

# The May Broadsheet 2021



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

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## **Chollerton Vicarage**

We are now past Easter Day but the Season lasts for a while yet and there are some ancient festivals to come in the month of May. Ascension-day falls on May 13<sup>th</sup> and traditionally, the three weekdays before Ascension Day have been kept as Rogationtide. This is a very ancient tradition, developed by Christians from pagan rites to invoke the help of the god of the crops. The name comes from the Latin '*rogare*', meaning 'to ask'. These days were kept as days of prayer for God's blessing on the crops, animals and all who worked on the land. Gradually these prayers were developed into processional litanies around the parish, singing prayers to the saints. In England rogation Days were known as 'Gang Days' from the old Norse '*gangr*'. On these days clergy and people walked through the fields carrying crosses and green branches, and stopping a number of times at the parish boundaries, to say prayers. Place names such as Amen Corner and Gospel Oak recall these stopping places.

In medieval times when there were no printed maps, the annual walk became known as the beating of the bounds. The boundaries of the parish were solemnly beaten with willow rods, and on occasion, boys of the parish were also beaten or bumped upon the ground at the boundaries, to impress the parish limits upon their minds. Food and drink were distributed to the poor and needy of the parish as their dwellings were passed on the walk.

Nowadays Rogationtide is an opportunity to meet up with people from around the parishes, and to pray together for God's will to be done in all the work of the parishes, the Benefice, the deanery, whether in field or on farm, in shop or business, in school or in homes. We can use these days to dedicate ourselves anew to being Christ to those around us. The last year has shown us all how much we need each other and can be Christ to each other in so many ways. Now that we can walk with others to an extent, why not have a walk around your neighbourhood and look, listen and pray for all that you encounter as we journey towards Whitsunday and Pentecost!

God bless,

Sarah Lunn (Area Dean)

### **Services in the Deanery**

While there are still restrictions on meeting together, we will continue to have the main Sunday worship as a Zoom Service each Sunday at 10.00am.

Other 'in-person' services will be added in around the main Zoom Sunday service.

The pattern may vary from month to month, and therefore the services for parishes will be advised on a weekly basis via email and on the parish websites and notice boards. The zoom link for the week and the service sheet will be sent out each week. Please do bear with the clergy team as we plan for the future in this time of transition because of the pandemic, and also because of clergy vacancies.

Sarah Lunn (Area Dean)

## **Humshaugh News**

The bell of St Peter's was rung 99 times commemorating the death of Prince Philip and in honour of each year of his life.

The school held a very special Collective Worship dedicated to their wonderful friend, the Revd. Steve Wilkinson. A beautiful carved "peace" bench was unveiled in memory of him and placed under the willow arch in the playground. The words on the bench:

"Reverend Steve Forever Our Lighthouse" say how much he was loved by the children.

The Village Hall Committee, in order to bring us all together again, is planning a Sunday Afternoon Tea, sometime in July, with of course any possible restrictions still in place. The date will be confirmed nearer the time.

The hope is that all regular users of the Hall would each have a table, reminding people of all the activities on offer in our lovely village. This will also give newcomers the chance to find out about the things that take place in "normal" times.

If you would like your group to be represented, please let us know.

For further info, contact [humvillhall@gmail.com](mailto:humvillhall@gmail.com)

website <https://northumberlandvillagehalls.org.uk/humshaugh-village-hall>

Love, Liesbeth

## **Wark Parish News**

Carefully and slowly services are returning to St. Michael's as they are at MURC (in The Town Hall). At this time, it is not possible to give a timetable however details will be advised around the village as and when known.

Christian Aid week, 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May, will be slightly different this year in as much the donation envelopes will be delivered to your door then you are asked to return these, with your donation, to Wark Post Office and place in the box provided. There will not be a door- to- door collection this year. Thank you for your support.

The annual meetings of St. Michael's will be held in church at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

You may recall St. Michael's, in association with Wark School, ran an Easter Competition with the overall winner being Alice Walton from class 4. Congratulations to all individual class winners and thank you for your entries. A big thank you to all who helped make St. Michael's look so attractive, inside and out at Easter. I have had many complimentary comments on how beautiful the church looked along with numerous mentions from visitors to the churchyard on its perfect condition. Many visitors come to Wark enjoying the beauty of the roadside flowers which this year were superb. Next it will be the bluebells bringing the locals and visitors to enjoy these. Spring has arrived.

Until we chat again.

Love John

### Birtley Notes

Was it me or were the daffodils especially nice this year? With all of the 'doom and gloom' their colourful heads put a smile on peoples faces... there have been a number of comments from people saying the village looked so nice and cheerful..!

I'm sure everyone was saddened to hear of the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. A formidable person who always gave his support to the Queen with dignity. The bells at St Giles were rung 100 times at 12 noon on the day of his funeral 17<sup>th</sup> April.

There will be a service in St Giles on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm.  
See you all soon,

Mary.

### Simonburn Notes

As I sit typing these notes, I keep looking out at the sky, hoping to see the return of our welcome summer visitors, either a swallow, swift or house martin. Fingers crossed it won't be long. The warmer temperatures are encouraging the grass to grow and new shoots on the trees. It's a lovely sound, hearing lawn mowers again!  
Love Sharon x

### Thank you from Veronica Allgood

As most of you know, I have retired as a churchwarden at St. Mungo's. At the recent annual meeting, I was astonished and thrilled to be presented with a beautiful garden seat and a lovely bouquet of flowers. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to these generous gifts - it was most unexpected and the seat looks perfect in my garden. Thank you all so much.

#### From the Registers:

##### **Funerals:**

**15<sup>th</sup> March Brenda Burton from Humshaugh at the Crematorium**

**17<sup>th</sup> March Raymond Mewse from Bellingham at Falstone Cemetery**

**30<sup>th</sup> March Eddie Holliday, from Wall, Burial of ashes at Chollerton**

**13<sup>th</sup> April Caroline Dobson from Prudhoe at Chollerton**

**16<sup>th</sup> April Gillian Keen from Otterburn at the Crematorium**



#### **BACON BUTTIES, TEA and COFFEE!!!**

**To be served outside the Hearse House, St Giles Church,  
Chollerton**

**Saturday, 15 May - 9.30am – 12noon  
Please drop by – we'd love to see you!  
all funds to CHRISTIAN AID**