

*The
December
January
Broadsheet
2017/18*



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

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Humshaugh Vicarage

Welcome!

I have heard that word so many times as I join Steve, working in the three churches of Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark. As you read this, I will be in the second month of a placement which I do as part of my training.

This will take me to ordination at Petertide, which is at the end of June

I have been overwhelmed by the warmth of welcome as Steve has introduced me to the three congregations and people in the communities who I've never met before, but who seem interested in why, as a 64 year old, I have finally decided what I want to do when I grow up!

As I reflect on this, I think about those who are less fortunate, for whom a warm welcome isn't forthcoming. They are the marginalised of society, people who are nameless and not seen; refugees, the homeless, those who are perceived to take rather than give.

Thousands of years ago, a young couple, who weren't married and who were expecting their first child, walked from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register for a census. They were called Mary and Joseph. They were marginalised.

Accommodation was refused to them and when the time came for her to deliver her baby, the only place they could find was a stable.

As we approach Christmas, Christians all over the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will give thanks to God, through our services in the season of advent, that we have been able to welcome Christ into our lives. If He is already in your life come and help us celebrate His birth at one of the services. If He isn't, come along anyway.

You can be assured of a warm welcome.

With every blessing

Ian

Round and About Humshaugh

Mothers' Union

At the November meeting Liesbeth gave her talk "thank you for having me."

It was discussed that emergency bags for people who have to go into hospital unexpectedly, would be provided by the members.

The MU Advent service for Hexham/ Bellingham Deanery will take place on Monday December 4th at 2pm at Henshaw church.

In the December meeting, on the 7th at the Langfords' home, members will talk about the history of carols. Our *January Communion Service*, led by the Revd Steve Wilkinson, will take place on Friday 12th at 2pm at St Peters church.

All of us would like to wish everybody a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Pub Quiz



In October the Quiz raised £136 for the Village Bonfire Night Fireworks. It was won by Robson Grant – it was a very close contest with just one mark separating the top four teams....

Into 2018: The January Quiz will take place on Tuesday the 16th and will be in aid of the Leek Club. Graham Warren will be Question Master.

(Mick will be busy preparing his Quiz for the WI meeting in January...)

Humshaugh Theatre Group



We are all looking forward to the presentation of “*Aladdin Trouble*” on Friday the 1st and Saturday the 2nd of December. Village Hall at 7.30.

HAP



The January Film is on Friday the 12th and is called “Room.” It is a 12+ category. A beautifully performed Oscar winning film about a young woman and her son struggling with life after having been held in a small room for several years. In the Village Hall at 7.30. Adults: £5 Under 18: £3
Puddings in the interval for £2 each.

Humshaugh First School



On Friday December 15th there will be a Christmas Service in church at 9.30 am
Parents and anybody from the community are very warmly invited!

On Wednesday December the 20th the children will perform their

Christmas Production: “*Lights – Camel – Action!*” at 9.15 in the school hall.

On Friday the 22nd of December the school will Break Up for Christmas!

And on Tuesday the 9th of January Spring Term starts.....

Liesbeth Langford



WARK PARISH NEWS

Hello to all who are reading this input, as due to John's absence, it is being prepared by a newbie. I hope you will bear with me, as there's a lot to cover in this period. Autumn is here, harvest is over, most of the drilling of next year's crops has been done, and we now wait for nature to repeat its miracle. It's just the animals to care for (and for those outside in the fields us humans wonder just how they keep warm).

Crisp, cold but drier mornings may be an improvement on recent weeks but we now have the dark afternoons since the clocks went back. Is this event still welcomed by anyone? You may have read, or heard about an unusual weather phenomenon called La Nina. Apparently, this weather was also present during autumn 2010, when I am informed was possibly the last time this area had serious amounts of snow. (I hope I am not tempting fate by mentioning it!)

A brief summary of some of last month's enjoyed events include: the harvest 'Soup and Pudding Evening' on 2 October at West Acres Community Room, which was well attended again; 'Tea Time Church' on 15th October at St Michael's -- thanks to Rev. Steve and his helpers -- please see the last page of the Broadsheet for further dates. 'Cross the Wannies' on 23rd October was much appreciated by those present and has been described as a wonderful evening full of intimate entertainment, with music played by a variety of accomplished musicians, along with humorous stories and songs, plus great refreshments. Finally, we must congratulate Wark First School on its recent Ofsted report, which described the School as welcoming, harmonious and inclusive with another 'Good' rating. Future plans there look similarly promising: they have recently started an after school club during term time from 3.15 until 5.30pm (costs and further details from the School Secretary on 230247).

In the coming month and January 2018 the following items may tempt you out; there are likely to be others too -- so keep an eye out!

'Ragtime Rascals' at Wark Town Hall on 30th November at 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets from Vicky on 230180.

Tyndale Methodist Circuit's Advent Course (which started on 23rd November) continues on 30th November (at 4.00pm), otherwise on 3rd, 8th, 14th and 19th December at 7pm (contact Vicky as above for further details). MURC's Carol Service is on 17th December at 11am, and Carols on the Green (at Wark) on 24th December starting at 6.30pm.

Wark Christmas Bazaar will be on 3rd December in the Town Hall

Please support this.

Stonehaugh Christingle Service is in Stonehaugh Village Hall on 13th December at 6.30pm.

Wark First School's Festive Play will be on 21st December at 2pm and again at 6pm.

Wark First School's Carol Service will be on 22nd December probably at 2.15 pm. (time to be confirmed).

Wark Senior Citizens' Dinner -- 10th January 2018. Invitations will be going out in December, so if you don't receive yours, please contact John Cooper on 230367

We welcome, to the Bellingham Deanery, Ordinand Ian Chadwick who will be with us until end May 2018. Ian will be leading worship, preaching and making home visits.

And further good news, we welcome back home Ethel Cairns. She has been much missed. May she continue to make a speedy recovery.

On that note may I wish you all, together with John Cooper, a very Happy Christmas, stay safe and take care this dark and potentially slippery season! I shall not be offended if you wish for the return of John's more eloquent dialogues in the future.

FRIENDS OF CHOLLERTON CHURCHES – NEWS

Happy 5th Birthday to the Friends! Funds are raised to assist in the maintenance and preservation of the historic churches of Chollerton and Gunnerton. During the past 5 years the Friends Committee has raised £30,000 through social events. Barclays Bank has provided match funding for a number of those events, for which we are all grateful.

In addition to the above, there has been a Patrons' Appeal whereby numerous trusts have made donations. The total of the Appeal amounted to £51,954. This has enabled the Committee to fund complete restoration of **the Hearse House and Stable**, together with the wall surrounding the old churchyard at Chollerton. **On Sunday 28th January 2018**, after communion at Chollerton (about 11.45 a.m.) **John Dickinson, Treasurer of the Friends and Sheriff of Northumberland, will officially open the restored building to the public.** Please come to this historic occasion. The intention is that the building will be open to the public on a daily basis and visitors will be able to view the descriptive boards and learn more about the two churches and historic information of life in the parish community. This information was kindly prepared by members of the Chollerton History Society. In October, a new Friends' social event took place where supporters were able to enjoy a meal at the New Beaumont Hotel, followed by the film "I Daniel Blake" at the Forum cinema in Hexham. This raised a total of £955 thanks not least to the generosity of the Beaumont Hotel and the Forum.

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SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2017

Benefice of Chollerton		Benefice of Humshaugh	
Sunday 3rd December			
Gunnerton	9am HC	Humshaugh	9.30 HC
Birtley	10.30 HC	Simonburn	11.00am HC
		Wark	6.00pm EP
Readings: Isaiah 64.1-9, 1 Corinthians 1.3-9, Mark 13.24-37			
Sunday 10th December			
Thockrington	9am HC	Humshaugh	9.30am HC
Chollerton	10.30 HC	Simonburn	11.00am MP
		Stonehough Community Centre 6.30pm Christingle Service	
Readings: Revelation 7.9-17, 1 John 3.1-3, Matthew 5.1-12			
Sunday 17th December			
Gunnerton	9am HC	Humshaugh	9.30am HC
Birtley Carol Service	10.30am	Wark Carol Service	6.00pm
Chollerton Carol Service	6pm	Simonburn Carol Service	6.30pm
Readings: Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24, John 1.6-8,19-28			
Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve			
Gunnerton Crib Service	6.00pm	Humshaugh Carol Service	4.30pm
Chollerton Midnight Mass	11.30pm	Wark Village Green, Carols	6.00pm
		Simonburn Midnight Mass	11.30pm
Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16, Romans 16.25-27, Luke 1.26-38			
Christmas Day			
Thockrington	9am HC	Wark Benefice Family Service for Christmas Day 10.00am	
Chollerton	10.30 HC		
Readings: Isaiah 9.2-7, Titus 2.11-14, Luke 2.1-20			
Sunday 31st December			
Gunnerton	10.30 HC	Humshaugh Benefice Service 10.30	
Readings: Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.15-21			
Sunday 7th January			
Gunnerton	9am HC	Humshaugh	9.30am HC
Birtley	10.30 HC	Simonburn	11.00 HC
		Wark	6.00 HC
Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12			

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2018

Benefice of Chollerton

Benefice of Humshaugh

Sunday 7th January

Gunnerton	9am HC	Humshaugh	9.30am HC
Birtley	10.30 HC	Simonburn	11.00 HC
		Wark	6.00 HC

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday 14th January

Thockrington	10.30 HC	St. Mungo's Benefice	
Chollerton	9am HC	Service at Simonburn.	11.00am HC
		Baptism of	
		Alfie Herdman at Wark	12.30pm

Readings: 1 Samuel 3.1-10, Revelation 5.1-10, John 1.43-51

Sunday 21st January

Gunnerton	9am HC	Humshaugh	9.30am HC
Birtley	10.30 HC	Simonburn	11.00am HC
		Wark Teatime Church	4.00pm
		Wark	6.00pm EP

Readings: Genesis 14.17-20, Revelation 19.6-10, John 2.1-11

Sunday 28th January

Thockrington	9am BCP	Wark	9.30am HC
Chollerton	10.30 HC	Simonburn (Matins)	11.00am
		Humshaugh	6.30pm EP

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16, Romans 16.25-27, Luke 1.26-38

Sunday 4th February

Gunnerton	9am HC	Humshaugh	9.30am HC
Birtley	10.30 HC	Simonburn	11.00 HC
		Wark	6.00 EP

Readings: Proverbs 8.1,22-31, Colossians 1.15-20, John 1.1-14



As you may know, the next event will be a Yuletide Service of Music and Carols at Chipchase on 15th December, led by Revd. John Wylam. Many will not wish to miss this opportunity of meeting John once again. Hurry to secure your ticket as places are limited due to the size of the chapel and the popularity of the evening. You will not be disappointed! Tickets at £15 per head available from Bob Fletcher at 01434681949 or bob@atretail.co.uk

Chollerton WI

Joanna O'Neill will speak about 'Felt Underneath – the magic of stitching on soft, hand-made felt' at our December meeting.

There will be no meeting in January, however we are looking forward to our Festive Meal at the Barrasford Arms Hotel on Friday, 26th.

CHOLLERTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Chollerton History Society invite you to an open morning
at St. Giles, Chollerton
on Saturday 3rd. February

Please drop in between 10am. - 12 am.

This is an opportunity to see the restored building and information boards prepared by the History Society.

Coffee and cake will be served.



Why not help someone this Christmas.

We are serving coffee and scones in Gunnerton Church on Saturday December 9th 11.00-12.30 to raise funds for the Barrasford Playgroup.

Please come along and if you can also bring a donation of food, toiletries, cleaning items for the West Newcastle Food Bank which James Feely is supporting.

Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a homemade scone for £2.00 there will also be a raffle and no doubt the craic will be good.



GUNNERTON LUNCH CLUB CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Wed 20th December at 12 noon £4

To include seasonal delights in addition to soup and a pudding

There will be a raffle of a Christmas Hamper and other goodies!

Please make a note of the date and reserve your place

with

Susan Reay on 681852 by 15th December.

The first Lunch Club of 2018 will be on Wed 31st January

at 12 noon



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Friends of Chollerton Churches

**Yuletide at Chipchase Castle Chapel
Friday December 15th at 7.00p.m.**

An evening of Carols, Lessons and Music.

Featuring members of Charlie's Choir and Roddy Matthews.

All presided over by the Revd. John Wylam.

Afterwards in the Castle Hall mulled wine, sausages and mince pies.

**Tickets £15 from Bob Fletcher at 01434 681949 or
bob@atretail.co.uk**



CAROL SERVICES IN CHOLLERTON BENEFICE

Everyone is welcome to come and join in
singing Christmas carols old and new
and hear the words of the Nativity



Sunday 17th December

at

St Giles Birtley at 10.30am

St Giles Chollerton at 6pm

Mincepies and refreshments after the services

*There will be Village Carol Singing around Birtley
one evening before Christmas*

Details from Ann Wainwright 01434

Chollerton First School's

Christingle Performance will be held on Monday 4th December,
5.30pm at St Giles Church.

All Welcome to come along for this special festive service.

A collection will be made in aid of The Children's Society.



BARRASFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Carol Service

6.30p.m. Sunday, 10 December.



ALL ARE WELCOME

© BARRASFORD METHODIST CHURCH



**Birtley & District
Gardening Group**

'Relish Northumbria'

Karen Phillips

Christmas Special with nibbles and drinks

7pm for 7.30pm

Tuesday 12th December

Birtley Village Hall NE48 3HL

Guests £6.00 - Please contact Secretary Margaret Watson
01434 230204

TUESDAY 16th JANUARY

(please note this is the 3rd Tuesday of the month)

7.30 for 7.45pm

**RAY WIND FARM – FLORA AND FAUNA
with Chris Jackson of Natural Power**

Guests £4



**CHOLLERTON PRE-SCHOOL PRESENTS
'Animal Magic'**



Monday 11th December

Barrasford Village Hall, 5.30pm

Tickets £2.00 adult, includes refreshments - children free

Please come along and see the wonderful performance

by the pre-school children.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Wark Christmas Bazaar

Wark Town Hall

on Sunday 3rd December

2.00pm.

With Christmas stalls, tombola and raffle.

Entrance includes tea or coffee and biscuit.

Please come along





**MESSY CHURCH
at BARRASFORD**

It has been a while since we had Messy Church in Barrasford Village Hall. It was a popular monthly family occasion for hands-on fun, fellowship and food.

We are thinking of starting up again in 2018. If you are interested in joining in, or helping to run the sessions, please get in touch. It would be great to hear from you.

Eileen Burn

The North Tyne and Redewater Choral Society

GOUNOD

Messe Solennelle (St Cecilia)

plus music for Christmas

including pieces by Buxtehude, Praetorius, Bach,
Rutter, Warlock

John Roper – Conductor

Keith Dale – Organ

Richard Simmance – Piano

Zoe Jackson – Soprano

James Draper – Tenor

Peter Dunn – Bass



Saturday December 16th 7.30pm

**St Mungo's Church,
Simonburn**

Admission £10, plus seasonal refreshments

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

CAROL SINGING IN THE VILLAGE of HUMSHAUGH

We propose again an evening of Carol Singing around the village of Humshaugh
A collection will be taken for The Children's Society.

This will take place on Wednesday 13th December at 6.30pm outside
The Crown. Anyone who would like to join us, you would be most
welcome.

We shall be coming around the village and we shall try to visit as
many of you as possible.

We shall be out for about two hours, (weather permitting,) and will
end with seasonal refreshment.

We hope to see as many of you as possible .

Steve Wilkinson , Roger Langford & John McCollum



Simonburn Notes

The Remembrance Sunday service at Humshaugh was well attended, despite the cold. It makes you think of the hardship that the soldiers in the wars had to endure in the trenches and the time we spent at the memorials, in the bitterly cold wind was nothing! Our thanks to all who help to tidy and get the Memorial ready for the short wreath laying service.

The church will be decorated, for Christmas, on Saturday 16th December from 9am please come along and help, All donations towards flowers will be gratefully received.

On Sunday 17th December we have our Carol service at 6.30pm, with John Roper and the beautiful voices of Antiphon followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

BREAKING NEWS.....I have inside information that Santa will be making an early visit to Simonburn Village Green at 7pm on Christmas Eve. Please come along to say Hello and enjoy some Christmas refreshments and carols, kindly supplied by Dave and Soraya at 6.30pm,

Midnight Mass Service on 24th December at 11.30pm

End of year Thankyous, to everyone that helped in many ways, especially Bill and Dionne who have kept the village green tidy throughout the year and who have been catching the leaves as they fell, almost before they landed! It saved a lot of back breaking work.

At this time of year we remember all our family and friends that are no longer with us but in our thoughts. Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy Christmas. and New Year
Love Sharon x

Carol Service

St. Mungo's Church Simonburn

Sunday 17th December

6.30pm ,

led by Antiphon,

Mince pies and mulled wine afterwards,

This always goes down well!!

