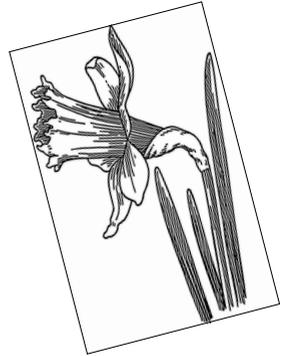
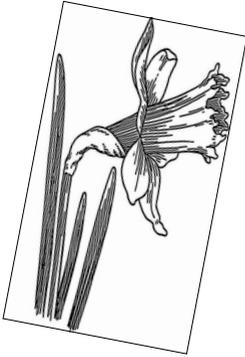


The Broadsheet

April

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

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

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

Dear friends,

I write this at the beginning of Passiontide, March 13th. It is the beginning of two weeks which encompasses Holy Week including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. For faithful Christians it can be an intense time of engagement with the gospel narrative of suffering and death of Jesus. In this story we read of the love that Jesus had for the world and for each person on earth, literally the passion for us personally that sent him to his death. On Good Friday at the hour of hymns and reflections in Gunnerton church, I shall have developed and reflected on the theme of 'Sorrow'. I took four characters in the story of people who were filled with sorrow at Jesus' death albeit in their own differing circumstances.

I often find people can become filled with sorrow through the experiences of life. It may be over the death of a friend or relative, or even (as I have known several times in my life) a pet, especially a dog. Other times can be over work issues or seeing someone else suffering, whether it be a young person being bullied at school or the helplessness that accompanies the illness of someone we know.

Over all these things God puts on love. The heavy stone which was rolled over the entrance to Jesus' tomb was there to keep people out, not to stop Jesus from leaving it. On what we call Easter morning women came to pay their respects only to find the stone rolled away and an angel sat there. His appearance was a bright as lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The men placed by Pontius Pilate to guard the tomb on seeing the angel fainted dead away. Not so the women. Obviously worried and upset the angel tells them not to be. 'Jesus is risen! Look, the tomb is empty. Go and tell the disciples. Now!'

In the following weeks hundreds see Jesus alive. Some, like Thomas, couldn't believe without first seeing. Others would watch him intently as he swallowed broiled fish before he opened their minds so they could understand what had happened he had foretold all the time he had been with them.

In Jesus' resurrection from the dead we have the promise of eternal life for those who commit their lives to following, loving and accepting him as their saviour. By his love for us we can gain comfort and reassurance that on our journey in life, whether we feel we are in a time of sorrow, are just about managing to cope with things or actually doing rather well, God will walk with us and bless us and be our faithful and enduring friend. By Christ's suffering God knows exactly how we feel in good times and in bad.

I hope you and yours will have a blessed Easter with lots of time to enjoy (hopefully) warmer weather and time to be yourself, knowing that God loves you as you are.

With many blessings to you and yours,

Mike

Round and About Humshaugh

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union had a very special afternoon, when Dr John McCollum was the speaker.

He told us about the importance of the Consultation during his talk on "Thoughts on Childhood":

It is during the intimacy of the consulting room, or any other place, where the patient can find the advice of a doctor whom he trusts.

And then he spoke about the importance of Immunization from babyhood right into old age.

Everybody was fascinated and lots of questions were asked and discussed.

In April the meeting will take place on Thursday 7th at 2 pm at the Langfords' home, when Beverley Anderson will speak on: "Addressing Poverty in the UK."

Pub Quiz



The Quiz in February was won by "Southern Reivers". A good turnout saw a total of £162 raised from the raffle and entrée fees for the Friends of Humshaugh First School for their trip to Bamburgh Castle, tied in with their current historical topic work on knights and castles.

The April Quiz will be held on Tuesday 19 April and will be in aid of St Peter's Church Restoration.

It will start at 8pm and the Question Master will be Mick Jonas.

HAP



On Friday April 8th at 7pm in the Village Hall, the film will be "Chocolat" - the story of new life coming to a rural French town.

With Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp.

Ticket prices are £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children.

This will be a Post Easter treat with lots of "Chocolat" Puddings.....

Liesbeth Langford



St. Peter's Church Flowers

The list for organising flowers in Church following Easter during Spring and Summer is now present in the green folder. Please do fill in appropriate dates as you wish and let me know if there is any problem. We do appreciate the flowers that are provided week by week and thank you for your support. It is a good way of noting an anniversary and remembering a particular family occasion. As I write the snowdrops and crocuses are in flower in the Churchyard with daffodils to look forward to and there are signs of Spring all around. Thank you for therefore for putting new life in the Church each week and helping to make all feel welcome. You may find it easier to book two weeks at a time as the flowers in Church usually last more than one week with just a little refreshment during the two weeks.

Thank You.

John McCollum

“WANTED – A VICAR!!

Things would go so much slicker if we could find a vicar,
We'd love you to apply.
We're all so saddened to the quick - and time goes by....

The Living would be great for any candidate,
On that you can rely;
Northumberland awaits you here, where time's rolled by.

Our two church wardens, worth their weight in gold,
Their many duties – something to behold;
Wardens need priests and priests need them tenfold,
That no one can deny.

You must remember this: We have a woman Bish,
Who's ready to supply
The help St Peter's church might need as years go by.

Up here the roads are empty and beauty spots a plenty,
The Roman Wall nearby;
You'd find if you would move up here, that time would fly.

Our two church wardens, getting slightly tired,
With your arrival, would be re-inspired!
Wardens need priests and priests need them tenfold,
That no one can deny.

It's still the same old story – it would be honky dory
If you would please apply;
Our church will always welcome vicars as time goes by. *Amen*

By Liesbeth Langford

WARK PARISH NEWS

Writing the notes this month is odd, betwixt and between. Much is to come along with much that cannot be reported! Easter is not far away; the shops are overstocked with chocolate eggs etc and it is all very commercial. Somehow, as I have aged, there is, I realise, a more cynical side developing and we forget the reason behind these various occasions, which are, after all, church calendar occasions. Something we have allowed the commercial interest to take over. That is the rant over!

The Easter vestry meetings will by now have taken place. You will need to look on notice boards in church to determine the outcome as by the time I next write to you it will be old news.

What I must say is, we had a wonderful lunch the other day to recognise the 40th anniversary of The Guild here at St. Michael's. This was something The Revd. John Wragg set up. I suppose in a way it is something like a Mothers' Union - but not the same. They mother people when you need them, which I can confirm. What they are brilliant at is arranging events and we do not know just how much money they will have raised going towards the upkeep of St. Michael's however it will be substantial. A sincere thank you to all concerned.

Regarding the roof job – the application did go in on time to The Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, however, it will be late June or early July before a response. The Archdeacon did provide a glowing letter of support but did comment last time around the fund was open, the success rate was 33%. We wait (with buckets collecting the rain water). Further fund applications need preparing but cannot be submitted until a response from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund is received. So it goes on. Now, I will say, if you do not agree with 'The Lottery' then sorry as this is where the money, via the Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport, comes from.

As promised here is a list of services in Wark for April:-

- April 3rd 9.30 am Lay led Morning prayer
- April 10th 6.00 pm Holy Communion led by Revd. Canon Chris Simmons
- April 17th 6.00 pm Evening Prayer led by Reader Ken Newitt
- April 24th 9.30 am Holy Communion led by Revd. Canon Michael Jackson
- May 1st 6.00 pm Lay led Evening Prayer

Well in advance, could you note May 8th the service will be at **4.00pm** then following Hexham Churches Together are arranging evening worship, for the Tyne Valley, in Hexham Auction Mart at 6.30pm.

Cont. >>>>>>>>

>>>>>

The notes for May are in draft form, so I can confirm many events are forthcoming.
With every good wish to all

John

p.s. Just read these back before sending to Roger (the editor) and they sound very dull this month, sorry. Give me something **happy** to report in May – please

pps I know I have missed something off this but cannot recall and need to get it to Roger now. Apologies if it was you.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising

Simonburn Notes

Spring is here, with blue skies, lambs racing each other in the fields and the daffodils are making an appearance. It certainly makes you feel better after the dull days. The clocks have changed as well, so lighter nights are here.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was held on Friday 4th March. The service was titled, "Receive children, Receive me" and was written by the women of Cuba. It was an enjoyable service and was well attended by both women and men. Lots of delicious cakes were served afterwards. Thank you to all involved.

A devotional service on Good Friday was held in St. Mungo's to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and to remind us about his suffering.

The following day, Saturday, the church was decorated with flowers, in preparation for the Easter Day service. A day when we 'usually' over indulge in the chocolate that has been given up for Lent, or a day when we get together with family and friends or just a day to relax. Whatever you did, I hope you enjoyed it.

It is Christian Aid week coming up, 15th - 21st May. Christian Aid is working to end poverty around the world. If an envelope drops onto your doormat, please donate to help those people less fortunate than ourselves.

Many Thanks to Denis Bulman for supplying the gravel for outside the church and to Stuart Robson and Dave Rosemurghy for spreading and levelling, A great job!

If you would like me to mention anything in the Simonburn Notes, please email me shazzahadley@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 681077, before the 13th of the month.

Best Wishes

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2016

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 3rd April - The Second Sunday of Easter	
9.00 Gunnerton Family Communion 10.30 Birtley Matins (BCP)	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 9.30 Wark Morning Prayer
Old Testament: [Exodus 14:10-end] Gospel: John 20:19-end	
Epistle: Acts 5:27-32 Psalm: 118:14-end	
Sunday 10th April - The Third Sunday of Easter	
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: [Zephaniah 3:14-end] Gospel: John 21:1-19	
Epistle: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] Psalm: 30	
Sunday 17th April - The Fourth Sunday of Easter	
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: [Genesis 7:1-5 etc] Gospel: John 10:22-30	
Epistle: Acts 9:36-end Psalm: 23	
Sunday 24th April - The Fifth Sunday of Easter	
9.00 Thockrington BCP Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9.30 Wark Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.30 Humshaugh Evening Prayer
Old Testament: [Genesis 22:1-18] Gospel: John 13:31-35	
Epistle: Acts 11:1-18 Psalm: 148:1-6	
Sunday 1st May - The Sixth Sunday of Easter	
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 37:1-14] Gospel: John 5:1-9	
Epistle: Acts 16:9-15 Psalm: 67	

S S S: Spring into Spring with Supper!

On Friday, April 15th at 7.30pm you are invited to Supper at 7, Chishilways, chez Geraldine's, to an evening of good food, good conversation and good company! PLEASE COME! The cost is £12.50 and all the proceeds will go towards Chollerton churchyard maintenance fund. Seats are limited so please telephone 689421 to book a seat. (We'd really love to see you!).

Ann Wainwright

Chollerton and Gunnerton Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM will be held on Wednesday April 27th 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.

Now is the time to worship

Churches Together in Hexham are meeting together on May 8th at 6.30pm at Hexham Mart, Tyne Green for an evening service of worship and praise. All will be warmly invited to come and I hope to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

Mike

Prayer times

All Church of England parishes have received encouragement from the archbishops of Canterbury and York to hold special opportunities for prayer during the week 8th to 15th May. Called, 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done' we in the Chollerton, Birtley and Thockington parishes will hold informal times of prayer at 10.30am each day in people's homes in the three parishes each day that week. We will be invited to arrive by 10.30 (promptly). There will be around 15 minutes of prayer where we can sit silently or speak a prayer aloud and we can pray about anything at all whether something in the world or something personal to us or our village. There will be an opportunity to write your own private prayer on a piece of paper which will be collected up and brought to the altar at our services on Pentecost Sunday. (These prayers will not be read by anyone, they really are private.) At the end of our short time of prayer we will enjoy a cup of coffee together. Look out for the venues for each of these times of prayer in next month's Broadsheet.

Mike

MeSSy cHuRcH

Our next Messy Church meets on Saturday May 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 Tel. 681721



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the Family of the Church
Lauren Sophie Henderson at St Giles' Chollerton on
Sunday February 21st

Funerals and Memorial Services

We celebrated the life of
Kevin David Capstick, 37, at St Peter's Humshaugh on
Thursday February 25th



Community Events in Gunnerton Church



Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday March 30th and April 27th
£2.50

12noon-1.00pm

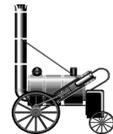
Delicious homemade soup and pudding, tea and coffee, raffle
All welcome



Gunnerton Railway Circle



Tuesday April 5th
Andy Hallington -
From Railway Roundabout to HS2



Tuesday May 3rd
Annual Quiz against Aln Valley Railway Society
Support (or perhaps join) the GRC team as they attempt to regain the
coveted Flat Bottomed Trophy in this home match against last year's
winners from Alnwick.

Please note, venue and date to be confirmed.

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
April 5th (note date)
Best Borders



Speaker: Stuart Dixon; Hebbs Farmhouse of Newark

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

April 7th from 10.30am to 12.00 noon

Delicious coffee, home bakes and great conversation guaranteed!





St Giles' Church Birtley
Rose Window Fund

Coffee Morning in Village Hall
Saturday 30th April at 10.30am
Raffle and Cake stall

The Rose window in the west wall above the entrance door is in urgent need of repair and the awful weather we have had this winter has not helped matters. This window was given to the church by public donation from the people of Birtley and depicts Jesus blessing little children.
It will cost in the region of £6000 to repair - this event is a start.



Birtley Local History Group



In May
Local Outing
(To be confirmed)
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 20th 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

In April, Major Charles Enderby will be giving a talk on the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard. Our speaker in May is Mandy Oliver to talk about Bumblebees and Karen Dover will be telling us all about Reflexology in June. On 6th July, Sue Malloy (one of the Vice Chairman of Northumberland Federation) is coming along to demonstrate Summer Salads with Edible Flowers. Don't forget our visit to Coldcotes Moor Farm Gardens, near Ponteland, on Wednesday, 13 July. We will start taking names for this visit at our May meeting. The WI meets on the first Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm in Barrasford Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

Pauline

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 April 13th. 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 2nd** with speaker John Purvis 'Happy Hens' then on **April 30th** with John Wibberley 'Adventures in Retrospect and Prospect'

Book by emailing jonathan@perspectivescvfm.org.uk

Website: www.perspectivescvfm.org.uk

A QUIET DAY AT BUTELAND BOTHY

Friday 22nd 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

Barrasford Village Hall

A Quiz Night will be held on Friday April 1st at 8.00pm. The bar will be open.

All welcome.

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