

The Broadsheet

January

2015

Happy New Year



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

*During the Humshaugh Benefice vacancy
please contact the Churchwardens:*

Humshaugh: John McCollum (681682) or
Roger Langford (681195)

Simonburn: Judith Brown (681371) or
Veronica Allgood (689533)

Wark: Ann Bell (230259) or
John Cooper (230367)

For clergy matters, contact the Rural Dean:

The Revd. Dr Susan Ramsaran (220019)
www.humshaughbenefice.org.uk

The Revd. Michael J Slade
Vicar, Chollerton with Birtley,
Gunnerton & Thockrington
Tel: 01434 681721
email: chollertonvicar@gmail.com
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Chollerton Vicarage

Dear friends,

What happened to 2014? For me it seemed to fly by. As I write there are still 10 days to Christmas and much to be done and seemingly very little time to do it.

When I look back, as I do each year, not least for the annual reports for each of our churches, I consider what sort of year it has been. In our churches the Humshaugh Benefice said goodbye to their long serving and faithful vicar Michael, and the process of finding their next parish priest is well under way. It is said that ‘God moves in mysterious ways’ and certainly the process of bringing this about is demanding and intensive, at least for those who bear the greatest burden, the churchwardens. Those I have spoken to recently are bearing up well. They deserve your support; so do please be prepared to go the extra mile with them when asked. That time between vicars can be a time of growth as people find their feet and try to do new things. Give it a go and see what happens.

In our farming community it has been widely accepted as a good year to ‘make hay’ although a lack of water in the Tyne has tested the patience of patient people who fish. And there have been increased activities in our quarries with some opening after being mothballed for a while. This must be some sort of indicator that our nation is beginning to emerge from austerity as, more and more, our hills are used in construction.

Over the year we have mourned the loss of familiar people who in their season with us made a positive difference to our communities, and the sadness of those left behind has not gone unnoticed. We have also had times of celebration, at baptisms and weddings for example, and although I have not had very many weddings in 2014 they were all special, from a very quiet wedding to one which pulled out all the stops. We had tears of joy among the couples at each of them. I can’t tell you what a privilege it is to be with them on their special day.

I wonder what 2015 will hold for us. Some of us may meet the love they have always been looking for, or have their first baby, or go abroad to work or start on a new direction in work, or celebrate a birthday with a zero in it. On balance I think it is probably wise not to look too far ahead. Jesus said; “Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.” I find that very true. A day can make a tremendous difference to a situation.

Whatever you plan for 2015, and whatever you experience I hope you have a blessed year and receive all that you need.

Have a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

With love,

Mike

Benefice of Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark

Round and about Humsaugh

December was a busy month and there is a lot to reflect upon, mostly with happiness but also with some sadness as bereavement at this time of year feels particularly poignant. We remember all those family and friends who are no longer with us and keep their memory alive by sharing fond stories of how they touched our lives.

It was a moving and emotional meeting, the last one of the year, for Humshaugh Mothers' Union. Two of our members have suffered a great loss: Anne Price, whose son had died very suddenly and Margret Jacot, who lost her wonderful husband Guy, whose funeral service was so special that many of those who were there will remember it for a long time. We wish both Anne and Margret all the very best for this new year and the years to come.

We want to thank Lucy, who accompanied us when we sang some carols and Judith Taylor, who told us some stories in that fantastic Northumbrian accent she can do.

In January we won't be meeting until the 15th, when the Revd Michael Slade will take our Corporate Communion Service at St Peters at 2pm.

As you try to clear away the needles of the tree on January 6th you might like to consider this poem provided by Liesbeth Langford which seems so apt for early January.

An "After Christmas" poem by U.A. Fanthorpe:

THE TREE

In the wood I am one of many.
I am felled, sold, chosen
To be sole tree of a house.
I am throned in a gold bucket.
Light is sewn through my branches,
Precious gifts wrapped in silver
Hang down from my twigs. Star-crowned,
I am adored by children, cordially hated
By hovering housewives, distrusted
By Health and Safety Officers, who name me
Fire Hazard. I reign for twelve days,
Then am sacrificed among rubbish,
Where I wither, age, decay.
But every year I rise again indoors,
Hazardous fire of love

It seems a while ago now but the first festive event in the village was the Christmas fair organised by the school and held in the village hall. A huge thank you to everyone who came – all one hundred and forty of you – and raised £750 for school funds.



This was followed by the Theatre Group's fantastic 20th anniversary production of the Christmas Show which was originally a tribute to the life of Humshaugh resident Neil Milburn who tragically lost his life whilst still a teenager. The wonderful and often hilarious performance of the cast and the amazing talents of the production team really made the show outstanding and a treat for all who came to watch. Given that so many of the performers were youngsters, we have good reason to be proud of all that this group achieves. And yes, Maurice has said again that this will be the last year he will be involved but he has been saying that for how long?? So, many thanks to Maurice but seeing is believing. Will we have to wait until next year to see if he really means it this time? Oh yes, we will!



This month's quiz will be held in The Crown on Tuesday 6th January with quiz master in training, Mick Jonas, setting the questions. Just when you thought you had cracked Peter Linnett's code for working out the theme, someone else steps in! It will be fun to see what Mick has in store for us. Thank you to Peter for all the time and effort you have put in to organising these popular evenings.

New year, new start and if anyone out there is looking for a new way to spend Friday afternoons, helping in school could be the answer. This is when the children have finished formal lessons and enjoy a wide variety of activities, all of which require supervision. Over the years these have ranged from reading aloud, board games, art and crafts, cooking and gardening, to name but a few. If you have a skill you could share and a couple of hours to spare, or some fresh ideas that might capture a child's interest, then please call in to the school and have a chat. Help with listening to readers is also welcomed at different times in the week, so please do consider giving of your time. It is a lovely way to keep in touch with the children in our village, especially if you don't have any young ones in your own family.

All good wishes to everyone for a good start to the new year and one which I hope will be happy and healthy for us all.

Elizabeth Hayward

From the Humshaugh Register

Guy Jacot who died peacefully at home on 30th November and was buried in St.Peter's churchyard on Monday 8th December.



Simonburn News

Happy New Year , I hope you all had a good Christmas and are looking forward to another year!

On the 30th November, we enjoyed a service of Songs of Praise, joined with Wark and Humshaugh. It was a lovely service and it was nice to stay afterwards for coffee, cake and a chat.

In the September Broadsheet, I mentioned the wedding of Peter and Gemma Richardson of Hallbarns. Back in July, Gemma found a lump on their daughter, Callie's side. The same week as their wedding, Callie was diagnosed with a tumour on her liver. Callie is just two and a half years old and has been amazingly brave, undergoing treatment and a major operation in November. Callie had her last chemotherapy session, just before Christmas , let's wish Callie a speedy recovery. Our Prayers and thoughts are with Callie, Peter and Gemma.

We would like to welcome David and Alice Murray, who have moved into The Stewards House, I am sure they will be very happy there.

St. Mungo's is a beautiful church all year round, but especially at Christmas time. Thank you to all those who came along to help decorate the church and tree. The Christmas Carol service was held on Sunday 21st December and the church was filled with the beautiful voices of the Antiphon choir and I am sure we all enjoyed the carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

Best Wishes Sharon

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2015

Benefice of Chollerton	Benefice of Humshaugh
Sunday 4th January - The Epiphany	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh 1662 Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Holy Communion
Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-6 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12	Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12 Psalm: 72:10-15
Sunday 11th January - The Baptism of Christ/St Mungo's-tide	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	11.00 Simonburn Benefice Holy Communion for St Mungo's-tide (with special Bible readings for the day)
Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-5 Gospel: Mark 1:4-11	Epistle: Acts 19:1-7 Psalm: 29
Sunday 18th January - The Second Sunday of Epiphany	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Holy Communion 6.30 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 Gospel: John 1:43-end	Epistle: Revelation 5:1-10 Psalm: 139:1-9
Sunday 25th January - Conversion of Paul	
9.00 Thockrington 1662 Communion 11.15 Chollerton Holy Communion	9.30 Wark Holy Communion 11.00 Simonburn Morning Prayer 6.30 Humshaugh Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:4-10 Gospel: Matthew 19:27-end	Epistle: Acts 9:1-22 Psalm: 67
Sunday 1st February - Presentation of Christ in the Temple	
9.00 Gunnerton Holy Communion 10.30 Birtley Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh 1662 Communion 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Holy Communion
Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-5 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40	Epistle: Hebrews 2:14-end Psalm: 24:7-end
Sunday 8th February - The Second Sunday before Lent	
9.00 Thockrington Holy Communion 10.30 Chollerton Holy Communion	9.30 Humshaugh Morning Prayer 11.00 Simonburn Holy Communion 6.00 Wark Evening Prayer
Old Testament: Proverbs 8:1, 22-31 Gospel: John 1:1-14	Epistle: Colossians 1:15-20 Psalm: 104:26-end

WARK PARISH NEWS

A Happy New Year to all our readers. We hope all enjoyed Christmas and Santa brought all you wished. Christmas at St Michael's appeared to have all the ingredients to provide a meaningful and traditional range of services. At the time of 'press deadline' only our annual excursion to Stonehaugh for a Christingle service has taken place. The weather looked like snow however on the night there was no problem with travelling and around 50 gathered in the Hall which was beautiful and warm from the recently installed biomass boiler. A big thank you to all who helped in anyway to arrange the evening. I will give a report on the events and services that are due to take place between now and the end of December in the next issue of **THE BROADSHEET**.

A number of events were held locally over the weekend of 6th-7th December when St. Michael's Ladies Guild held their annual Christmas Bazaar consequentially a slightly smaller crowd than previous years attended, however, you all spent well with around £1300 being raised. Well done everyone.

Since last writing to you two long standing residents of Wark have died. Towards the end of November Marjorie Nicholson who lately has lived in Hexham died following a short illness. A number of Wark residents attended Marjorie's funeral at Newcastle Crematorium. Early in December Lally Meane of St Michael's Mount died with her funeral being at St. Oswalds R.C. church, Bellingham.

It is coming around to the time of year when people of a certain age need to 'dust off the glad rags' and prepare for the Wark Senior Citizens Festive Meal. This year mark Wednesday 21st January 2015 in your diary, 6.30pm in Wark Town Hall. Anyone living within Wark Parish and receiving state pension along with their partner are eligible to attend. Invites were delivered to all believed to be eligible however should you have been missed (the most challenging part of this exercise is to know who qualifies) please let me know asap (John 230367).

I did warn you the process of appointing a new Vicar would be slow. The next step is a joint meeting of the benefice PCC's on Wednesday 7th January in Humshaugh School at 7.00pm for coffee with the meeting led by The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne at 7.30pm. We may know a little more then however as I have said before things move very slowly.

I have received a comprehensive newsletter from the school most events have already taken place however I shall attempt to give a resume in the next **BROADSHEET**. Remember school reopens on Tuesday 6th January 2015. Just hope you have a chance to do some sledging during the break.

In St Michael's over the past month we have been collecting non-perishable produce to provide a food pack to deliver to Changing Lives. This is the charity based in Newcastle we have supported for many years with the produce from our Harvest Festival. Changing Lives works with their students to bring them back into everyday life so cooking meals is vital and we hope our contribution will assist with this. The box will be there for another couple of weeks, please give generously.

Notice comes my way to inform of a meeting in Wark Town Hall on Monday 12th January at 8.00pm when there will be the opportunity to review and update the Wark Parish Plan 2010. This is a chance to express opinions regarding what should happen in the parish (please note this is Parish Council not Parochial Church Council) The full Parish plan can be viewed at: www.wark.parishcouncil.net

So that is about it for January. Many thanks to all who made St. Michael's look so good last year. The Monday men for their outside work, the ladies for cleaning and preparing the church and to all who have helped in anyway we thank you. So let me finish with a little notice spotted on an American Baptist Church **WHOEVER IS PRAYING FOR SNOW, PLEASE STOP** I shall tell you next month if it worked.

What more can or should I say?

Love

John

<u>STONEHAUGH COMMUNITY HALL</u>		
<u>Burns Night Supper</u>		
	Saturday 24th January £10 incl. 3 course meal Starting 7pm Tickets available from Carolyn 01434 230473 or Brenda on 230447	

From the Registers in the Chollerton Benefice



Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the Family of the Church
Finley Gordon Heppell at Chollerton St Giles on Sunday
November 30th 2014

Wine Tasting Evening

Ken and Alison are planning an evening tasting on Friday 27th February at 7.30pm.

'Off-piste Austria'

Tickets £15 per person payment with order please from Ken or Alison.



Messy Church...

... meets again in Barrasford Village Hall on Saturday January 17th at 3.00pm. Families welcome with something creative to do for adults and children of all ages. A short time of singing and a prayer or two follows before we have a family meal together. For further information please ring Mike the Vicar

Community Events in Gunnerton Church

Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday January 28th

£2.50

12noon-1.00pm

Delicious homemade soup, pudding, tea and coffee, raffle,
and, as always, good conversation,
Raffle

New volunteers are always welcome to prepare and/or serve the lunches.
If you are interested in helping at this monthly event please contact Alison on 689996.

**Please ensure that all bookings for Gunnerton Church are made
by contacting
Susan Reay on 01434 681852**

The cost of hiring the church for meetings etc has been reviewed by the PCC and the new price is £15 per session (morning, afternoon or evening) to include the use of the kitchen and heating during colder months.

Birtley Village Hall



Birtley & District Gardening Group

Next meeting is on Tuesday January 13th

7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Wallington Hall Gardens

with John Ellis, Head Gardener



The group always welcomes new visitors or prospective members whether experienced or rookie gardeners.

The annual membership for 2014/15 season is £20.00

Couples £40.00. Guests/single talks £4.00

Coffee Morning

Thursday January 8th from 10.30am

Delicious coffee, home bakes and great conversation guaranteed!



Birtley Local History Group



Wednesday January 21st at
7.30pm

Wed 21st January

Dr Ian Roberts 'A Policeman's Lot...'
Further details from Mary White 01434
230307

£2.00 per person

Other Church services within the Chollerton Benefice

Barrasford Methodist Chapel: Normally services are at 6.30pm each Sunday.

Great Swinburne: St Mary's RC Church. Mass at 10.15am and 12.00 Noon every Sunday, the 12 o'clock Mass in the Extraordinary Form, said in Latin. Enquiries to Fr Bede (Tel: 681968)

Afternoon Tea Parties

Tea parties will take place once a month at Newton Village Hall from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome and they are particularly for the elderly, people who feel lonely and the less mobile.

The dates are:

Wednesdays on 14th January, 11th February, 11th March, 8th April and 13th May.

There are several volunteers who are willing to provide transport to and from. The whole thing is free of charge to everyone. There will be tea/cakes/sandwiches provided - and hopefully lots of happy smiles, friendship and laughter.

More details from Alice Murphy, 01434 689387 or 07968 396938.



JANUARY

The Advent candles in the church
At their four different heights,
Stand now blown out,
There's no more need to burn:
The Christmas scene has gone,
The shepherds left some time ago.
But on Twelfth Night the magi with their gifts
Of gold and myrrh and frankincense arrived
And gave this month the title of Epiphany.
Through snow and frost,
Through slightly milder days,
This first month of the year
Will proudly bear that name
And, at its end
Will leave the month that follows
The first few snowdrops as its dying gift.

If you have any used stamps off your Christmas cards please could
you leave them in

St Mungo's Church Simonburn or pop them through the door at
1 Red lion Terrace Simonburn.

These are for The Leprosy Mission

Thank you

The Broadsheet Editor – Roger Hadley

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Please don't forget the deadline for the Broadsheet is 14th of each
month