so no hats we will have to chase over the Wannies to recover please!

The next meeting of St Michael's PCC is on 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in Westacres Community Room.

The Ladies Guild next meet on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm, in Ann Bell's house at 7.30pm, when, no doubt, such things as the Harvest Supper and Christmas Bazaar will be topics up for discussion. Let us hope we have enjoyed a summer before then.

As we wait for the arduous process of appointing a Priest in Charge, to come to conclusion here in the benefice, I came across this the other day and thought, yes, during the vacancy this is very relevant as visiting clergy have all offered something different, then sometimes at Evening Prayer it has been DIY for which I must say comments have been favourable; it has worked well: the quote ***'ALL SERVICES ARE DIFFERENT, WE LEAVE THE REPEATS TO TV'***

Until we chat again in September perhaps I should say no more.

Love

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 JULY & AUGUST 2015

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
<b>Sunday 5th July - The Fifth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
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
<b>Old Testament:</b> Ezekiel 2:1-5 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 6:1-13	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 <b>Psalm:</b> 123
<b>Sunday 12th July - The Sixth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
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
<b>Old Testament:</b> Amos 7:7-15 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 6:14-29	<b>Epistle:</b> Ephesians 1:3-14 <b>Psalm:</b> 85:8-end
<b>Sunday 19th July - The Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b>	
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
<b>Old Testament:</b> Jeremiah 23:1-6 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 6:30-34, 53-end	<b>Epistle:</b> Ephesians 2:11-end <b>Psalm:</b> 23
<b>Sunday 26th July - The Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9.00 Thockrington 1662 Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9.30 Wark Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.30pm Humshaugh Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> 2 Kings 4:42-end <b>Gospel:</b> John 6:1-21	<b>Epistle:</b> Ephesians 3:14-end <b>Psalm:</b> 145:10-19
<b>Sunday 2nd August - The Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
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
<b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 <b>Gospel:</b> John 6:24-35	<b>Epistle:</b> Ephesians 4:1-16 <b>Psalm:</b> 78:23-29

## SERVICES FOR JULY & AUGUST 2015

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
<b>Sunday 9th August - The Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
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
<b>Old Testament:</b> 1 Kings 19:4-8 <b>Gospel:</b> John 6:35, 41-51	<b>Epistle:</b> Ephesians 4:25-5:2 <b>Psalm:</b> 34:1-8
<b>Sunday 16th August - The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Service of the Word and Holy Baptism	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> Proverbs 9:1-6 <b>Gospel:</b> John 6:51-58	<b>Epistle:</b> Ephesians 5:15-20 <b>Psalm:</b> 34:9-14
<b>Sunday 23rd August - The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9.00 Thockrington 1662 Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9.30 Wark Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.30pm Humshaugh Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 <b>Gospel:</b> John 6:56-69	<b>Epistle:</b> Ephesians 6:10-20 <b>Psalm:</b> 34:15-end
<b>Sunday 30th August - The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
10.30 Thockrington Holy Communion and Patronal Festival	10.30 Benefice Communion service at Humshaugh
<b>Old Testament:</b> Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	<b>Epistle:</b> James 1:17-end <b>Psalm:</b> 15
<b>Sunday 6th September - The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
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
<b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 35:4-7a <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 7:24-end	<b>Epistle:</b> James 2:1-10, 14-17 <b>Psalm:</b> 146

## Thockrington Patronal Festival

On Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am we shall welcome the Rev'd Canon Michael Smith, Canon Pastor of York Minster, to preach and celebrate at the Patronal Festival. People from all parishes are most warmly welcome to join us for this special day in our church year.

### From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice



#### **Holy Baptism**

We welcomed into the Family of the Church  
Isabella Chloe Nixon and Oscar Keith Nixon at Chollerton St Giles on  
Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>



#### **Funerals and Memorial Services**

We celebrated the life of  
Eric Pickering, 66, at Chollerton St Giles on Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
(interment)  
Walter (Watty) George Grieve, 83, at West Road Crematorium on  
Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup>  
Alan Pigg, 70, at St Michael's Wark on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>

### Community Events in Gunnerton Church

#### Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup>

£2.50

12noon-1.00pm

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

Please note there will not be a luncheon club in August.



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#### **Bacon and Sausage Butties**

at Gunnerton Church on  
July 25<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am until 12.00 noon.

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

## Birtley Village Hall

### BIRTLEY VILLAGE HALL

invites you to a family BBQ on Sunday lunch time, July 19th, from 1.30pm.

Food, live music children's' games. A recipe for a happy and relaxing afternoon !



### 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 Mornings

Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



## **Birtley Village Hall is going to run a cinema evening in the Autumn.**

Initially it will be a one off pilot to find out if there is any interest. If the pilot is a success we plan to hold them monthly. To increase the enjoyment of the evening we intend to provide food and drink.

We thought that perhaps we could show British films such as The King's Speech, The Exotic Marigold Hotel, Pride, However, we are open to all ideas

We would, therefore, appreciate any ideas you may have with regard to the preferred evening, and the sort of films you would like to see.

Sorry to be a little vague but I have to get this out in time for the magazine, however there will be more information nearer the time!

Please email me at [anthonydpdennis@gmail.com](mailto:anthonydpdennis@gmail.com) with any comments.

## 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 July meeting night will be an outing to Ladycross for a Nature Walk with Colin Jewitt. In August we will celebrate 100 years of the WI with our Centenary Supper in St Christopher's, Gunnerton, and in Barrasford Village Hall at 7.30pm on 2nd September, Sheila Matheson will be talking about her charity 'Widows in Kenya'.

### Afternoon Tea Party

A Tea party will take place on Wednesday 8th July at The Hermitage, Swinburn NE48 4DG 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.](mailto:Alice.Murphy@bt.com)

The Broadsheet Editor – Roger Hadley

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

Any items received after this date may **not** be published.

**Thank you**

## 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.**

## 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](http://www.chollerton-churches.org.uk/social). We shall be meeting in Barrasford Village Hall on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and there will be afternoon teas and prizes.

### **Forthcoming social event in the Chollerton Benefice**

September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Scarecrow weekend with Barrasford village hall committee

October 11<sup>th</sup> Birtley Harvest lunch at 1.00pm Birtley village hall

October 25<sup>th</sup> Sing for your supper at Chollerton church, and

November 27<sup>th</sup> Chilli evening (venue tba)

## **Chollerton Benefice Churches Social events**

Sunday afternoon July 26<sup>th</sup> Champagne and Strawberries at The Hall, Birtley NE48 3HL. More details to follow on the church website.

August 16<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm Thockrington Church Garden Fete at Carrycoats Hall including stalls, delicious teas, gardens and grounds open to view, lovely walks, and well behaved dogs on leads welcome. £3.00 entry, children free.

September 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Ken and Alison's Wine Tasting Evening  
"Wines of the Languedoc-Roussillon"

Come and join Ken and Alison for a tasting of wines from this interesting and less visited region of France.

### **Simonburn Notes**

Summer is here one minute, then gone the next! Hopefully it will have returned by the time read this months Broadsheet!

It is full steam ahead of our Fete on Saturday 25th July at 2pm. As ever, it would be much appreciated if you could support the various stalls:

Plants/Produce — Mrs Allgood

Tombola prizes — Judith Brown

Cakes — Kay Hadley

Items for hamper — Sharon Hadley

Donations towards the teas in the village hall—Janice Rowcroft

Any toys, books, games or clothing, in good condition, suitable for the 'Children's corner' ( even on the day!) - Jane Langford

Please, Please, Please.....If you are available on the evening of Friday 24th July, to help put up the stalls and gazebo's, it would help immensely.

The Annual Over 60's Tea will be held on Saturday 22nd August , Keep a look out for your invitation, coming soon.

We have 3 weddings in St Mungo's this summer. We wish all the happy couples our good wishes for the future.

As this is a double issue of the Broadsheet, I hope you all have a lovely summer and see you all in September ( or at the Fete!!)

**Best Wishes, Sharon**



## St Michael's Church

### Summer Lunch

at

Wannies Edge

By kind permission of Gordon and Anne Grieve

on

Sunday 23rd August

12.30pm for 1.00 pm

**Tickets £15.00 contact Ann Bell or Anne Grieve  
on 270245**



## Simonburn Village Hall

### Summer Bingo

Tuesday 28th July

Eyes Down at 7.30pm.

Funds in aid of the over 60's  
Summer Tea



A perfect summer day,  
is when the sun is shining,  
the breeze is blowing,  
the birds are singing  
and the  
lawn mower is broken!



ENJOY!!!

