

The September Broadsheet 2020



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

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Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

This strange and challenging year for everyone is marching on, as we hear about the results for both GCSE and A level students and are all very aware of the far reaching effects of an invisible virus on every part of our lives. The season is changing and a new academic year starts very soon.

We are now in the season of harvest thanksgiving, which traditionally begins on August 1st with Feast of Lammastide, the first of the early corn harvest. Some of this crop was baked into a loaf and taken to church to be blessed and used for the communion on the nearest Sunday. The season of harvest finishes at Michaelmas, September 29th. Traditionally Harvest-time was a time to give thanks for God's goodness and offer to God tokens of the fruits of the earth in thanksgiving. We have built on the idea of harvest over the years and we celebrate not only the harvest of field and farm, but also the harvest of talents, gifts, skills etc, saying thank you to God for what we have, and providing help for those less fortunate than we are. This year we will not be able to celebrate as we usually do, but we still have the opportunity to give thanks to God for all that we have, our families, the love of friends, our homes and security and the skills and gifts of those in every walk of life who care for others medically, socially in commerce or with the gift of time. We also give thanks this year for the ministry and influence of Revd Steve Wilkinson and Revd Susan Ramsaran on this area. We pray for Steve's family as they prepare to move and for Susan and Michael as they retire. We remember at harvest that God is faithful, and together with the Archdeacon and The Bishop we will all discern the next steps for us as a Deanery and as parishes and communities. May God go with us as we continue to journey.

Sarah Lunn.

HUMSHAUGH.

It is with great sadness that the village heard about the death of Graham Blackler, who died on Sunday, the 9th of August. Graham lived in the village for 24 years and he will be greatly missed by many. Our thoughts and love are with Pat and the family.

"Humshaugh – A History" has now been published and is for sale for £5.00 in the shop.

A big thank you to Suzanne Newell and her helpers for the beautiful Flower Bed in the village. It is a joy to see each time you pass it.

Liesbeth Langford

WARK PARISH NEWS

At last, something interesting to report! Saturday 5th September from 10.00am to 12noon a Garden Fete with a difference. Various stalls will be held in the gardens/driveways of a number of houses around the village and perhaps at the corners of the village Green. It very much will be a case of come along to support and look out for the hosting homes. Of course, please adhere to all social distancing requirements.

Services have recommenced within St. Michaels, again please check dates and times as it is not just as before.

Sadly, we are sorry to record the deaths of Pat Wilkinson and Billy Glendinning. Both will be sadly missed. Thoughts and prayers go to their families. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

On a happier note we were able to see Elliott and Jessica married in St. Michael's.

So, we are off and operating again. Until we chat again please take care and keep safe.

Love to all, John.

Birtley Notes

The first service in St Giles for over 5 months took place on the 2nd August at 6pm in the evening, when we go back to a 10.30am service, will be decided at a later date. It was so nice to be able to meet people and be normal again...

The death of Margaret Binovec, Acomb was received with sadness. Margaret lived in the village for a long time when first married, to Gordon a Birtley lad, their daughter Jacqueline and family living in France.

Fantastic weather was with us for the cake/produce stall and raffle held in the garden of our home at Croft Cottage on Saturday 8th August. A great turnout, with some very kind generous people, both with donations and bringing goodies for the stall. I think folk were pleased for somewhere to go to and with the perfect weather, were quite happy having a chat to people they hadn't seen for a long time, plenty of space so no problem. Over £600 was made which was amazing; again thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity.

See you soon, Mary.

Simonburn Notes

I think this month is the time for some Thank you's! A big Thank you to everyone who donated, came to purchase or helped at our cake and produce stall, at the beginning of August. We made a magnificent £1150. Lets all show our support to all the church stalls and fundraising events in these difficult and unprecedented times.

If you've been around the churchyard lately, you may have noticed the paths and the top gate. Thanks to Dave Rosemurgey for making the new gate, also to Norman Griffiths for keeping the churchyard looking perfect and for re-gravelling the paths with Davey Rowell's help.

Bill Stevens has been doing a great job looking after the village green, Thank you.

Welcome to Alistair Clark who has moved into the village, we hope you will enjoy and be happy living here.

St.Mungo's is still open for private prayer at the present time. The children who are returning to school and to the ones changing school this September, we wish them well. Change can be hard for some and it is something we are all experiencing, especially this year!

Stay safe .

Love Sharon

Readings for September

- 6th September 13th Sunday after Trinity
Ezekiel 33: 7-11; Romans 13: 8-end ; Matthew 18: 15-20
- 13th September : 14th Sunday after Trinity
Genesis 50: 15-21; Romans 14: 1-2; Matthew 18: 21-25
- 20th September : 15th Sunday after Trinity
Jonah 3: 10- end of Ch 4; Philippians 1: 21-end; Matthew 20: 1-16
- 27th September: 16th Sunday after Trinity
Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

