

The Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw

Parish Newsletter
April/May 2023



View from the Vicarage

It is a year since our arrival. From our perspective a great change – there are many similarities with Norfolk, compared to our 22 years abroad, but this is not like our villages in Norfolk! When I was hit by all the Newcastle Diocesan paperwork and the school governor paperwork when we first came here, I can only say that Keith was a great encouragement when it all seemed too much! As a church, we could not continue with our present activities as we do without reliance on Keith, and we thank God for him and Sandra (and Sasha who keeps them exercising)!

Last year the three APCM's were nervously looking forward to the unknown – a new vicar, a new services timetable, wondering how much we would have to adjust to make room for being part of three parishes rather than two. Henshaw was already used to playing second fiddle on occasion with Haydon Bridge, anxious that the metropolis of Haltwhistle would not push them further from the vicar's notice. Haltwhistle and Greenhead were pleased to have a vicar at last after such a long vacancy, anxiously waiting to see whether Henshaw would opt for the 9.30am slot on a Sunday or go for the 11am, and all the parishes realising that having their resident priest lead the service every week might now be a thing of the past. A big change has been to introduce a joint service once a month – this not only gives us a sense of fellowship together but encourages our small congregations with more robust singing, not to mention making it easier for the vicar to find cover for holidays. Including all four of our church buildings has been important, with some services in Beltingham.

Sunday services take up a significant portion of my time and are of major significance in the life of the church – I think maintaining services of prayers and teaching on a Sunday morning, although not responded to by the masses, is a valuable witness to the gospel. Thankfully there are many other things that our ministry and witness consist of and the witness that reaches most people outside the church I think is the baptism and funeral ministry, with a few weddings thrown in – the provision of a parish priest and volunteers to help at such services serves to remind a lot of people of the gospel and the warmth of care that church people have. Your giving finance and time to support and enable a full-time parish priest in this community role is much appreciated.

I think most of our midweek evangelistic efforts are aimed at helping the lonely to find company and friendship – the Chat and Chill in Henshaw gets people through the church door, Craft and Chat and Sing and Sup in Haltwhistle do the same, our Mother's Union groups have a specific focus on families and those who care for them, and although Friday night dominoes in Greenhead doesn't get them through the church door, it gets people doing things for the church and with church people that bears fruit in pastoral care. There are a number of things across the benefice that are aimed at raising money to finance our churches, but which also hope to bring people into our buildings so that the church is not strange to them when we invite them for services and prayers – the social committee in Haltwhistle is the most active in this regard and has worked tirelessly on a whole string of events.

Although keeping the church going and parish priest paid for is for the good of the community as well as ourselves, we have some fundraising and gift giving for outsiders too, showing Christ's care for the world. Henshaw Mother's Union has helped with several projects, and the Haltwhistle Social Committee has raised funds for various charities, sometimes working with other churches in Haltwhistle for this.

Churches Together in Haltwhistle (CTiH) have held several events over the year, coming together for major Christian festivals and significant national events, not least the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Recently various Haltwhistle organisations met to discuss a full programme of events for the weekend of the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The churches were there contributing to it, and we plan a joint service for CTiH and the parishes of our benefice on that Sunday.

We have two church schools in our benefice, Henshaw and Greenhead, and the new head teacher there has been very keen to get the church and schools working together. It took a while to get going but bringing the whole school to church once a term has become a settled aim with the vicar being involved at other times. Greenhead has started an after school Bible Story Acting Club which is in its early days at the moment. Haltwhistle school has not been so easy

– in the last few years they have changed from First School to Primary, moved premises, and as soon as they were settled, the school was flooded, but despite this, they brought the school to church for Christmas and packed out the building!

In all our churches I am so grateful for the team of Church Wardens who have given advice and done much work behind the scenes. For our Treasurers, and those who take and distribute the minutes of meetings, those who clean and decorate our churches in the various seasons, and to all those who plan and manage events to draw people in, we are truly thankful. In all of this I ask your prayers that the labours and love that we give our churches may bear fruit for the gospel. Pray also for opportunities for that witness, that the light of Christ may shine brightly in our corner of this land.

From Steve, our Vicar – report prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

Keith Brunton RIP

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death this month of Keith Brunton, a former Churchwarden and much loved and respected member of our congregation. We have not seen Keith in church so often in recent times, as his health continued to decline, but through Anne, he remained closely in touch with church affairs. Many will know that Keith was a writer of delightful poems, some whimsical and many with a local interest. But his writing stretched back to his school days, and here is a more serious poem, written when he was about 16, and published in his school magazine.

HMS Affray

Planned, built and fitted for destruction,
An armour-plated shark, steel grey and strong,
And yet not strong enough to save itself –
The sinkier of ships itself a sunken ship.

By what? A wreck? A mine?

Who knows?

It dived and was seen no more,
And seventy five men were seen no more.
Seventy five! What are they in fifty million?

But God what cruelty

To think of one you love

Drifting cold among weed and fish and twisted steel.

A service to celebrate Keith's life will be held at All Hallows' Henshaw at 3 pm on Tuesday, April 4.

Mothers' Union

Don't forget 26 April when Hazel Barron Cooper will be talking about the Beltingham Yew, and 24 May when Anne Galbraith will be talking about volunteering with Tynedale Hospice. And the good news from MU is that their coffee morning in the Village Hall in Bardon Mill raised over £500.

Another chance to see Chocolat

The Lent group have so enjoyed thinking through the issues thrown up in the film *Chocolat* that they have decided to come together to watch it again at 4.30 pm on Wednesday 26 April. There is an open invitation to join in, and there are rumours that chocolate might be available!

Bowes Lyon Trust

The Trust, created by the Will of the Hon Francis Bowes Lyon in 1948 is administered by Trustees, currently the Vicar and the Churchwardens of Beltingham with Henshaw. The Trust can make small grants to people in the Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw on the grounds of hardship. If you know of anyone who could benefit from such a grant please speak to Nigel Collingwood, Secretary to the Trust on 344119. All applications are treated in confidence.

Church Service times for April and May 2023

Date and time	Service	Leader	Church
2 April, **10am** Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	Rev'd Steve Wright	All Hallows', Henshaw
9 April 11 am	Easter Day - Holy Communion	Rev'd Steve Wright	All Hallows', Henshaw
16 April 11 am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Keith Teasdale	All Hallows', Henshaw
23 April 11 am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Steve Wright	All Hallows', Henshaw
30 April 11 am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Steve Wright	All Hallows', Henshaw
7 May **10 am**	Benefice Holy Communion and Thanksgiving for the Coronation of the King	Rev'd Steve Wright	Holy Cross Haltwhistle
14 May 11 am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Steve Wright	St Cuthbert's Beltingham
21 May 11 am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Keith Teasdale	All Hallows', Henshaw
28 May	Morning Prayer With reflection	Anne Galbraith And Carol Adams	All Hallows', Henshaw

Please note Benefice services are at 10 am. Please also check which church is holding the service.

Services during Holy Week

Walk with Jesus through the week, starting with the **Benefice Communion on Palm Sunday at 10 am at All Hallows', Henshaw, then at 7 pm as follows:**

Monday, 3 April, St Cuthbert's, Greenhead

Tuesday, 4 April All Hallows', Henshaw

Wednesday, 5 April St Cuthbert's, Beltingham

Thursday, 6 April Holy Cross Haltwhistle.

Good Friday, 7 April - the Stations of the Cross, 2pm All Hallows', Henshaw.

PARKING FOR SERVICES AT BELTINGHAM

There is still some work taking place at Beltingham House, so where services are scheduled at Beltingham (5 April and 14 May), please park in the cemetery. **If you would like a lift to Beltingham for either of these services, please contact Anne Galbraith, 684302, who will assist with arranging this.**

Church heating at All Hallows'

The oil fired boiler at All Hallows' has been temperamental for a little while, despite the best efforts of the engineer who has been called out on a number of occasions. The frustration is that sometimes the boiler will fire up and sometimes it won't. We have now had to accept that it is past its useful life and are taking advice about the way forward. We are doing our best to have the church warm for services, and in the meantime, we are exploring other

ways to instal a new heating system, as we are unlikely to get Diocesan approval for the installation of a new oil fired boiler. Please bear with us as we seek to find an early resolution to the heating problems, and in the meantime, we will continue to try to get to a comfortable temperature for our Sunday services.

Meeting of the PCC

The meeting of the PCC was held on 28 March. The church heating was a significant item on the agenda – see the separate item in this newsletter. The PCC also accepted all the draft reports submitted in preparation for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (ie the AGM for the church) which will take place on 18 April – see the separate item below.

The PCC welcomed the healthy state of the church finances, which was due to a number of unexpected receipts. These included almost £7000 in overpaid Council Tax in respect of the Vicarage in Haydon Bridge, dating back to 1994 when the Vicarage had been incorrectly banded; exceptionally, two grants from the Smith Trust as the cheque for 2021 had gone astray; and a bonus payment from the Government to assist with church heating. The availability of these funds is therefore welcome in light of the church requiring a new heating system.

The PCC also learnt that a new editor has been found for Outlook, the Haltwhistle and Greenhead magazine, where it is hoped to incorporate our newsletter into their publication. For the moment, until more is known about progress with a revised magazine, we will continue to publish our newsletter once every two months, with update emails as required.

The PCC also expressed their appreciation to Norman Brown for the donation of a new seat for Beltingham cemetery.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday, April 18 at 4 pm in the Church Room at All Hallows'

This is an important event in the church calendar, where the PCC reports to parishioners on the life of the church, its activities, the electoral roll, its finances, the state of its buildings. The meeting is open to all parishioners, but only those on the electoral roll may vote. Officers including churchwardens, deputy wardens, treasurer, sidesmen, gift aid recorder and independent examiner will all be elected. Anyone wishing to stand for election to any of the roles or who wishes to obtain copies of the papers for the meeting should contact the PCC Secretary, Yvonne Hewitt, yhewitt@btinternet.com, or Tel: 344391. Our Vicar, Rev'd Steve Wright will report on the first year of his incumbency.

New seat in Beltingham Cemetery

If you are taking a walk to Beltingham, you can be assured of a comfortable seat in a tranquil spot, thanks to a generous gift from Norman Brown. The seat is at the ashes garden end, and is well placed to admire the view and have your picnic. Thank you, Norman



Honour for Rev'd Keith Teasdale

We were delighted to learn that Keith, our visiting priest, was made an Honorary Freeman of the city at a special Carlisle City Council meeting on February 7. He was one of three people named as “persons of distinction who had rendered eminent service to the City of Carlisle”. Keith now lives in Haltwhistle, but before his retirement, he was the Vicar at St Cuthbert's in Carlisle, and also the city centre chaplain. He has continued in this latter role as the local authorities complete their reorganisation.



At the ceremony on February 7, Keith had to swear an oath to the Carlisle mayor and his successors, and he was presented with a beautiful certificate to mark the occasion. He and all the other guests then enjoyed afternoon tea with prosecco. The award to Keith was well received by many in the City, who know about his work there, not only with his own congregation but in the wider community. He was a great supporter of the Mayor's Charity and hosted many events, including “An evening with Henry VIII”. At times of crisis in the town, during the floods of 2013 and during the pandemic, Keith was a great help to the community, despite the fact that he too was affected by the floods. We offer our warm congratulations to Keith on becoming a Freeman, and echo the words of one of the local Councillors – the honour could not have gone to a better person.

Royal Quiz 2023 (Answers next time)

1. In what year did the fire occur in Windsor Castle.
2. What is the real date of the King's birthday?
3. What ceremony takes place on the King's Official Birthday?
4. How many different Prime Ministers have served the late Queen Elizabeth?
5. When was Britannia decommissioned as the Royal Yacht?
6. What was the maiden name of the late Queen's mother?
7. What is the name of the Games started by Prince Harry for injured service people?
8. Who was the late Queen's co star at the Olympics opening ceremony?
9. Who is the mother of Tom Parker Bowles?
10. Name the first six in line of succession to the King.
11. Why was the coronation of Edward VII postponed in 1902?
12. Which of his wives did Henry VIII behead?
13. What are the first names of the children of the Prince and Princess of Wales?
14. Who is the present Master of the Queen's music?
15. Who is the present Poet Laureate?
16. Where is the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony held in London?
17. What was the name of the Royal Family before it became Windsor?
18. To whom is the Princess Royal married?
19. Which Duke died in a wartime flying accident in 1942?
20. At which University did the Prince and Princess of Wales meet?
21. Where are Queen Victoria and Prince Albert buried?
22. What is the name of Queen Victoria's residence on the Isle of Wight?
23. How many monarchs have there been since William the Conqueror?
24. On which occasions can you expect to receive a telegram from the King?
25. Where was Charles 1 beheaded?
26. How many children did Queen Victoria have?
27. Who is Miss Sienna Mapelli Mozzi?
28. Which British Royals have competed at the Olympic Games?
29. Where does the Coronation take place?
30. What role does the King hold in the Church of England?

Work at Redburn Park The Clerk to the Parish Council has emailed to say “Work is to be undertaken in the Redburn Park Woodland to thin out the tree belt with the long term aim to replant with more suitable and diverse woodland trees. The work will be done in stages throughout the year but there will not be any large machinery or

timber wagons needed or used. The park and Village Hall will be open and accessible as usual with all work protected by warning signage and cordoned off where necessary”.

Use of the Church Room at All Hallows’

Room bookings for the Church Room at All Hallows’ are now being done by Yvonne Hewitt. You can contact her on 344391 or email yhewitt@btinternet.com Please note that a number of groups use the church room, so it is essential to keep Yvonne fully informed to avoid double booking. Please ensure that you SWITCH OFF THE HEATERS.

Planning for the Coronation – a Recipe for Coronation Chicken

Easy Coronation Chicken for six - Ingredients - 6 skinless chicken breasts – poach for 15 minutes in pan of simmering water. Leave to cool then chop into bite sized pieces.

Sauce 2 heaped teaspoonfuls of medium curry powder (to taste)

5 tablespoonfuls of mayonnaise

4 tablespoonfuls of crème fraiche or greek yoghurt

3 tablespoonfuls mango chutney

2 celery sticks finely chopped (optional)

8 ready-to-eat apricots, chopped (optional)

2oz sultanas (optional)

Garnish with 2 oz flaked almonds and freshly chopped parsley.

Method: Mix all the sauce ingredients together, add the chicken to the mayonnaise mixture, and garnish with almonds and parsley. Serve with a rice salad (including peas and finely diced cucumber) dressed with vinaigrette dressing.

Charles Wesley

If you were told you could only choose one Charles Wesley hymn, you might feel rather overwhelmed when you realise that he wrote more than four thousand. He was born in 1707 and lived to be 79, but even so, he would have to write several hymns each week of his adult life to get to such a grand total. Charles, with his brother John, is remembered as a founder of the Methodist movement. That movement was originally a group of undergraduates at Oxford, who called themselves the Holy Club, but they were known by others as the Methodists, because of their methodical devotion to the study of the bible. Charles was a very eloquent preacher, and his hymns were an important way of evangelising. His life is celebrated in the Church of England in May. Here is a starter list of 10 of Charles’ well known hymns – which is your favourite?

Come thou long expected Jesus
Lo he comes with clouds descending
Jesu lover of my soul
Christ whose glory fills the skies
Love divine, all loves excelling
Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim
O for a thousand tongues to sing
O thou who camest from above
Rejoice the Lord is King
Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire

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