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THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW Parish Newsletter – December 2017/January 2018

The Advent season focuses on expectation and many people think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. The word "advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming", but it was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas. The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. The first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming, thus balancing elements of remembrance and anticipation. There are no flowers in church during Advent, but a circular Advent wreath of evergreen foliage will be on display, with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the centre. During the four Sundays of Advent, the candles will be lit one by one, until finally, the fifth is lit on Christmas Day. Usually, there will be three purple candles, one pink one, and the centre one will be white. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday, marking a shift from the solemn tone of the first two Sundays of Advent to a more joyous atmosphere of anticipation.

All our services for the Christmas period are set out in this newsletter. Come and join us – you will be very welcome, especially at our Carol Service at All Hallows', Henshaw on 23rd December, when we all enjoy a glass of mulled wine at the end.

SERVICES		
DEC/JAN	BELTINGHAM/ HENSHAW	HAYDON BRIDGE
Saturday 2 December	3 pm – Advent Carol Service, Haydon Old Church	
3 December Advent 1	9.30 am Parish Eucharist – Beltingham	11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church
10 December Advent 2	9.30 am Parish Eucharist – Henshaw + Storybook Church	11 am Parish Eucharist
17 December Advent 3	9.30 am Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am Parish Eucharist
	3 pm God’s Tent – pitched at West Moralee Farm	
Saturday 23 December	4 pm Henshaw - Carol Service	6 pm Carol Service – St John of Beverley
24 December Advent 4	10 am Joint Parish Eucharist – Henshaw 6 pm – Crib Service – Henshaw	
	4 pm Crib Service Methodist Church Haydon Bridge 1130 pm – Midnight Mass Haydon Bridge	
25 December	9.30 am Parish Eucharist – Beltingham	11 am Parish Eucharist
27 December	3 pm Readings & Carols for Christmas - Beltingham	
31 December	9.30 am Henshaw – Matins	11 am BCP Communion
7 January Epiphany	9.30 am Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church 3 pm Carols Old Church
14 January Baptism of Christ	9.30 am Henshaw – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church	11 am Parish Eucharist
21 January Epiphany 3	9.30 am Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am Parish Eucharist
	3 pm God’s Tent – venue to be confirmed	

28 January	8.30 am Haydon Bridge BCP Communion 10 am All Age Celebration Service – Haydon Bridge 3 pm Haydon Old Church - Candlemas
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National Iyengar Yoga Day

FREE Taster Sessions of Iyengar Yoga with Alicia Lester, Senior Yoga Teacher at **Bardon Mill Village Hall** on **Saturday 13 January 2018**. The first session will run from **1000-1045am** the second from **1100-1145am**. There will be some mats provided but please bring your own if you have one. You are advised to wear loose clothing and bring a blanket. **Come along and give yoga a try!**

Burns’ Night Supper and Ceilidh

On Thursday 25 January 2018 at Bardon Mill Village Hall. Tickets (available from Anne Brunton on 344557) will cost **£20 per person** for a 3-course meal and ceilidh. Supper will be served at 6 pm with the ceilidh beginning at 8 pm.

ROTAS				
Dec/Jan	Church	Warden	Sidesmen	Flowers
3 December	Beltingham	A Galbraith	Scott/Walker	Galbraith/ Jackson
10 December	Henshaw	C Adams	McKenna/ Hewitt	“
17 December	Beltingham	W Green	Rowlands/ Collingwood	Scott Storey
23 December	Henshaw	A Storrie	Slater/Storrie	
24 December	Henshaw	C Adams	Hewitt/Hayward	Group
	Henshaw	A Storrie	A Galbraith/S Walker	
25 December	Beltingham	A Galbraith	J Galbraith/ D Palmer	
27 December	Beltingham	A Galbraith	Slater/Storrie	
31 December	Henshaw	C Adams	Scott/Palmer	
7 January	Beltingham	W Green	Collingwood/ Storrie	Brunton Hartley/ Collingwood

14 January	Henshaw	A Storrie	McKenna/ Rowlands	“
21 January	Beltingham	A Galbraith	Slater/ J Galbraith	Galbraith/ Jackson

Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorials in Haydon Bridge and Bardon Mill, churchyard clear up fun at Henshaw, Harvest Supper at the General Havelock, a recent Henshaw wedding and much more besides. There are links to face book and twitter accounts, again with lots of photos of the children's activities at Messy Church and in God's Tent. Benjamin has also put on his Remembrance Day sermon about the significance of the poppy. So, plenty to look at and read.

Mothers' Union - Monday 4 December - Hexham Abbey – Deanery Advent Service. Monday 11 December – Deanery Meeting at 9.30 am at the Henshaw Church room. January 24, HB Methodist Chapel, Holy Communion, Annual Meeting and Shared Supper.

Messy Church Christmas Party - 1 pm on Sunday 10 December

at the Village Hall At 4 pm, following the Christmas party, the children will walk to the Village Green for carols and switch on of the Christmas lights.



Next pitchings will be Sunday 17 December and 21 January

We are hoping to continue through the winter months with God's Tent activities, especially now that we have a carpet for the tent. We have already had a few outings at various locations. The most recent pitching was at Crow Hall. The events take place at 3 pm on certain Sundays. The idea is to develop activities for the 7 to 11 age group. The children come with a parent. Each event culminates in an act of worship.

Donations for Christmas Flowers - If you would like to make a donation to the flower fund, please contact Judy Potts on 344480. Can you please let Judy know if you are able to help with church decorations on **Friday 22 December at 10 am at Beltingham.**

Lighthearted Readings and Carols on 27 December

at 3 pm at Beltingham - If you would like to read at this event, please contact Anne Galbraith on 344702. Refreshments will follow.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Henshaw School News Events

Two **celebration assemblies** at All Hallows' this term. The children speak about what they are particularly proud of. We have also been learning some **new hymns** this term and have been looking at the **Christian values** of respect, dignity, remembrance, peace and wisdom. Another new venture with the church is that both Nursery and Reception classes have attended their first **Storybook Church** session. The children have also been **fundraising for Children in Need** again this year and raised a fantastic £146.49 in their 'Spotacular Event'! Events to come include our **Nativity play** 'The Hoity Toity Angel' on Monday 18 December. On 15 December, **carol singing** at Haltwhistle Hospital, with friends from Greenhead School. **Christmas Lunch** with Greenhead School on 20 December, followed by a **Christingle Service** at All Hallows Church in the afternoon. And finally, we will be finishing the term with '**Carols around the Christmas Tree**' on Friday 22nd December, when our children and families will join together to singand eat lots of mince pies!

The children and staff from Henshaw CE Primary School would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

VILLAGE NEWS

Christmas Lights Switch On -Come along to the Village Green at 4 pm on Sunday 10 December when there will be carol singing and the Christmas lights will be switched on.

Greenhead Farmers' Market and Christmas Craft Fair
Sunday 10 December 10-2.30 pm at the Village Hall (meats, cheese, bread, Christmas trees) and the Youth Hostel (crafts, wreaths).

Bardon Mill Parish Council The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 December at 7 pm in Henshaw Church room.

South Tyne Wildlife Group, Comrades Club, Haltwhistle
Tuesday 12 December, Gordon Beakes 'Atlantic Islands – the Azores, the Canaries and Madeira'. Tuesday 9 January, Fiona Knox from North Pennines (Allen Valleys) AONB 'Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Allen Valleys'. 7.30 pm - £3 entry – all welcome.

Womens' Institute - Wednesday 13 December - 7 pm Bardon Mill Village Hall – our Christmas Party/Celebration with 'The Cherry Pickers'. Fun and games, supper and the bran tub! Hostesses: The Committee. **Wednesday 10 January – Favourite Recipe Tasting Night**. Hostesses: Jean Walters and Cath Thompson; competition: favourite kitchen gadget; stall: biscuit bring & buy.

South Tyne Cinema Circuit at the General Havelock, Tuesday 19 December from 7 pm - 'Film & Food Night' 'The Holly and the Ivy' (1952) – a warm, nostalgic British drama. **Booking necessary - £8.50 for meal and film – contact Joanna on 684376 for details.**

Cafe Scientifique Tuesday 9th January at Bardon Mill Village Hall 'Cronin's Big Bang Theory – the science and research behind the detonations at RAF Spadeadam' - from 7-9pm. Speaker: Paul Cronin.

Tickets £5 including refreshments. For further information email maureen.matters@gmail.com or 07981 101651

Letter from the Vicar: The Reverend Dr Benjamin Carter

Advent is my favourite season. It might be the expectant waiting; it might be the chance to enjoy the season without the headlong rush into Christmas; it certainly is the Hymns and Carols which are my favourite. But the thing I like most about Advent is the waiting. This might seem a little odd in a world where we want to rush to the end, like those people (and I apologise if you are one) who buy the mince pies which are inexplicably (in my mind!) on sale in the shops with a use by date in November.

What I love in Advent is the encouragement to wait. As the juggernaut of Christmas (and shopping and cooking and eating and) picks up there is a great freedom in waiting. There is deep wisdom in waiting. In waiting we are asked to slow down, to stop a little, and appreciate everything around us.

Through our worship this month we will be watching and waiting. We won't go straight to Christmas, but spend time with the prophets, with John the Baptist, and with Mary, and wait. And in that waiting we will find the great gifts that surround us all the time. Like the beauty of our landscape as it beds down for the winter, or the kindness of friends, or the hospitality of strangers. As we wait we focus not on what we might have done differently or worry about how things might turn out. As we wait comes time to appreciate the moment we are in, and when that moment turns into Christmas, we appreciate that gift even more deeply.

I do hope you will be able to be part of the Advent and Christmas services and events in your Parish Churches and across the community this month. But above all I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, it will be worth the wait – I promise! Benjamin

CHURCH NEWS

Have you checked out our new website recently? You will find us at www.parishesbythewall.org.uk and you will see there on the news page some of the recent activities written up with photographs, including