

# ***The May Broadsheet 2018***



**Ascension**

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

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## Humshaugh Vicarage

I am sat writing this feeling slightly numb and wondering at the continuing folly of humanity. The news all today has been about a coalition of Western forces bombing parts of Syria in retribution for the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons on its own citizens. Wherever you stand on the debate over the war in Syria, or the growing conflict with Russia, military action without a clear and defined political agenda is quite terrifying.

At the same time we have started lambing, birth and new life in our very hands on way. Sitting next to the lambing pens and thanking God for the safe arrivals I was struck with the paradox of the day. Missiles, bombing and death followed by new-born lambs.

But what should we make of it, what might a Christian response to this be ?

I think that although we saw Jesus respond in righteous anger as he cleared the temple courts, and this has been used by many people to say that Christ was not a pacifist, I struggle to see anywhere in his life where he allowed violence to lead to more violence. In fact there is the passage about cheek-turning and coat-giving that we all know so well that speaks plainly against retaliatory violence. But what should we think, what should we do in the face of such atrocities being acted out against innocent civilians?

Perhaps the start of our response might be that we continue to call for a political and negotiated end to the violence, just because a thing seems hard doesn't mean we shouldn't try. Also, we can continue to support, in any way we can, all of the agencies that bring shelter, food and medical aid to the war zone. Next, we should never forget the lessons of history, especially about how violence has a way of escalating out of control.

Finally, and most importantly, we need to pray. To pray for peace and an end to the violence and warfare, perhaps to pray harder than we have ever prayed before.

But I want to close with a note of optimism and ask you to remember my new-born lambs that arrived the same day as the missiles in Syria. When God made us he imbued us with a spark of life that is hard to put out, we fight and kick (sometimes with all four legs) to survive and find a way through. And if we persevere, as my ewes and lambs have done, then we can and will find a way to make peace though all the fighting; and that's well worth believing in and praying for.



## **Round and About Humshaugh**

### **Mothers' Union**

A wonderful afternoon was given to us by the Revd Steve Wilkinson, who discussed with us the women who had been present at Jesus' crucifixion. Everybody became really involved and we will all think about what was said, for a long time to come.

On Thursday May the 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will meet for our annual "Wave of Prayer" and though this is usually held in church, because work might still be going on there at that time, the meeting will be at the Langford's home at 1.30 pm.

### **Village Hall**

There will be an Open Meeting to discuss the future development of the Village Hall on Wednesday, May the 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

### **Pub Quiz**



Eight teams took part in the March Quiz and the result, after a tie between "Robson Grant" and "Rose between Three Thorns", was that "Robson Grant" was declared the winner. £151 was raised towards the Cricket Club window renewal fund. The first trophy of the season is already in the cabinet after Humshaugh CC won the West Tyne Indoor 6 a side competition. Hopefully this will augur well for the season to come!

The May Quiz will be on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 8pm and will be in aid of the Playing Field Trust.

Mick will be the Question Master.

### **Humshaugh Vicarage Garden Party**



On Saturday June the 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Garden Party in the Vicarage garden. Among the various stalls will be one for all green fingered gardeners. If you can't find a home for any extra plants or seedlings, baskets or pots, please can you donate them to the Plant Stall?

If so, contact Liz Campbell at 07889223329

Liesbeth Langford

## **WARK PARISH NEWS**

Now, is it spring? I think we all need blue skies and warmth. My garden certainly does as it looks very sad.

Easter, with the chocolate and eggs is now behind us, schools at the time of writing return on Monday and all of us hope the correct decision has been made by the so called 'powers that be' to retain the current system which for most is working perfectly. We live in hope.

We had a great Easter Sunday Morning service in St. Michael's. A breakfast of so much food, along with bacon butties. It was great. A huge thank you to all who provided towards this feast. If you missed it look out for it next year.

Looking ahead, and this is for one year only, St. Michael's Fete will be on **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JULY** once again on the Green with the tempting teas in the Town Hall. The fete is a major fund raiser for St. Michael's and we are always short of helpers so please if you are able can you help? Please let Ann on 230259 or John on 230367 know. We will snap your hands off for help.

I am reminding you again of the special 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration service on **SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST** at 11.00am followed by a finger buffet in the tent on the car park. Fingers crossed, not for the buffet which will be Wark standard, that the new doors will be in place by then. This service is open for all to attend and we have a speaker from the Greenwich Hospital Trust, who (not the speaker, but the Trust) established the current church here in Wark along with a bishop taking part of the service. I hope many can attend. Let us see Wark come out in force and show our true spirit.

Our wonderful Guild, set up by the late Rev John Wragg, who do so much good work for St. Michael's, are on the lookout for new refreshing members. It is not an onerous task, just a good chat every couple of months, a little help with events and you will feel as if you have provided something to village life. Ann on 230259 is the contact for the next meeting, time and place

Regulars will know St. Michael's prides itself for altar flowers. We have a list in the entrance porch for anyone to put their name down for a specific commemorative date or occasion, alternatively you could leave a donation to the flower fund via Ann (230259)

Next, we have '**BISHOPS IN MISSION**' with the understanding we have Bishops' Libby Lane and Graham Dow with us for Friday evening 7<sup>th</sup> September with a Parish Supper in the Town Hall. The next meeting arranging this is after the press deadline for this issue of **THE BROADSHEET** so look out for more information in the June issue or on notices around the parish.

So folks that is it for this month – short and sweet  
Love to all, until we chat again,

**John**



## Friends of Chollerton Churches

Friday 29th June 6.30 p.m.

### **Garden Party**


Courtesy of Major & Mrs. Charles Enderby

Come and look around the beautiful gardens at The Riding, St. John Lee.

Complimentary drink, canapes and live music.

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

These gardens are not normally open to the public, so don't miss this opportunity!



**Chollerton WI** Our speaker in May is Andrew Graham talking about The Art of Writing and in June Judy Summerson will give a presentation on Red Kites. As always, meetings start at 7.30p.m. in Barrasford Village Hall on the first Wednesday in the month. Visitors always welcome.

### **Christian Aid Week 13-19th May**

Bacon Butties and Refreshments at Chollerton Hearse House

10.00-12.00 noon on Saturday 12th May in aid of Christian Aid.

Contact Claire Ridley on 07703595310

### **Funerals**

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, Rev. John Wylam officiated at the Bockenfield Woodland burial of Andrew Nelson of Colwell.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April, he officiated at the cremation and memorial service for Pauline Barbara Allison of Barrasford, at St Giles Church, Chollerton.

***May Andrew and Pauline rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this sad time.***

### **GUNNERTON CHURCH LUNCHEON CLUB**

LUNCHEES are held on the last Wednesday of the month  
PLEASE COME ALONG and join us on WEDNESDAYS 30th MAY

27th JUNE and 25th JULY at 12 NOON

SOUP, SWEET, coffee or tea : £3.00

All welcome



### **Azalea and Rhododendron Garden Walkabout**

Carrycoats Hall

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2-5pm Free entry, and teas

Donations for St Giles Church, Birtley

All welcome – dogs on leads please



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### **Bacchus Revisits Barrasford!**



Ken & Alison's "Guess my Wine Evening"  
7.30 Friday 22nd June also 7.30 Friday 13th July  
Book now for either of the above.



Telephone 689996

This is a new format and max of 15 on each night.

### **Monthly Dunkers Coffee Morning**

Every 2nd Wednesday of the Month in Barrasford Village Hall, Supper Room.  
10-11am



All welcome. Come along for coffee and a chat.  
£2 entry includes coffee and a scone. Raffle



### **Jack Robson**

A huge congregation gathered at St Giles, Birtley for the funeral of Jack Robson, who died after a short illness. Jack and his family came to the parish in 1973, taking the tenancy of Pitland Hills. He was an active member and chairman of the parish council for many years.

When retiring to the village in 2000, Jack soon became involved in the community, being 'in charge' of the village lawnmower, keeping any grass around the village in 'band box' condition, he did like things to be neat and tidy. Jack was a 'larger than life' character and will be greatly missed by his many farming, hunting and racing friends.

**Our thoughts are with Joan and his family.**

**It is with great pleasure, and relief, that we can share this announcement from Bishop Christine.**

The Bishop of Newcastle is delighted to announce that the Rev'd Sarah Lunn will become the new Priest in Charge of Chollerton with Birtley and Thockrington. Sarah is currently Rector of the Benefice of the Heart of Eden in the Diocese of Carlisle. Sarah's licensing and installation as priest in charge will be on Tuesday 17th July at 7.30pm. Please keep Sarah in your prayers as she prepares to begin her ministry in Chollerton, Birtley and Thockrington and in the deanery of Bellingham. Sarah knows this area of Northumberland well and is looking forward to coming to join us. Please keep Sarah in your prayers over these next few months as she prepares to move from Cumbria and take up her new position.

## **Barrasford Village Hall AGM**

Tuesday 1st May, 7.30pm

Come along and hear what has been happening at your Village Hall over the last year and what is planned for the next. **All Welcome**

### **Gunnerton Church Luncheon Club**

Lunches are held on the last Wednesday of the month

Please do join us on Wednesdays

at 12 noon

Soup, sweet, coffee or tea for just £3.00

**All welcome**



### **Humshaugh Garden Party in the Vicarage Garden**

On Saturday, June the 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 2pm.

Tea on the lawn

A selection of stalls

Entertainment

**Please come along with family and friends!**



### **Simonburn Notes**

At last the weather is getting warmer and more Spring-like. The trees and shrubs are starting to come into bud, showing new life.

The grass cutting season is here bringing a real smell of spring/summer.

Thanks to Dionne and Kay for weeding and clearing the border in front of the church. If anyone has any spare plants or shrubs that would help to fill it, it would be much appreciated.

Get Well wishes to Celia Pattison, the mother of Richard Pattison, our organist, who is recovering from surgery.

Luckily for us, we have some talented musicians in our midst, who have stepped in at times; Ian Chadwick on the clarinet and Andrew Langford, who has played the organ for us. Thank you.

On Sunday 15th, we also had the pleasure of a service from Bishop Stephen Pedley, who led Communion. It was lovely to see him.

This week, I was told that, 'It was a pure joy to participate in Messy Church held in St Mungo's church on Easter Saturday. The happy sounds of active, chirpy and attentive children filled the space. Sunlight streamed through the stained glass windows, the flowers looked amazing and the atmosphere was welcoming, warm and friendly.'

'The activities were well-prepared, varied and fun, kept the adults on their toes(!) and the short films were thought-provoking for children and parents alike.'

All in all, it proved a very worthwhile and enjoyable time, bringing children and adults together from a significant radius of Simonburn. Many thanks and well done to the organisers and helpers - and of course, the children who took part so enthusiastically.'

Best Wishes

**Sharon**

## **SERVICES FOR MAY 2018**

Benefice of Chollerton			Benefice of Humshaugh		
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> May					
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					
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May – Ascension Day					
			Humshaugh Ascension Day 7.30pm		
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> May					
Thockrington	9am	HC	Humshaugh	9.30am	MP
Chollerton	10.30am	HC	Simonburn	11.00	MP
			Wark	6.00	HC
Readings: Acts 1.15-17,21-26, 1 John 5.9-13, John 17.6-19					
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> May - Pentecost					
Gunnerton	9am	HC	Humshaugh	9.30am	HC
Birtley	10.30am	HC	Simonburn	11.00am	HC
			Wark	6.00pm	EP
Readings: Ezekiel 37.1-14, Acts 2.1-21, John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15					
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> May					
Thockrington	9am	BCP	Wark	9.30am	HC
Chollerton	10.30am	HC	Simonburn (Matins)	11.00am	
			Humshaugh	6.30pm	EP
Readings: Isaiah 6.1-8, Romans 8.12-17, John 3.1-17					
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June					
Gunnerton	9am	HC	Humshaugh	9.30am	HC
Birtley	10.30am	HC	Simonburn	11.00am	HC
			Wark	6.00pm	EP
Readings: 1 Samuel 3.1-10, 2 Corinthians 4.5-12, Mark 2.23 - 3.6					
HC - Holy Communion. MP – Morning Prayer. EP – Evening Prayer.					