



THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW

Parish Newsletter March 2021

Worship in our Parish

A Message from our Vicar

Following the announcements made by the Government this week regarding the pathways towards the easing of Lockdown the PCCs of both Parishes have agreed to develop our offering of in person worship. The precise form this will take over the coming weeks, and into Holy Week and Easter, is still coming into focus, but *from this Sunday, February 28, there will be a service of Holy Communion in the Benefice each Sunday beginning this week at 11am at St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge.*

This development must be held within the wider responsibility we have for one another at this time, For this reason we will be maintaining our 9am online Zoom/Facebook service for those who still find that the most appropriate way to worship.

If you would like to come to worship in Church please be aware that the procedures we had in place before Christmas remain in place. This means that we would ask you:

- not come to a service or event if you need to self-isolate. If you have been told to quarantine if you have tested positive, live with someone who has tested positive or had close contact with someone who have tested positive – even if you have no symptoms
- not come to a church service if you are showing even mild symptoms but have not had a COVID19 test result. If you have a high temperature, new continuous cough, or loss of taste or smell do not attend events and seek a test.
- to follow the physical distancing and hygiene advice when you attend a service including mask wearing, hand sanitising, maintaining two-metre distance between household bubbles.



With thanks for your support and ongoing prayers,

More information on how our patterns of Public and At-Home worship will develop over the coming weeks will be shared in due course.

Benjamin

Worship during the vacancy

We will take every opportunity to let parishioners know about plans for Easter services, when Benjamin will still be with us. After Easter, when Benjamin will have moved to Carlisle, there are likely to be further changes in service patterns to take account of the more limited resources available in the Deanery.

Currently, Allendale and Haltwhistle with Greenhead are also in vacancy, and the Area Dean, Rev Jeremy Thompson at St John Lee will have responsibility for oversight of all of these parishes, including ours and Haydon Bridge.

Lent Course

There is an opportunity to participate in a weekly zoom session during Lent, **“Our Journey through the wilderness – meeting God in the Pandemic”**. This takes place on Wednesdays at 7.15 pm via Zoom, with a range of speakers, including Bishop Christine, Very Revd Michael Sadgrove, the author and theologian Paul Hutchinson, and concluding with our own Vicar Benjamin, who will all reflect on the theme of travelling through the wilderness. Please contact Gill Alexander if you would like to take part in these sessions, 07855860824, or g.alexander@btinternet.com

Make a Mothers’ Day

In recent years we have held an annual Coffee Morning in Haydon Bridge Community Centre the day before Mothering Sunday. This year will be different due to the Corona virus which has, as you know, affected countries throughout the world. There is still a need for support for countries, in various parts of the world, where Mothers’ Union is involved with literacy, health and community programmes. We have provided a bicycles for health workers, a sewing machine for a Mum to start her own business, reading and writing schemes for mothers, courses on confidence and public speaking, the list is endless but just drops in the ocean that can make a huge difference. Some of the aims of the Mother’ Union is to help those whose family life has met with adversity, to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in worship, prayer and service.

In the past we have been able to raise three figure sums at these Coffee Mornings, but this will not happen this year. **We would like to continue with the fundraising**, but on a much more limited scale.

If anyone would like to contribute financially, by the end of March, towards our work for the disadvantaged of the world our Treasurer, Bridget Stockdale, would be very happy to hear from you. Her phone number is 01434 344342 and her address is 2 Burnside, Westwood, Bardon Mill, NE47 7JU. Bridget has given her permission for her details to be circulated. There has been evidence of success in the Families Worldwide magazine which is distributed to every member of the Mothers’ Union. The schemes we support are through the Mothers’ Union, which is part of the Anglican community worldwide.

Anne Brunton, Secretary, Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw Mothers’ Union.

Certificate of Thanks

A Certificate of thanks has been received from Bishop Christine, The Rt. Rev’d Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle and Canon Simon Harper, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance for the contribution of Beltingham with Henshaw Parish to the Parish Share for 2020. The financial situation for the Diocese is challenging and the impact of Coronavirus has been significant.

The message from the Bishop reads as follows:-

A warm thank you for your generosity and for achieving your contribution of £26,731 towards the vision we all share of growing church bringing hope to every part of the Diocese of Newcastle. You contributed more than the amount requested from you at a challenging time when it was greatly needed.

In 2020 the cost of the church’s mission and ministry across the diocese was £7.29 million. We recognize that this is increasingly challenging and we value enormously the part each and every parish has played in

contributing a total of £4.04 million towards this work. The remainder was met from the national church, grants, gifts and diocesan reserves.

Thank you again for your continuing commitment, the financial challenges we face are not yet behind us. We look forward to working with you to help strengthen and develop God's work in every community throughout the diocese and to growing church bringing hope together.

May God bless you all."

The certificate will be on the noticeboard at All Hallows' Church, Henshaw when we are able to resume public worship. The Vicar, Churchwardens and the PCC would like to add their thanks to all who helped us to achieve this remarkable contribution to the Parish Share. Bishop Christine has also written personally to the Vicar, saying: "I am writing to thank you personally for offering a Parish Share contribution which not only met, but exceeded the parish share request. I am extremely grateful to you and to your PCC for making the commitment to do this. It is an act of selfless generosity at a time when it is greatly needed. Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to your PCC and to all the people of Beltingham with Henshaw for taking such a positive and inspirational approach."

Quinquennial Review



Our church architect, Christopher Baglee, has recently completed his 5 yearly review of St Cuthbert's Church in Beltingham. These inspections are required under the Inspection and Repair of Churches Care of Churches Measure of 1991. The architect notes that the substantial work done by the PCC and their church architect during the last 50 years has kept the structural fabric of the church in a generally very satisfactory condition. Inevitably, the report goes on to list various tasks that should be tackled, under the headings of urgent work, work within one year, and regular maintenance. One of the urgent tasks suggested is the preparation of a specialist report on the yew tree, which fortunately is underway as a result of the recent visit of the arboriculturalist. If you are interested to read the report in full, please contact Anne Galbraith on 684302, or email at galbraithanne55@gmail.com

Brainteasers

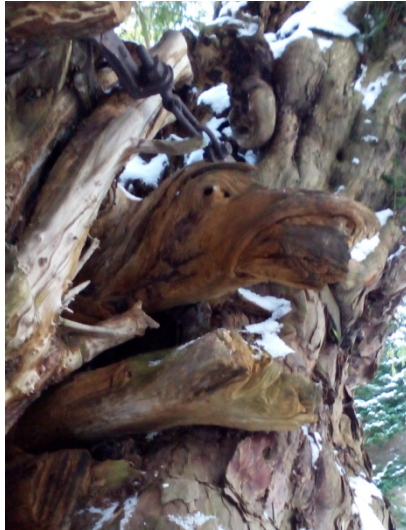
Try these to stir up your grey matter! Answers next month.

I can be written, I can be spoken, I can be faked, I can be broken – what am I?

What sort of coat is best put on wet?

I can fill up a room, but take up no space – what am I? (Please note there are several acceptable answers to this riddle.)

Tree of the Year



One of the bonuses of being a finalist in this year's Woodland Trust Tree of the Year competition is that we benefitted from a visit from an arboriculturalist who will give us a detailed report about the condition of the Yew in St Cuthbert's churchyard in Beltingham, and advise us about future maintenance. I met the arboriculturalist, Luke Steer, at Beltingham, accompanied by Libby Scott who is managing this process for us. Luke was obviously extremely passionate about yew trees, and was able to tell us about many other specimens he had visited, and make a comparison with our own yew, which he clearly admired. We await his report with interest, and will keep you informed of the outcome.

Some wise sayings

Be sure to taste your words before you spit them out.

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground.

Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

The Benson Statue

When you drive into Hexham, do you regularly turn left at the Benson Statue at the end of Beaumont Street? And have you ever stopped to read the inscription on the statue? If you have, you will know that it commemorates Lieutenant Colonel George Elliott Benson who died in 1901 while commanding his column in South Africa during the second Boer War.

Two things might occur to you – who was George Benson and who sculpted the statue? George was born in 1861 at Allerwash Hall, near Newbrough, one of the sons of a family of local landed gentry. He was educated at Harrow, and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1880. He had served in Egypt and Sudan and in other campaigns in Africa before the fateful events that led to his death. Almost as soon as the news of his death became known, a memorial committee was established to raise money by public subscription for the commissioning of a statue. A site was found, and an approach was made to a London sculptor, John Tweed who accepted the commission. His original quotation was for £2000, but in the event only £840 was paid.

When John Tweed approached the task, the original plan had been that the statue would face towards the Abbey and the Market Place, but the sculptor persuaded the committee that it would be better to have it facing south towards the sun. In executing the work, Tweed was advised and assisted by his mentor, Auguste Rodin, the great French sculptor. The statue was eventually unveiled in 1904 by General Lord Methuen who had been Benson's commander. A great crowd watched the event, and the statue was acclaimed for demonstrating Benson's attitude of eager watchfulness.

The statue itself is now a Grade 2 listed monument. There were discussions in 1973 for its removal to Abbey Gardens to alleviate traffic problems, but these talks came to nothing. More recently, a headline in the Hexham Courant in June 2020 indicated that Hexham town councillors were asking for a debate about the monument in the light of the Black Lives Matter movement. One councillor claimed that attitudes had changed considerably since the days of Lt Col Benson's service, and although he did not wish to see the statue removed, he would like to see additional information in a plaque near the statue, to explain empire building and the racism and inhumanity that it involved.

In recent years there have been calls for the monument to be cleaned up. Another town councillor commented that he would welcome a debate on the issue, saying that he questioned whether it was right to spend public money on restoring a monument which has no relevance to modern society.

George may have rested peacefully on his plinth for the last 117 years, and might be surprised to find himself at the centre of such concerns.

Twenty quiz questions – answers next month.

1. Where was Mary Queen of Scots executed?
2. What is the fictional court case at the heart of Bleak House?
3. In what year did Boris Johnson become Mayor of London?
4. Which former military figure became Prime Minister in 1828?
5. Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, is a port on which sea?
6. What is the name of the disease caused by sensitivity to gluten?
7. Who ascended to the throne of Northumberland in 633?
8. Which pudding is made from the starch of the root of the cassava plant?
9. In which year did Charles Lindbergh make the first solo non stop transatlantic flight?
10. What is the French name of the oldest surviving bridge over the Seine in Paris?
11. Which dynasty ruled in Russia for over 300 years until 1917?
12. Which English King was married to Eleanor of Aquitaine?
13. From which book of the Bible does the phrase "by the skin of one's teeth" come?
14. Which city on the Mississippi shares its name with an ancient capital of Egypt?
15. In 1813, which Scottish writer declined the position of poet Laureate?
16. Born in 1697, which British artist lobbied Parliament for laws to safeguard copyright?
17. What does the latin abbreviation "pro tem" mean?
18. Which British artist is famous for her unmade bed?
19. Which horse is the only three times winner of the Grand National?
20. What is Japanese sake made from?

Answers to last month's quiz on British Birds.

1. Found on a chess board (4) Rook
2. Invoice for an item of cutlery (9) Spoonbill

3. When a cat gets up. (9) Kittiwake
4. Could mean a death sentence. (8) Blackcap
5. Small move left or right. (6,4) Little tern
6. Brightly coloured tool. (6,6) Yellow hammer
7. Eating action. (7) Swallow
8. Black and white dog shows pleasure. (4,7) Pied wagtail
9. Call 15 21 26 05 12 (4,5) Ring ouzel
10. Royal angler (10) Kingfisher
11. Shell seized (13) Oyster catcher
12. Difficult to undo. (4) Knot
13. Crimson bird with surprisingly no strings. (3,4) Red Kite
14. Watch out, low flying mollusc. (8) Shelduck
15. Greedy person. (6) Gannet
16. Shave William. (9) Razorbill
17. Hidden gunman does this. (5) Snipe
18. Extra fowl. (7) Moorhen
19. A bit of fun in the air. (7) The answer given was Tumbril, but skylark would do.
20. Street decoration for book worms (4,7) Reed bunting
21. Angry Clinton or Gates. (9) Crossbill
22. Egg-born cashew. (8) Nuthatch
23. Timber rooster. (8) Woodcock
24. Act of theft. (5) Robin
25. Polish part of a car. (7) Waxwing
26. The smile you get from fermented pears. (9) Peregrine
27. Wizard flier (6) Merlin
28. A pastime. (5) Hobby
29. Blustery evening. (11) Nightingale
30. What you might get if you annoy a dog. (7) Bittern
31. Labour vote. (7) Redpoll
32. Scottish musician in the Sahara. (9) Sandpiper
33. Blackpool has one. (6) Dipper
34. Gone mad. (6) Raven
35. Lady sailor. (4) Wren
36. A pebble and a gossip. (9) Stonechat
37. Section of a hill top. (9) Partridge
38. Struggling to get enough air. (6) Puffin
39. Rapid move. (5) Swift
40. Bevy before bedtime. (8) Nightjar
41. Land and travel fee. (9) Fieldfare
42. Argument at health resort. (7) Sparrow
43. Grain husk and twelfth of a foot. (9) Chaffinch
44. Brag about. (4) Crow
45. Sticks to the bottom you fool. (8,5) Barnacle goose
46. Fuel for bad weather. (5,6) Storm petrel
47. Precious hill top. (9) Goldcrest
48. Australia on its knees. (6) Osprey
49. A scarlet knife by the sea. (8) Redshank
50. Who built the house and how did he get in? (7) Jackdaw