

The February 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

We find ourselves once again in lockdown, with the challenges and opportunities that this brings to us all. We are in the liturgical season of Epiphany, the time when we remember the coming of the Magi and their discovery of and sight of Christ, the light of the world, and further, of Christ making himself known and being made known to others. Light is a word with so many resonances to us, especially in the dark time of the year. There is an often-used phrase 'now I have seen the light', the dictionary meaning of which is 'To gain an understanding of something previously not understood, especially in a sudden insight.' Every experience we have in life, good or bad, can be an opportunity to learn more about something, or, in another turn of phrase, to be enlightened. Today we woke up to that strange half-light which means snow, a different quality of light over the landscape. As we continue to live through the pandemic we are continually hearing of developments in understanding of the virus and of the vaccine which we hope and trust will be the light at the end of the tunnel of this situation. The darkness of the current situation is lit up by the love and kindness of folk at every level. I wanted to say thank you to those who have spread light and love, worked so hard for all of us, delivering letters and parcels, keeping our bins emptied even in the worst weather, for the teachers working such long hours and so inventively to keep our children safe, and to the local Undertakers who care so much for everyone with whom they deal. There are many more unsung heroes in this. We are all so thankful and grateful for the light and love you give to us all by keeping on keeping on. Thank you !

God Bless

Sarah Lunn

Birtley Notes

The January Broadsheet was printed really early, so I was not able to include the result of the winner of the splendid Christmas Hamper, ran in aid of St Giles, this was drawn on 19th December and the winner was number 7 – Angus Savage (Joyce Bell's grandson), the family were just recovering from Covid so this was a most welcome gift, 2nd 57 – Catherine Teasdale – Mulled wine, 3rd 107 – Ann Wainwright – mini Christmas cake. I would like once again to thank everyone for their support.

I'm sure we would all like to congratulate David and Eileen Burn on their Silver wedding anniversary, which was on 23rd December.

It is many years since we had such a long spell of cold, snowy, wintery weather. At least it has kept people indoors.

Please take care everyone, Mary.

HUMSHAUGH

Well done Melanie!! Melanie Wilkinson swam 36 lengths in 33 minutes at the Wentworth Swimming Pool, just before Christmas. Not only did she manage to do this in between Lock Downs, her sponsored swim raised more than £1000 for St. Peter's church. Many, many thanks and congratulations.

On January the 2nd Alan Robson died peacefully at Wentworth Grange in Riding Mill. For many years Alan lived in Humshaugh, very much liked and admired by all who knew him.

He was Treasurer of the PCC and Sidesman in St. Peter's for a very long time and many of us will remember him, organising the Raffle for the Church Fete each year. What he will be remembered for most however, is the kindness he gave to anyone and especially the wonderful way in which he looked after his wife Bunty when she became ill. We will miss this kind and serene man. It is nice to know that his granddaughter Emily, and her young family, now live in the house where Alan and Bunty used to be for so many years.

There is a tiny light at the end of a long dark tunnel we are all living in: some of us have received our first vaccine! May this be the beginning of much more light in everybody's future.

Liesbeth

Bellingham Deanery Lent groups 2021

'Caring for creation'

Following our successful Advent discussion group, we will be holding a Lent discussion group by Zoom on Tuesdays at 4 pm. Please contact Revd. Christine Bull bull.christine4@gmail.com for the zoom link, beginning Tuesday 23rd February for 5 consecutive weekly sessions.

For those who prefer to meet in the evening, the course will also be run by zoom on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm beginning on Wednesday 24th February. Please contact Revd. Elaine

Ryder revelaine212@gmail.com for the zoom link .

Both groups will be using the same York Course materials so if you are unable to attend a session and would like to join the other group you will be very welcome. The human race is facing its greatest challenge: global warming, leading to climate change. This, along with the damage we have done, and are still doing to the environment, God's wonderful creation, means that we all have to make radical changes to our whole way of life. Many of us who care about this issue are sometimes understandably quite pessimistic about the future. That's where faith in God should make a difference. Hope for the future is not the same as being optimistic. Being optimistic suggests always looking on the bright side. A hope based on faith in God should enable us to open our eyes and see what is actually happening to our planet today, and still believe there is much that we can do, individually and together, with God to guide and strengthen us. The 2020 Coronavirus pandemic continues to have a big impact on all our

lives. It has important lessons to teach us about our life together on this planet, especially when we compare it to the greatest challenge of all to life on earth: climate change.

Christine

WARK PARISH NEWS

As I write these few notes the snow and ice have released their grip on us. The same cannot be said for this dreaded virus. I believe most people are being sensible in keeping a low profile so we are unable to hold 'in person' services however the weekly Zoom gathering continues. The fortnightly cuppa and chat sessions continue with the hope these keep our fellowship together. For the sign in information please contact Roger Langford at rogerlangford37@outlook.com

Sadly, during December a lady who would be known to most, Ethel Cairns, died. Ethel supported St. Michael's so well. Most visiting clergy will remember her for telling them they need to speak up as she could not hear them muttering. Just one of the characters from the village who are no longer with us. Thoughts and prayers are with John, Jennifer and all the family at this very sad time.

Best I can say is to keep listening to local chat, check notice boards and once we can we'll be back LIVE with you.

I've heard talk in the village how grateful many were over Christmas to find the church open, decorated and welcoming. A huge thank you to all who made this possible. It means a great deal to many.

Until we chat again, stay safe and warm

Love John

Services :

At present with the national lockdown and the prevalence of the Covid 19 virus in Northumberland we are holding all services online, so that we keep people as safe as possible. On a Sunday the Zoom morning service for the lower half of the deanery is at 10.00am and for the upper half of the Deanery it is at 9.30am. There is a Deanery quiet service of Zoom Compline at 9.00pm on a Sunday evening. For details do contact one of the clergy or church wardens.

Taster Evening : There will be a taster Evening on February 3rd via Zoom for everyone who might be interested in learning about helping to lead services, or maybe becoming part of a pastoral team to visit in the community. If you would like details, please contact one of the clergy.

The clergy team serving the Deanery will start , from next month, to take turns in writing the Pastoral letter each month for the Deanery so that you will have a variety of styles and insights.