

The April Broadsheet



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for the parishes of Humshaugh
with Simonburn & Wark, and
Chollerton with Birtley,
Gunnerton & Thockrington

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Humshaugh Vicarage

I can't believe how quickly this year seems to be passing, already I'm seeing the first lambs, the buds are appearing in our garden and soon the grass will need its first cut. It's the changing seasons of course and, just as there are seasons for our land there are seasons in our lives too, and they also change as time moves on.

One such season is in the life of our neighbouring parish at Chollerton where the Rev'd. Mike Slade has decided to retire. I know that he is much loved, will be very much missed, and leave a big hole in the life of his community when he leaves at the end of April but we all wish him and Fiona well in the next season of their lives and ministry. Mike's final service will be at Chollerton Church on Sunday the 30th of April at 10.30am and you would be very welcome to come and join us to say farewell.

Another change is the shape of our deanery here in the North Tyne as the current parishes were set up to best minister to the communities they served at the time. Of course these parishes have changed over the years in response to the changes in the world around them, with perhaps the greatest of all the changes being the dividing of the 'Great Parish of Simonburn' in the early 19th century, though there have been many others. What we need to do now is look afresh to see whether the current arrangement of clergy and parishes still suits our situation, or whether there is a better way of arranging things. To help us work out what to do we'll be asking our church communities to complete a questionnaire about how they best see the church serving its local community over the coming years. The results will be back soon after Easter and hope that they will help show us the way forward in developing our deanery and we'll keep you up to date with things as they develop.

The seasons change, one finishes, another starts and new life comes from the old, and so it is as we approach Easter. We look forward to our celebration of Christ's resurrection, literally new life from old and rehearse the promises God makes to all who follow Him. It's a time of great celebration and we hope that you'll come and join us at the party.

Steve

Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

I am sure many of you will have heard that after considerable thought and reflection Fiona and I have decided to retire. Following consultation with the Bishop our last Sunday with you will be on April 30th at 10.30am at Chollerton.

In the meantime I would just like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Benefice and shall miss being a special part of this wonderful community. We shall take with us some very happy memories and thank you all for your friendship and fellowship. It will not be possible to visit everyone before we leave so we hope you will forgive us for that and come to the service to say farewell. We have liked Northumberland so much that we really couldn't move away and shall retire to Wark.

Mike

Round and about Humshaugh

Mothers' Union

What a great afternoon we had on the 2nd of March, when Dr John McCollum came to give his talk:

"What is in a Name?" He had brought beautiful photographs of flowers and told us about the origin of their names, like *Aubretia*, named after the French botanist Aubriet, *Narcissus*, from the story in Greek Mythology, and *Foxglove* with its Latin name *Digitalis*, meaning finger and indeed, the Dutch and Germans call that plant "*Thimble Herb*." There were many more examples and everybody so enjoyed the afternoon.

The next meeting will take place on Friday April the 7th, when Revd. Steve Wilkinson will come to speak to us. (Friday, not Thursday, as that is his day off). We will meet at the Langfords' home at 2pm.

Pub Quiz

The February Quiz was won by "The Crownies" and raised £147 for St Peter's church.

The April Quiz will take place on Tuesday the 18th at 8pm in aid of Humshaugh Cricket Club with Mick Jonas as Question Master.

Liesbeth Langford

Gunnerton Lunch Club

Held on Wednesday's
at 12 noon

26th April, 31st May, 8th June, 26th July, none in August, 27th
September, 25th October, 29th November.

£2.50 includes soup, dessert, tea and coffee.

And a raffle.

CHURCH EVENTS

The Parish of Chollerton Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held at 7p.m. in St Christopher's Church, Gunnerton, on Thursday, 27 April. All welcome.

This is an opportunity for parishioners to put their names forward for the PCC and for the vacant post of Churchwarden.

VILLAGE EVENTS

Chollerton WI Susie White's talk on 5th April is entitled Grow Your Own Cut Flowers. Hopefully this will inspire some of us to start planting. In May, Catherine Little will give a presentation about the Calvert Trust, which is based at Kielder and Julian Harrop will give a talk about Beamish Museum in June.

Visitors always welcome.

WARK PARISH NEWS

The first signs of spring are showing as these notes for April are prepared. The daffodils on the roadside and around the village look as if they will be in bloom before Easter, however, I am sure some may just keep going for us. More news regarding Easter services later. It is full steam ahead with preparations for the Wark Past and Present Exhibition being held in St. Michael's over the weekend of April 7th to 9th. It is hoped the children from the school will come along for a talk on Thursday 6th. I have no confirmed time at present. Watch out for notices around the village.

Those observant and regular press readers will have noted the goings on in the C of E. It appears, allegedly, there are concerns over the appointment of a Bishop. Thank goodness we have no issues around here.

Our sadness at the end of February was the death of Dennis Hewitson. Dennis was born here in Wark in 1925 living all his life in the area; farmer, lorry driver, butcher, tea room keeper amongst many trades he turned his hand to. Among the last of Wark's great characters. Many showed their respects for Dennis and offered support and condolences to his family at a service within St. Michael's on 3rd March. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

The thoughts and prayers of all at St. Michael's are with the family of Alison Lambert who died mid March. Alison was a member of the teaching staff at Wark School. We also think of the pupils as they face this difficult time.

We wish to send our thoughts and prayers to Steve and family following the recent death of his father, Neville. I am unsure if he made it to see the Parish, however, I know he was a countryman and would be happy that Steve is back in the countryside.

It has been a strange few days here in Wark village with the road closed for resurfacing. Apart from the brigade of workers, the typical one man digging a hole and seven were looking in. There have been no cars or timber lorries. Fair warning was given regarding the closure - you would be surprised how many irate drivers were confronting the workmen when they were denied access through the village.

The guild held a successful Bingo on 7th March with a reasonable attendance, there was space for more in the Hall.

Before moving onto the social aspect of St. Michael's I will, as promised earlier, give an indication of Easter services. Full details will be found further on in *THE BROADSHEET*. On Maundy Thursday, 13th April, at 2.30pm. there will be short service within the meeting room at Westacres. All are most welcome. Easter Day, 16th April will be our normal service of Holy Communion in St. Michael's at 6.00pm.

Last month I mentioned the Wark Charity Lunch; the second sitting is sold out with a few seats available for the first. Contact Ann on 230259 for the latest availability. Since the inception of this Lunch £72551.00 has been raised for local charities.

The press date for this edition is before the Annual Meetings of St. Michael's are held so you will need to wait until the May issue or read the declaration of appointment in the church to discover the make up of the PCC etc for the next 12 months. I have just read an interesting article in The Church Times, written by The Rt Revd Mark Tanner, Bishop of Berwick in our diocese, guiding as to how a PCC should operate. Think I will pass this around at the first meeting!

Now, some of the forthcoming events: Deanery Day in Wark Town Hall, Saturday 29th April at 9.30am. Wednesday 10th May in St. Michael's Archdeacons visitation for admittance of Churchwardens at 7.30pm.

Further details will be in the June edition of *THE BROADSHEET* for the next two items, Saturday 10th June – Teddy Bears' Picnic at 2.00pm and Sunday 18th June – Parish Lunch.

From the School they ask dogs are not exercised on the playing field. Thank you.

And finally from a cartoon; a vicar is sat with his wife looking over and he is reading his parish magazine with the front page visible `VICAR'S UNSLIGHTLY DRAWERS BANNED' his comment being `the parish magazine might have phrased it better'

What more can or should I say? Until we chat again

Love

John

Good Friday Walk at Wark for quiet reflection

The station walk starts at the War Memorial at 10.00am and should take about one hour. It is all on small roads but there is a steep hill to climb,
It is possible with a pram! It has been done!

Refreshments are available at Wark Town Hall afterwards.
Leaflets are available on the day but can be seen on the Benefice website under St Michael's.

We hope you will join us.
Any further information from Sally Napier on 01434 230223 or by email at: wannies30@btinternet.com

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, WARK WARK PAST AND PRESENT

An exhibition of photographs along with memorabilia
will be held within the Church
Friday 7th to Sunday 9th April

10.00 am to 4.00pm. Wark school children will be holding a talk in the
Church on Thursday 6th.



All are welcome
Refreshments will be available



Offers of photographs or memorabilia to Ann or John please.

Mike's Retirement

It is with some regret that we must say farewell to Mike, who is to retire on May 21st. He will say his farewells at a Benefice service on 30th April at Chollerton. We have benefited greatly from his ministry for over 6 years. Both Mike and Fiona have been very supportive throughout the Benefice. Their introduction of Messy Church, the return of a Sunday School will be sorely missed. There have also been some memorable social events ranging from parachute jumps to pancake races.

Mike has brought the Benefice into the digital age with his Facebook page and regular tweets both of which have proved enormously popular, by bringing the church to a wider audience.

Mike has, with others been instrumental in securing the repair of Chollerton Church Tower and the restoration of the Hearse House and perimeter wall. His ability to reach out to children both in church and school has been greatly appreciated, as well as his caring pastoral ministry.

Clearly Mike and Fiona's choice of Wark as a retirement home demonstrates their love of Northumberland and the North Tyne in particular. So I feel sure that we are only saying "au revoir" rather than "goodbye". We all wish them a very happy retirement and will remember them in our prayers.

Ken Carlisle on behalf of all Church Wardens and the community of Chollerton Benefice.

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

*****NEW ***BIRTLEY VILLAGE TABLE TENNIS CLUB ***NEW*****

We are establishing a brand new table tennis club at Birtley Village Community Hall.

It will be open to all ages from 5 years upwards, with no maximum age.

It's great fun, all equipment is provided and no experience is necessary.

We even have a robot that can serve balls!!

Come along to one of our free open evenings and give it a go, whatever your age.

The open evening dates are Thursday 16th, 23rd and 30th March. Juniors (5-18) from 6.15pm to 7.15pm and Adults (18+) from 7.30pm until 9pm.

Refreshments available.

Further details if required from Tony Brotherton 07525 399752.

Simonburn Notes

IT'S OFFICIAL.....Spring is here!

Did you remember to alter all your clocks and watches?

Congratulations to Andrew, Jade and Morgan as their new daughter Poppy was born at the end of February.

Also, Congratulations to Terry and Naomi Weatherley, who had a baby boy, Henry on March 4th.

In March, we said goodbye to John Jeffrey. Gwen has asked me to let everyone know that £431 was collected at his funeral. The money was donated to the two wards at the RVI, that treated and cared for his granddaughter, Callie Richardson.

Good Friday, this year, falls on Friday 14th April. The church will be decorated on Saturday 15th from 9am, in readiness for The Easter Sunday service.

Any donations of flowers or money towards the Easter flowers would be gratefully received by Mrs Allgood.

Help to decorate the church would also be gratefully accepted too.

I have noticed, in the Visitor's Book, the lovely comments we receive:

1. About how beautiful and peaceful the church is.....which it is.
2. How grateful people are, that the church is open for visitors.....we are so lucky, that living where we do, we are able to keep the church open.
3. The flowers are always beautiful.....so lets fill the church with lovely flowers, they are very much appreciated by everyone. The lucky thing is, they last for ages because of the cooler temperature!

Lastly, on a personal note, I would like to wish My Mum and Dad, Roger and Kay Hadley a very Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 29th.

A neighbour told my Dad (I am told) as he was leaving for church, that their marriage wouldn't last as they were too young, 18 and 19 years old. Nowadays, that does seem young, but it goes to show, if it's meant to be.. It's meant to be!

Best Wishes
Sharon

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2017

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 2nd April	
9am Gunnerton HC 10.30am Birtley HC	9.30am Humshaugh HC and APCM 11am Simonburn HC, Bishop Pedley 6pm Wark Evening Service of the Word
Readings: Romans 8. 6-11	John 11. 1-45
Sunday 9th April - Palm Sunday	
10.30am Chollerton HC	9.30am Humshaugh MP 11am Simonburn HC 6pm Wark HC
Readings: Matthew 21. 1-11	Psalm 118. 1-2, 19-29
Thursday 13th April - Maundy Thursday	
7.30pm Thockrington HC	2.30pm Wark , Maundy Thursday Service in the Westacres Centre 7.30pm Humshaugh, Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 14th April - Good Friday	
2pm Gunnerton, Service of the Third Hour	1.30pm Simonburn, Quiet hour around the cross
Sunday 16th April - Easter Day	
	8.30am Wark HC 9.30am Humshaugh HC 11am Simonburn HC
Readings: Acts 10. 34-43	John 20. 1-18
Sunday 23rd April	
9am Thockrington HC 10.30am Chollerton HC	9.30am Wark HC 11am Simonburn HC 6.30pm Humshaugh Evening service of the Word
Readings: Acts 2. 14a, 22-32	John 20. 19-31
Sunday 30th April	
10.30am Chollerton HC Mike's final Service	10.30am Wark Benefice Service with Archdeacon Peter Robinson
Readings: Acts 2. 14a, 36-41	Luke 24. 13-35
Sunday 7th May	
9am Gunnerton HC 10.30am Birtley SC	9.30am Humshaugh HC 11am Simonburn HC 6pm Wark Evening service of the Word
Readings Acts 2. 42-47	John 10. 1-10