

# THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW

## Parish Newsletter April 2019

### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy**

In our Lent Groups this year, we have been discussing the film “The Way” starring Martin Sheen, about the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Alongside it, we are also using a book which ends each discussion session with a prayer by the Lutheran pastor, Bonhoeffer. His was an extraordinary life, culminating in imprisonment in a concentration camp, and after a cursory court martial, he was sentenced to death. Bonhoeffer was a firm opponent of Hitler’s philosophy. Two days after Hitler’s election as Chancellor in Jan 1933, he made a radio broadcast criticising Hitler, and in particular the danger of an idolatrous cult of the Fuhrer. His radio broadcast was cut off mid-air. Bonhoeffer was vehemently opposed to the persecution of Jews, and while serving as a messenger for a small German resistance movement, he assisted in helping Jews to escape to Switzerland. It was for this activity that he was arrested.



Even during the appalling conditions of the concentration camp, Bonhoeffer maintained his deep spirituality which was evident to other prisoners. A fellow inmate who was an officer of the British Army wrote that Bonhoeffer’s soul really shone in the dark desperation of the prison. In “Prayers for Fellow Prisoners, Christmas 1943” he wrote simple and accessible prayers, one of which ends with the words: “Lord, whatever this day may bring, your name be praised”.

One of Bonhoeffer’s famous sayings is “There is meaning in every journey that is unknown to the traveller”. This is so appropriate for our Lent Groups based on the journey of a bereaved father in the film “The Way”. Let us know if you would like to join one of our groups in the run up to Easter – you would be very welcome.

	<b>SERVICES</b>	
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW</b>	<b>HAYDON BRIDGE</b>
<b>7 April Lent 5</b>	<b>9.30 am Henshaw – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church</b>	<b>11 am – Parish Eucharist</b>
<b>14 April Palm Sunday</b>	<b>10 am Henshaw – Celebration Service 3 pm – God’s Tent (tba)</b>	<b>8.30 am BCP Communion</b>
<b>18 April Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>7.30 pm at Haydon Bridge – Eucharist and Stripping</b>	
<b>19 April Good Friday</b>	<b>12 midday - Henshaw – The First Hour</b>	<b>10.30 am – The Act of Witness 2 pm – The Last Hour</b>
<b>20 April Saturday</b>	<b>11 am Messy Church - Henshaw</b>	
<b>21 April Easter Day</b>	<b>9.30 am Beltingham – Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>6.30 am – The Liturgy of Easter – Haydon Old Church 11 am – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church</b>
<b>28 April 2 of Easter</b>	<b>9.30 am Henshaw – Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>11 am – Parish Eucharist 5 pm – Evening Prayer for St George – Haydon Old Church</b>
<b>5 May 3 of Easter</b>	<b>9.30 am Henshaw – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church</b>	<b>11 am - Parish Eucharist</b>

### **The Queen’s Birthday**

The Queen’s actual birthday is on 21 April, when she will be 93. She also has an Official Birthday on 15 June this year, when the Trooping of the Colour takes place. As Sovereign, the Queen has important constitutional relationships with the Established Churches of England and Scotland, dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. She holds the title 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England'.

## **The Vicar's Letter**

One of the great privileges of my job is being asked to go into our schools and lead assemblies and talk about the Christian faith. This time of year I can guarantee that the one question which will come up again will be: "Why do we call it "Good" Friday"? This is an excellent question and one which naturally challenges all of us. For those of us who regularly attend Church, Good Friday is unlike any other day in the Church's year. We find the Church stripped of all its decoration and colour, no candles are lit, and our worship is sombre and reflective. And this is right; given that this is the day we remember that Jesus died. This is an important day, one of the most important days in the Church year. But why is it "Good"? Well, perhaps we might think of it a little like this. If we look at our own lives, we can all reflect on an experience, a moment which was painful or hard at the time, perhaps the break-up of a relationship, the loss of a job, or an argument with a friend. That moment was, and remains, a painful memory and experience. But so often when people tell me about those experiences, they go on to say: "but some good came from it". Sometimes in the pain of our human experience we discover a new opportunity, a new relationship, and a new honesty with one another which sets our lives on a new and more positive path.

If we can think of these examples in our lives, then think of the journey of Jesus to the Cross, his suffering and death as this type of "good" but amplified and multiplied beyond our possible imagining. In a world of sadness and suffering, of human cruelty and pain, God in Jesus shows us in the events of that first Good Friday the love He has for each one of us. A love which goes anywhere, does anything, overcomes all things, to show us the transforming power of that love. And that is not only "Good" it is the greatest truth we can know. On Good Friday we will remember the "Good" of this day. There we will sing Isaac Watts' famous hymn, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. As we sing it, we will remember the pain and suffering of Good Friday, but we will also remember the life and good that flows from:

*Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my Soul, my Life, my All.*

**Wishing you a blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter**

**Benjamin**

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

This will take place on **Palm Sunday, 14 April**, immediately after the service. This is the meeting at which we report on the past year, with a full account from the Vicar, learn about the state of our finances and the fabric of our churches and elect church officers and the PCC. All are welcome, and those on the renewed electoral roll are entitled to vote.

### **Mothers' Union**

On **24 April at Henshaw** 'Tri Challenges' with Rev Gill Alexander.

### **Shepherds Dene in the Spring**

A further day of prayer and reflection has been arranged for **Tuesday 30th April** from **10.00-3.30pm**. This will be led by the Rev. Gill Alexander. The cost for the day is £22.00; this includes morning tea/coffee, a light lunch and afternoon tea/coffee with cake. If you are interested please contact Yvonne Hewitt, [yhewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:yhewitt@btinternet.com) to book a place.

### **Easter Flowers**

If you would like to make a donation to the cost of Easter flowers, please give it to one of the Churchwardens, or to Judy Potts.

### **Regular Giving**

As we approach a new financial year, you may wish to review your annual giving to the church, and to revise it in accordance with the general cost of living. This would be much appreciated.

### **New Residents in the Parish**

If you are aware of new residents moving into the Parish, please let one of the Wardens know, as the Vicar would be pleased to send a welcome letter and leaflet about the parish.

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

### **Parish Coffee Morning at Haltwhistle Methodist Hall**

On **Saturday 20 July** from 9.30 am – raffle and tombola prizes gratefully received. More details next month.

**The Deanery Pilgrimage** continues after the great time we had in Alston parish last June. This year we are planning another two-day pilgrimage which will complete the first circumnavigation of the deanery churches. We are yet to finalise the route, but overall we are planning Greenhead to Warden over the two days, Friday 14 and Saturday 15 June. The walk will call at each church where there will be linked exhibitions of a Christian Aid project we are looking to support. This project works with displaced persons who are refugees in their own country, for example in Kenya, Nigeria and Iraq. We hope that all parishes will have pilgrims who join in – it truly was great last year, walking and talking with friends and new friends. One of the high spots was the middle evening we spent in Alston, and we are hoping to do something similar in the Haydon Bridge area, possibly at The Sill. In order to make this happen we will need to have a fairly clear idea of numbers. Staying over is optional as is joining the pilgrimage itself, but it does add another dimension to the event. If you would like to know more please contact David on 01434 608882 or by email [r.david.ratcliff@gmail.com](mailto:r.david.ratcliff@gmail.com). We will need to make bookings at The Sill very quickly, especially if we have a large number. **Please spread the word! The need to book is getting nearer every day.**

## CHURCH CONTACTS

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<b>ROTA</b>				
<b>April</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Warden</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
<b>7 April</b>	<b>Henshaw</b>	<b>A Storrie</b>	<b>L Scott/ H Rowland</b>	<b>P Storey/ J Walters/ N Harding</b>
<b>14 April</b>	<b>Henshaw</b>	<b>C Adams</b>	<b>D Storrie/ J Galbraith</b>	<b>A Galbraith</b>
<b>19 April</b>	<b>Henshaw</b>	<b>C Adams</b>	<b>D Palmer</b>	
<b>21 April</b>	<b>Beltingham</b>	<b>A Galbraith</b>	<b>J Hayward/ P Collingwood</b>	<b>Group</b>
<b>28 April</b>	<b>Henshaw</b>	<b>A Storrie</b>	<b>H Rowland/ Y Hewitt</b>	<b>Group</b>
<b>5 May</b>	<b>Henshaw</b>	<b>C Adams</b>	<b>S Walker/ D McKenna</b>	<b>P Storey/ N Harding/ J Walters</b>

## **VILLAGE NEWS**

### **Monthly Lunch at the Bowes Hotel from 12 for 12.30 pm**

The monthly lunch is on the first Friday of each month and no booking is required. Come along and enjoy the company.

### **Haltwhistle Gardening Club at 7.30 pm the Comrades Club**

**On Monday 8 April** a talk by **Isobel Shaw** of Swallow House Plants, Cambo – ‘**Development of Garden & Plans for the Future**’ (there will be plants for sale). All welcome – visitors £3 at the door.

**Trip to Harrogate Flower Show** – due to cancellations there are now five spaces on the bus. The cost is £37 (which includes entry) – ring Libby 344582 for details.

### **South Tyne Wildlife Group at 7.30 pm the Comrades Club**

**On Tuesday 9 April** - **Steve Wrightson** – ‘Wildlife Pictures’ £3 – all welcome.

### **Women’s Institute at 7 pm in the Village Hall**

**On Wednesday 10 April** – **Shirley Crisp** ‘**British from bottom up**’ Hostesses: Jackie Gaughan and Dawn Darling; Competition: A British Tea Cup and Saucer; Stall: Bring & Buy ‘Made in England’.

## **South Tyne Sustainability**

**Energy** – the initial meeting to discuss the potential for community generation of electricity and heat, scheduled for late March, will now take place on **Tuesday 2 April** at 7.30 pm in the Old Booking Hall, Haltwhistle Station – all welcome.

**Plastics** – we aim to put Haltwhistle on the map as a champion of plastic recycling and reduced use. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 16 April** at 7.30 pm in the Old Booking Hall, Haltwhistle Station. Do come along if you are concerned about plastics in our environment and would like to get involved in this project.

**Highlights Present** – **Oskar's Amazing Adventure on Sunday 7 April at 2 pm.** This play for young children uses a mix rich of story-telling, clowning, puppetry, music and song.

**On Saturday 13 April at 7.30 pm Theatre by the Lake, Miss Julie, a Strindberg masterpiece with adult content.** Both at the Village Hall, telephone 344424 for tickets and further information.

## **Bardon Mill History Group**

A group visit to the Bellingham Heritage Centre (including a WWI Exhibition) on **Monday 8 April**. Contact Steve Gibbon on 344383 or [Stephen.gibbon@btopenworld.com](mailto:Stephen.gibbon@btopenworld.com) for further information.

**Request for garden pots over 1 litre in size for hay meadow project. Contact Libby on 344582.**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

### **Cafe Scientifique - Tuesday 7 May - 7-9 pm BM Village Hall**

Adventures in Tea Chemistry by Dr Iain Cloughley – A look at how modern scientific methods have contributed to the economy of Central Africa and Malawi. **Tickets are £5 including tea/coffee and cake.** Tickets can be purchased now by copying and pasting this link [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk). Search for Bardon Mill Events. As previously, a few tickets will be available at the village shop for those who don't have internet access.

### **Highlights**

**On Sunday 12 May at 7.30 pm – ‘Naming the View’** – a modern day reimagining of Taming of the Shrew.

**Annual Plant Festival Haltwhistle Saturday 18 May** Leisure Centre.

## **Thanks to all our local sponsors**

**We are very grateful to the following firms and organisations who have agreed to be sponsors of our revised Church newsletter. This will allow us to distribute a larger newsletter more widely.**

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