



# THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW

## Parish Newsletter November 2021

### Vacancy

Our vacancy was advertised on 8 and 15 October in the Church Times, as well as on the Diocesan website. The closing date for applications is 5 November. In anticipation of a new appointment, the Diocesan property manager has visited the Vicarage in Haltwhistle with the Archdeacon, to see what work is necessary. In the meantime, we continue to be very well supported by retired clergy and readers in our area, resulting in an interesting variety which has been much appreciated by the congregation.

### Service times

31 October 10.30 am All Hallows' Henshaw	Morning Prayer All Saints and All Souls
7 November 10,30 am All Hallows' Henshaw	Eucharist Rev Jan Van der Burg
14 November 10,00 am All Hallows' Henshaw**	Eucharist -Remembrance Sunday Rev Michael Jackson
21 November 10,30 am All Hallows' Henshaw	Eucharist Rev Keith Teasdale
28 November 10,30 am All Hallows' Henshaw	Eucharist Rev Gill Alexander
5 December 10,30 am All Hallows' Henshaw	Eucharist Rev Keith Teasdale

**\*\* Please note time for service on Remembrance Sunday**

### Forthcoming events

The Bowes Hotel in Bardon Mill is restarting their monthly pensioners lunches, beginning on FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER from 12 o'clock. As before, it will take place on the first Friday of the month. There is no need to book and it will be pensioner portions and prices. Come along for good food and a good natter.

On Sunday 28 November, there will be an **Advent Carol Service** at Holy Cross church in Haltwhistle, followed by afternoon tea.

Wednesday 1 December at 2pm in Greenhead village hall, a concert by Robert Whitehead on the accordion. Admission £5 including refreshments.

## **Cafe Scientifique**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December – The Science of Happiness with John Lamont.

Tickets £5 in advance online or from Bardon Mill Village Shop, or £7 on the door (including refreshments). Booking in advance is advised as numbers are limited and you may be turned away.

Please wear a mask and do not attend if you are unwell.

## **Use of the Church Room at All Hallows'**

Room bookings for the Church Room at All Hallows' are now being done by Yvonne Hewitt. You can contact her on 01434 344391 or email [yhewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:yhewitt@btinternet.com) Please note that a number of groups use the church room, so it is essential to keep Yvonne fully informed to avoid double booking. If you are using the room, please ensure that you SWITCH OFF THE HEATERS.

## **Remembrance Sunday**



**Their names are carved in tribute  
to thirty of our sons  
on memorials in Belgium and in France,  
on Tyne Cot, Thiepval, Menin Gate  
and places far across the globe.  
But gathered on our own cross  
upon the village green  
they meet again in brotherhood  
as if they'd all come home.**

**No clock to mark the hour,  
the vicar checks his watch  
and starts the prayers.  
With solemn slow delivery  
two veterans from the Paras  
with their medals and red berets  
read out the names  
before the wreaths are laid.  
miner's son or heir to Ridley Hall.  
But save your full compassion for  
the tragedy and anguish,  
the suffering of the family  
who lost three sons  
in Flanders bloody fields.**

**With thanks to Keith Brunton**



## Wild Flower Meadow

Now that grass cutting has finished for the season in the cemetery at Beltingham, work can begin on creating an area at the lower part of the cemetery which will become a wild flower meadow. This does not happen by itself – we need to plant locally grown plugs of wild flowers and rake in and stamp down seed.

Many hands and feet will make light work of this – **do you want to volunteer? This will take place on Friday November 5 and Saturday November 6 from 9.30am to 1 pm (or until you are tired!)** Please register your willingness to help with either Libby Scott who is leading this project – Tel 344582 or Anne Galbraith – Tel 684302. This is part of our efforts to become a more eco friendly church – your help would be much appreciated. Just come suitably dressed, with your own trowel, spade or bulb planter, and bring a drink and a snack. Don't worry if you have never done anything like this before. It is neither very arduous nor requiring lots of grey matter – we hope it will be a fun event.

## Use of St Cuthbert's Church, Beltingham

During the pandemic, we have kept St Cuthbert's Church in Beltingham closed, except for weddings, baptisms and funerals, and the special service for St Cuthbert in September, when we welcomed back Benjamin and his family. At the next meeting of the PCC later in November, we will be considering reopening St Cuthbert's for normal worship. We will need to be mindful of the restricted parking there, as well as the question of winter weather for access. If you have a view about holding some of our regular services there, then please give your thoughts to a member of the PCC or email the churchwardens.

## Keith Teasdale's Sponsored Walk

Keith writes: "I had decided that I would like to walk the Roman Wall once I retired, and a Friend, Stuart Stokell said he would do it with me as my retirement project. So, we chose the dates and started to prepare ourselves. We did a few walks on various parts of the wall as part of our training. Sometimes accompanied by my Labrador, Sasha. We both thought it would be good to raise money for a worthy cause. Therefore, after discussion we decided to raise money for St Cuthbert's Church, Greenhead to install toilets and servery.





Last week we took on the challenge and completed the walk successfully. We were lucky with the weather as we had only one day of rain. We began early and walked about fifteen miles each day. This meant we could finish by 5.00pm and have each evening to rest.

Both Stuart and I really enjoyed the experience and saw the most stunning scenery that Cumbria and Northumberland have to offer. In addition, we met some lovely people on our journey who each had a story to tell. Everyone we encountered had a ready smile and a warm greeting. There are highlights, but one was the beautiful church at Heaven Field. A true place of sanctuary and a holy place where God's peace and presence was felt. We completed our walk foot sore, tired yes but happy to have been able to walk Hadrian's wonderful wall in this beautiful part of the world.



Thank you to all who have supported us on our journey with your prayers, financial giving, hospitality, and transport. We are still to have a final figure but certainly over £2,000

God Bless Keith"

## Work on the ancient Yew at Beltingham

If you have walked to Beltingham recently you may have seen that we have been having work done on the Yew Tree at the rear of the church. Because we were shortlisted in this year's Tree of the Year competition run by the Woodland Trust, we were awarded £500 which has been spent on thinning out adjacent trees to allow more light to get to the yew, and we were advised in a specialist report to remove the lower metal band, which was now probably doing more harm than good. That work has all now been done, and we are next investigating some new method of supporting the branches, which would allow more of the metal bracing to be removed. This work will however be costly, so nothing more will happen in the short term as we need specialist advice and also we must investigate possible sources of grant funding.



## Harvest reflection

It is all too easy for us to take good things for granted. Harvest thanksgiving is a time to give thanks not only for the harvest, but for all the blessings that we experience in life. The call to be Christian is the call to be thankful people, to be people whose lives are shaped by a sense of gratitude.

The word Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*, "Autumn". It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called Lammas, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which obviously varies in different parts of Britain. Sometimes neighbouring churches will set the Harvest Festival on different Sundays so that people can attend each other's thanksgivings. Farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called a harvest supper and some churches and villages still have a Harvest Supper.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" but also Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

Now, if you travel regularly on our roads, you will often find yourself in a queue of slow moving traffic behind the ponderous majesty of a tractor and trailer, possibly even a convoy of them. At such a time, most of us are probably not singing songs of everlasting thanks and praise to God for his generous provision, nor are we likely to be blessing the farmers for the work they do to put food on our plates. But we could use this time of slow moving traffic as an opportunity for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise. That might help to diffuse the rage building up in you – a moment to thank God for what he gives us, and a reminder to us that as a nation we owe a debt of gratitude to the farmers who most of us take totally for granted.

We have become accustomed to living in a country where national food security has been taken for granted. However, the shortages which developed at the start of the pandemic, and now the empty shelves caused by shortage of lorry drivers, act as a reminder to us that we should be more mindful of impacts such as climate change, or global enterprise, or political mismanagement. When we are stuck behind the tractor, we also should ask ourselves if we would like to change our life and become a farmer – if you have lived near a working farm, you cannot help but be aware of the range of skills needed to be successful, and the unsocial hours when some of the work has to be done – just think of combine harvesters working late into the night, or lambing sheds all through the night. And out in all weathers – so when you are tucked up in front of the TV and a roaring fire, the farmer is probably out working. And of course, our food supply is not only dependent on farmers, but also the food processors, the delivery drivers and those who cook it – I just wanted to get a plug in here for those of us who slave over the stove!

Thinking so much about food does bring to mind the story of Joseph in the Bible. It was Joseph's brothers who did most of the work in bringing the food to the table, while Joseph himself lived comfortably with his father in Hebron, a consumer rather than a producer. But later in the story, it is his gifts of planning and foresight that brings food in times of famine. The Egyptian famine of the story of Joseph is a reminder to us that all harvests are vulnerable – to drought, to flooding, to frost. And in some countries, a failed harvest still brings famine. So we shouldn't forget our interdependence. Without the rural, the urban would starve, but without the urban, the rural would

not find markets for their produce. We shouldn't stereotype urban and rural populations – they need each other.

When I was thinking about a reflection for Harvest, I was checking some facts about food production and discovered an amazing thing – did you know that a third of all chips are produced by McCains, based in Scarborough? All the potatoes used are grown in the UK, and are planted with a mechanical planter. Once they are ready to be harvested, they are lifted by machine and taken to the chipping factory, which is the largest employer in Scarborough. They process 1200 tons of potatoes every day, blasting the skins off with steam, and then forcing them through a grid of blades to cut them into chips to be fried and frozen, and then delivered throughout the land. So when next you are enjoying a frozen chip, reflect with gratitude for a moment on its journey to your plate.

We might ask therefore, what is the significance of harvest for us, in an age where we are more divorced from how our food is produced. Well, we can find ways to share when we have plenty – donations to the food bank are one example. We can act in ways that avoid waste – the figures for how much food we throw away each year are staggering. We can grow our own – some of us with more success than others, and I would have to say it can be a very frustrating process but sheer joy when it works well. And we can remember that land and water are a God given source of our well being, for which we can praise God from whom all blessings flow.

## **Church Fundraising**

Philippa Collingwood has been developing her home-made cards for all occasions in aid of the church, and is happy to accept commissions. Personalised birthday cards for milestone birthdays are popular, as are the Labradors, new sheep and new 'lockdown' range. She has an upcoming stall at Haltwhistle's Masonic Hall on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup>, between 10am and 4pm, but can be contacted anytime on 01434 344119.



## **Can you sing?**

Holy Cross Church in Haltwhistle are forming a Benefice choir led by Janet Lord. They have members from both Greenhead and Holy Cross and have extended an invitation to any of our church members who would like to join them. If you are interested, please speak to Anne Galbraith.

## **Co-op soft plastic recycling**

From the Co-op's website: "Great news! You can now recycle soft plastics like crisp packets and bread bags at a Co-op near you. It doesn't matter where you bought them. Just pop your soft plastics into our recycling units and we'll do the rest. It means we can all do our bit for the environment." And the store in Haltwhistle is one of the 1,500 shops participating in this scheme.

## **Contact information**

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