



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

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Pastoral Letter from the Vicarage

As I write this we have just celebrated Rogation Sunday in our churches when, traditionally, the bounds of the parishes would be beaten- that is to say walked, and marked by 'beating' the choirboys to help them remember the boundaries.

Parish Boundaries were, and are, important as in times past folk needed to know which parish they lived in if they needed help. Today we need to know for the calling of Banns for Marriages in churches. This year all is so very different. Currently we do not know when the churches will be open again, when marriages can take place, or when life will return to a sort of normality. But this strange time gives us opportunities.

Rogationtide is also the time when we give thanks for all that God has given us, and we pray for the harvests of every kind that are to come. We give thanks for the seeds sown and their germination in the ground, in our lives and in our faith. And for those who have sown them, be that Revd. Steve and other clergy, farmers tilling the land, or those many seeds of kindness and generosity and perseverance that we have seen developing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. They are growing in communities helping one another, in the tireless work of the NHS and Care services, and amidst those who work quietly to keep the infrastructure of the country going.

We also give thanks for the opportunity to 'stand and stare', to have the time to see creation in all its beauty which is blossoming around us in this area.

A poem which speaks of this, by WH Davies

Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Kind regards and God's Peace,
Sarah Lunn



HUMSHAUGH

It is good to have the streamed church services each Sunday; and every single day the shop is doing its magic for everyone who needs deliveries or any other kind of help.

It was wonderful to see the many gardens decorated with flags and balloons on VE Day and to hear the church bell chime its 75 rings. Two days before, the Dutch celebrated their 75th anniversary of the day they were liberated. And, as always, I am so grateful to the British and their Allies for giving us back our freedom.

It is a delight to see everybody's garden so beautifully looked after – not a weed to be seen - and now we can buy plants again!!

Liesbeth Langford

Simonburn Notes

On the 8th May, it was nice to see a few people on the village green, by the memorial, that was decorated in Union flag bunting, to remember the 75th Anniversary of VE day. Anthony Church said The Exhortation followed by the 2 minutes silence. Permission was given by The Bishop, to ring a church bell, it was lovely to hear the bell ring again, thanks to Alice Murray. We played "Vera Lynn singing We'll meet again", let's hope it won't be too long until we will meet again, not virtually!

Well done to everyone involved in the Church services on Zoom, they are really good and nice to put names to faces.

Stay safe everyone.

Love Sharon

Birtley Notes

Freya and Jude McKluskie, my young neighbours in Birtley, ran 100 times round their large garden for 'Captain Tom', well done to them... it is so nice that most of the people in the village have been turning out on Thursday evenings at 8pm to clap and show support for our wonderful Doctors and Nurses at this testing time.

It was nice to hear the Church bells ring out on 8th May VE Day (75 rings... thank's to Judith W) after a number of people observed the 2 minute silence at 11am outside their doors. A number of houses had flags etc on show, the Tilleys at Northumberland House was especially nice, I understand Elise had to make bunting as homework from school, no doubt helped by big sister and brother Abbey and Alex. Well done.

It was with sadness we heard that Pearl Baty, Bellingham had passed away on 8th May, she lived all of her life in the parish, at High Cowden, until retirement, where her father and mother farmed and was involved in most aspects of village life. Our thoughts are with Stephen, Jamie and Robert and families at this time.

Thanks must be given to Joyce Bell and Bill White for cutting the church grass while the small village ride-on mower is out of commission, they are using their own mowers, which takes quite a while to do, but this is keeping things tidy.

Still take care everyone, Mary.

Wark Notes

In these very strange and challenging times St. Michael's remains closed, although the churchyard is open. Various reports indicate some public buildings opening might happen in July, but we continue to follow the directive from the Diocese.

It is with sadness the death of Alan Dawson is recorded. Alan was a retired MURC minister who moved to Wark a few years ago and officiated on occasions at their services. We offer our thoughts and prayers at this very sad time to Christine and all the family. We also extend our condolences to the family of Pearl Baty, lately of Bellingham however was well known in Wark having lived for many years in Gunnerton.

At this time, following the very sad death of Steve, should anyone require assistance on a church matter please make contact with Ann Bell on 230259, Anne Grieve, 230245, Jani Keep or Paddy Walters, thank you.

Until next month, take care, keep alert and stay safe Love John

From Chollerton Parish Council

The Chollerton Parish Council continue to work via electronic means but have taken the decision to postpone the May meeting until it is deemed safer to meet. Anyone with any issues can contact the clerk or use the PC website. During the lockdown period we have been so impressed by the community spirit that has been shown. We commend the caring attitude of so many for vulnerable people as well as the numerous acts that have raised people's spirits and the voluntary cleanups our areas have benefited from.

Readings:

7th June; Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40: 12-17; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-end; matthew28: 16-20

(For the Sundays after Trinity until the autumn we use the second, related set of readings for services.)

14th June 1st Sunday after Trinity (Proper 6)

Exodus19: 2-8a; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9: 35- 10 :8

21st June 2nd Sunday after Trinity (Proper 7)

Jeremiah 20: 7-13; Romans 6: 1-11; Matthew 10: 24-39

28th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity (Proper 8)

Jeremiah 28: 5-9; Romans 6; 12-end; Matthew 10: 40-end

5th July 4th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 9)

Zechariah 9; 9-12; Romans 7: 15-25; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end