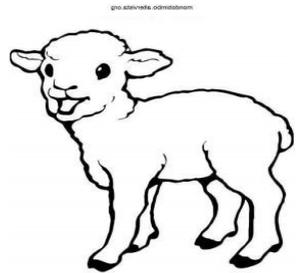
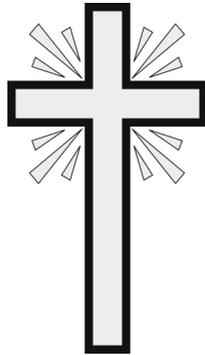




# *The April Broadsheet 2018*



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

**Revd. Steve Wilkinson**  
Rural Dean of Bellingham  
Parson of Humshaugh, Simonburn & Wark  
Tel: 01434 681304  
email: [revd.stevewilkinson@googlemail.com](mailto:revd.stevewilkinson@googlemail.com)  
[www.humshaughbenefice.org.uk](http://www.humshaughbenefice.org.uk)

## Humshaugh Vicarage

Friends,

This last few weeks have been absorbed by the current proposals on changing education here in our valley and beyond, and I'm sure you'll have seen the signs and posters up in Wark and Chollerton calling for people to help save our schools. Much of my time has been spent with politicians, local authority staff and the diocesan education team, and then going out to schools and speaking to parents, teachers and governors, to tell them how strongly the church supports keeping their school open. Out and about, talking to people as I walk through our villages or visit, the strength of feeling is incredible and the support in our communities for all our schools resolute.

The Church of England has a huge stake in these proposals too, nationally the church runs about a quarter of first and primary schools, here in our villages all three are church ones, and under the current proposals the authority will close two of them. The wider implications of closing schools in small rural communities are well known and stark; families move out, doctor's surgeries close, businesses, shops and post offices disappear and the pubs close. What is well understood, but being ignored here, is the disproportionate, wider social effect of closing just one, small rural school.

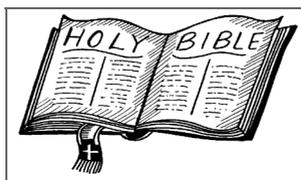
All of us can do something about it, we can write to our councillors and MP asking them to speak up for us and there is a formal consultation being run by the local authority. This consultation is available on line or if you pop into any of our schools we'll help you with a paper copy.

But why, you might ask, is the church so wound up about the schools consultation, beyond the threat of closing many of its own schools in the area? The simple answer is that we care, passionately, about our local communities. As one of our Archbishops, William Temple, said around the time of the Second World War; 'The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members', we care about everyone in our villages and steads, whether you come to church or not. And we draw our inspiration for this from Jesus who said that He came 'so that all may have life, and life to the full'.

And this includes thriving local communities with their own schools.

Peace

Steve.





## Humshaugh C.E. First School

Humshaugh, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 4AA  
01434 681 408



## **Please support Humshaugh C.E. First School**

The current consultation on education in the West of the county does not yet directly threaten Humshaugh School, but our partner schools at Wark and Chollerton are under immediate threat and we will stand together with them, and the diocese, to fight against their closures.

### **However, we are not complacent and want to repeat that Humshaugh is a great school because:**

Our children are safe and happy in school, they want to come and engage well when they are here.

Educational outcomes for all children in this school are better than the national average.

We have a rich, wide and absorbing curriculum.

We are financially sound.

We have a robust business plan to address the current educational reorganisation.

School has strong leadership, and an enthusiastic and very experienced teaching and support staff team.

We have a kind and caring Christian ethos.

Come and see what a fabulous school this is by joining us for our Palm Sunday service in St. Peter's Church on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 9.15 or for our Easter Service in school on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, also at 9.15am.

You can help us, and our other church schools by taking part in the local authority consultation, either on line or on paper. You can get to the online forms by clicking on the Northumberland County Council website and searching for schools consultation. If you are able please say that you do not support any of the proposals A, B or C because any of them will close Wark and Chollerton Schools.

Many thanks, and if you want any help with doing this please just pop into school.

## **Round and About Humshaugh**

### **Mothers' Union**

What a fantastic afternoon we had in March! John McCollum enthralled us with his talk on Biblical Plants. We read verses from both the Old and the New Testament in which plants or flowers were mentioned and they were then discussed.

On Friday, April the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Revd Steve Wilkinson will be our speaker. The meeting will be held at the Langfords' home and will start at 1.30pm.

### **Pub Quiz**

In February, the well- attended Quiz raised the excellent sum of £240 for St Peter's church.

No fewer than four teams ended on 51 points and had to be separated (metaphorically speaking) in a nerve-shredding series of tie-breakers.

However, the clear winners were "Birthday Boy" with a score of 54.5!

Mick Jonas will return for the April Quiz, which is on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 8pm and is for the Village Hall.



### **HAP**

We are running a Lino Print Workshop with local artist Lindsey Cooper. This will take place on Saturday, April the 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 3pm in Humshaugh Village Hall. Tickets are £25 (spaces limited) and are available from the Village Shop. People can bring a packed lunch and we will supply tea, coffee and cake!

### **Humshaugh Publications**

Humshaugh Publications is once again intending to produce a calendar next year, illustrated by pictures from local contributors. The theme will simply be: "Scenes from Humshaugh and Vicinity."

To fit in with the format of the calendar, pictures need to be in landscape orientation. Contributions may be submitted for consideration, either by post to Peter Woodward, Tanfield Cottage, 2 Linden Terrace, Humshaugh, NE46 4AJ or by email to [pwoodward965@gmail.com](mailto:pwoodward965@gmail.com) Submissions should be made by Friday, May the 26<sup>th</sup> 2018.

If you have any questions, please email or phone Peter on 07867 945704.

### **Lent Group Mornings**

Thank you Steve for leading the Monday mornings during Lent so beautifully.

Liesbeth Langford

# Save Wark School



Thank you to everyone for the overwhelming support so far, we are all feeling really positive but cannot do this without your help. The well attended public meeting on the 22nd of February's feedback has allowed us to develop an action plan to challenge the local authority's proposals and take our campaign forward, as this develops we'll keep you informed.

There has been an enormous amount of activity since February including meeting with the diocese to explore how we can all work more closely, perhaps with a Multi Academy Trust and all to start with a newly formed working group. The school governors have drafted a business plan that shows how we will not just survive but actually thrive under either a 2 or 3 tier education system and we were a part of the local school leaders meeting to put together a united response to the consultation.

The school has been in the media a lot too!

Our children have made a great banner to display, there are handprints of all those who have pledged to support us fight the threat of closure and we have been on the BBC's Look North and in the Hexham Courant several times. Our local MP has spoken out in support of our school, we've invited him to visit and meet the children and are looking forward to showing him round our brilliant school. Our local councillor is strongly supporting the school staying open and is challenging the local authority proposals but there is much still to do and you can help.

Please can I urge you to respond to the consultation document, you can do this as a local resident and don't need to have children in school. We also have raised an online petition which you can sign but if you need help with either of these please come into school and we'll help you through the quick and easy process. Also, if you feel you can help in **ANY** way please come into school and let us know !

## WARK PARISH NEWS

For this month I appear to have pieces of paper all over the place so hope all comes together! March came in like a lion so we hope the old saying 'out like a lamb' applies. The white stuff certainly scuppered a few plans.

So it is Easter. Those who joined in with the Lent Course have discussed what Easter means. The word has, as I discovered, varied meaning, along with considerable worth. We look forward to seeing green rather than brown fields (I am sure the farmers will look at the cheques they sign for fertilizer at this time). It does bring to memory, which is odd for spring, the hymn *We Plough the fields and scatter*.

Here in St. Michael's we only needed to call off one service for the adverse weather and must say our monthly tea time, now renamed messy church service, continues to grow (now with more mess!) This is normally 4.00pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and adults are welcome to make the mess along with the kids!

I am a few hours ahead in sending this off to Editor Roger so can only say I hope the delayed Bingo arranged by the Guild went well tonight. I know the AGM last night was good (in and out within 1 hour! – a record?), all went well and you have the same officers again.

I believe we undersold ourselves with the concert in church on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March given by John Froud. John is a friend of many years of Steve. John works in schools and generously gives to the Zephaniah trust. During the week John was in the benefice he came into our schools and hopes to return in September. A talent well worth visiting next time.

Most will be aware of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of St. Michael's The exact date is unknown however the celebration will be on 12<sup>th</sup> August 'the glorious 12<sup>th</sup>'. Arrangements are still being sorted but we do hope our new 'front doors' will be in place for this day. Do we say unveiled or opened?

Sadly, we lost two locals in March; John Moralee who has lived in Wark after retiring to a bungalow in Tuckers Yard; and from 'over the river', a man known to many 'Warkers', Jack Robson. Much could and will have been said about both however, what I will say is thoughts and prayers go to all the families.

Looking into the future, no, I do not have that special ability, but we still have a limited number of seats available for the first sitting at The Charity Lunch on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May in the Town Hall. Please contact Ann on 230259 (got the number wrong last time!) also Paddy has a limited number of seats on the Harrogate Spring Flower Show trip on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Call Paddy on 230894 to fill the coach.

Now, to conclude this month's notes, schools. Where do you start with this? I hope all the readers have completed the various forms to support retaining our school. Being one too old to have attended the current but have memories of the old school, I encourage all to support this campaign. Many times I did not enjoy going, but can you imagine Wark without a school?

So that is it until we chat again,

Love

John xxx

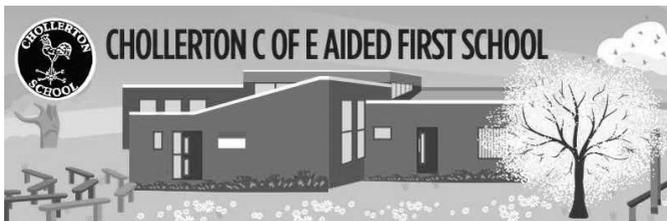
### **INTRODUCING "REFLECTIVE HORIZONS"**

For some time now, a small group of friends from around the Deanery has been meeting regularly for prayer and fellowship at the home of Alison and Derek Williams above Redesmouth. Buteland House enjoys a beautiful view down the valley towards Bellingham and is a perfect location for peaceful reflection.

For this purpose, the Buteland group will call itself "Reflective Horizons", a name that encapsulates the sense of connection with the sacred through the landscape that is so much part of our spirituality in Northumberland, and which also echoes "Eternal Horizons", the publicity about our historic churches published by the Deanery a few years back as part of the "Tourists to Pilgrims" project. Three quiet mornings led by members of the group and concluding with a light lunch are planned for 2018: on 13 April, 6 July and 5 October. Further details of themes will be circulated in due course to all churches in the deanery.

We hope that many others will join us during the year (though of necessity places are limited), so please put the dates in your diary if you think you might be interested in attending.

Alison Williams, Sally Napier, Di Gibson, Jill Taylor, Sheila Cameron  
NOTE THEREFORE that the next Quiet Morning for peaceful reflection will be held at Buteland House/Bothy on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 1.30 or 2pm (i.e. whenever we are ready to leave after lunch!) and the theme will be, 'Coming to a Standstill'. If you are interested in joining us then, please contact Sheila Cameron on 01830 520071 or Alison Williams on (01434) 220389 sooner rather than later.



## Save Chollerton C.E. First School

Please help us in the fight to keep Chollerton School open, as it has been selected for closure in all three models proposed by Northumberland County Council. This is despite offering an outstanding education for our children in an excellent building, on great school grounds and being financially viable for years to come.

Chollerton School is an integral part of the community providing meals on wheels, community worship space, a base for the local scout group and accommodation for Chollerton Pre-School that would be almost impossible to replace.

We are a really great school:

Ofsted 'outstanding'

Strong and consistent pupil numbers for the next three years

KS1 results in the top 5% nationally

Shown to be highly efficient and providing value for money

And much, much more !

This phase of the consultation is open until the 9<sup>th</sup> of April and you can make a difference. Online by going to the County Council website and searching for 'schools consultation' and then filling out the response form. If you would prefer to send a paper response in you can do, just come into school and we will help with either.

Please just select 'No' to options A, B and C and put in your comments that you do not want Chollerton School to close !

## **Chollerton WI .**

On Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April we look forward to hearing Maureen Barlow's talk on Galapagos and we hope to learn about The Art of Writing on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Meetings start at 7.30p.m. in Barrasford Village Hall, visitors are always **welcome**.

## **Friends of Chollerton Churches**

A note for your diary:

There will be a garden party on the evening of Friday 29th June courtesy of Major and Mrs Charles Enderby.

Full details will be announced in the near future.

The Chollerton Parish Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at 7p.m. on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018, at St Giles Church,

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

### **Gunnerton Church Luncheon Club**

Lunches are held on the last Wednesday of the month

Please do join us on Wednesday

25th April

at 12 noon

Soup, sweet, coffee or tea for just £3.00

**All welcome**



## **Birtley and Thockrington notes**

### **Forward planning for diaries**

- Birtley Church Fete, with Canine Capers – Sunday June 10th
- Thockrington Fete and Garden open – Carrycoats Hall Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August

Coach trip from Wark  
**Harrogate Flower Show**

**Friday, 27 April**

LEAVING WARK OUTSIDE THE BLACK BULL AT 9AM  
AND RETURNING FROM HARROGATE AT 5PM.  
TICKETS FOR COACH AND ENTRY TO SHOW ARE  
£31 PER PERSON.

*Contact*

PADDY WALTERS: TEL 01434 230 894  
Email paddynorthumber-  
land.19@gmail.com

**North Tyne and Redewater Choral Society**



**LOVE:**

**HUMAN AND DIVINE**

Brahms - Liebeslieder Walzer  
Ola Gjeilo - "Northern Lights"  
and  
Handel - "Messiah" Part 2

Directed by John Roper  
Accompanists - Keith Dale and  
Richard Simmance

**Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**7.30pm**

**St Peter's Church, Humshaugh**

**Admission: £10**

## Simonburn Notes

Happy Easter again. I know some of you will be reading this before Easter because of the deadline for printing but I hope you have enjoyed the Easter services and time with family and friends. Thanks to those that helped decorate the Church for Easter Sunday. The snow has finally gone, thank goodness. It does look lovely but causes lots of problems and one of our church services was cancelled. As I am writing these notes the forecast is that The Beast from the East is making a return!! I hope not.

You may or may not have noticed that the Cockerel weather vane has been removed from the top of St. Mungo's and also that the bells have been silent on a Sunday morning. The cockerel, has been taken away and one of the bells was found to be corroded and needs replacing, so the bells are unsafe to use.

A meeting to discuss the Fete will be held on Tuesday 17th April in the church at 7pm please come along with your ideas and helpers are always welcome. The Fete this year is on Saturday 28th July. The annual Spring clean is to be on the morning of Saturday 12th May at 9am. Many hands make light work, so please if you are able, come along, bring a duster and join us for refreshments afterwards.

I have been asked to put a request in the Broadsheet, to all dog owners. There is a problem at the moment with dog mess around the village. Please, please pick up your dogs mess. If you already do...Thank you.



The clocks have changed to British Summer Time, so the nights will be lighter and we can all come out of hibernation !!



Best Wishes, Sharon

Benefice of Chollerton			Benefice of Humshaugh		
<b>Sunday 1st April – Easter Day</b>					
Thockrington	6.30am	Sun Rise	Humshaugh	9.30am	HC
Birtley	9am	HC	Simonburn	11.00am	HC
Chollerton	10.30am	HC	Wark	8.30am	HC
Readings: Isaiah 25.6-9, Acts 10.34-43, John 20.1-18					
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>					
Thockrington	9am	HC	Humshaugh	9.30am	MP
Chollerton	10.30am	HC	Simonburn	11.00 am	MP
			Wark (Baptism of Max Paxton)	1.00pm	
			Wark	6.00	HC
Readings: Acts 4.32-35, 1 John 1.1 - 2.2, John 20.19-31					
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>					
Gunnerton	9am	HC	Humshaugh	9.30am	MP
Birtley	10.30am	HC	Simonburn	11.00am	HC
			Wark <i>Messy Church</i>	4.00pm	
			Wark	6.00pm	EP
Readings: Acts 3.12-19, 1 John 3.1-7, Luke 24.36b-48					
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>					
Thockrington	9am	BCP	Wark	9.30am	HC
Chollerton	10.30am	HC	Simonburn (Matins)	11.00am	
			Humshaugh	6.30pm	EP
Readings: Acts 4.5-12, 1 John 3.16-24, John 10.11-18					
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>					
Benefice Service Birtley			Benefice Service Wark		
	10.30am	HC		11.00am	HC
Readings: Acts 8.26-40, 1 John 4.7-21, John 15.1-8					
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>					
Gunnerton	9am	HC	Humshaugh	9.30am	HC
Birtley	10.30am	HC	Simonburn	11.00am	HC
			Wark	6.00pm	EP
Readings: Acts 10.44-48, 1 John 5.1-6, John 15.9-17					
HC - Holy Communion. MP – Morning Prayer. EP – Evening Prayer.					