



The March Broadsheet 2021



**for the parishes of
Humshaugh
with Simonburn & Wark,
Chollerton with Birtley,
Gunnerton, Thockrington,
St Oswald in Lee.**

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Fearfully and wonderfully made

Some years ago I joined a shuffling queue which wound around the Tate Gallery in St Ives until I was confronted with the astonishing sight of 80,000 eyes staring up at me from the floor. This was 'Field for the British Isles', part of an exhibition of the work of Anthony Gormley which will be coming to the north-east later this year. It is made up of 40,000 unglazed clay figures, only a few inches high, standing shoulder to shoulder, completely filling the floor of two galleries and staring up at the viewer. The deliberately restricted view means that it seems quite possible that their number is never ending, like a silently flowing river slowly seeping towards you. All these figures are different. They have eyes made by simply pushing a pencil into the clay, and yet it is these eyes which hold you in their gaze, vastly outnumbering the viewer. I was moved by the fragility of the figures, tightly packed into the space, silently staring back at me.

As we try to come to terms with the harrowing scale of the lives lost to Covid even this vast sea of figures is far smaller than that number. Yet each human life is unique, precious, loved into being by God, and held still, in death as in life. And each life lost to this terrible disease is known not only to those who knew and loved them in this life, but above all by the God who created us before we drew breath. "For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

This year we have been reminded so powerfully of the precious fragility of life. This Holy Week may we also truly know the love which led Jesus to enter into the deep waters of death on our behalf, so that we might also rise with him and all the departed, to new life in the joy of his resurrection.

The Rev'd Claire Robson, Assistant Area Dean, Bellingham

Services

The morning services for March are all Zoom Services at 10.00am each Sunday.

There is late @ 8 on Sunday 7th March and Compline at 9.00pm on Sundays :

- **14th**
- **21st**
- **28th March .**



Humshaugh News

It was a sad day for the village when the funeral service for Jodi Walsham took place on Wednesday the 17th of February. This talented and caring young woman will be very much missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

The children at school were delighted with their Messy Church Bags. It looks as if everybody will be back in school on March 8th.....

Humshaugh Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, March the 9th at 7p.m. All are welcome to join the meeting.

Please email humvillhall@gmail.com

If you would like to be sent the zoom link for the meeting.

February 2021

**It's a little like Lock Down for the Snowdrops around
The church yards and gardens with the snow on the ground.
Those brave early flowers did struggle and toil
To push their way through the hard wintery soil.
And now snow has covered each petal and leaf;
Like us, they're Locked Down and like us, they believe
That the snow will stop falling and the Snowdrops be free
And hopefully, hopefully, so will we!!**

Liesbeth

Birtley Notes

As we are unable to hold functions in the Village Hall at present, the ever popular Gardening Group have been holding their monthly meetings on Zoom. These have been very popular as we can book speakers from a long way off, the lady last month was from Devon... we normally would not be able to do so, also it is nice to be able to see other members. Anne James the new secretary is also doing a monthly newsletter which she sends out by email, contributions or photos to be included are always welcome...

The Art classes are also functioning via Zoom, thanks to Neil Patterson, but only fortnightly, again it feels as if we are going to an actual class, and something to do on a Thursday evening...!

There is also a Church service every Sunday morning via Zoom, included are all the churches in the area, if you would like to join, get in touch with Eileen Burn or Judith Weir who will give you the link for that Sunday.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Brenda Grieve, a native of Gunnerton, she lived most of her life with husband Walter, in the area, latterly at Wark. Our sympathy goes to William, Linda and family.

By now most of the over 70's in the parish will have had their first vaccination, which is a great relief to many.

Once again take care everyone, Mary.

WARK PARISH NEWS

Most of the talk appears to focus around 'the jab' which the administration of appears to be going smoothly and hopefully before long we will be able to return to live services rather than virtual ones. Should you wish to join in the weekly Zoom service please contact me for the access code etc.

Sadly, the death of Brenda Grieve is recorded. Brenda was well known in Wark having run the petrol station for a number of years. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this very sad time. We also pray for the family of Emily Herold who taught at Wark School and sadly died recently. May they rise in glory.

St. Michael's are arranging an Easter competition for the school children at Wark. In their Easter Packs the pupils will have received a card on which they are asked to draw a picture or write a poem about Easter, write their name on the back then take it along to Wark Post Office by 1st. APRIL and put it in the box inside and receive a FREE EASTER EGG. All entries will be displayed in St. Michael's on Easter Sunday with the best entry receiving a prize! Please remember all the Covid regulations when you go to see the display. This is our way of involving, during this lockdown, the church with the school children.

A reminder that the church is open daily for individual private prayer.

Until we chat again, **stay safe and warm.**

Love John

Simonburn Notes

It's certainly been a cold month but hopefully the snow has gone for this Winter, at least.

It's nice to see the snowdrops, the daffodils and hear the birdsong, it reminds us that Spring is on its way. As more people get the vaccination, we hope it will bring the light at the end of the tunnel a little closer.

In January, Jimmy Liddle had an accident and broke his leg, we wish him a speedy recovery.

A defibrillator has been installed into the old phone box near the village green. We hope we won't need it but we are lucky it's there, if we do.

It was lovely to have Bishop Christine to preside and preach at the zoom service on Sunday 21st February, streamed live from St. Cuthbert's church, Bellingham. We thank all the clergy and everyone involved in everything they are doing in this ever changing 'new' way of church.

Remember, Stay Home, Stay Local, Stay Safe and look after each other.

Love Sharon