

The September Broadsheet 2021



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

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As many of you know I am retiring on 19th September after 21 years of ordained ministry in the Parish of St Oswald in Lee and for the last two years assisting also in the Chollerton Benefice. What a privilege it has been and what a lot has happened and changed during that time.

In 2000 when I was ordained I was the only woman priest and the only non-stipendiary priest in the Bellingham deanery. How times have changed! I was regarded as a 'bit odd' as I lived in my own home not a vicarage and I was teaching full time. When I became priest in charge in 2007 the Parish of St Oswald had a wonderful group of lay people (which it still has) who offered ministry in so many different ways and supported me. In recent years we have learned to share ideas and resources across our parish boundaries.

Covid has challenged us and changed us in the past 18 months ...I would never have imagined back in 2000 that we would be worshipping on something called 'Zoom'! Covid has brought sorrows and hardships but also it has opened us to new ways of worship and being together as a deanery. I find it so encouraging to see such a flexibility and generosity of spirit in many people. It is good to see people from all over the deanery worshipping together.

Under Sarah's leadership and guidance with the support of Claire, Frances and so many lay people you will continue to show the light of Christ and bring hope to many people.

As many of you will have experienced in your own lives, retirement brings mixed emotions. I have a feeling of relief that my diary won't be full of meetings and I won't be restricted at weekends but also a sadness that a time of great fulfilment and pleasure has come to an end. In the well known words of Ecclesiastes, "*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven*".

Now feels the right time for me to retire. I wonder what next? I'm sure our paths will cross again!

God bless you all.

Christine Bull

Humshaugh Notes

How wonderful to see a rhythm of church services coming back to normal, especially now singing is allowed once more. Friends of ours visited us and gave us their church magazine and the following two stories were included:

A little boy was given a pound to put in the collection plate. When the plate came round, he would not put it in. At the end of the service, when shaking hands with the vicar, he offered him his £1 pound coin. When the vicar asked him why he was giving him the money, the little boy said: "Because my mum said that you were the poorest vicar we have ever had."

A vicar, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man leaving during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the end of the service. Afterwards the vicar asked him where he had gone. "I went to have a haircut," was the reply. "But," said the vicar, "why didn't you do that before the service?" "Because," the man said, "I did not need it then."

The "Welcome Back" Day in the village hall was a great success with many organisations represented. Gorgeous teas were served and a short concert was given by the North Tyne Voices choir.

The Humshaugh Harvest Show will take place on Saturday, September 11th. Raffle tickets are now available in the Village Shop for £1 each with fantastic prizes on offer...

The Quiz is starting again! The first one will be on Tuesday, September 28th at 7.30

After having been moved to Haltwhistle Hospital at the end of July, Ken Burgon died peacefully a few days later. The village will miss this kind man and our thoughts are with Joyce and her family.

A Memorial Service, attended by more than a hundred people, was held in St Peter's church in memory of Mary Gibson. She will be remembered and missed by many and we think of Rupert and family at this difficult time.

There was the very sad news of Chris and Marjorie Robinson's daughter, who died very unexpectedly in Australia. We wish them all the strength they must need just now.

A very special birthday is coming up in Humshaugh: Rene Baillie will be a 100 years old this month!! Many congratulations go to her from all of us.

Love, Liesbeth

"The Open Gardens at Carrycoats on 15th August has raised over £1,500 for Thockrington Church. It was a lovely occasion with many visitors, old friends and new, celebrating being out and about again, walking the gardens, buying home produce and delicious cakes, and enjoying a cup of tea together. All in all it was a good day, and thanks to everyone who supported the event."

WARK PARISH NEWS

On 12th August the Duchess of Northumberland came to Wark to present certificates for long service to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Some wonderful years of service to the annual appeal have been clocked up. The recipients for 60 years of service were Ann Dover, Jean Swailes and Denis Grugan with awards for 35 years going to Elaine Urwin and 30 years to Judith Weir and Ann Bulman. A certificate of appreciation was also presented to Wark School. Congratulations to all on reaching these milestones.

After months of having been `on hold' finally the Memorial Service for our greatly missed Priest, Steve Wilkinson, will be held on Saturday 18th September in St. Peter's, Humshaugh at 3pm. The service will also be streamed to Humshaugh Village Hall. Those wishing to attend should contact Melanie by e-mail; melanie.f.wilkinson@gmail.com

St. Michael's was the venue for a very happy wedding (even if the bride's mother had a broken toe) on 24th July for our always cheerful fruit and veg. suppliers, Tracey and Mossie. Congratulations and best wishes to you from all at St. Michael's.

The local contacts for St. Michael's have been updated and are on display in the notice board and in church but I will remind you the churchwardens are Jani Keep on 07500 222151 and John Cooper on 07989 387716.

A reminder on the second Sunday of each month there is a Holy Communion service at 6.00pm and on the fourth a lay led evening prayer, again at 6.00pm, in St. Michael's.

Additional services are displayed in the village.
Until we chat again,

Love John

St Giles Church

is holding a Cake Stall and
raffle at Birtley Hall
Saturday 28th August

at 10am,
have a coffee and a look at
the gardens.

Do come along



Gardening Group

Plant Sale

in

Birtley Village Hall

Sunday 5th

September at 2.30.

Do come along



On the Sunday 19 September the Harvest Festival will take place at St Oswald's Church Heavenfield at 10.00 am.

At that service we will be saying farewell to Revd. Canon Christine Bull who will retire from her post as Associate Priest.

Christine spent most of her working life as a schoolteacher in Gosforth. She became Priest in charge at St Oswald's in Lee with Bingfield in 2007 and has given years of loyal and inspirational leadership.

There will be refreshments hopefully served outside and we will be making a presentation to say thank you to Christine and indeed to Phil. You are very welcome at the service.

If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift, please send a cheque to Jill Taylor Fellfoot Cottage Wall NE464DX made payable to Parish of St Oswalds in Lee. If preferred cheques or cash can be put through the door. The house in Wall is opposite the church. Bill Walton

Birtley Notes

Huge Congratulations to Fred and Margaret Watson, Town Head, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, on the 10th August. Also to Roger and Marilyn Bell, Bellview, on their Golden Wedding on the 21st August, our 'Best Wishes' to you all.

St Giles are holding a **Cake Stall** at Birtley Hall on **Saturday 28th** August starting at 10am, do come along and buy some goodies and raffle tickets, have a coffee and a look at the gardens.

Please remember the Gardening Group Plant Sale in the Village Hall on **Sunday 5th** September at 2.30. Also a reminder that there is the GNAA collection at Wark Town Hall on **8th September** 9-10am.

Mary.

Great North Air Ambulance



Collection at Wark Town Hall
on
8th September
from
9 till 10am.

News about the Parishes of the Deanery

As a group of 19 churches in the Deanery of Bellingham we have been holding services online every Sunday since March of 2020, thanks to the dedication and expertise of Chris Harding and Diana Linnett. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped with this in any way.

As we begin to hope that the Pandemic is being brought under control, we are going to try a different pattern of services in the month, beginning in September with more church services and retaining one Deanery Online service per month as this has been experienced as a good way of getting to know each other across a wide area.

The post of Priest based in Bellingham has been advertised but that will not be filled before the New Year at the earliest, so we are continuing to share our Priests and Readers, and the Lay Worship Leaders who have been training are also now taking services.

The PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) of the parishes of Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark, who have been without a Priest since Reverend Steve Wilkinson died in April 2020, have been consulted and have agreed that they will accept me as their Priest in Charge, as we move to the new pattern of ministry.

Bishop Christine has indicated that she would like to licence me to that post on November 11th in the evening, so do please save that date and further details will emerge in due course.

In the meantime, we continue to pray for folk who may be considering coming to this area as Priest, and for each other as we live and work together in this beautiful area.

Sarah Lunn

LATE SUMMER TEA

In The Manor House garden

Barrasford,

Saturday 4th September

3.00 – 5.00p.m.

Homemade produce and cake stall.

Please come and join us



TEA AT 2.30 IS BACK **GUNNERTON CHURCH**

Macmillan Cancer Support

Tuesday 21st September.

We will have our usual homebakes

Everyone is welcome
so please come along

Simonburn Notes

A Big THANK YOU to everyone for coming to support Simonburn 'mini' fete this year. Despite it being a cold day, over £2200 was raised. Congratulations to Tracey and Mossie on their wedding. We wish them every happiness for the future.

It was such a lovely service, which was led by Rev. Claire Robson, on 15th August. Hearing John Roper playing the organ again, the singing and with the evening sun coming through the windows...beautiful.

As we slowly start to return to normal, Simonburn Village hall is holding a Macmillan Coffee morning on Saturday 18th September between 10am and 12pm. Please do come along and support this worthwhile charity. Any donations of cakes will be gratefully received.

A date for your diary... Christmas Bingo in aid of Tynedale Stroke Club Thursday 2nd December 7.30pm, donations towards the prizes will be much appreciated.

Keep an eye out for forthcoming events.

Take care

Love Sharon x



Simonburn Village Hall

Saturday 18th September

10am—12pm

Please do come along



The Quiz is starting again! **At the Crown Humshaugh**

The first one will be on Tuesday,
September the 28th at 7.30
So get those quiz heads on
And come along

Humshaugh Harvest Show **Humshaugh Village Hall**

Saturday, September 11th
Raffle tickets are now available in the
Village Shop £1 each with fantastic
prizes on offer
Hope to see you there!



Services in September

Thursday 2nd Sept 10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton

5th September (14th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion at Gunnerton

10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham

11.00am Parish Worship at Falstone

3.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield

2.00pm Holy Communion at Otterburn

Thursday 9th Sept

10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh

10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham

Sunday 12th September (15th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington

8.30am Holy Communion at Horsley

10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh

3.00pm Holy Communion at Thorneyburn

4.00pm Holy Communion at Wall

6.00pm Holy Communion at Wark

Thursday 16th September

10.00am Holy Communion at Gunnerton

Sunday 19th September (16th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion at Falstone

10.00am Holy Communion at Heavenfield

(Last Sunday Canon Christine Bull)

11.00 Parish Worship at Otterburn

6.00pm Holy Communion at Simonburn

6.00pm Holy Communion at Birtley

Thursday 23rd September

10.00am Holy Communion at Wall

Sunday 26th September (17th Sunday after Trinity)

8.30am Holy Communion at Chollerton

10.00am Deanery Zoom Service

3.00pm Holy Communion at Byrness

6.00pm Holy Communion at Humshaugh

6.00pm Parish Worship at Wark

Thursday 30th September

10.00am Holy Communion at Birtley

