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The Parishes by the Wall website – covering Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw
<https://parishesbythewall.org.uk>

THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW Parish Newsletter – February 2018

Who was St Valentine?

Saint Valentine is a widely recognised third century Roman saint, commemorated on 14 February, who has been associated with love since the Middle Ages. One of the many legends about him is that he defied the orders of the Emperor Claudius by secretly marrying Christian couples and generally giving help to Christians who were being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. He was arrested and imprisoned. Claudius took a liking to him but when Valentine tried to convert him to Christianity, Claudius condemned him to death. Legend has it that Valentine had fallen in love with the jailer's daughter while he was incarcerated and sent her a note signed "from your Valentine".

The association of St Valentine with romantic love appears to stem from Geoffrey Chaucer's "Parlement of Foules", where he wrote, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate." During the Middle Ages, it was believed that birds paired in mid February and this became associated with romance and St Valentine. Saints often become patrons of earthly affairs and St Valentine is no exception. He is the patron saint of beekeepers as well as epilepsy, plague and fainting!

SERVICES		
FEBRUARY	BELTINGHAM/ HENSHAW	HAYDON BRIDGE
4 February 2 before Lent	9.30 am Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church
11 February Last before Lent	9.30 am Henshaw – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church	11 am Parish Eucharist
14 February Wednesday	10 am Henshaw – Parish Eucharist with Ashing	
	Parish Eucharist with Ashing 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge	
18 February Lent 1	9.30 am Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am Parish Eucharist
	3 pm God's Tent – Haydon Old Church	
25 February Lent 2	8.30 am BCP Communion - Henshaw 10 am Celebration Service – Henshaw	
4 March Lent 3	9.30 am Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church

From the Church Registers

Baptisms

28 December - Loella Rose Currie

31 December – Lockie Robson

Burial of Ashes - Mel Storey

Many will remember Mel Storey as a Churchwarden and also as a much loved organist in our churches. He was also a delightful singer. He and Pauline came to live in Thorngraston in retirement, following his career as a professional civil engineer where his work had involved extensive world-wide travel. Mel was an active member of Probus, and served his term as President. He was respected and popular and only ceased to attend when his health

began to fail. Mel will be remembered as a most kindly and generous man with a great sense of humour.

Mel's ashes were interred in Beltingham on 9 December.

Vicar: The Reverend Dr Benjamin Carter

It is one of the strange coincidences of the Church's diary that Ash Wednesday – the first day of Lent – falls on the fourteenth of February, on Valentine's Day. This will, I am sure, cause many around the world to go through the ethical somersaults of squaring their gifts of Valentines chocolates with their Lenten discipline of giving up chocolate! Many more, I am sure, will not even notice the coincidence.

There is, though, a deep connection in this coincidence between Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day. We mark Valentine's Day on the fourteenth of February because it is, in the Church's Calendar, the day on which we commemorate St Valentine, a third century Bishop who was executed by the Emperor Claudius because he would conduct secret marriages when marriage, for Roman soldiers, had been outlawed. On his imprisonment Valentine too fell in love, with his gaoler's daughter, passing her a note on the night before his execution which read, from your Valentine.

From the story of the first Valentine a great and improbable industry of cards and presents and flowers has grown up. But at the heart of this, as at the heart of Valentine's life, was a commitment to love. And this is where we come full circle to Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, that day when we most readily recognise our own weakness and fallibility, and remember that we are 'dust, and to dust we shall return' does not seem an obvious day to think about love. But it is all about love, because Ash Wednesday, the discipline of Lent, points us to the love God shows for us in Jesus in the story of Holy Week and Easter. That, as St John reminds us, 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' On Ash Wednesday we will be marking that love in services at All Hallows' Henshaw and St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge. So as we look to that message of love, I

hope that as February fourteenth approaches, we would all know the deep love in which we are all held. **Benjamin**

CHURCH NEWS

Have you checked out our new website recently? You will find us at www.parishesbythewall.org.uk and will see on the news page some of the recent activities written up with photographs including the crib service. There are links to face book and twitter accounts, with lots of photos of the children's activities at Messy Church and in God's Tent.

PCC on Thursday 1 February at 7.30 pm in Henshaw Church room.

Mothers' Union

On **13 February** (12 for 12.30 pm) there will be a Benefice Shrove Tuesday Lunch at the General Havelock. The menu and price are to be confirmed. On **28 February** the Rev Michael Sadgrove on '40 Years of Ministry' at the Methodist Chapel, Haydon Bridge.



Next pitching on Sunday 18 February at Haydon Old Church

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 Redburn Park. 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.

George Herbert – celebrated on Tuesday 27 February

A priest and poet (1593 to 1632) whose poetry has become the text of famous hymns including 'Teach me, my God and King', 'The King of Love my Shepherd is', and 'Let all the world in every corner sing'.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Henshaw School News Events

The children are into their second term of using the new **Cornerstones Curriculum**. They have had super experiences as a result, including visiting the **Science Centre** in Newcastle where they did experiments around the weather and took part in ice skating. There has also been a visit to **The Sill** for a storytelling session and to learn about nocturnal animals. They have also been accessing **more sport**, with football clubs and tournaments, yoga, gymnastics key skills and netball club. Our **school choir** has started after school once a week, and is being run by Stephanie Carter and Debbie Nye. Our other **clubs**, helping to enrich the curriculum, are construction, craft, cookery and music tuition, which includes guitar, drums, keyboards and recorder. Once a week Reception has started doing French, music and handwriting with Nursery.

Worship with Reverend Carter continues both at school and at All Hallows' Church, where we continue to hold some of our celebration assemblies. We are having a Community Lunch and look forward to a "stay and share" session for parents on **7 March**.

VILLAGE NEWS

February 1998 Newsletter

We are grateful to Dorothy Forster for providing a cache of Parish Newsletters from the 1990s. In the edition for February 1998 there is a note about the children's choir getting better and better. There were 12 of them and this enthusiastic group of youngsters was led by Libby Scott and Pauline Patrick. Here we are, twenty years later, seeing the start of a school choir – see the news from Henshaw School. So let's hope that they will soon be singing in some of our Services.

Haltwhistle Garden Club

Monday 12 February at 7 pm at the Comrades Club. AGM plus Val Corbett 'Photos of Herterton House and Gardens'.

Bardon Mill Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 13 February at 7 pm** in Henshaw Church room.

South Tyne Wildlife Group, Comrades Club, Haltwhistle

Tuesday 13 February, Matt Grainger – 'Pheasants of the World' at 7.30 pm - £3 – all welcome.

Womens' Institute

Wednesday 14 February - Yvonne Young - 'The Grainger Market'
Hostesses: Diana Robison and Ruth Ridley; Competition: 'Peeling of an Apple'; Stall: St Valentine's Day.

Cafe Scientifique Tuesday 6 March (7-9pm) at B Mill Village Hall

'Geoengineering the Climate: Do two wrongs make a right?' by **Nick Owens**. Tickets £5 including refreshments. Buy tickets at

www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/449719 or reserve tickets at maureen.matters@gmail.com **Booking is strongly advised.**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

Luca Silvestrini's Protein - May Contain Food, May Contain You On Saturday 17 March at 7.30 pm at Bardon Mill Village Hall.

A witty food-themed piece of dance and music theatre in which the Village Hall is transformed into a restaurant. Expect a playful mix of dances, songs and humorous monologues with food tasting and the baking of a scrumptious sticky ginger pudding for all to share!

Also at Bardon Mill on Friday 11 May at 7.30 pm 'Gone Cuckoo' with Malcolm Green, story-teller.

And on Wednesday 30 May at 2 pm 'The Giant Jam Sandwich' (for 3-7 year olds and their families).

Tickets from Geeta on 344424 or geetabannister@googlemail.com.

Alternative to The Wedding and The Cup Final we offer you the HALTWHISTLE PLANT FESTIVAL!

On Saturday 19 May from 9.30 am until 3.30 pm at the Leisure Centre, Haltwhistle. The usual treats of plants, crafts and food. Enquiries Libby on 344582.

ROTAS				
February	Church	Warden	Sidesmen	Flowers
4 February	Beltingham	W Green	S Walker/ D Palmer	A Galbraith/ G Jackson
11 February	Henshaw	C Adams	Y Hewitt/ L Scott	J Potts/ S Walker/ B Stockdale
18 February	Beltingham	A Galbraith	H Rowlands/ D Storrie	“
25 February	Henshaw	A Storrie	P Collingwood/ J Galbraith	P Storey/ N Harding/ J Walters
4 March	Beltingham	W Green	L Slater/ D Palmer	“