

The November Broadsheet 2021



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

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Pastoral Letter

As the days grow shorter and we approach the date for the changing of the clocks, we have been privileged to see many beautiful sunrises and sunsets in this lovely area of Northumberland. We also approach the time of the year where we remember. We remember those who have died in war though the years, and also those who died while working for peace. We also remember the many who have died over the last 18 months during the time of the Pandemic. In this strange last 18 months we have all become much more aware of the fragility of life, and also of how much the memories of those we have lost are precious to us.

There are Acts of Remembrance both on Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day in various places round the Deanery. There is also a chance to remember by name, or quietly, those who have died recently or in times past, at two services on All Souls Day (2nd November). There will be a service in Chollerton at 10.00am and a service in Bellingham at 5.00pm.

We did not have any applications for the post of Priest in Bellingham but this will be advertised again as we wait for the right person to come forward to be with us. There are challenging but exciting times ahead for us as a Deanery as we learn more about each of our communities and how we can best flourish together in the future. It is wonderful that a group of folk who have undertaken training were commissioned by Bishop Mark in a service at the Cathedral during October, and that three youngsters, Amy, Emily and Anita were confirmed by Bishop Mark in a delightful service at Wall. Many congratulations and prayers for them all.

I am also delighted that Fr Jim and Deacon Anne and I are working more closely together to plan for the future and I am also very grateful for all who work so hard to keep our churches open and looking loved and prayed in. We have a chance to say goodbye and thank you to Bishop Christine who has served this Diocese for the last six years, on 2st November at 4.00pm at the Cathedral. We wish her and her husband Roger well as they retire again!

We hope and pray that we will be able to prepare for and celebrate Christmas in our churches this year. God Bless

Sarah Lunn , Area Dean

Humshaugh Notes

The Remembrance Service, this year, will take place in St. Peter's, Humshaugh on Sunday November the 14th at 10.45, followed by short services at the War Memorials at Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark.

Coffee Mornings for the rest of the year, will be held at Humshaugh Village Hall on November the 6th, 20th and December 4th. Do come along and meet your friends and enjoy a coffee and cake between 10 and 12 am. All welcome.

Computer Café: If you have any computer problems and would like advice and a cup of coffee, do come to the Village Hall on the first and third Tuesday of the month between 10 and 12. There are Windows Laptops or you can bring your own equipment with you.

A Christmas Carol: Tickets for this Crown Players production will be on sale in Humshaugh shop in early November. This year the show will be on for 4 nights to allow for smaller audiences with less crowding. Performance dates are: December 8th – 11th. This modern take on the classic story, with music and comedy, still retains Dickens' essential message.

Pub Quiz. The Quiz returned in September and a most enjoyable evening was held by all, with the occasional heckling of the quiz master. The winners were the cutely named "Brioche Bunnies". The next quiz will be on Tuesday, 19th October at 8pm and will be in aid of the eagerly anticipated Village Bonfire Night Fireworks.

Humshaugh First School celebrated its Harvest Festival on Friday, 15th October, at the school, after which the children took their wonderful boxes to various people in the village. The next "Friends from the Village" meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th November.

HAP's second film night is on Friday, 12th November in the Village Hall. "Green Book", a 2019 Oscar winning film with Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen. Based on the true story of an African-American pianist on a concert tour and his Italian-American driver. Doors will be open at 7.30 pm, but tickets **MUST** be bought in advance from the village shop. There will be a bar and delicious American themed puddings, available during the interval.

Many people in the village will remember Ian Smith, who died on 4th October. He and his wife Sheila, lived in Humshaugh for many years and when Sheila died, Ian donated the cushions in church in memory of her. When he began to suffer from Alzheimer's Disease, he moved to his son's village in Gloucestershire. His funeral service and interment took place on Tuesday, 19th October.

Love, Liesbeth

Congratulations

Congratulations to Revd. Sarah Lunn on her being appointed as an Honorary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral, in recognition for all that she does and continues to do in these difficult times.

We are all so pleased for her.

Wark Parish News

As we approach Advent and preparations for Christmas, I thought it worthwhile to reflect on our Harvest services first. Returning to their tradition the school came up to St. Michael's for their service which was well attended. Following this, St. Michael's held theirs using a service provided by Farming Community Network, the produce being distributed to various Food Banks. Another change this year was the 'Soup and Pudding' night being in the Town Hall to allowing social distancing. Again, this was well attended. Thank you to all who came along and supported and to those providing the food.

On Remembrance Sunday, 14th November, the benefice service will be in St. Peters, Humshaugh, at 10.45am. An act of Remembrance will be held at Wark War Memorial on the Green at approximately 12.45. You are welcome to join any of these services. There will not be a 6.00pm service at St. Michaels that evening.

I understand a little over £500 was raised in the Town Hall for the Macmillan coffee morning. Well done to all. Staying with the Town Hall, on Tuesday 7th December at 7.00pm they are holding their Christmas Quizmas. You need to book through Judith Weir, 01434 230250, with tickets costing £3. It is quiz only this year.

Once more a reminder for Christmas Wreaths - you need to contact Anne Grieve on 01434 270245. Please place your order early. Making a return this December is St. Michael's Christmas Fayre at 2pm on Sunday 5th December in Wark Town Hall.

The building share with MURC is working well; MURC 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 11.00am with St. Michael's 2nd and 4th Sunday at 6.00pm. You are most welcome at any service.

The next PCC meeting is in St. Michael's at 7pm on Tuesday 16th November. A reminder for Churchwarden contacts: Jani Keep 07500222151 and John Cooper 07989387716.

Until we chat again. Love John

Birtley Notes

Congratulations to our vicar Sarah who is to be made a Canon. This ceremony will take place on 7th Nov at 4 pm in Newcastle Cathedral. On Thursday 11th November at 11am the children from Wark School will have a short service and place their crosses in the War Memorial at Wark.

On Sunday 14th Nov there will be a service at the War Memorial at Birtley at 10am led by James Feeley. But there will be no service at St. Giles on Sunday 21st Nov, as this is Bishop Christine's leaving service in Newcastle Cathedral at 4pm (which will clash with our service), there will be a service at Chollerton that morning at 10am if anyone would like to attend.

Things are starting to 'happen' in the village once again, the Coffee Morning early in September, an excellent Gardening Group meeting the following week, the Book club, Local History Group, then the Craft Group. All on the go again..!

Mary.

Looking on the Bright Side.

Pausing to reflect on the past many months of the horrible pandemic, it seems that it has not been all bad from a church point of view - indeed some positively good things have come about.

For instance our worshipping together on Zoom. What a technical achievement it has been that we have been able to meet together regularly each Sunday, for over 18 months. It has been such a blessing, and has enabled many people to join in who have hitherto been unable to get to church. We have come to recognise and regard as new friends those from other parishes. We have begun to think of ourselves as not only members of our own dearly loved parish churches, but as members also of the wider community of the Deanery.

As the restrictions have eased and in-person services have again been permitted, a new pattern of Sunday and weekday worship has been arranged. With only one full-time stipendiary priest serving 19 parishes, with some non-stipendiary volunteer assistance, and the help of dedicated laity, we have needed to become more open-minded and adventurous in attending services. We ourselves decided that we would like to try and attend a service in each of our churches in the Deanery. As a result we have had the opportunity to admire beautiful church buildings - some which we have passed many times with no more than a cursory glance - with their interior fabric faithfully cared for during Lockdown. We have greatly enjoyed worshipping with other congregations, sometimes only a handful of welcoming folk, with maybe one or more of our new Zoom friends. It has been a real pleasure.

During these visits we have enjoyed some very special experiences and made unexpected discoveries too. For example, at Chollerton seeing the Roman capitol stone which had been unearthed that very week during the reconstruction of the wall around the churchyard; at Horsely, with its special acoustics, hearing the recently restored organ being played beautifully; at Thockrington attending the memorable Easter sunrise service; at Byrness, the most northerly parish, we admired the notable stained glass window dedicated to the many workers who died during the construction of Catcleugh reservoir - and enjoyed delicious cakes! We attended one of the rare services at the gem that is Heavenfield, and a Confirmation at Wall. Closer to home, at Simonburn we heard our rehung bells rung for the first time.

We know that others have also visited different churches, and have found it enjoyable and interesting. For our part we have felt richly rewarded by our adventuring around our widespread Deanery - and we still have several churches to go!

As we look to the future and await the appointment of a priest for the north of our Deanery, we are likely to stay with a similar pattern of worship for some time to come, with fewer services in our own churches. So do be encouraged by our experiences, to venture forth and explore other churches in the Deanery. Who knows what joys and unexpected delights may await you!

Nigel and Helen Sherlock



CHOLLERTON ANNUAL STEEPLECHASE



I am delighted to report that our group of six cyclists completed a church steeplechase in the Eden Valley, Cumbria for the benefit of Chollerton School and our two churches, raising over £600.

Thanks to the cyclists and all supporters of this event.

Ken Carlisle



GUNNERTON LUNCH CLUB

The next Lunch will be held on
Wednesday 24th November at 12.00 noon
All are welcome to join us for good conversation and home cooking
of soup, pudding and tea or coffee

Advance notice

The Christmas Special will be held on Wednesday 15th December

Dates for your Diary

- 7th November 4.00pm in Newcastle Cathedral: Collation of Canons
- 11th November 7.30pm Licensing and Installation of Reverend Sarah Lunn as Priest in Charge of Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark
- 21st November 4.00pm Service of Thanksgiving and farewell for Bishop Christine at Newcastle Cathedral



Social Night

Simonburn Village Hall

Friday 19th November
£5 inc. Pie & Pea supper
with dessert

Extra for knockout Darts, Dominoes,
Bowls & Pool
(bring your own drinks)



Christmas Quizmas.

Wark Town Hall on Tuesday
7th December at 7.00pm
booking is essential through Judith
Weir, 01434 230250,
tickets £3.



HAP's Film night is on Friday, 12th November in Humshaugh Village Hall.
"Green Book", a 2019 Oscar winning film. Based on the true story of an African-American pianist on a concert tour. Doors will be open at 7.30 pm,
tickets **MUST** be bought in advance from the village shop.
There will be a bar and delicious American themed puddings, available during the interval.

Simonburn Notes

St.Mungo's was beautifully decorated with flowers and lots of produce for the Harvest service and I am sure The People's Kitchen in Newcastle will really appreciate the donations. Thank you to everyone for your kind donations and flowers.

On Thursday 11th November Bishop Christine will be formally licensing Sarah as Priest in Charge of Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark. The service will be held at 7.30pm at St Mungo's, Simonburn.

The Remembrance service, Sunday 14th November, is to be held in St.Peter's Humshaugh at 10.45, followed by wreath laying in Humshaugh at approx. 12 noon, then at Simonburn at approx.12.30pm then at Wark at approx.1pm.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Congratulations to Peter and Janice Rowcroft who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

The village Hall is available to hire @ £7.50 per hour.

Contact: Sue Hickman on 689682 or Roger Hadley on 681077

Love Sharon x

Coffee Mornings

Humshaugh Village Hall November
6th, 20th and December 4th.

Do come along and enjoy a coffee
and cake between 10 and 12 am.

All welcome.



Bacon Butties

Tuesday 9th November

Simonburn Village Hall

with tea or coffee

£2.50

Eat in or take away

9am to 11am

In aid of

Great North Air Ambulance

Do come along



Defibrillator & CPR training

Simonburn Village Hall

Tuesday 16th November at 6.30pm

on how to do CPR and use the
defibrillator,

run by volunteers from North East
Ambulance Service.

(with refreshments)

Do come along it could save a life!

Christmas Bingo

Simonburn Village Hall

Thursday 2nd December

In aid of Tynedale Stroke Club

Eyes down 7.30

Donation of prizes would be much
appreciated thank you

01434 681077



Christmas Wreath Making workshop

Simonburn Village Hall

Wednesday 15th December

7pm.start limited places £15 each

Including materials

& festive refreshments

By Ticket only Tel. 01434 681077



Services for November

- **Tuesday 2nd** November All Souls
10.00am All Souls Service at Chollerton
5.00pm All Souls service at Bellingham
- **Thursday 4th** November
10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
- **Sunday 7th** November (3rd Sunday before Advent)
Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; Hebrews 9: 24-end; Mark 1: 14-20
8.30am Holy Communion at Gunnerton
10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
11.00am Parish Worship at Falstone
No service at Otterburn
10am. Holy Communion at Bingfield (to be covered)
4.00pm Collation of Canons at the Cathedral
6.00pm Holy Communion at Eldson
8.00pm Late @8 at Humshaugh
- **Thursday 11th** November
10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
(Various locally led Acts of Remembrance)
7.30pm at Simonburn Installation of Reverend Sarah Lunn by Bishop Christine as Priest
in Charge at Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark
- **Sunday 14th** November (Remembrance Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington
10.00am Act of Remembrance at Birtley
10.30am Remembrance Service at Otterburn
10.45am Remembrance Service at Humshaugh,
followed by various local act of remembrance
3.00pm Holy Communion at Thorneyburn
4.00pm Holy Communion at Wall
No service at Wark at 6.00pm
- **Thursday 18th** November
10.00am Holy Communion at Gunnerton
- **Sunday 21st** November (Feast of Christ the King)
Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1: 4-8; John 18: 33-37
8.30am Holy Communion at Falstone
10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
10.00am Parish Worship at Bellingham
11.00am Parish Worship at Otterburn
4.00pm Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell for Bishop Christine at Newcastle Cathedral
(No services at Birtley and Simonburn)
- **Thursday 25th** November
10.00am Holy Communion at Wall
- **Sunday 28th** November (Advent Sunday)
8.30am Holy Communion at Chollerton
10.00am Zoom Advent worship for the Deanery
3.00pm Advent Carols at Horsley
6.00pm Holy Communion at Humshaugh
6.00pm Parish Worship at Wark
6.00pm Parish Worship at Thorneyburn