



THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW

Parish Newsletter April 2022

From our Vicar, Steve

By the nature of magazine deadlines, I'm writing this before and you're very likely reading this after the day the bishop comes to license me as the 'Priest in Charge of Haltwhistle and Greenhead and Assistant Curate of Beltingham with Henshaw' on the 31st March. The latter title is due more to the legalities rather than any difference in the reality on the ground and they are paving the way to make me Priest in Charge of the whole group. In charge! Sounds an interesting proposition. Last month I mentioned a term that comes with different connotations depending on who reads it, and this month we have another one – what do you think 'in charge' means, both in terms of in charge of what, but also in what way in charge?

Just as you heard of us, but now see us, so God's plan was heard through the prophets of old, 'but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son' (says the writer of Hebrews). But hearing him, they raised him up, visible for all to see, on the cross! Easter will celebrate the resurrection, Jesus' rising from the dead, and that seems to us the good bit – God really in charge! But the New Testament sees God's character made visible for all to see in the cross, and that is really the good bit – Good Friday after all.

You heard us via the magazine/newsletter, but in these last days it will be a pleasure to see you all face to face - I hope you'll come to hear and see the Good News on Good Friday and also on Resurrection Morning at your local churches – see the events section for times. If being a prophet is part of my role then I write in advance for you to read after the event, thank you for the wonderful welcome and the lovely licensing service on the 31st March with so many people involved making the day so special! Now April is upon us, Holy Week and Easter comes, and I'll be settling in with my new charge.



Steve

The installation service

For those who were unable to be at Steve's installation, the service led by the Bishop of Berwick takes the form of the new vicar swearing the oath of allegiance, swearing the oath of canonical obedience, and pledging himself to care for the community. In turn, the congregation undertake to support and uphold Steve in his ministry. Symbols of ministry are presented, water for baptism, oil of healing, a Bible, a book of Common Prayer and bread and wine. Later, keys, parish maps and copies of the electoral roll are also presented. The church bell is rung, and the new Vicar is led to his Priest's stall.

From the Registers

Sunday, 13 March: Baptism of Niall Ian Frankie Crawford at All Hallows', Henshaw

Saturday, 26 March, Baptism of Esmae Elizabeth Dodd and Archie Robert John Dodd at All Hallows', Henshaw

Sunday, 27 March, Baptism of Poppy Grace Makepeace at All Hallows', Henshaw

Services for April

Date and time	President	Church
April 3, 11am	Rev'd Canon Stephen Wright Holy Communion**	All Hallows', Henshaw
April 10, 11am	Rev'd Michael Jackson, Palm Sunday, Holy Communion	All Hallows', Henshaw
April 17, 11am	Rev'd Canon Stephen Wright, Easter Day, Holy Communion	All Hallows', Henshaw
April 24, 11am	Rev'd Jan Van den Berg	All Hallows', Henshaw
May 1, 11 am	Rev'd Canon Stephen Wright Holy Communion	All Hallows', Henshaw

**** Please come along to give a very warm Northumbrian welcome to our new Vicar Steve, as he presides at his first service with us.**

Evening Prayer during Lent

On Wednesday, 6 April at 4 pm there will be a service of Evening Prayer at All Hallows', Henshaw. In Holy Week, on Wednesday 13 April, this will be at 7 pm with our Vicar Steve.

Good Friday service

At 2pm in All Hallows', Henshaw, there will be a service, "The Last Hour" with hymns and readings, conducted by our Vicar, Steve.

Church Fundraising and reviewing planned giving

Over the past two years, it has been impossible to undertake our usual church fundraising activities. The PCC is now hopeful that these can resume, and a number of ideas were discussed at the recent PCC meeting, which we hope to organise in the coming weeks. However, as we get to the start of the new financial year, it would be helpful if our parishioners could all consider reviewing their planned giving. We are all being made aware of the rising cost of living, and the fuel costs alone for our two churches will increase substantially. A small percentage uplift in your regular giving would therefore help and be much appreciated

PCC Meeting

At the PCC meeting held on 21 March, a decision was taken to continue with the current Covid safety measures, given the rising number of infections currently being reported. There was also a discussion about timing of services, which are moving to 11 am from the beginning of April. This is a trial period until the end of the summer, when a review will be held to determine the way forward.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This important meeting in the calendar of the church was held on 29th March. The officers for the forthcoming year were elected; Churchwardens Anne Galbraith and Adrian Storrie, Deputy Warden Carol Adams, Treasurer Christopher Linfoot. Thanks were recorded to our Independent Examiner, Alf Adams and our Gift Aid Recorder, John Galbraith. Reports were received relating to the fabric of our churches, a safeguarding report, MU report, Secretary's report, financial report and an account of the past year, written by the Churchwarden Anne Galbraith in the absence of a Vicar over that period. A presentation was made to Anne, Carol and Adrian to thank them for their work during the vacancy.



If you would like to see any of the reports that were presented, including the financial report, please contact our PCC Secretary, Yvonne Hewitt – tel: 344391..

Donations for the Food Bank

During the last two years, we have suspended our box collection for the West Northumberland Food Bank, but we now consider it is the right time to put the box out again in the porch for your donations. It is likely that the food bank will be called on to an even greater extent to meet the needs of those worst affected by the rising cost of living. Nigel Collingwood will ensure that everything donated is taken to the food bank premises.

Mothers' Union

The April meeting of the Mothers' Union will take place on Wednesday, 27 April in the Church Room at All Hallows' Church, Henshaw when the speaker will be Mr Adrian Langford, talking about "Faith in Blue Lights".

Women's Institute – a date for your diary

The WI are hosting a Party in the Park on Sunday 5th June in the afternoon in Redburn Park. Open to all. More information to follow.

Sunday School Memories – a reflection from Yvonne Hewitt

Reading Hilda Rowland's thoughts about hymns in the February Newsletter set me thinking about my Sunday School days. I too began my Christian life in the Methodist Church. From the age of about six years old I began regularly attending Sunday School. Having tried out the church at the top of the street where I lived, I then opted for the one at the bottom of the street and around the corner, Cullercoats Fishermens's Mission. What a decision at the age of 6!

Cullercoats Fishermen's Mission was established by Mr John Lisle on a different site initially and the work he began, continued by his son, resulted in the Mission on its present site built in 1931. The Lisle family I knew during the 1950s comprised seven brothers and a sister, all of whom played a very active role in all aspects of the church life. One was the organist, another played the organ and took the Sunday School for younger children. We sang choruses with actions and hymns with a rousing chorus such as **'Give me joy in my heart keep me praising....'** and we were told a bible story.

The older children were given the opportunity to study for a Scripture Examination based on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. An award was made by the Newcastle and District Sunday School Union. A book could be chosen from the 'Bible shop' in Pilgrim Street Newcastle. The appropriate presentation label was put inside and at a later date it was presented at St James Church, Northumberland Road, Newcastle. My first award was in the 'Lower Junior Division' in 1956 at the age of 8 years. The book I chose was 'Heidi' by Johanna Spyri and, clearly very pleased with my achievement, I inscribed above the label "92 marks". This was attained with the teaching and support of a wonderful Sunday School teacher who was a nurse and often came straight off duty still in her uniform to teach her class on a Sunday afternoon.

Several more Scripture exams were passed until about the age of 12 and then attending Whitley Bay Grammar School I started going with my new school friends to St Paul's Church Youth Club and was eventually confirmed about age 13 years.

Unlike Hilda I did not inherit my mother's lovely soprano voice and I never learnt to breathe properly but how I loved the hymns we sang. **'What a friend we have in Jesus'** and **'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine'** were and still are two great favourites. A third is **'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life'**.

In thinking about writing this, I was reflecting on these hymns driving home on Saturday only to find at the service on Sunday our organist Nigel Clayburn played **'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life'** just before the service

started. This was requested by our visiting vicar Rev'd Jan Van Der Berg to link into his sermon and the Gospel reading for the day. (Luke 8:22-25)

One of the hymns we subsequently sang was 'God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform! Indeed, how true!

People moving into the village – If you are aware of new arrivals in the village, it would be helpful if you could let the wardens know, as there is a welcome letter and leaflet about our churches which we can then deliver. As this has been a rather unusual time, anyone who moved in within the last couple of years will not have received a letter, so even if they are now "well settled", it would be nice to make contact with them.

Do you like webcams? I love them! Some thoughts from Hilda Rowlands

It started when our daughter Alice went on a school trip to New York . We were a little apprehensive about her going away without us so we started looking at webcams at the places they were visiting. Times Square was the most fascinating, it was full of people, lights, noise and excitement for twenty four hours a day.

In 2013, Stuart and I set off in our camper van to travel up to Nordkap in the Arctic Circle. It was a long, long way. One night we stopped at a tiny village in the north of Norway with an unpronounceable name, but it had a webcam. We texted Stuart's sister to look for this webcam and soon she could see us waving to her! January 23rd is a very important day in this little village as that's the day they see the sun for the first time after the weeks of total twenty four hour darkness. Of course when we were there in June, it was light for twenty four hours a day, such a contrast. I often have a look at that webcam. The village is often covered with snow and there's a little playground that's lit up so that the children can play even in the darkness of winter.

The following year, Linda, my sister in law and Mike her husband set off on a cruise around Central America. Linda texted to say the ship was just about to go through the Panama Canal and of course – there was a webcam! We sat in Bardon Mill watching this enormous ship slowly moving through this incredible feat of engineering. We could see passengers out on deck waving to the locals but we didn't manage to recognise Linda or Mike. Since then, I sometimes have a look at what's happening over there. It's always busy with ships from all over the world.

Then, of course, there are wildlife webcams. We've watched Ospreys, Eagles, Otters and Badgers in a way that wouldn't be possible without webcams and we can observe them without causing any harm or disruption. Stuart has tried setting up a night webcam in our garden, but so far we've just seen a mouse and a cat. The trouble is you have to look through all the footage the following morning to see if you've captured anything- it can be rather boring!

Another of my favourite webcams is on the Isle of Skye. It's set up overlooking a small harbour but you can also see mountains in the distance. The weather changes frequently up there, so every time you look, the colours are different or sometimes the mist comes down to shroud everything in a mysterious cloak of grey.

So if you have a favourite place somewhere in the world, it might be worth seeing if it has a webcam to look at. It's a good way to remember special places especially in these times when travel isn't as easy as it used to be.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your spirit of comfort would draw near to them. WE pray for those with power over war and peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all we pray for your precious children at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

Contact information Anne Galbraith, Churchwarden Tel: 01434 684302, Email galbraithanne55@gmail.com
Adrian Storrie, Churchwarden Tel: 01434 344494, Email adetree@btinternet.com Carol Adams, Deputy Warden
Tel: 01434 344398, Email adamscarol@btinternet.com