

# *The Broadsheet*

## *March*

### *2016*



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,

Parishioners in Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark continue life without a rector. It is now around 18 months since Michael retired and we simply do not know when someone will feel called to come and minister in these three communities. The churchwardens and Parochial Church Councils are doing a fine job keeping things running, making sure services are taken, seeing to weddings, funerals and baptisms, and doing all that is needed to keep the buildings open, warm and welcoming.

I know the churchwardens are normally the first point of enquiry to find out what progress is being made. Please forgive them when they are not able to say much. They can only tell you what they know and if there is nothing to report then what can they say? What may be less obvious is that the Rev'd Christine Bull, the Non-stipendiary priest-in-charge of St Oswald in Lee and myself are covering things as best we can especially in the two church schools where we are frequent visitors. Retired clergy, who often are faithful and supportive during interregnums, bear most of the weight of Sunday services (because Christine and I have our own) and we are thankful for their regular attendance in church. You are remembered regularly in prayers and I specifically pray for the right person to apply for the vacancy to come to love you and lead you forward into a future ministry blessed by God.

The month of March will, in the church, largely be taken up by the season of Lent. In the early church it was the time of preparation for people who were discovering their faith in God and learning about that faith by careful preparation. The forty days would end with baptism (what we often call Christening) at sunrise on Easter Day. Then, and only then, would they be allowed to come into church to join their new Christian family, born again into a new faith by the waters of baptism. A whole family would go through this together. It marked a change in lifestyle and focus, following in the footsteps of Jesus and doing their best to carry out His instructions on the best way to live, even when His way could be both hard and narrow.

When Lent stretches before us Easter can seem a long way off. I am finding that time seems to fly past these days, no doubt connected with me getting older. However Easter Day is on March 27<sup>th</sup> and there are services of celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on this the most important day in the Christian year in churches both sides of the water. The reason I continue to look forward to Easter as a time of great celebration is that light has overcome the darkness of death, the hope of

the empty tomb wins over the despair of the cross of Calvary and the joy of new life together replaces the sadness of separation. I call upon us all to be Resurrection People, a people filled with light, hope and joy, even when things in life bear down on us, such as a long running vacancy in a parish or when we feel the loss of someone special to us.

I hope we can discover together the way forward for us, our parishes and communities and a renewed faith in God over these coming days and weeks as we seek to live our lives in peace and love.

With many blessings to you and yours,

**Mike**

oOo

## **Round and About Humshaugh**

### **Mothers' Union**

On February 11, the members of the Mothers' Union welcomed two visitors to their meeting. A film was shown about a Dutch family hiding a Jewish one during the German Occupation. All the actors were 11 year old boys from a school in Dublin. It was very moving indeed.

On Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>, three members went to Newcastle Cathedral, where the new Diocesan President, Barbara Packer, was commissioned by the Bishop of Newcastle. About a thousand people were there and over 30 Banners, representing Branches from all over the Diocese, were paraded – the Humshaugh one included.

On Thursday March the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dr John McCollum will be our speaker, something everyone looks forward to. He will be talking on "Further Thoughts on Childhood". The meeting will take place at the Langfords' home and will start at 2pm. Knowing how special his talks are, anybody is very welcome to join us.

### **Pub Quiz**



The January Quiz was won by "Digger Derek's" and £129 was raised for the Leek Club.

The March Quiz will be held on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 8pm and will be in aid of the Humshaugh Cricket Club. Mick Jonas will be the Question Master.

### **Hap** (Humshaugh Art Project)

The film "Brief Encounter" was enjoyed immensely by many of us – and what an excellent introduction was given!

On Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, the film is a Danny Boyle one: "127 Hours" - mad men doing mad things in the American Desert in bright technicolour. Ticket prices are £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children.

"Desert" Desserts will be served!

### **Humshaugh Theatre Group**

On Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm, the Theatre Group presents: "Shakespeare in Hollywood" in Humshaugh Village Hall.

Tickets at £7.00, will be available from the Village Shop. (681258)

### **Shrove Tuesday**

What a wonderful evening it was! Many people came, the food looked and was gorgeous, the music and sketches were enjoyed by everyone and £300.00 was raised for the Tynedale Hospice at Home.

Many thanks to *all* who contributed in whatever way.

Liesbeth Langford

## **WARK PARISH NEWS**

It's Valentines Day as I put these notes to type! And it is snowing- what a day! So let us reflect upon some of the good we have enjoyed since last talking.

Anne Grieve gave a notice at church mid January requesting any coats to be given for Syrian displaced people. Anne tells me she received **50** plus coats. A sincere thank you to Anne and all those who contributed, also importantly to David Burn who actually delivered the coats to a centre in Newcastle. You may also recall a request from Paddy for shoes for a display in Hexham Abbey. I understand the quantity far exceeded their expectations. Well done to all who in any way contributed.

The well-established Wark Charity Lunch has now announced in 2016 the proceeds will be donated to the Great North Air Ambulance. A charity we hope never to call upon, however, it does provide a wonderful service when required and is well worth supporting. Places, although they are few and far between, are now available by contacting Anne on 230259. Good luck to get a seat. Should you wish to contribute/assist please do contact Ann.

I am off the road for a few weeks mid March following an overdue foot operation, however, my chauffeur will keep me coming and going to Wark – I have not given up on you should you not see me around so much.

Other very important dates are the Scarecrow weekend 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June –get your ideas together now and also The Teddy Bears' Picnic on 28<sup>th</sup> May.

I must tell you about the latest on the roof job (as I call it on my PC). Feedback from DAC has been positive, final application goes in within the next few days and we should have news by end of June – just takes forever and a day. Please do not give up on us, we are working as fast as the process allows!

Wark school, which most will have observed in The Hexham Courant, achieved a high SIAMS Inspection. Well done to all concerned, we look forward to seeing all in St Michael's soon.

Other diary dates are, as known:-

Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> in Wark Town Hall – Ladies' Guild Bingo 7.30pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Ladies' Guild 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch (Ruby anniversary)  
Invitations have been sent to those believed to be founding, past / current members, however, should you believe you have been overlooked please do contact Anne on 230259 or Laureen on 230858

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March is the date for the various annual church meetings here at St. Michael's. 7.30pm in church – you can have your say and vote on the various topics up for decision.

Easter Day is 27<sup>th</sup> March with a service of Holy Communion in St. Michael's at 9.30am which will be led by Canon Michael Jackson.

Roger, our Editor, has requested any notes for inclusion within Wark Notes in future be sent to me so I may include those. Roger does an incredible job and with bits coming from all parts he sometimes is unsure what to include. One such note has come via Sally following the Evening Prayer in the Celtic tradition back in January in St Michael's. The message reads -

*'As an infrequent church attender, I would like to pass on how much I enjoyed the recent Celtic service. It was a very enjoyable hour, and if there were more such services as informal and easy to follow, I am sure there would be a bigger congregation. If the `stand – in vicars' continue in this vein, I for one will make more of an effort.'*

May I say, for the last 18 months, at least once a month, we have enjoyed lay-led Evening Prayer (we are not stand-in vicars, simply churchwardens, who in interregnum have a responsibility to represent the Bishop, enlisting parishioners to help as necessary with a form of worship, some with hymns, most without an address (we are not allowed to step one foot into the pulpit during a service) along

with a time for personal reflection.) I will make every effort to advise in these notes just the content of the services for the month ahead. You should realise these, after eighteen months and no incumbent, need to be fluid. We do publish as much information as possible. So, to let you know on Mothering Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10 am in St Michael's will be a lay-led Morning Prayer with Jani tinkling the ivories, goodness knows who will be leading, however there shall be small posies for distribution.

With every good wish, chat with you all in April,

**Love, John**



### **Simonburn Notes**

The snowdrops are looking lovely in the churchyard, a sure sign that Winter is starting to make way for Spring, even though, today, we have had snow!

Congratulations to Jade Jeffrey (The Kennels) and David Thorpe after their wedding on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February at Lumley Castle. We send them our good wishes for the future.

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm St. Mungo's will be hosting the Women's World Day of prayer. Everyone is welcome at this service, not just women, come along and enjoy some refreshments afterwards.

Mothering Sunday this year is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March, there will be a Holy Communion Service in Simonburn at 11am and will be led by Canon Christopher Lewis.

There will be a Benefice Devotional service at 1.30pm on Good Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, which will be led by Rev. Michael Jackson.

There are no flowers displayed in church during Lent until after Good Friday. Any donations of money or flowers to help towards the Easter flowers would be very much appreciated by Mrs. Allgood and any help to arrange them would also be very welcome, on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 9am.

The AGM for St. Mungo's PCC will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, all welcome.

Happy Easter

## SERVICES FOR MARCH 2016

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
<b>Sunday 6th March - The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)</b>	
9.00 Gunnerton Family Communion 10.30 Birtley Family Communion	9.00 Holy Communion - at Wall 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
<b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 2:1-10 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2:33-35	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 <b>Psalm:</b> 127:1-4
<b>Sunday 13th March - The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)</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> Isaiah 43:16-21 <b>Gospel:</b> John 12:1-8	<b>Epistle:</b> Philippians 3:4b-14 <b>Psalm:</b> 126
<b>Sunday 20th March - Palm Sunday</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> Isaiah 50:4-9a <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 23:1-49	<b>Epistle:</b> Philippians 2:5-11 <b>Psalm:</b> 31:9-16
<b>Thursday 24th March - Maundy Thursday</b>	
7.30pm Birtley Holy Communion	7.30pm Benefice Maundy Service at Humshaugh
<b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 <b>Gospel:</b> John 13:1-17, 31b-35	<b>Epistle:</b> 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 <b>Psalm:</b> 116:9-end
<b>Friday 25th March - Good Friday</b>	
2.00pm Service of the Third Hour at Gunnerton	1.30pm Benefice Devotional Service at Simonburn
<b>Old Testament:</b>	<b>Gospel:</b>
	<b>Epistle:</b>
	<b>Psalm:</b>
<b>Sunday 27th March - Easter Day</b>	
6.00 Thockrington Sunrise Communion 10.30 Chollerton Family Communion 6.00 Birtley Evensong	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 9.30 Wark Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion
<b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 65:17-end <b>Gospel:</b> John 20:1-18	<b>Epistle:</b> Acts 10:34-43 <b>Psalm:</b> Psalm 118:14-24
<b>Sunday 3rd April - The Second Sunday of Easter</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> Exodus 14:10-end <b>Gospel:</b> John 20:19-end	<b>Epistle:</b> Acts 5:27-32 <b>Psalm:</b> 150

## MeSSy cHuRcH



Our next Messy Church meets on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm in Barrasford Village Hall. Please note this is the second Saturday of the month, not the third when we usually meet. 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).

## Holy Week services in the Chollerton Benefice

In addition to those listed in the service table elsewhere, I shall be leading services of Compline at 9.00pm on Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> at Thockrington, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> at Chollerton and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> at Birtley. Compline is a simple, quiet service of between 15 and 20 minutes duration of prayers, silent reflection and liturgy to 'complete' or end the day. It can be the last we thing we do before retiring for the night. Many people have said how helpful they find these services. They are intended to allow us time to reflect as we move towards Good Friday.

Mike

## Chollerton and Gunnerton Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM will be held on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at Chollerton church at 7.00pm. Refreshments served. This is THE meeting to hear about what's been happening in church over the past year, be updated on our financial position and to hear about progress achieved on the stable block and hearse house. All warmly welcome.

## Community Events in Gunnerton Church



Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup>

£2.50

12noon-1.00pm

Delicious homemade soup and pudding, tea and coffee, raffle

All welcome



## Gunnerton Railway Circle

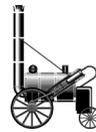
Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>

Gordon Hodgson - an engine driver working with preserved steam on the Settle and Carlisle Railway



Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup>

Andy Hallington - From Railway Roundabout to HS2  
Refreshments from 7.00pm, meetings begin at 7.30pm



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 ring Susan Reay on 681852 as soon as possible.

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

## Birtley Village Hall

### Birtley & District Gardening Group



March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Clematis: varieties and care**

Speaker: Chris Cocks; Taylors Clematis of Doncaster

**RHS 2014/2015 Chelsea Flower Show Gold medal winners**

**AGM at 7.00pm for 7.45pm**



The group always welcomes new visitors or prospective members  
whether

experienced or rookie gardeners.

The annual membership for 2015/16 season is £20.00

Guests/single talks £4.00

### Coffee Morning

March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10.30am to 12.00 noon

Delicious coffee, home baked cakes

Great conversation guaranteed!



## **Birtley Local History Group**



Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>  
**Nostalgic Views of the North**  
(Old Photography Collection)  
John Moreels MBE



at Birtley Village Hall supper room at 7.30pm  
Further details from Mary White 01434 230307  
£2.00 per person

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

### Barrasford Methodist Chapel:

- Normally services are at 6.30pm each Sunday. On Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> we join with the Parish Church at 6.00pm for our United Carol Service.

### 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 Annual Meeting will take place in March. In April, Major Charles Enderby will be giving a talk on the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and in May, Mandy Oliver from Nectarworks, based in the North Pennines AONB, will give a presentation on Bumblebees. Our very own, Karen Dover, has agreed to talk about Reflexology in June. We meet at 7.30p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in Barrasford Village Hall. New members and visitors always welcome.

Pauline

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year's special service is in St Mungo's Church, Simonburn on Friday, March 4th at 7.00pm. All are welcome, men included.

**Chollerton churchyard tidy-up morning** from 10 on Saturday March 5th followed by homemade soup. Bring your own garden tools. More details from Fiona (681721).

## **Tea parties**

...take place once a month from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone is welcome and they are particularly aimed at those who would appreciate some friendly company once in a while.

They are always the second Wednesday in each month. The next tea party is on Wednesday 9th March. Please put it in your diary and do try to come along. It would also be wonderful if each helper could bring one new person with them - this is a challenge I know, but let's see if we can do it!

Lifts can be arranged for those who do not have their own transport. Please contact: Alice Murphy on 01434 689387 or her mobile: 07968 396938

### **Perspectives - Christian Vision for Men** in the Tyne Valley

Perspectives is an informal men's breakfast event featuring speakers who explore topical issues and their own life and career experiences from a Christian perspective.

We usually meet on the last Saturday of each month at the Vallum Farm on the Military Road near Corbridge from 8.30 to 10.00am. Full English breakfast is £10, continental breakfast £7.50. Next meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup> with speaker John Purvis 'Happy Hens'

Book by emailing [jonathan@perspectivescvfm.org.uk](mailto:jonathan@perspectivescvfm.org.uk)

Website: [www.perspectivescvfm.org.uk](http://www.perspectivescvfm.org.uk)

### **A QUIET DAY AT BUTELAND BOTHY**

Friday 22 April

10am-3pm

After an introduction to the theme of 'Worship' there will be time to reflect silently indoors or outdoors (be prepared for any weather!), followed by lunch together. It is hoped to have a shorter quiet session in the afternoon followed by worship before returning home.

Apply soon to Alison Williams on 220389

### **Value**

If the value of an article is dependent upon the price paid for it, Christ's death made our value skyrocket.

Let no one say we are worthless, God is not a foolish spectator; he would never invest in worthless property.

Erwin W Lutzer

(Forwarded by Richard Dodds)

### **Thank you**

Jill, Tony, Richard and Alison would like to say how much they appreciated all those who came along to Wall village hall and by their presence contributed to make it such an enjoyable evening on Friday 5th February. £250 has been sent to Grace Christian school in South Africa, which endeavours to educate those poor possibly orphaned children who otherwise would receive none.

## Tynedale Community Bank

In late 2015 the Tynedale Community Bank (TCB) was formed to provide local borrowing and lending services for the people of Tynedale. TCB is looking for "Church Champions" to be a link between TCB and Church communities. If you would be interested in becoming a Church Champion, or would like more information about TCB, please contact Benjamin Carter on 01434 688 198 or [revbenjamincarter@gmail.com](mailto:revbenjamincarter@gmail.com).

## Good Friday Station Walk

at Wark



If you would like to join us for this reflective walk please meet at the War Memorial on the green at 10.00am.



Boots or strong shoes are recommend though the route is all on small roads and should take no longer than an hour. There is a steep hill to climb but even a pram managed to make it last year! Coffee will be available in the Town Hall afterwards.

Sally Napier

As you know it has been a very wet and dull winter, It is so nice now that the days are getting longer, and the birds are singing in the morning , I think you will agree, we need some sunshine, lets hope we have a good summer!

*I wish you all a happy Easter*

The Editor

