



## THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW

### Parish Newsletter April 2021

#### Annual Parochial Church meeting

This important annual meeting in the life of our church was held on Sunday, 21 March after our morning service. It is the time when reports and accounts are received and approved, and various officers elected. Yvonne Hewitt continues to serve as our PCC Secretary. Anne Galbraith and Adrian Storrie have been elected as Churchwardens, and Carol Adams has been appointed as Deputy Churchwarden. We have a new Treasurer, Christopher Linfoot, who will take over shortly from Dorothy McKenna – and grateful thanks were extended to Dorothy for her work over the last two years. The accounts show that, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we continue to enjoy a stable financial position. The Parish Electoral Roll now stands at 90. Fabric reports were received about both of our churches, and reports were also received about safeguarding in our church and the work of our Benefice Mothers' Union. All the reports are available from our Secretary, if you wish to see them – email [yhewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:yhewitt@btinternet.com)

The Vicar's report this year looked back at the period of his ministry in our parish – see the separate item below.

#### Vicar's Report – an extract

"I am also writing this report with a heavy heart as it will be my last as the Vicar of Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw as I prepare to leave this post after six and half very happy years to be Canon Warden of Carlisle Cathedral..... As the years progress, I hope and pray that our Church buildings will continue to be fitting places of welcome.

The most important and lasting invitation you have given us was the one you gave me when you asked me to be your Vicar in the summer of 2014. The welcome you gave to me and Steph and Elizabeth as we arrived, and the

welcome that Matilda received when she was born in 2015. We have loved living here and being part of these communities and will always call west Northumberland home. A home we made, in no small part, because of the invitation we received from you all.

**As we take our leave...** As I draw this report to a close, I hope you will forgive me if I thank my clergy colleagues in my time here – John Harrison, Michael Sadgrove, Stephen Parsons and Gill Alexander – and for the unstinting and constantly patient support of Church Wardens past and present – Anne Galbraith, Adrian Storrie, Carol Adams, Dave Thornhill, Gill Valentine, Nigel Collingwood, and Pippa Exham. They will have, as you all will, my prayers through this coming time of vacancy.

I think we should all look back with great pride on how we have sought to live out these themes of prayer, confidence and invitation. In reflecting on these I hope we are all able to see how these aspirations, which we identified together, have become less the standards against which we mark ourselves (or my time as Vicar) and more the character of community we have become and hope and pray through the power of God's grace we will continue to be.

With my ongoing prayers and thanks to you all, your Vicar,  
Benjamin"



## Worship in our Parish

Benjamin will conduct his last service in our parish on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am. Thereafter, the parish will be in vacancy, and this will inevitably impact on the pattern of our services. However, set out below is important information for the forthcoming period up to the date of Benjamin's departure.

## Holy Week and Easter Services in the Parishes by the Wall

### *Palm Sunday, Sunday 28 March*

11 am: Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms, All Hallows Henshaw  
11am: Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

### *Wednesday of Holy Week, Wednesday 31 March*

3pm: Evening Prayer, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge  
6pm: Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw

### *Maundy Thursday, Thursday 1 April*

7pm: Eucharist and Watch, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

### *Good Friday, Friday 2 April*

12noon: Haydon Bridge Churches Together Good Friday Act of Witness, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge  
2pm: The Last Hour, St Cuthbert's Beltingham

### *Easter Day, Sunday 4 April*

***Please let churchwardens know if you intend to come***

9.30am: Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw  
11am: Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

### *First Sunday of Easter, Sunday 11 April*

***Please let churchwardens know if you intend to come***

9.30am: Eucharist, All Hallows' Henshaw  
11am: Eucharist, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge

**This will be Benjamin's last Sunday as Vicar**

*Please note that Covid-safe practices will be followed at all services and some services may require prior booking or be altered if local Covid restrictions change. Please see public notices across the community and on our website and social media pages for up to date information.*

*It will help with our Covid-secure planning if you could indicate to the Church Wardens if you intend to attend public worship on Easter Day and/or Sunday 11 April – contact details below.*



Anne Galbraith 684302  
Adrian Storrie 344494  
Carol Adams 344398

## Worship after 11th April

During the period whilst we are in vacancy, and because of the impact of coronavirus, we have resolved (in conjunction with Haydon Bridge parish) to offer a regular Sunday service in both parishes at 10.30 am. The timing of the service will be the same in both churches. We will regularly review the pattern of services, and aim at each review to draw up a plan for periods of three months.

**Beginning on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April, therefore our service will be at 10.30 am at All Hallows', Henshaw, and weekly thereafter at the same time.**

## Our farewell to Benjamin

Because of the impact of the pandemic, it will not be possible to hold the normal kind of farewell celebration for Benjamin and his family. We will make a presentation to him at the end of the service on April 11<sup>th</sup>. However, here is a date for your diary:

We have invited Benjamin and his family to return on **Saturday 4 September**, to preach at a service of Evening Prayer at St Cuthbert's, Beltingham – which is highly appropriate, as it is the date set in the church calendar for celebrating the life of St Cuthbert. We hope on that occasion that restrictions will have been lifted sufficiently for us to offer some hospitality too.

## A message from the Mothers' Union

We raised £260 for Make a Mother's Day appeal. This is a HUGE amount and many thanks from members of our Branch and Church family who have made

this possible. It's an amount we never expected so thank you all. Bridget Stockdale, Judy Potts and Anne Brunton.

## Hocktide

Did you know that the second Monday and Tuesday after Easter are known as Hocktide or the Hock days? It is thought that originally these days of celebration commemorated a military victory during Anglo Saxon times against invading Danes. But this explanation could be fanciful, as other sources suggest that the celebrations stem from a play presented in Coventry during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Hock Tuesday is also one of the quarter days on which rents were due. It is also the day on which a strange folk custom took place, where people could be taken “hostage” until a ransom was paid. This ransom money was then often paid over to the local church, and in some cases formed the largest single source of parish income.

Inevitably, however, some hocktide observances led to unruly and excessive behaviour, and in consequence, many local authorities ended the practices. Some vestiges remain, especially in the town of Hungerford, where “tutti men” go from house to house, asking for money – but all done in a light hearted manner!

## Answers to last month's brainteasers

I can be written, I can be spoken, I can be faked, I can be broken – what am I?  
News

What sort of coat is best put on wet? A coat of paint

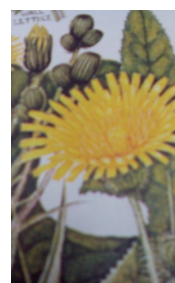
I can fill up a room, but take up no space – what am I? (Please note there are several acceptable answers to this riddle.)  
Light/darkness/air/noise/smell/smoke/silence.

## Answers to last month's quiz

1. Where was Mary Queen of Scots executed? Fotheringay Castle
2. What is the fictional court case at the heart of Bleak House? Jarndyce v Jarndyce
3. In what year did Boris Johnson become Mayor of London? 2008
4. Which former military figure became Prime Minister in 1828? Duke of Wellington
5. Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, is a port on which sea? Caspian Sea

6. What is the name of the disease caused by sensitivity to gluten? Coeliac disease
7. Who ascended to the throne of Northumberland in 633? King Oswald
8. Which pudding is made from the start from the root of the cassava plant? Tapioca
9. In which year did Charles Lindbergh make the first solo non stop transatlantic flight? 1927
10. What is the French name of the oldest surviving bridge over the Seine in Paris? Pont neuf
11. Which dynasty ruled in Russia for over 300 years until 1917? Romanovs
12. Which English King was married to Eleanor of Aquitaine? Henry the Second
13. From which book of the Bible does the phrase “by the skin of one's teeth” come? Job
14. Which city on the Mississippi shares its name with an ancient capital of Egypt? Memphis
15. In 1813, which Scottish writer declined the position of poet Laureate? Walter Scott
16. Born in 1697, which British artist lobbied Parliament for laws to safeguard copyright? William Hogarth
17. What does the latin abbreviation “pro tem” mean? For the time being
18. Which British artist is famous for her unmade bed? Tracey Emin
19. Which horse is the only three times winner of the Grand National? Red Rum
20. What is Japanese sake made from? Rice

## Some Things You Might Not Know About Dandelions



As the amazing display of daffodils along the A69 start to fade, it is quite likely that their place will be taken by a host of golden dandelions (with apologies to Wordsworth!). Whether you love them or hate them, dandelions are one of the most recognised plants, and one seemingly able to thrive in any environment. They were certainly a plant known to ancient civilisations, and they have been used in Chinese traditional medicine for over a thousand years. Plants were taken aboard the Mayflower to America for use as medicine.

Made into a tonic, they help the body to filter out toxins, and have been prescribed for ailments from warts, to baldness, rotting gums and weakness and lethargy. No wonder – they have more vitamin A than spinach, more vitamin C than tomatoes and contain iron, calcium and potassium. The Dandelion is a

flower with wildlife super-powers, providing abundant nectar and pollen, and seeds, stems, roots and leaves giving food to a wide range of pollinators, moths, butterflies, and birds.

You might wonder too how they are such survivors and will grow in seemingly impossible places. Their root can go down to a great depth, possibly even as far as 15 feet, and if you try to take them out and leave a tiny bit of root, they will grow again – even through tarmac, as I have discovered. The leaves of dandelions can be used as a salad leaf, but beware the diuretic effect – hence their French name, piss-en-lit!