



The December 2022 & January 2023 Broadsheet

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



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**Friday is our day off, we will respond when we return to
work**



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Pastoral Letter 2022 December

The seasonal rush has begun. Christmas gifts and cards have been in the shops for months now. How does it make you feel? Excited, under pressure, depressed, bored, frustrated? I have been reading a book entitled 'Doing December Differently', produced by the Iona Community. In it there are suggestions for those who wish to prepare for and celebrate Christmas in a different way. Not by adding to the busyness, but by approaching the journey another way.

How about celebrating Advent, the preparation time for the coming of Jesus, which begins this year on November 27th?

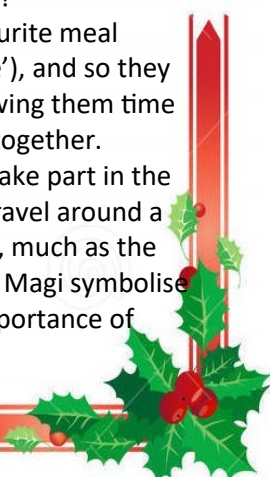
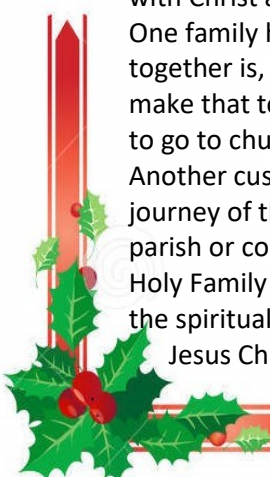
A simple way is to light an Advent candle at a meal each day. The candle does not need to be one with numbers on; any candle will do if this is something that you don't normally do. It marks the days of preparation for the coming of the Christ child.

If you have a nativity scene at home, how about setting up the stable without the figures in, and moving the figures of Mary and Joseph a little closer each day as Christmas approaches, and why not bring your crib to the Crib Festival at Humshaugh over the weekend of December 10th?

On Christmas Day itself, how can we make it more authentic with Christ and all that he means at the centre?

One family have decided what their most favourite meal together is, (it turns out to be 'toad in the hole'), and so they make that together for Christmas Dinner, allowing them time to go to church, or go for a walk, or just to be together.

Another custom adapted from Germany is to take part in the journey of the Magi. Crib figures of the Magi travel around a parish or community and visit different homes, much as the Holy Family do in the run up to Christmas. The Magi symbolise the spiritual journey and recognition of the importance of Jesus Christ in our lives.



At the end of each visit a blessing is said and someone writes in chalk the year (2023) and the initials of the Wise Men by the door. Their initials C (Caspar) M (Melchior) B (Balthasar) stand for 'Christ Bless this house' in Latin.

However you prepare for and celebrate Advent, Christmas and the turning of the year, may Christ be with you on the journey.

Sarah Lunn



Autumn Activities

There have been a lot of good community activities around the parishes over the last few weeks. The Apple Pressing at Chollerton School was a great success with very many apples chopped and made into juice. We ran out of containers. Many thanks to Claire and John Dickinson and all of those who came, brought apples and containers, and chopped and cleaned up. Nothing was wasted as the pulp goes to feed poultry locally!

There was a wonderful show of tapestry etc at the exhibition at Errington House in November. Thank you to Carolyn Dowie for hosting that event. And for all who came to look and buy kits and help out!

There are regular coffee mornings, soup lunches and afternoon teas all around the Deanery and we are compiling a list of them all so folk know when and where to go for delicious food and drinks!

Thank you to all those who cook and bake and make folk welcome.



Rota for services in December 2022 Rev 13 11 22

3rd December 2-4pm St Peter's Falstone *Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly Christmas Fair* -village hall

4th December 2nd Sunday of Advent Isaiah 11: 1-10; Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12

8.30am Holy Communion at Wark

10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham

10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton

10.30am MURC Service at Wark

11.00am Advent Parish Family Worship at Falstone

11.30am Holy Communion at Simonburn

4.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield

6.00pm Holy Communion at Elsdon

8.00pm Late @ 8 Deanery Contemporary Worship at Humshaugh

5th December to 10th -Christmas Tree Festival Bellingham

5th December 5.30 Chollerton School Christingle

7th December 6.00pm Carols by the shops, Bellingham

10th December 6.00 Carols on Barrasford Village Green

11th December 3rd Sunday of Advent Isaiah 35: 1-10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 17: 10-13

8.00am Holy Communion (said BCP) at Bellingham

8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington (BCP)

10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh (Crib Festival weekend)

11.00am Holy Communion at Thorneyburn

11.30am Holy Communion at Wall

5.00pm Advent Carol service at Horsley

6.00pm Christingle at Stonehaugh

14th December Carol Singing in Humshaugh

Thursday 15th December

10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham

6.00pm Byrness Carol Service

16th December Bellingham Village Carol Service (At St Oswald RC)

6.00pm Birtley Carols round the Christmas Tree at the Village Hall

17th December 6.00pm Elsdon Carol service

7.30 St Michael's, Wark - North Tyne and Redewater Choral Society Christmas concert

18th December 4th Sunday of Advent Isaiah 7; 10-16; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1; 18-end

8.30am Holy Communion at Gunnerton

9.30am Holy Communion at Falstone

10.00am Carol Service at Birtley

10.00am Parish Worship at Bellingham

10.30am MURC Service at Wark

4.00 pm Carols at Bingfield

6.00pm Carols at Simonburn

19th December 6.00pm Otterburn Carols +School

6.00pm Gunnerton Carol Service

20th December Tarset Carols by car

21st December 6.00pm Corsenside- Longest Night Reflective service

22nd December Bellingham Middle School carols

23rd December Schools Services

7.00pm Thorneyburn Community Candlelit Carol Service

24th December Christmas Eve Isaiah 52; 7-10; Hebrew 1; 1-4; John 1: 1-14 (set 3 readings)

3.00pm Otterburn Crib

4 .00pm Falstone Christingle Carol Service

4.30 pm Humshaugh Carol Service

6 .00pm Christmas Communion at Heavenfield

6 .00pm Crib Service at Gunnerton

7.00pm Bellingham Christingle

8.30 pm Bethlehem Midnight Communion at Elsdon

10.00pm Midnight Communion at Chollerton

11.30pm Midnight Communion at Bellingham

11.30pm Midnight Communion at Simonburn

25th December Christmas Day (No Zoom !) Isaiah 52; 7-10; Hebrew 1; 1-4; John 1: 1-14 (set 3 readings)

8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington

9.00 am Christmas Communion at Falstone

10.00am Holy Communion at Wark

10.00am Holy Communion at Wall

11.00am Christmas Communion at Thorneyburn

11.30 Holy Communion at Birtley

31st December New Years Eve

6.30pm Service for the turning of the Year – Bingfield

January 2023

1st January Naming and Circumcision of Jesus Numbers 6: 22-end; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21

8.30am Holy Communion at Wark
10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
10.30am MURC Service at Wark
11.00am Parish Worship at Falstone
11.00am Parish Worship at Otterburn
11.30 am Holy Communion at Simonburn
4.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield
6.00pm Holy Communion at Elsdon
No Late @8 today !

8th January Epiphany Isaiah 20: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12

8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington (BCP)
10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh
11.00am Holy Communion at Thorneyburn
11.30am Holy Communion at Wall
5.00pm Holy Communion at Horsley
6.00pm Holy Communion at Wark

15th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany Isaiah 49: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

8.30am Holy Communion at Gunnerton
9.30am Holy Communion at Falstone
10.00am Holy Communion at Birtley
10.00am Parish Worship at Bellingham
10.30am MURC Service at Wark
11.30 Holy Communion at Bingfield
3.00pm Holy Communion at Otterburn
6.00pm holy Communion at Simonburn

Thursday 19th January

10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham

22nd January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Isaiah 9: 1-4; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23

8.00am Holy Communion (said BCP) at Bellingham
8.30am Holy Communion at Chollerton
10.00am Deanery Zoom
11.30 Holy Communion at Wall
3.00pm Holy Communion at Byrness
6.00pm Parish Worship at Thorneyburn
6.00pm Holy Communion at Humshaugh

29th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple Malachi 3: 1-5; Hebrews 2: 14-end; Luke 2: 22-40

10.00am Deanery Communion at Simonburn

3.00pm Deanery Communion at Otterburn



The Longest Night and New Year's Eve

We are introducing a new kind of Christmas service this year. There are many reasons why people might find Christmas difficult (for example, for Claire Maxim, a number of past family bereavements happened either on Christmas Day or close to Christmas). It may be hard because of a bereavement, because family or friends are celebrating elsewhere, because of personal difficulty. The Longest Night Service will include a quiet reading of the Christmas story and lots of time for reflection. There may be some very gentle music, and the whole thing will last around 30 minutes.

It will be held at St Cuthbert's Corsenside, so please wrap up very warmly and bring torches/lanterns. We will be serving soup to help you keep warm - you may want to bring an insulated mug with you.

If you want a loud service full of Christmas Cheer and rousing carols, please go to any one of the other services, not this one, otherwise you will be sorely disappointed!

On New Year's Eve there will also be a reflective service at 6.30pm at Bingfield as we remember the passing year and pray for the coming year. Do come and join in, and then go on to see in the New Year as you feel !



Northumberland Log Bank : Are you needing help to obtain wood fuel for your stove/fire? Please contact Kate Thick at 07900963224 or katethick@hotmail.com There is no charge for this service.





Bingfield, Wall and Heavenfield notes

'A Thank you on behalf of St. George's, Wall to Jane Michie and our Parish Council clerk Alix Pearson for securing our sheep for 'Find the flock' as part of the temporary return of the Lindisfarne Gospels.'

We had a wonderful Confirmation service, here at Bingfield, with five candidates (Tony, Tony, Debbie, Dominic and Alfie) from across Our Deanery. Our lovely little Church was full– many thanks to everyone who came and made it so special. Special thanks to Susie for flower arranging and Debbie for intense cleaning, making it look even more beautiful also to the ladies who helped with catering. The joyous singing, accompanied by our own John, rang out and I am sure could be heard in nearby houses. All in all the most wonderful service we have had in Bingfield for a long time.

I wish to give thanks to our clergy (Sarah, Claire and Frances) for making a huge effort to enable so many of us to be able to worship in our churches during advent, Christmas day and Epiphany. We can feel we are getting back to some semblance of normality after the Northern Parishes' interregnum and covid. You will see that we again have a service with carols at Bingfield, on 18th December following which we shall have nibbles and mulled wine. The Epiphany service at St. George's will be followed by a bring and share lunch in the Village hall at Wall.

Wishing you all an abundance of peace and joy. Helen. x

Birtley Notes

The Air Ambulance collection (for unwanted items) in the North Tyne and Rede valleys late September made a fabulous £4232.

'Well done' to Abbey Tilley, who has passed her driving test in mid October.

A coffee morning was held at Wark for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, when £150 was made for this worthwhile cause.

Margaret Mitcheson, from the village, had a fall which resulted in a trip to the RVI, where it was discovered that she had a crack in her hip. It has taken a while, but she is recovering slowly, and is now at Haltwhistle, she will hopefully be home soon.

A service is hoped to take place on Christmas morning at St Giles, a notice will be put in the notice board.

I have been asked to mention, that anyone from the Birtley and surrounding area, are welcome at Wark Town Hall, who will be providing warmth and refreshment together with a place to socialise, from the 15th Nov to 31st March, 10am - 4pm, on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Volunteers also needed to run these days, if interested contact Jane Clubley on 230650.

Finally wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Good Health in the New Year.

Regards Mary.

HUMSHAUGH NOTES

THE CRIB FESTIVAL IS GETTING CLOSE.....

Bring your Crib, Figures, Angels or Stars on Friday December the 9th between 3pm and 6pm to St. Peter's church, Humshaugh. If you have a story about your Crib, please share it on a piece of paper, not larger than A5, which will be placed beside your Crib.

On Saturday the 10th, the Cribs will be on display from 10am until 4pm.

There will be lit candles, Christmas music, mince pies and biscuits.....

On Sunday the 11th, the Cribs will be blessed during the 10am Service and they can be taken away by their owners at any time until 2pm.

Class 3 of **Humshaugh First School** were fantastic hosts for the school's friends on Thursday the 10th of November. They were so welcoming and polite and especially Bingo was very much enjoyed! On the 11th of November, a 2 minute silence was held for Remembrance Day. On Tuesday the 13th of December year 1-4 will give their Christmas Performance at 9.15am and 2.15pm in the school hall.

The October **Quiz** was won by "Guinness is Good for Us" and indeed they scored 57 out of 60!! An excellent £162 was raised for the Village Bonfire Night Fireworks. There is no Quiz in December – the January one is on Tuesday the 17th at 8pm in aid of the Leek Club.

On Saturday, December the 10th, **HAP** will put on a FREE matinee film: "UP" at 2pm. Children under 16 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult. Rated U, this is a great animated comedy, loved by people of all ages.

On Friday, January 13th, the Film Night will be "Saving Grace", starring Brenda Blethyn, in which a widow has a large mortgage and other debts. Her gardener suggests a way to solve the problem... Tickets, for sale in the shop: adults £5 under 18's £2.50. Bar and puds as usual, doors open 7 for 7.30.

On January 21st, **HAP** are hosting a Weaving Workshop in the village hall from 10-4. Deni Riach will teach how to make a willow basket. Cost is £30 with coffee and biscuits supplied.

Tickets available from mid- December from the village shop and on Event-brite.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a really very happy New Year.

Liesbeth



Simonburn Notes

What a warm start to November we had and a Remembrance Sunday where we weren't freezing as we paid our respects at our village memorials.

We welcome Dennis and Andrea into the village, We hope you'll enjoy and be very happy living in Simonburn.

Despite the poorly attended coffee morning in aid of The Great North Air Ambulance, last month, £175 was raised, thank you.

There will be a Holy Communion at 11.30am on Sunday 4th December in St. Mungo's.

A Christmas Bingo is to be held in Simonburn Village Hall Friday 2nd December 7.30pm start, children most welcome.

There are still places at the Christmas Wreath making on Friday 9th December 7pm, only £15 contact 681077 to book.

Simonburn Village Hall are having an end of year bar and Christmas Party on Saturday 17th December 7pm til midnight. Cash bar and food. One night only all cans £1, slice of pizza and chips 50p. Everyone welcome.

Antiphon are helping to lead the Carol Service this year in St. Mungo's on Sunday 18th December at 6pm. All welcome.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Midnight Holy Communion Service at 11.30pm in St. Mungo's.

A Bacon Butty reminder...The bacon butties will not be on in January but we will see you on Tuesday 7th February.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Love Sharon x

WARK PARISH NEWS

Hello and welcome to the last news for 2022 and the first of 2023. What a year we've had and a year for all to look forward to. Thank you to all who over this year have prepared and delivered this Broadsheet to you.

What a wonderful day we had, no wind for once, on 22nd October for the glittering wedding of William and Kerry; Congratulations from all at St. Micheal's and in the village

Forthcoming is **THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** on Sunday 4th December from 2pm in Wark Town Hall. A chance to buy that last minute wreath, which compared to those on the streets are very good value or for just for a general get together and chat. The lights and trees will be up so on Sunday 11th December a Christingle Service will be held in Stonehaugh Hall at 6pm where apparently they have a new organ. Always a great evening so please do come along and join in.

Dates in December pack in with a Concert from North Tyne and Redesdale Choral Society on Saturday 17th followed by the annual Carol Service on Sunday 18th in St. Michael's at 6pm; Carols around the tree on the green on 24th at 6pm then at 10.00am on Christmas Morning in St. Michael's a service of Holy Communion January looks, as it always does, a bit bleak but I'm sure Wark will come up with something.

As always, until we chat again.....

Love John

Coffee morning
Wall Village Hall
10.30 am
6th December
&
3rd January

Carol Service
With
ANTIPHON
St. Mungo's
Simonburn
Sunday 18th December
6pm
All welcome

Celebrate Christmas
with
The North Tyne & Redewater Choral Society
Festive Music by Schubert, Holst, Rutter, Willcocks
and others

Conductor John Roper
Accompanist Richard Simmance

Saturday 17th December 2022 at 7.30pm
St Michael's Church, Wark

Simonburn
Village Hall

The hall is
available to hire
at an hourly rate
of £7.50
To book please
contact.
Sue Hickman on
01434 689682

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING
Simonburn Village Hall
Friday 9th December at 7pm
ONLY £15, contact 681077

Christmas Bingo

Simonburn Village Hall
Friday 2nd December
Eyes down 7.30pm
Children most welcome
Donation of prizes
would be much appreciated





Gunnerton Tea at Three

The Christmas tea
will be held in aid of
a children's charity.

Sample more
delicious delights
Tuesday 20th. December

*The January tea will
be held on Tuesday 17th.*

Christmas Bingo

Simonburn Village Hall
Friday 2nd December
Eyes down 7.30pm
Children most welcome

Donation of prizes
would be much appreciated

Soup & Dessert

Thursday 15th December
19th January 2023
& 3rd Thursday each
month.
12p.m.

Wall Village Hall

GUNNERTON CHURCH

Lunch Club Christmas Special

**On Wed. 14th. Dec.
at 12 noon**

**Do come to sample
our festive fayre**

*To reserve your place
contact*

Brenda on 01434681306

**The January Lunch Club
will be held on Wed. 25th.**

Friends of Chollerton Churches

Return of the Yuletide at
Chipchase Castle Chapel
celebration

We are delighted that Jonathan and
Zoe Elkington

are able to welcome us back
On Friday 2nd. December at 7 p.m.
There will be an evening of carols
music and readings in the chapel
followed by

drinks and seasonal fare.

Tickets at £15.

Reservations enquiries to
Ken Carlisle Tel: 07747593844



Bacon Butties

**Tuesday 6th December
7th February 2023
9am to 11am**

**Simonburn Village Hall
with tea or coffee
£3.00**

