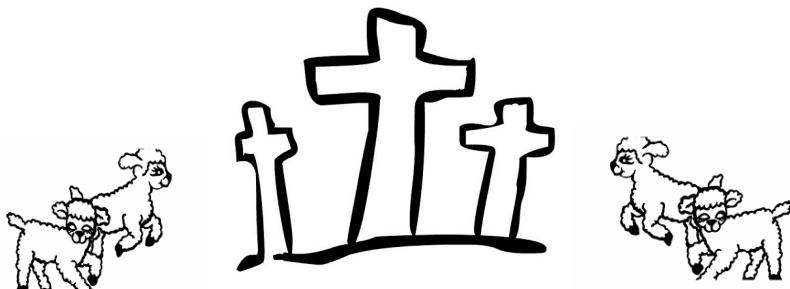


The April Broadsheet 2021



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

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Living on grace and coffee

I wonder what it is that has kept you going through this recent lockdown. Whether you have been staying at home with no social life, or working and unable to 'wind down' through social activities, it feels as if this has been a long, hard haul for many people. Unlike last spring, it has not been possible to distract oneself with gardening. So maybe you have developed your cookery skills, or just punctuated the day with regular cups of tea or coffee to break up the time.

I received a lovely gift from my sister, including coffee, chocolate and a coaster for my coffee cup, inscribed with 'living on grace and coffee' and I realised that, for me, coffee had become important! (Especially with my treat to myself of a 'milk frother' so I can have a sort of cappuccino!) But what about the grace element of the wording? Have I also been dependent on that?

What is grace? Well, it's a freely given gift, offered to us by someone who is not seeking any return, but simply wants to bless us – like the coaster, coffee and chocolate had been completely unsolicited, and came with no request or demand. And these are indeed the things that have lifted us during this time – a card, a phone call, a small gift, that someone has freely given. All of them are given in love, and all of that love originates from God who is love. As we approach Easter, we remember how Jesus, God in person, showed grace for us, in choosing to die for us in order that we might be reconnected with God. This is a gift, freely given, with no request or demand – all we have to do is to accept it, and we will have the benefit of becoming part of God's family. I pray that, as you reflect this Easter, you may be able to open your hands and accept God's amazing grace (with or without coffee!) – then you will be truly living.

Elaine Ryder.

Humshaugh News

Three very special people have recently died in our village: Jan Chown, who did so much for the newspaper accounts in the shop; Brenda Burton, a much loved member of the WI and a great gardener and Dianne Harding, who for years, welcomed anyone into the Crown with her warm and lovely smile. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Jack, Bob and David and their families.

It will be a bittersweet Easter Day for all of us with it being the first Anniversary of Steve's death. We will be thinking of him and of Melanie and her family. And for the children at school, who are still missing Steve, it is a blessing that Melanie is with them.

Have a good Easter with its new born lambs, its Spring flowers and its promise of new life.

Love, Liesbeth

'Au revoir' from Elaine – and a licensing service on 12 April

A new chapter in the life of this curate starts on 12 April. Regretfully, I need to go on placement in order to ensure that I complete my curacy successfully and can be considered for continuing as a priest afterwards. Due to geographical constraints, the pandemic and various challenges of 2020, I did not have enough close supervision as a trainee to provide written evidence of development. In order to gain this, the Diocese has decided that I should become (temporarily) Assistant Curate at Hexham, where there are lots of opportunities for what is needed. I start there on 12th April, and will be licensed that evening at 7.30 pm by Zoom – contact me for the Zoom link if you are not on the weekly mailing. Peter and I will remain in Otterburn vicarage and be a part of the community socially when I am not working (and Peter will still preach for you), but all church queries should be raised with the Area Dean, Revd Sarah Lunn (sarahlunn63@gmail.com 01434 681721). So, until I return, I trust you to God (Adieu) and may God be with you.

Goodbye. Elaine

Birtley Notes

Can we start to think that there is maybe light at the end of the tunnel !

I do hope Boris is right. It will be so nice to be able to go somewhere again this summer, or even just having friends for coffee outside or going out for a meal would be marvellous .

Well, Easter is nearly upon us, whoever thought a year ago that we would still be in lockdown..? It would be nice to think that we could go to church for the Easter service, Zoom is very good but nothing compared to the real thing... the Mother's Day service was really good especially with the children taking part, well done to them.

It will be a busy time for the farmers soon but will be nice to see the lambs in the fields.

Do hope to see you all soon,

Mary.



WARK PARISH NEWS

Here we are one year later from that initial PM's announcement of the Covid pandemic and are still with some restrictive regulations. What is allowed? what can we have? what can we do?.. and collectively?.... a lot has happened in the last year. Whole lives have been turned upside down and some have been ruined and some lost.

It is now Spring, so along with the lambs, the green shoots in the fields and gardens, surely, we should turn and look ahead. I hope we will see the re-commencement of actual church services, although, at the time of writing (14th March) in the benefice, no mention of this has been made, however, things happen quickly, so please do keep an eye out or ear to the ground for the latest.

A St. Michael's PCC's request: please, so The Monday Men may get on with the cutting of the churchyard grass, could all wreaths be removed from graves. St. Michael's is most grateful for the work of The Monday Men with keeping the area so tidy, therefore, your help with their request is appreciated. The PCC hope any removal by them to facilitate this work will not be found inappropriate. Thank you.

I believe the distribution of primroses for Mothering Sunday was much appreciated in the village, a thank you to all who were involved in this.

Until we chat again,

Love to all... John xxx

Simonburn Notes

Well, Spring has definitely sprung and it is lovely to see the lambs in the fields, daffodils holding their heads up and hearing the birds singing in our beautiful countryside. Let's hope I'm not speaking too soon!

A big thank you to Jane Langford for making the posies for Mothering Sunday, they were lovely and to Jane Lamb for supplying the daffodils.

We are sorry to hear that Isabel and Anthony Church are leaving the village and are moving to Acomb, we hope they will be very happy in their new home.

After over 30 years, Mrs Allgood has decided to retire as Churchwarden. We thank her for all the dedication, hard work and support she has given.

Let us remember those we have lost in the past year, especially our vicar and friend Steve, our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are grieving at this time.

Love Sharon x

Let's not forget what Sir Captain Tom Moore said
"Tomorrow will be a good day"