

The Broadsheet

October

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
email: chollertonvicar@gmail.com
www.chollerton-churches.org.uk

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

The harvest seems to have gone on for weeks and weeks this year as opportunities have been taken in good weather to gather in as much as possible.

Much hard work, and no little amount of worry too, goes into most days as an eye is kept on the sky with weather forecasts taken with a pinch of salt.

Now many are looking to winter crops and as I write some already have them in and watered. The cycle of work continues unabated, much of which is missed by the visitor from cities who sees only empty fields or little white dots on the hillsides and think that it is always so: peace, rest, quiet.

In all of this activity it is good to step back and give thanks. Our harvest festival services give us the opportunity to do just that: thanks for the hard work, the successes, the profits made to support families and to plough back into the farm; and to express concern for those who have done less well and for whom this has been a difficult year and to sing those timeless hymns of praise: 'We plough the fields and scatter', and, 'Come ye thankful people, come.' Will you come? I hope you will, whether or not you are directly involved in farming because we have much for which to be thankful. Each time we go shopping the produce we buy has been provided by a farmer from somewhere or other, often overseas in conditions far more challenging than we cope with here. What will our response be: take all that effort for granted or will we have thanksgiving in our hearts?

As usual in the Chollerton Benefice services we have the opportunity to respond by supporting two groups of people: the Cedarwood Trust, a Christian charity working to support residents of the Meadow Well Estate in North Shields with our non-perishable gifts; and Dilston College near Corbridge with fruit and vegetables which they use with their students to help them gain confidence in preparing meals. In addition at Birtley this year I thought it would be good also to support the United Society's project in Delhi, India's second largest city, which seeks to protect the most vulnerable women in their society many of whom suffer the most appalling atrocities and injustice. There will be envelopes available for us to make a financial donation.

Details of our services and those in Barrasford Methodist church appear in this edition.

Lastly perhaps I could encourage you to pray with me this prayer of blessing in gratitude for all we have received and for our farmers and their families:

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon us his children,
that we may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all
peoples;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us and those we love, this day and always.
Amen.

With much love,

Mike

Round and about Humshaugh

Mothers' Union

On September 3rd, the members held a discussion about Mums, their babies and small children.

Lucy Davison led it beautifully, leading us from the talk by Dr McCollum about unborn babies needing to hear their mother's voice, and to the need of mother care once they are born and grow older. Having discussions in small groups, it became a fascinating afternoon.

On October 8, there will be a visit to Hexham Abbey and the Visitor Centre which now has been open for just about a year. It is a beautiful exhibition and we are looking forward to that day.

Pub Quiz



The October Pub Quiz will be on Tuesday October the 20th, starting at 8pm in The Crown and will be in aid of the Village Night Fireworks.

Humshaugh Table Tennis

The 2015/2016 Humshaugh Table Tennis season starts Thursday the 1st of October at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Everyone welcome, whether a beginner or established player.
Junior coaching available.



For further information, contact Richard Bullen on 681603, Philip Atherton on 681300 or Michael Binks on 681741.

Liesbeth

Ride and Stride Annual Steeplechase

This took place on Saturday 12th September and it is good that the Churches of the Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark together with those of the Chollerton benefice were all open. We are particularly grateful to those where the Church was manned all day, with hosts to meet and greet and offer refreshment.

Thank you to all who helped. It is however disheartening when there are so few visitors. For instance at St Peter's, Humshaugh there were only four visitors from outside the parish. Regular attendance was always between 30 and upwards of 50 until just a few years ago.

We have our own Steeplechase visitors book dating back to 1989. It will be interesting to see if these low numbers are reflected throughout Northumberland, Newcastle and Durham.

If so, then the Historic Churches Trust will no doubt be reviewing their strategy for future years. It may be of course that there were enough people out visiting to still raise very adequate funds and so it will be important to look at the whole picture. The Chollerton cyclists were visiting Churches in Cumbria, I was visiting Churches in Essex, and several people were out visiting locally.

We shall just have to wait and see.

Meantime thank you to all who helped on the day. I shall let you know when there is more news.

John McCollum.

WARK PARISH NOTES

In the years of school age I recall a song where having a hole in your bucket was featured. Well, we can sing we have a hole in our roof, as it has been discovered the tower roof is leaking, damaging the floor below along with the bell frame work. The bell, is for the moment, out of action and quotes for the repairs to the roof are awaited. Just when you believe your head is above water something else comes along. Obviously we shall apply for any grants that maybe available, however, this all takes time, so have requested permission to undertake temporary repairs to prevent further damage. It was a wonderful experience accessing the roof of the tower, even my Jelly legs kept me firm, just how immaculate the churchyard is became more obvious (photographs were taken) As summer comes to an end a sincere thank you to the Monday Men for their continuing work for us. Keep watching this space for more news as and when available on the roof situation.

We had a great summer lunch at Wannies Edge with around £1100.00 being raised. Many thanks to Gordon and Anne for allowing us to use their house and grounds for this day. A sincere thank you to all who provided the food which was fantastic and all of it was generously provided by the enthusiastic band of helpers. Thank you to all who supported us (the tent could not be taken down until the Monday evening due to the wind – ladies we did warn you NO HATS!)

This is one of those strange times when printing deadlines come before the event so hopefully the Flower arranging demonstration on Friday 18th September will have been successful; more news next time on this.

Early in September we opened up for The Historic Church 'Ride and Stride'. I must say it was all a bit of a waste of time – we had 5 visitors in the six hours – and I sat thinking of all the work I could have been doing at home. Next time we must have a serious think regarding our involvement in this.

Now the nights are cutting in we turn our thoughts to harvest. This year you have the opportunity to come along to the school service in St Michael's on Friday 2nd October at 2.30pm which is led by the children. You do not have to be a parent to come and if previous years are anything to go by it will be worth attending. On Sunday 4th October at 6.00pm we will hold our Harvest service in church with Reader Michael Nixon leading. Any offers of produce for these services may be left with Ann or John for decorating on Thursday 1st October or in church which is normally open from around 9.00am to dusk

The usual 'Soup and Pudding Night' will be held in Westacres Community Room on 5th October at 7.00pm. The cost for this being £3.00.

The Ladies Guild next meet on 9th November when I know they will be putting finishing touches to the arrangements for the annual Christmas Bazaar, which this year will be on Sunday 6th December in The Town Hall starting at 2.00pm. There will be the usual stalls with many Christmas gifts. The Ladies are putting together a grant application for various catering items from Greenrigg Windfarm Community Benefit Fund which will save a lot of borrowing when they hold one of their superb events

Many will have read the announcement last month concerning the vacancy here in the benefice. National advertising has now taken place with (hopefully there will be candidates) interviews towards the end of this month. So it looks as if we should consider working the way we are until early 2016. I must say, although missing a permanent clergy person you do not realise until you have to deal with it, just how much bureaucracy there is involved, all has worked well and we have enjoyed a variety of retired clergy who have all commented how they have enjoyed coming to Wark.

On the latest school newsletter I notice they now hold their Celebration of Achievement Worship and fortnightly Pupil/Class – led worship at 2.55pm on alternate Fridays. The first being 11th September.

This year the annual act of remembrance will be in St Michael's on Sunday 8th November at 10.45am with Canon Michael Jackson leading us in worship. Times for war memorial services in Simonburn and Humshaugh will be announced shortly.

One person, very special to my heart will, (he is my godfather) in the last few days, have celebrated a special birthday and probably has lived in Wark longer than anyone else, I just wonder how much water he has seen go under the bridge in his years here?

Until we chat again let us try and work that question out.

Love to all

John

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2015

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 4th October - The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Harvest Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Harvest Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Genesis 2:18-24 Gospel: Mark 10:2-16	Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Psalm: 8
Sunday 11th October - The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Thockrington Harvest Communion 10.30 Chollerton Harvest Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Morning Prayer 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.00 Wark Holy Communion
Old Testament: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Gospel: Mark 10:17-31	Epistle: Hebrews 4:12-end Psalm: 90:12-end
Sunday 18th October - The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (Luke the Evangelist)	
9.00 Gunnerton Harvest Communion 10.30 Birtley Harvest Matins	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Isaiah 53:4-end Gospel: Mark 10:35-45	Epistle: Hebrews 5:1-10 Psalm: 91:9-end
Sunday 25th October - The Last Sunday after Trinity	
9.00 Thockrington 1662 Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion and Baptism 6.00 Chollerton Songs of Praise and Supper	9.30 Wark Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.30pm Humshaugh Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:7-9 Gospel: Mark 10:46-end	Epistle: Hebrews 7:23-end Psalm: 126
Sunday 1st November - All Saints' Day	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion 6.00pm Chollerton All Souls' service	9.30 Humshaugh 1662 Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6-9 Gospel: John 11:32-44	Epistle: Revelation 21:1-6 Psalm: 24:1-6
	

Sing for your Supper!

Following last year's successful evening we shall gather together on Sunday October 25th at 6.00pm at Chollerton Church to sing some of our favourite Songs of Praise. Come and choose your favourite hymn whether an Easter hymn or Christmas carol. We shall sing as many as we can. Then, when we have spent some energy we shall have supper together in church. All are welcome.

All Souls' Evening Service

On Sunday November 1st at 6.00pm we shall have the opportunity to gather together at St Giles' Church Chollerton to remember those we love but see no longer. The service will include familiar hymns, a reading or two, a few words from the vicar, some prayers and silence, and most importantly an opportunity to have your loved one's name read out aloud as a candle is lit and brought forward by a family member during the service. A cup of tea or coffee will be served in church afterwards.

Names of loved ones may be sent to the vicar in any way you find helpful (Facebook message, email, letter or phone call) and there will also be sheets available in church on which to write down the name of your special person there if you wish.

Mike

The Chollerton Stable Block and Hearse House

All being well, work is planned to start around October 1st on repairs to the walls and roof. It will take a month or so to complete. All necessary Listed Building and Faculty consents have been received. This is an exciting phase in the history of this building which will enable us to bring it back into use. 18 children and staff from Chollerton School visited in September to get a sense of the history and story of this building and everyone was surprised to find how much bigger it is inside! Some children were fascinated by the huge cobwebs.

Mike

Scarecrows



Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Scarecrow weekend a lovely occasion. Fabulous teas were enjoyed in Barrasford Hall and the standard of scarecrows was very high with ingenious and detailed models on display. Judging the best four was quite a difficult task! Thank you for taking part. Around £200 was raised for the Hall and the church.

Deb and Fiona



MeSSy cHuRch

Our next Messy Church meets on Saturday November 21st at 3.00pm in Barrasford Village Hall. Children of all ages welcome for fun activities, a short worship time of singing and praying and a lovely family meal to end with. We are normally finished by 5.00pm. All welcome, both old and new. Children only accompanied by an adult, preferably parents or grandparents. It's free but if you wish to leave a donation all money is ploughed back into Messy Church, thank you. More information from Mike or Fiona (681721).

Harvest Festival services

Given that this year's weather has been especially challenging in Northumberland we have even more reason to give thanks for the hard work and dedication of our farming community, not just in the fields but all who work in ancillary industries connected with farming. Our services in the Chollerton benefice this year will be as follows:

- Sunday 11th October: 9.00am at Thockrington and 10.30am at Chollerton (children's activities with Fiona)
- Sunday 18th October: 9.00am at Gunnerton (children's activities with Fiona) and 10.30am at Birtley.
- Produce welcome and received at all of these services and at Chollerton school for their Harvest service on Friday October 16th at 9.30am.

The service at Birtley this year will follow the theme of 'Sowing seeds of peace: reaping justice for the women of Delhi' which is the United Society (Us) Christian charity's theme for this harvest. Birtley has long supported the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG, the former name for Us) and a special collection will be invited for the charity during this year's service.

For their harvest celebrations **Barrasford Methodist Church** will be offering a Concert on Saturday October 10th at 7.00pm with Shirley's Girls with supper to close and on Sunday October 11th at 6.30pm their Harvest Festival Service will be led by the Rev'd Maureen Lloyd.

All are welcome.



From the Registers



Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the Family of the Church
Sybil Coco Featherstone Peckham-Cooper at Thockrington St Aidan
on Sunday August 23rd

Community Events in Gunnerton Church

Gunnerton Lunch Club



Wednesday October 28th
12noon-1.00pm
£2.50



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

Gunnerton Railway Circle

October 6th. Refreshments from 7.00pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm

Professor Robin Smith - The Quintinshill Disaster

In the 100th anniversary year of the Quintinshill Disaster, the
background to, and events associated with the disaster (the worst in
British railway history) are examined along with some of the
resulting changes to railway safety.



**Bookings for Gunnerton Church may be made by contacting
Susan Reay on 01434 681852**

For many years a **Bonus Ball club** has run each week to provide regular financial support for the fabric of Gunnerton church. To choose a vacant Ball number and so have a chance of winning a weekly cash prize please sing Susan Reay on 681852 as soon as possible.

Birtley Village Hall

Birtley & District Gardening Group

Evening meetings will begin again in the autumn and the usual interesting programme of speakers is being planned. 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

October 1st and November 5th from 10.30am to 12.00 noon
Delicious coffee, home bakes and great conversation guaranteed!



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



Cinema Evening

The cinema evening at Birtley Village Hall will be on Thursday 1st October at 7:45pm for an 8 pm start.

The film is the fantastic **Imitation Game** about the work of the code breakers at Bletchley in the war. It stars among others the equally fantastic Benedict Cumberbatch.

The cost is £3

There will be some food and drink on sale during the evening.

Remember! Use it or lose it. There will be a brief survey about the evening and suggestion sheet for any improvements.

Please support your Village Hall in this new venture. Bring a cushion!

For further information contact Paul Dennis Tel: 01434 230519

anthonydpdennis@gmail.com



Birtley Harvest Lunch

You are invited to the Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall on Sunday October 11th at 1.00pm. The final menu is to be agreed but will probably be homemade soup, Coronation chicken, cold meats, salads, warm new potatoes and puddings to die for. Tickets are £12.00 and available from Judith Weir in Wark (230250) and Anne and Margaret Mitcheson in Birtley (230421)

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

On **7th October** Jos Mahon is giving a talk/demo on Willow Weaving. More details to follow. We look forward to a Cookery Demo on **4th November** by our very own Denny, assisted by her son in law, Craig. Or perhaps it's Craig assisted by Denny (we'll find out on the night).

Pauline

Chollerton Benefice Churches Social events

- Sunday October 11th Birtley Harvest lunch at 1.00pm Birtley village hall, tickets £12.00,
- Sunday October 25th at 6.00pm at Chollerton Church: Sing for your Supper and November 27th Chilli evening (venue tba)

Fundraiser: Concert, Activities, Auction and Food

Saturday 10th October @ Heaton Baptist Church, Heaton Rd., Newcastle NE6 5HN

Crossings - www.crossings.org.uk & tinyurl.com/crossingsdonate - needs your help and support. We would be grateful for volunteers willing to bake food (cakes, buns, scones, biscuits) for our afternoon teas and to give items for our auction, at our fundraiser event. We would also be very grateful for donations. Please contact Lucy Fairley (lucyfairley@gmail.com, 07960417324) re local delivery of food and auction items.

Why we need your help

Crossings, a music charity (charity number 1144577), has been working with asylum seekers and refugees in Newcastle for the last 5 years.

We have seen a sharp increase in the number of people wanting to attend our music sessions in recent months, and with little or no income of their own, we are seeking to support their travel costs. 3pm-9pm: Jumble sale, afternoon teas, children's activities and supper with food from round the world cooked by Crossings members

▣ 4pm-9pm: Live music from Stewart Hardy, music from Crossings musicians and more!

▣ 6pm-7pm: Charity auction.

 <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>Colwell Village Hall Quiz Night</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Friday, 16th October, 7.30pm £6 per person includes supper Includes draw for the annual raffle in aid of the Tynedale Hospice Rainbow Project</p> 

Simonburn Notes

Back in the Summer, two weddings were held in St. Mungo's, between Dean Dockray and Amy McGlasson in July, Dean Carter and Kayleigh White in August and in September Christopher Milne and Rachel Thomas. We wish all the couples a very happy future together.

It is really nice to have Richard back with us, playing the organ and looking so well.

Not much to report from 'sleepy' Simonburn, this month, so that's all folks!!

Best Wishes

Sharon



October
October's the month
When the smallest breeze
Gives us a shower
Of autumn leaves.
Bonfires and pumpkins,
Leaves falling down
October is red
And golden and brown.



The Broadsheet Editor

Just to let you know that it has been decided that there will not be a January edition of the Broadsheet,

Therefore It will be combined with the December issue.

Please don't forget the deadline for the Broadsheet is 14th of each month
Any items received after this date may not be published.

Thankyou

Roger Hadley