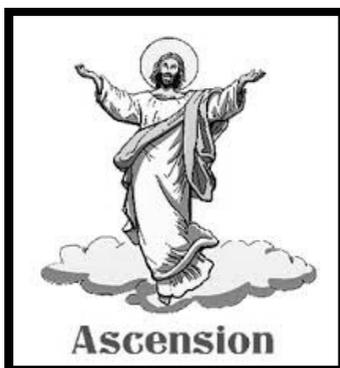


The May Broadsheet 2020



**for the parishes of
Humshaugh
with Simonburn & Wark, and
Chollerton with Birtley
Gunnerton & Thockrington**

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Chollerton Vicarage

I write this in beautiful sunshine in Eastertide, and on the day when we have just laid Steve to rest in Wark churchyard, with the sound of sheep bleating and birds singing. We have all been deeply affected by his faith, courage and sense of Peace since his diagnosis in late November with cancer. Steve lived out his faith in a practical and down to earth way, and when he was first diagnosed, he said to me ' I know that my ministry is not finished here yet.' He prayed around the Deanery every night, and used to tell us where he was starting. He knew the deanery so well and walked in his head from house to house, praying for each of us in turn. Steve loved deeply, had a deep faith and trust in the goodness of God, and he leaves us with that challenge to see God in all things and look for Good in all things.

The fact of the Coronavirus means that we could not meet to give thanks to God for Steve's life, but we will do that when we are able to. For Steve Easter came early; for each of us, we travel, through Eastertide and beyond, holding Melanie and the family in our hearts, and travelling hopefully towards a time when we can meet again and greet each other in an embrace.

During this strange time we will continue to have virtual services at 10.00 am on a Sunday. All the readings are set out on the back of the Broadsheet for those who wish to follow them.

All the names and contact details of the clergy in the area are on the front and we are happy to chat with anyone who wants to !

Steve had chosen Psalm 23, speaking of God and Shepherding, and John 1:1-18, the great prologue to St John's Gospel. This was his favourite passage to preach on. 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. ... the Word became flesh and dwelt with us; we have seen his glory... full of grace and truth". At Christmas we remembered the birth of the frail baby God, and we would not have the glory and joy of Easter without that birth. God is with us even through the shadow of death, the shadow of fear of what might be, and with us as we journey through this together.

God bless you all.

Sarah Lunn

Family memories of Steve

Giving full attention to every question however trivial and then giving a considered and the best answer — Dylan

Fixing the toilets others had broken — Dylan

Holiday Dad- sneaking ice creams in the hot sun while the others explored Córdoba — Isobel

Holiday dad- seeing him relax in Spain and Portugal and his insightful comments in Krakow — Isaac

Loving sharing wisdom at key points in our lives — Isaac

Listening to Fleetwood Mac's 'the chain' at full volume in the car on the way to 'Mercadona' in Spain — Isobel

Most loving and gentle husband, encourager, funniest companion, co-conspirator and my champion, best friend — Melanie

Obsessive collector of shoes, watches, technology, tools, vehicles and torches — Melanie.

Gave an incredible and warm welcome, even if he had seen you recently. Brilliant listener and always gave good advice. Could fix anything, even if it was an unorthodox or cobbled fix. Enthusiastic about his projects. Rode a motorbike in a brilliant calm and considered way. Much like everything else he did — Jack

Knew the answer to every question. Put others before himself. Had the best 'prepper' ideas for our zombie apocalypse plan. Fav memories are definitely charging around with sheep and crazy collie — Nadia

Humshaugh

If there was just one way to show how much Steve was loved and admired, it would surely be the ribbons displayed in our three villages. The messages on them speak of wonderful memories, deep love and gratefulness. And above all, they show how much each one of us will miss Steve, our shepherd and friend.

Liesbeth Langford

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Wark

Steve has been our shepherd, seeing us go on our way, guiding where necessary, and providing inspiration. Steve was a larger than life gentleman who was loved by all he became involved with, lit up a room with his presence, and loved involvement with the schools and village activities. He touched the lives of so many people. The Church has lost a genuine and sincere priest, we have lost a genuine and sincere friend.

To all the family, you are very much in our thoughts and please be assured that we will never forget Steve.

John Cooper

Simonburn

It is such a sad and strange time, not being able to mix with people and mostly with the sad passing of Steve. All the ribbons on the chain around the memorial here in Simonburn and on trees in Wark and Humshaugh just shows how much Steve was loved and will be missed. Our thoughts are with Melanie, Isaac, Jack, isobel, Nadia, Dylan and all of the family, who couldn't go to the funeral. There will be a Celebration service for Steve's life, when allowed.

We also mourn the loss of Joan Benson, born and bred in Simonburn, our thoughts are with all the family. RIP.

If you need any assistance please contact Sharon 681077
Stay safe,, Sharon and Veronica

Birtley Notes

I do hope you all are in better spirits now the weather has improved, the coronavirus having a major impact on all of our lives and work, no one is safe. The daffodils have been particularly nice this year, at least something to make you smile.

After the dreadful wet winter, our farmers have had a better lambing time than other years, the weather being kind for once, allowing lambs to get footed and following their mothers quickly, farming life still goes on no matter what...

It was with sadness that we heard, on 4th April, that the Rev Steve Wilkinson had lost his very swift battle with cancer, our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

Easter went very quietly, with no churches open, but services are available on line. I can't remember churches ever being closed before.

I must give a special 'Thank You' to our wonderful Postmen, Bin men and local Shops and Post Office for keeping things ticking over, not forgetting our wonderful dedicated NHS, they are all there when we need them thank goodness (Please remember...).

Please everyone take care .Mary.

Readings :

NB: During the Easter Season, between Easter and Pentecost, we have two New Testament Readings set before the Gospel Reading, the first being from Acts.

3rd May 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Acts 2: 42-end
1 Peter 2: 19-end
John 10: 1-10

10th May 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7: 55-end
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-14

17th May 6th Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)

Acts 17:22-31
1 Peter 3: 13-end
John 14: 15-2

24th May Sunday after Ascension Day

Acts 1: 6-14
1 Peter 4:12-15; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

31st May Pentecost / Whit Sunday

Acts 2: 1-21
1 Corinthians 12:3-13
John 20:19-23

7th June Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end
2 Corinthians 13: 11-end
Matthew 28: 16-20