

**THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM
WITH HENSHAW
Parish Newsletter March 2020**



Leeks and Daffodils

You probably recognise the national emblems of Wales, the leek and the daffodil, which will no doubt be much in evidence on March 1st, which is St David's Day. David was born during a wild thunderstorm on the Pembrokeshire cliffs in the 6th century, the son of a King and a nun. He became a monk and founded a monastery close to where he was born. The Cathedral pictured here is built on the site of the original monastery, and St David's is the smallest city in Britain, with a population of only 1600, compared to over 350,000 in Cardiff.

David became famous outside Wales, with chapels dedicated to him across south west England, Ireland and Brittany. He helped to spread Christianity and founded 12 monasteries in his lifetime. After his death, a shrine was built in his honour at his Cathedral. His final words to his followers are alleged to have been "Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us." In consequence, "Do the little things" has become a well-known inspirational saying in Wales.

It is said that the nickname "Taffy" for a Welshman links back to St David, deriving from the Welsh version of David, Dafydd. His Saints Day is widely celebrated in Wales, particularly in schools, with many of the children dressing up, and often holding an eisteddfod (a traditional festival of Welsh poetry and music) on the day. Welsh regiments in the British army traditionally eat raw leeks on March 1 to celebrate their patron saint.

	SERVICES	
MARCH	BELTINGHAM/HENSHAW	HAYDON BRIDGE
1 March Lent 1	9.30 am – Henshaw – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church	11 am – Parish Eucharist
8 March Lent 2	9.30 am – Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am – Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church
15 March Lent 3	9.30 am – Beltingham – Parish Eucharist	11 am – Parish Eucharist
	3 pm – Pitching of God’s Tent – venue tbc	
22 March Mothering Sunday	9.30 am – Henshaw – Mothering Sunday Service	11 am – Mothering Sunday Service
29 March Passion Sunday	9.30 am – Henshaw – BCP Matins	11 am – BCP Eucharist
	5 pm – Evening Prayer, Haydon Old Church	
5 April Palm Sunday	8.30 am – Haydon Bridge – BCP Communion	
	10.00 am – Henshaw – Celebration Service	

VE Day 75 Celebration

On 8 May 2020 it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. VE Day 75 will be an opportunity for us all to remember the enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad and to joyously celebrate, as people did 75 years ago, the arrival of peace in Europe.

Residents of Bardon Mill and Henshaw are invited to gather at the War Memorial on Friday 8 May at 3 pm to toast the heroes of WWII followed by afternoon tea on the Village Green. There will be a reading of the ‘Nations Cry for Peace’ at 7 pm at the Bowes Hotel. More news next month.

For this year, the spring bank holiday has changed from Monday to Friday 8 May, to accommodate the celebrations nationally.

Vicar's Letter

The Australian Rugby Union second-row forward John Eales had the nick-name “Nobody”. Eales was one of the great players of his generation. He lifted the world-cup twice, once as captain. He was a fierce competitor in the rough and tumble of the forwards, but could also unusually mix it with the backs and was known to kick the conversion and penalties (a task usually reserved for the fly-half) with the highest of skill. When his team was asked why such an illustrious player was called “Nobody” they would reply: “it’s because *Nobody*’s perfect!”

We say that phrase so often that we assume we all know it to be true, but we are still held in thrall to the idea that we can, in some way, achieve perfection. Magazines and social media are full of the encouragement to get the perfect body or tan or look. We can make ourselves half-demented in December trying to create the “perfect” Christmas. The problem is that perfection is a wonderful thing to aim for but it is impossible to achieve. That is why people who want us to buy things and spend more money encourage us to aspire towards perfection – because we will never get there. The problem is that when we don’t achieve this longed for “perfect”, we fall into the equal and opposite reaction of believing that there is nothing we can do. Why try something, we tell ourselves, if we can’t be perfect.

This month falls entirely into the Christian season of Lent. At the heart of this season is the fundamental belief that we are not perfect. It can be a time when it seems like we beat ourselves up over this truth, but in fact it is a time of liberation. At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, Christians remember – often by being marked on the forehead with an ash cross – that we are “dust and to dust we shall return”. In that prayer we remember that we are not perfect, in fact we remember that we are all equal in our ordinariness. But in that, there is liberation. A liberation from trying and striving toward the impossible goal of being perfect – whatever that means – and instead discovering and being who God wants us and loves us to be.

So, I hope and pray that you will not have a perfect Lent. Rather, that you find again in Lent the person God loves and cherishes for who we truly are.

Benjamin

CHURCH NEWS

Lent Learning

Groups will gather during Lent to discuss and deepen faith using a course on the psalms written by the Vicar. The Tuesday afternoon session hosted by Pauline Storey (344436) will start on 3 March at 3 pm and the Tuesday evening session, 7 pm to 8.30 pm, starting on the same date will be hosted by Anne Brunton (344557).

What is Lent?

Lent – originally known in Latin as Quadragesima – is the name of the 40-day period leading up to Holy Thursday, the last Thursday before Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Historically this period would allow for a 40-day fast – with Sundays excluded – in imitation of the so-called Temptation of Christ. After Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, he fasted for 40 days and nights in the Judaeen Desert, during which Satan tried to tempt him. Jesus is said to have rebuffed these attempts for the duration of the Temptation. Christians now often choose to give up specific pleasures such as sweets, alcohol or social media during Lent as a way to foster simplicity and self-control.



God's Tent has continued throughout the year. The last meeting was at Crow Wood, Newbrough and the next will be on 15 March at 3 pm,

pitching to be confirmed. This is a fun way to engage with our church with your youngsters. There is a theme which runs through God's Tent, Messy Church and Storybook Church with appropriate activities. Contact the Vicar (688196) if you would like to come along with your children or if you would like to receive his regular Children and Families Bulletin email.

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.

The Shaftoe Singers

On Friday 13 March at 7.30 pm in Bardon Mill Village Hall the MU are hosting 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. Tickets £5.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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ROTA				
February	Church	Warden	Sidesmen	Flowers*
1 March	Henshaw	C Adams	Y Hewitt L Scott	F Wancke/ L Slater
8 March	Beltingham	A Galbraith	D Palmer D Storrie	C Thompson/ D Furlong
15 March	Beltingham	A Galbraith	L Slater A Mills	“
22 March	Henshaw	A Storrie	D McKenna P Collingwood	J Potts/ S Walker
29 March	Henshaw	C Adams	S Walker Y Hewitt	“
5 April	Henshaw	A Storrie	H Rowlands L Scott	A Galbraith

*** Cleaning only during Lent**

VILLAGE NEWS

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.

Hexham Debates (from 11 to 12.30pm)

Saturday 7 March at St Aidan’s URC at Hencotes, Satbir Singh CEO of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants is giving a talk called ‘People Move!’. How to make migration work for everyone.

Saturday 28 March at St Mary’s RC Church at Hencotes, Rupert Read, Lecturer in Philosophy, is giving a talk on ‘The Eco-spiritual Challenge of our Time: Extinction Rebellion as our last best hope’.

Monday 9 March

Haltwhistle Garden Club - 7.30 pm Comrades Club

A talk by Mike Hughes, Head Gardener of Durham University Botanical Gardens - 'Development of the Gardens'.

Note: we will be visiting the gardens for our next meeting on 6 April.

Outstanding subscriptions are now due.

Tuesday 10 March - South Tyne Wildlife Group – 7.30 pm

Comrades Club - £3 on the door

David Feige, Chief Ecologist for Northumberland County Council, on 'Ecology in Planning and Countryside Issues'.

Wednesday 11 March – WI – 7 pm at the Village Hall

Norman Kirtlan – Forensic Artist. Hostesses: Mary Reed and Jennifer Johnson; Competition: Something Copper; Stall: Chocolate Bring and Buy.

Haltwhistle and District Town Twinning

On Saturday 21 March at 7.30 pm in the Comrades Club

There will be a quiz with a French twist followed by a cheesy raclette supper. £5 - for twinning funds. For more information, contact Hilda Rowlands on 344750 or Anne Brunton on 344557.

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

On **Tuesday 31 March** the film will be **'Bait' (about Cornish fishing)**. Doors open 7 pm. Call Joanna on 684376 for further information.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

On Sunday 5 April at 2 pm at Bardon Mill Village Hall

Highlights presents 'Little Grimm Tales' by Box Tale Soup (for children aged 3+ and their families). What if the wishes were granted? What if the magic were real? A stunning new adaptation of Grimm's most magical tales. Join Box Tale Soup on an adventure with wonderful puppets, innovative theatre and spellbinding original music. Tickets from Geeta on 344424.

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