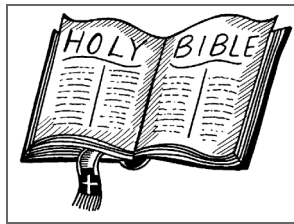


**The  
January  
Broadsheet  
2021**



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

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## Pastoral Letter from Chollerton Vicarage

As I write this in the middle of December our dark sky area is lit up in many places with the lights of Christmas decorations, which seem to be up much earlier this year than normal, maybe because of the trying year we have had. Yet soon after Christmas they will all have disappeared. The world moves on so very quickly, but the season of Christmas has just begun when we get to Christmas Day, and it lasts until February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the feast of Candlemas.

A New Year and new beginnings but very much coloured by our lives in the past year. We pause to look both back and ahead. We do not know what is to come, but we trust to God to bless us in it.

I have found a poem by Howard Thurman which reminds us what we are here for and trying to live out when the cribs and decorations are hidden away again.

When the song of the angels is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To make peace among the people,  
To make music in the heart.

God's blessing on your houses and your hearts at the turning of the year!

Sarah Lunn

### Humshaugh

Every household in the village received the Christmas Carol DVD and what a wonderful DVD it is! Many, many thanks to Diana Linnett whose idea it was and who, with helpers, put it all together. The school children were absolutely marvellous!

Talking about the children, we all wish them and their teachers a lovely holiday.

The church is open every day for private prayer, or just to visit and be quiet for a while. There is a decorated Christmas Tree and the Crib, with all those very important Christmas figures.

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

Liesbeth



## WARK PARISH NEWS

A Happy New Year to all. Let's hope it is better than the one just experienced. All homes should have received a letter detailing the way forward, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in St. Michael's so do please look out for information around the village regarding these services. Thank you to all who have made it possible for St. Michael's to be open for individual private prayer during the last few months, lots of cleaning and sanitizing, to those who decorated the church making it look beautiful and inviting at Christmas although we could not have a service the church was open for all to enjoy, also to those who trod footpaths to deliver this to your door (and still have their fingers – poor postie!) over the last year.

The C of E line for Christmas 2020 was 'comfort and joy' I hope you continue to find that.

Until we chat again.....

Love John

## Birtley Notes

We sadly lost two former members of the village late November, both the result of Covid. Marina Parker 84yrs early on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, she lived at Percy View when her husband Maurice worked at Birtley Shields. Then late on 22<sup>nd</sup> Norma Coulson, just short of her 96th birthday, latterly of Hall View, was taken. Both were in Acomb Court Care Home. Norma played the organ at St Giles for many years, she enjoyed going to and taking part in everything in the Village Hall or at Church functions, always with enthusiasm. Norma was walked up the village on her way to the Crematorium when a lot of people turned out to pay their respects. She will be remembered with affection.

I do hope it will be a better New Year.

Take care

Mary

## **Simonburn Notes**

The Broadsheet as been sent out early this month so Happy New Year (when it comes) Let's look forward to a better, healthier year for everyone.

The Christmas lights around the village have been a welcome sight, in what has been a dark year. Everyone seems to have made a special effort to brighten things up. We have a Christmas tree lit up outside the church with Christmas baubles decorated by children in the village (and adults) to remember those we are thinking about.

St. Mungo's carol service is usually a wonderful service attended by lots of people to enjoy the carols, mulled wine and mince pies. Unfortunately, this year, the carol service will not be in church but will be on Zoom on Christmas Eve, you can still have your mulled wine and mince pies afterwards!

Take care and stay safe.

Love Sharon x

### **Services in January**

**(subject to restrictions and personnel being available. Any updates will be advised on the websites.)**

<b>Sun January 3rd</b>	<b>10.00am Zoom Service 3.00pm Holy Communion- Birtley 7.45pm for 8.00pm Zoom Late@8</b>	
<b>Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am Holy Communion -Humshaugh</b>	
<b>Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.30am Holy Communion -Thockrington 10.00am Zoom Deanery Service with Archdeacon</b>	
<b>Catherine</b>	<b>4.00pm Holy Communion - Wall 6.00pm Holy Communion – Wark</b>	
<b>Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am Holy Communion – Chollerton</b>	
<b>Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am Zoom Morning Service 2.00pm Holy Communion- Bingfield 6.00pm Holy Communion- Simonburn</b>	
<b>Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am Holy Communion- Gunnerton</b>	
<b>Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.30am Holy Communion- Chollerton 10.00am Zoom Morning Service 6.00pm Holy Communion- Humshaugh</b>	
<b>Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am Holy Communion Wall</b>	
<b>Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am Candlemas Zoom Service</b>	