



The April 2023 Broadsheet



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

www.chollertonchurches.uk



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April: lambing - Lamb of God?

In 1960 (so, well over sixty years ago), I was a boy at St Cuthbert's Grammar School, Newcastle. One piece of music we learned was the ballad "All in the April Evening". Set to music by Sir High Robertson, it was a well-known part of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir repertoire. I must have been a 'pious bairn', as I found it quite moving: "All in the April evening, April airs were abroad. The sheep with their little lambs passed me by on the road. All in the April evening....I thought of the Lamb of God." (I'm sure some other 'oldies' will remember it!)

As I type this, it's very chilly. (Your editor wants this piece in by mid-March, hence this early writing.) We'll soon have the Easter weekend influx of visitors here in Bellingham, but just now there are few people on holiday. For 11 years, I was parish priest in Consett, where, at nearly 900 feet up, 'lambing snow' was a regular event. Everyone loves the sight of the mother-ewes with their lambs in the fields, but town people often don't appreciate the worry and tension involved when cold, wet weather arrives – as often happens in hilly country in the north-east.

This year, worry and tension are part of everyone's life, thanks to the cost-of-living problem and the drawn-out effects of Covid-19. But for Christians, the sufferings of Jesus Christ are also part of the April experience. He was the "Lamb of God, who took away the sins of the world", as John the Baptist introduced him. The Jews had used roasted, sacrificial lamb as part of their Passover, and for Christians, Jesus' death on the cross was a sacrifice of love that reconciles us to God and to each other.

As adults of any religion - or none - I don't think we can escape all problems and suffering. (I wish some politicians would stop pretending that we can.) For me, shouldering burdens - our own and others' - is part of being grown-up. The difference Christianity makes is that, for believers, God came to share all this in the person of Jesus. He didn't 'magic' suffering away, but offered us a path through it. Just as better weather should have arrived by the time you read this, so the rising of Jesus from the dead can offer us hope for something better. Happy Spring-time!

Fr Jim Dunne, St Oswald's RC Church, Bellingham



HUMSHAUGH NOTES

What a wonderful, brilliant play was performed by the Crown Players! Not only the actors were so good, but the technical part was so very well done. And we are all rather proud of Diana Linnett!

The Coffee Mornings, from 10-12, will be on April 1st in aid of Humshaugh Cricket Club and on May 13th in aid of North Tyne Voices.

To celebrate the Coronation on Saturday, May the 6th, the event will be screened live in the Village Hall on the large film screen. All are welcome – bring along your own refreshments and enjoy sharing this historic event with others. No booking required – just turn up!

Watch out for details about times nearer the event.

Jamie and Simone visited the Humshaugh First School to deliver salmon eggs and gave a very interesting talk about Atlantic Salmon. The children are very excited about looking after the eggs until they are ready to be released. Each day, two children are completing a chart, including taking the temperature and making observations.

The February Quiz, in aid of the Cricket Club, was won in a very close contest by “They think

It’s Wall Over” with a distinguished score of 57.5 out of 60! An excellent £250 was raised.

The April Quiz will be on Tuesday, April the 18th in aid of St. Peter’s Church.

Love, Liesbeth

GOOD FRIDAY WALK APRIL 7th

This contemplative walk starts on Wark village green at 10.00am and follows the well known ‘Station Walk’ taking about 40 minutes to 1 hr. It includes a fairly steep hill but is all on tarmac. Come and join us.

Everyone is welcome.

Returning to Wark Town Hall for hot cross buns and coffee.

Any queries contact Sally Napier (01434) 230223

Christian Aid Week May 14th-20th House to House Collection in Wark

Please give generously when an envelope comes through your door in Wark. Your gifts can help pigeon pea farmers in Malawi to change their own lives. Enabling families to educate their children and secure a better future.

Look out for the date for the Big Brekkie at Wark School.

WARK PARISH NEWS

It may be too early to say; It's Spring! after the recent weather but, surely, it cannot be far off? – we hope. Living in the country I'm sure we all will have heard of 'the lambing storm' Could that have, been it?

We now look towards Easter bringing the end to the colourless and penitence period of Lent. Colour is returning to our gardens and the fields around so an ideal time to join us in St. Michael's for Easter Day Holy Communion (9th April) at 8.30am continuing on to Easter Breakfast. Butties, tea etc. and good company. A perfect celebration. On Good Friday, 7th April, setting off at 10.00am from Wark War Memorial is a Walk of Witness. Please join at 10 and the walk takes about an hour and finishes with coffee etc in The Town Hall.

The close working relationship with St. Michael's and MURC continues and is being exemplified to many as the way forward. Well done to all involved. Wark is shining a light.

Over the last couple of months, we've had happiness in the baptisms of Louie Martin John and Rosie, both grandchildren of Wark people, in fact one I think will be a great grandson? we welcome them to St. Michael's. Milestone birthdays have been celebrated and sadness has passed through some families of Wark residents current and past with the death of loved ones. Blessings to all of them.

After all the eggs, be they chocolate or whatever, we settle down for a period before the dreaded word Garden Fete is mentioned! You've been warned – be prepared. The annual meetings of St. Michael's were held on 22nd March so before printing deadline for this issue but as many have discovered 'word of mouth' tells a lot (how did Jesus let us know?) more and safer than 'social media' so you'll soon find out by the local gossip what is coming up in the year ahead.

Until we chat again,

Love to all, John

Sunday May 7th from 1pm
Keep the date free for
FAMILY FUN DAY
to Celebrate the
Coronation
in Gunnerton Playing Field
Everyone Welcome
More detail to follow

Warm hub
Humshaugh Village Hall
Each Tuesday morning
10 am—midday
Free coffee & chat

Simonburn Notes

At St.Mungo's PCC meeting, we welcomed Judith Lowes as the newest member of the PCC. Judith's association with St. Mungo's and Simonburn goes back over three generations. Her mother Joan Benson, her grandmother Emma Ballentyne, who lived to the grand age of 103 and also her uncle Billy Ballentyne. They were all very much involved with village life.

For Easter this year, there won't be traditional flowers in church. If you would like to place an arrangement or a vase of flowers in church, you are very welcome to do so, after Good Friday.

Don't forget the Village Hall Bacon butties on the first Tuesday of each month and a Licensed bar and social evening on the third Saturday of the month. See you there!

West Northumberland Foodbank

St.Mungo's Church is now a West Northumberland Foodbank donation point. If you can, please donate an item or two, on the list provided every fortnight. Your support is very much appreciated. See our community box, just inside the Lych gate. Thank You.

Simonburn Parish Council

The Clerk to Simonburn Parish Council is to retire in May. If anyone is interested in taking on this paid role, please contact Mrs Jane Lamb 01434 681363 or anyone on the Parish Council.

Have a lovely Easter everyone.
Love Sharon



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.

Services in the Deanery for April 2023

2nd April Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21: 1-11 ; Liturgy of the Passion : Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 26: 14- end of ch 27(or Dramatic Reading)

8.30am Holy Communion at Wark
10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
10.00am Service of the Word at Birtley
10.30am MURC Service at Wark
11.00am Parish Worship at Falstone
11.00am Parish Worship at Otterburn
11.30 Holy Communion at Simonburn
3.00pm Holy Communion at Wall
4.00pm APCM at Wall Village Hall
6.00pm Holy Communion at Elsdon
8.00pm Late@8 at Humshaugh (Songs of Praise)

Monday of Holy Week 7.00pm Compline with Address at Bellingham (live streamed)

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Wednesday of Holy Week: 7.00pm Compline with Address at Bellingham (Live streamed)

6th April Maundy Thursday ; Readings : Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; 1

Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13; 1-17, 31-35

No service in the Morning as Clergy and everyone invited to the Cathedral for Blessing of the Oils

7.00pm Eucharist of Last Supper and Vigil at Humshaugh (for south of Deanery)
7.00pm Eucharist of Last Supper at Bellingham (Live streamed) (for north of Deanery)

7th April Good Friday

Walk of Witness- Wark 10.00am
12 Hour at the Cross Bellingham
12-1 Stations of the Cross Gunnerton
2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross- Elsdon
2.00pm Stations of the Cross -Humshaugh
2.00pm Last Hour at Cross- Wall

Easter Eve

7.45pm Easter Vigil and renewal of Baptismal vows at Birtley

9th April Easter Day Readings: Acts 10:34-43; 1 Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20-1 -18 or Matthew 28; 1-10

6.15am Sunrise Service at Thockrington
8.30am Holy Communion at Wark
8.30am Holy Communion at Chollerton
10.00am Parish Worship at Bellingham
10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh

10.30am Holy Communion at Heavenfield
11.00am Holy Communion at Thorneyburn
11.30 Holy Communion at Birtley
2.00pm Holy Communion at Corsenside
5.00pm Holy Communion at Horsley
6.00pm Holy Communion at Wark

16th April 2nd Sunday of Easter . Readings: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20; 19-end.

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 Sung Evensong at Simonburn

22nd April 3.00pm Bishop Helen Ann installed at Cathedral

23rd April 3rd Sunday of Easter Acts 2 : 14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1 ; 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35

8.00am Holy Communion (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
6.00pm Parish Worship at Wark

30th April 4th Sunday of Easter: Acts 2: 43-end; 1 Peter 2: 19-end; John 10: 1-10

10.00am Deanery Communion Service and Clypping at Byrness

Crafty Crosses
Wall Village Hall

Thursday 30th March 2-4pm
Come along and make palm crosses and/or
Needle felt crosses
Also coffee and friendly chat



Bingfield, Wall and Heavenfield notes

Well spring is definitely arriving with the garden beginning to erupt with plants we forgot we had and so many weeds. Just hope snow and very hard frosts stay away as we and many others begin lambing at the start of April and young shoots are easily damaged in our gardens.

Social media has been inundated with photos of the murmuration at Wall. Amazing to see but hard to live with for the villagers having cars, gardens windows and pathways covered in droppings. I just hope that the trees which the birds roost in do not get killed off by the acid.

Please note that there will not be a service at Bingfield on 2nd April as it will be replaced by a service at St. Georges' preceding the APCM which then takes place in the village hall.

We again have competitions primarily for young people on Easter Saturday (8th April) in St. Georges. All welcome to enter— see back page of broadsheet.

St Christophers' at Gunnerton did a lovely job of hosting the World Day of Prayer followed by refreshment and chat— thank you to all involved.

Blessings Helen

GOOD FRIDAY WALK APRIL 7th

This contemplative walk starts on Wark village green at 10.00am and follows the well known 'Station Walk' taking about 40 minutes to 1 hr. It includes a fairly steep hill but is all on tarmac. Come and join us. Everyone is welcome.

Returning to Wark Town Hall for hot cross buns and coffee.

Any queries contact Sally Napier (01434) 230223

Plant Sale

Wall Village Green

15th April 9.30 a.m.

Wide selection of locally grown,
healthy plants

Donations to St George's Church.
Wall



Birtley Notes

Even with this cold snap we've had, it's so nice to see the daffodil's waving their cheery heads at us.

Village folk were sorry to hear that Margaret Mitcheson had died mid February age 84yrs, after an illness. She was involved in local activities, especially St Giles, from when her and her sister Anne came to live in the village over 20 years ago, she also loved her garden.

Jason Milburn had a trip to Wembley in February to see Newcastle United play, unfortunately not successfully, but he enjoyed being there.

A good evening was had in early March when the Village Hall held their annual quiz evening. 1st 'And the winners are' which was Sally Dannys and her friends from Gunnerton. 2nd 'Tilly's Table' Andrew Tilly and family, and 3rd 'Team Thomas' Liz Coulson and family. Some obscure questions from question master Patty, had folk thinking hard.

It won't be long before we see lambs running about in the fields, telling us that Spring is here.

Regards Mary.

GUNNERTON CHURCH

Railway Circle

A look at
*Cumbrian Railways & the Cumbrian
Railway Society*
on Tuesday 4th. April from 7.15 p.m.

Tea at Three

Home baked tea, a delicious treat.
Begins at 3 p.m. on Tuesday 18th. April

Lunch Club

On Wednesday 26th. April at 12 noon
Do come along and enjoy soup,
pudding and tea or coffee

Simonburn Village Hall

The hall is
available to hire
at an hourly rate
of £10
To book please
contact.
Sue Hickman on
01434 689682



MARCH

Lent is coming to its close,
It's been a long long time.
Every day without some wine,
Sipping all that lime..
Bring the storms of April on
Ending days of Lent,
Then I can have fun once more,
Have hours of deep content.

Lovely is the month of March,
All is new and young,
Nesting birds and skipping lambs
Gambling fast among
Flowers pink and flowers blue...
O, this is wearing thin,
Reach the end of March, so that
Dear April can come in!

Liesbeth Langford

Humshaugh Village Hall
Coffee morning
Saturday 1st April
10 am—midday

Soup & Dessert
Thursday 20th April
& 3rd Thursday each
month. 12p.m.

Wall Village Hall

Bacon Butties

Tuesday 7th March
1st Tuesday of every
month
9am to 11am

Simonburn Village Hall
with tea or coffee
£3

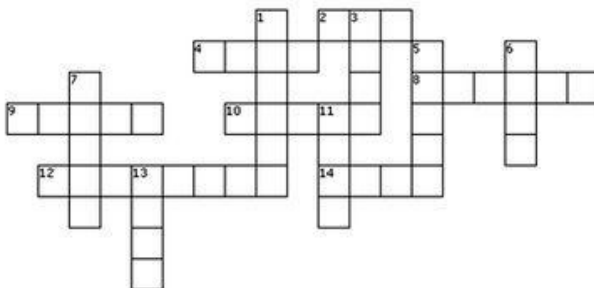
Eat in or take away
Do come along
for a buttty & a chat.

Picture to colour



He is not here. He has risen!

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. To shed tears
4. The opposite of alive
8. A heavenly being
9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus' tomb
10. The color that is the opposite of black
12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

DOWN

1. The male parent
3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from the dead
5. The opposite of late
6. A period of seven days
7. An adult female person
11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
13. The opposite of light

Across
2. cry
4. dead
8. angels
9. stone
10. white
12. gardener

Down
1. father
3. rise
5. early
6. week
7. woman
11. tomb
13. dark

Coffee Morning

Wall Village Hall

Wed 5th April 10.30 am

& 1st Wed in each month

FRIENDS of CHOLLERTON CHURCHES

Advance notice that we are delighted we are once again holding a Garden Party at The Riding courtesy of Charles and Tina Enderby. As last year a brass band will be playing to keep us entertained in the beautiful gardens.

Keep the date free for the evening of Friday 30th June.

More information will appear in May/June issues.

St. George's Church Wall

Saturday 8th April
10.30 am Judging 11
a.m



Easter competitions

Prizes to be won
Free to enter



Tea or Coffee & Hot Cross buns available

1. Homemade Easter card
2. Decorated Hen or Duck egg
3. Pace egg with onion skins
4. 4 Easter biscuits
5. Easter bonnet
6. Easter Garden on small tray

Ages up to & inc. 7yrs
8- 11 yrs.
12-15 yrs.
Anyone 16 & over

