

THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM
WITH HENSHAW
Parish Newsletter February 2020



Leap Years

One solar year (that is, the amount of time it takes our planet to accomplish one full rotation about the sun) takes roughly 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds. That extra five-or-so hours is why we have leap years to help adjust our Gregorian calendar (the 365-day calendar you can find in your diary or on your phone) to the solar calendar, and make sure we celebrate solar events like the spring and autumn equinoxes with some regularity every year. How do you remember if it's a leap year? If the last two digits of the year are divisible by four (eg 2016,) then it's a leap year. Century years are the exception to this rule. They must be divisible by 400 to be leap years—so, 2000 and 2400 are leap years, but 2100 will not be one.

After Pope Gregory XIII established the Gregorian calendar in 1582, the idea of adding February 29th every four years seemed so ridiculous that a British play joked it was a day when women should trade their dresses for “breeches” and act like men. The play was meant as satire, but some early feminists were inspired. By the 1700s, women were using Leap Day to propose to the men in their lives. The tradition peaked in the early 1900s and continues to this day,

The composer Rossini was born on February 29th. The odds of being born on February 29th are 1 in 1,461, which makes it particularly rare for one *leapling*, as they are called, to meet another. Rarer still is the possibility that three children in the same family would be born on three consecutive Leap Days, but that's exactly what happened with the Henriksen family of Norway. Heidi was born in 1960, Olav in 1964, and baby Martin four years after that in 1968.

How does one celebrate a holiday that's not really a holiday? By shopping, obviously, when some firms offer special deals. But if your travels take you to France, pick up a copy of the rare *La Bougie du Sapeur*, a French parody newspaper only published once every four years on Leap Day. It was originally created as a joke between friends, and the proceeds from the sale of over 150,000 copies are given to charity.

	SERVICES	
FEBRUARY	BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW	HAYDON BRIDGE
2 February Candlemas	9.30 am – Henshaw – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church	11 am – Parish Eucharist
	3 pm – Haydon Old Church – Evening Prayer	
9 February 3 before Lent	9.30 am – Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church
16 February 2 before Lent	9.30 am - Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am – Parish Eucharist
	3 pm – God’s tent – pitching to be confirmed	
23 February Next before Lent	8.30 am – BCP Communion – Haydon Bridge 10 am – Celebration Service – Henshaw 3 pm – Haydon Old Church – Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 26 February Ash Wednesday	7.30 pm – Eucharist with Ashing at Haydon Bridge	
1 March Lent 1	9.30 am – Henshaw – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church	11 am – Parish Eucharist

From the Church Registers

December 1: Baptism of Edward Rushworth at All Hallows’, Henshaw.

December 20: Burial of Wilson Lamb at Beltingham, following a service in All Hallows’, Henshaw.

Christmas Tree in All Hallows’, Henshaw: Thank you to all who left cards and donations on the Christmas Tree in Henshaw Church. This year we raised £100 for the West End Refugee Service, about twice as much as we had raised in previous years.

Food Bank Collection: Don't forget that you can leave donations for the food bank in the porch at All Hallows' Church, Henshaw, or at the Village Shop.

Vicar's Letter

As a child I always used to remember those Sundays listed on the church notices and in the prayer book as septuagesima, sexagesima, and quinquagesima. I would study these names and try to work out how to pronounce them, and even wonder what they meant. These names are somewhat hidden from us as these Sundays – which we will mark in February – have the more prosaic names of the third, second, and last Sundays before Lent.

The names themselves actually denote Seventy, Sixty, and Fifty days (depending on how you do your counting) from that Sunday till Easter. In that they are a reminder that, even as we might be finishing the last of our Christmas cake, we are now beginning to look towards Easter.

On February 2, our celebrations of Christmas come to an end as we mark that point, forty days after Christmas, when Jesus was taken to the Temple and recognised as the “light to lighten all people”. On that day, there is a prayer where we turn from “the crib to the cross” and we recognise the turning that we pass through this month. These days between Candlemas and Ash Wednesday on February 26 are not a time for us to spiritually put our feet up. They are a time to take stock of the journey we have taken through Christmas, and prepare for the journey we will take in Lent.

Like those ancient names for the Sundays we keep this month, we are reminded that in our lives of faith, as in all our lives, we never stand still. We are always on a journey and if we choose, all our lives can be a part of that movement towards the hope we are promised at Easter. So even in February – in the dark and cold of this month – there is a path for us to follow.

Benjamin

Did you know that a number of our Vicar's sermons are now uploaded on to our website, www.parishesbythewall.org.uk

CHURCH NEWS

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ and the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is widely regarded as the end of the Christmas Season. It falls on February 2, which is traditionally the 40th day of the Christmas–Epiphany season. While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), those in other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas. On Candlemas, many Christians (especially Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans, Orthodox and Roman Catholics) also bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year. For Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who referred to Himself as the Light of the World.

Shrove Tuesday Lunch

The Mothers' Union Benefice Shrove Tuesday lunch at the General Havelock is on 25th February, at 12 for 12.30. Contact Anne Brunton (344557) for menu details and cost if you would like to come. All are welcome.



God's Tent has continued throughout the year. The last meeting was at Staward Peel, and the next will be on 16 February at 3 pm, pitching to be confirmed. This is a fun way to engage with our church with your youngsters.

Messy Church

This takes place now on the second Tuesday afternoon in the month, after school at Henshaw. At the end of the session, there is tea for the children.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

On **Friday 13 March** at 7.30 pm in **Bardon Mill Village Hall** there will be a concert (with refreshments and a raffle). **The Shaftoe Singers** will be entertaining us. This is a fundraiser for the youth of the Tyne Valley who develop mental health problems. Mrs Gill Valentine walked the Camino de Compostella to raise funds for this cause. Mothers' Union are hoping to raise funds too.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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ROTA				
February	Church	Warden	Sidesmen	Flowers
2 February Candlemas	Henshaw	A Storrie	L Scott/ D Storrie	N Harding/ J Walters/ P Storey
9 February	Beltingham	W Green	A Mills/ P Collingwood	L Scott/ M Wilkinson
16 February	Beltingham	A Galbraith	D McKenna/ L Slater	“
23 February	Henshaw	C Adams	H Rowlands/ S Walker	F Wancke/ L Slater
1 March	Henshaw	C Adams	Y Hewitt L Scott	“

VILLAGE NEWS

Monday 3 February from 7-9 pm in the Village Hall

This TED talk is a discussion following a film called ‘**How Your Brain Hallucinates Your Conscious Reality**’ by **Anil Seth**. No booking required - £3 at the door.

Monday 10 February

Haltwhistle Garden Club - 7.30 pm Comrades Club

Northumberland Honey Company will give a talk on ‘Bees to Bottle’. Members are reminded that their annual subscription is due this month. Please bring £15 in an envelope with your name on it.

Tuesday 11 February - South Tyne Wildlife Group – 7.30 pm

Comrades Club - £3 on the door

Steve Westerberg from RSPB Geltsdale on ‘Whinchats in Liberia’.

Wednesday 12 February – WI – 7 pm at the Village Hall

Ed Brown ‘Russia’; hostesses: Jean Walters and Edna Eagleton; competition ‘From Russia with Love’; stall: ‘bring and buy’.

Film & Food Night at the General Havelock (£10 for film & food)

Tuesday 25 February, the film to be confirmed. Doors open 7 pm.

Call Joanna on 684376 for further information.

On Friday 21 February at 7.30 pm at BM Village Hall

Highlights present Box of Tricks Theatre Co in ‘The Last Quiz Night on Earth’. It’s the end of the world; an asteroid is heading straight for us. Fancy going out with a bang? Landlady Kathy invites you to the last quiz night on earth with quizmaster Ray. He’s the host with the most. Time is ticking, some unexpected guests turn up; Bobby wants to settle old scores and Fran wants one last shot at love. Expect the unexpected until the bitter end. Performance includes a quiz (bring your own team or create one on the night). Ticket price includes pie and pea supper. £12.50 adult, £10 child, family 2+2 £40 from Geeta on 01434-344424 or at Highlights website

Cafe Scientifique - Tuesday 3 March - 7-9 pm BM Village Hall

This talk is entitled '**Life, the Universe and other things**' by **Alex Price**. Astrobiology is one of the newest and most dynamic fields in science looking at the most fundamental questions of life: Where did we come from? Where are we headed? Are we alone? Alex Price is a Geomicrobiologist who is simulating early Mars in the lab to discover what could have survived and what traces it may have left.

Tickets are £5 including tea/coffee and cake. Tickets can be purchased by copying and pasting this link www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardon-mill-henshaw-village-hall/e-zgixle. A few tickets will be available at the village shop for those who don't have internet access.

History of St Cuthbert's Church, Beltingham: In a guidebook written by a former Vicar, the Revd C W Herring, who served between 1934 to 1958, he tells the story of the minister who, in 1311, was carried off by the Scots, and held to ransom. It appeared that either the price put on the minister's head was too high, or his parishioners were not anxious to secure his return as no ransom was paid. The Scots returned in 1314 and burnt Beltingham, leaving no parishioners behind them. Revd Herring's guidebook contains other splendid historical gems, including the story of one Beatrix Crowhall, a local widow, who complained of irreverent behaviour at the Communion service. The nature of the behaviour is however not made clear!

Delivery of your Newsletter

Many of you will be reading this newsletter after it was delivered to your home by one of our church members. Every copy of the newsletter costs 28p. If you would like to make a donation to recognise this service, please give it to the person who delivers the magazine. If you no longer wish to have the newsletter delivered, then please let us know - tell your deliverer or telephone 344702, or email galbraithanne55@gmail.com

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