

The Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw

Parish Newsletter November 2022



View from the Vicarage November 2022

A greenhouse is hardly the sort of picture you'd think topical for November, but we've been amazed at how many people have been noticing its progress – you wouldn't think we live down a dead end road with nobody passing! Now you can see it is ready! Woo woo! From ordering it took three months to arrive, and then with one thing and another it's taken me three months to put it together. But I *have* put it together and in time before the deadline of winter frosts and so on!

Having your life together before the final deadline is important and of course this month is a poignant time for remembering that. We have All Saints and All Souls, Remembrance, and then will finish the month with Advent Sunday, the feast day we mark/celebrate an event we don't yet know the date of. Some people like the joke about old people reading the bible a lot – 'swotting for their finals'. Of course, it's not knowing the bible that is the main thing, or even the date, but knowing and walking with God, though I recommend reading the bible as well, especially the gospels.



Before the Queen's funeral I gave all the school children in our church schools a candle, explaining that sometimes people light a candle for someone as a kind of prayer in itself. When you don't know what to say but know you want to speak or simply be with God, sometimes it can help to light a candle – a way of saying, 'I don't know quite what to say to you God, but I'm thankful for life and want your peace at this moment'. As the flame flickers silently in that still space, it can be easier to receive the peace from God that he wants to give, and with that, to gain the resolve to get up and live as you knew you wanted to. May the peace of God be with you, and as the autumn chill turns winterish, may the warmth of God fill your heart with the good news of his love.

Armistice Day – Remembrance Sunday

The first Armistice Day was held at Buckingham Palace, commencing with King George V hosting a "Banquet in Honour of the President of the French Republic" during the evening hours of 10 November 1919. The first official Armistice Day events were subsequently held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace on 11 November 1919. This would set the trend for a day of Remembrance for decades to come.

In 1919, a two minute silence was proposed and thereafter, people have observed a one or two-minute silence at 11:00 am local time. It is a sign of respect for the roughly 20 million people who died in the war. Where a two minute silence is observed, it is dedicated to the living left behind, generally understood to be wives, children and families affected by the conflict. In Britain, beginning in 1939, the two-minute silence was moved to the Sunday nearest to 11 November in order not to interfere with wartime production, should 11 November fall on a weekday.

Our Remembrance Service is 10 am at Henshaw Church at the end of which we will make our way to the War Memorial in Bardon Mill for a short service there at 11am. You are very welcome to both.

Church Service Times for All Hallows', Henshaw November 2022

	Time	Service	Service Leader
6 November, 3rd before Advent			
Henshaw	10 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Rev'd Keith Teasdale
13th November, 2nd before Advent Remembrance Sunday			
Henshaw	10am 11am	Holy Communion followed by service at the War Memorial	Rev'd Keith Teasdale
20th November, Last before Advent			
Henshaw	11am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Steve Wright
27th November, Advent Sunday			
Henshaw	11am	Morning Worship	Anne Galbraith and Carol Adams
4th December, 2nd Sunday of Advent Benefice Holy Communion with Rev'd Steve Wright Holy Cross, Haltwhistle at 10 am			
Please note that there is a service of Holy Communion every Thursday at Holy Cross Haltwhistle at 10 am.			
Morning Prayer is streamed via Parishesbythewall Facebook at 9 am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.			

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From the Registers:

Burial: John Francis Bowes Lyon at St Cuthbert's Churchyard, Beltingham on 19 October.

Mothers' Union

2 November at 2.30 pm in Henshaw Church Room, "Advent Pot Pourri" with Mr John Cox

7 December, to be confirmed, Deanery Advent Service

Carol Service at All Hallows', Henshaw

Our Carol Service this year will be on Sunday December 18th at 11 am. This will be a very nice service with traditional readings and carols, to which you may wish to invite friends and neighbours. Along with coffee after the service, we will be serving a hot mulled drink with mince pies – an occasion not to be missed.

Stir-up Sunday

This is an informal term in the church for the last Sunday before Advent. It gets its name from the beginning of the collect for the day which begins with the words, "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people". Over time it became associated with the custom of making the Christmas puddings on that day. The Christmas pudding is an essential tradition and is said to have been introduced to Britain by Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. The collect of the day serves as a useful reminder to get stirring.

St Hilda, Abbess of Whitby

November 18th is the day in the church calendar when we remember St Hilda. The Venerable Bede, writing about St Hilda, said: "She spent her first thirty-three years living most nobly in the secular habit, and more nobly dedicated the remaining half to our Lord in the monastic life. She was of noble birth, being the daughter of Hereric, nephew to King Edwin; in Edwin's company she received the faith and mysteries of Christ at the preaching of Paulinus of blessed memory, the first bishop of the Northumbrians, and she preserved her faith undefiled until she was rewarded with the sight of Him in heaven."

"Her wisdom was so great that not only ordinary people, but even kings and princes sometimes asked for and received her advice; she obliged those who were under her direction to devote so much time to the study of the Holy Scriptures, and to exercise themselves so much in works of justice, that there might be no difficulty in finding many there who were fit for ecclesiastical duties, that is for the service of the altar."

"All who knew Abbess Hild, the handmaid of Christ, called her Mother because of her outstanding piety and grace. She was not only an example of holy life to those who lived in her monastery, but provided an opportunity for repentance and salvation to many who lived far away who heard the happy news of her diligence and virtue."

In the later years of her life, Hilda was afflicted by a feverish illness, and she died in 680 at the age of sixty six. She was a very important figure in the history of the Church. She presided over the Synod of Whitby which decided that the English Church would celebrate Easter according to the Roman calendar instead of the Celtic one.

Calling all Fallen Leaves!

If any of you have any quantity of fallen leaves from your garden this autumn, please would you consider bagging them up and bringing to Henshaw churchyard. In the far south east corner, nearest the school boundary, there are 2 bays to receive leaves. These piles will get rotted down and after 12 -18 months will be transferred to Beltingham to spread around our ancient yew trees. This "top dressing" does several things: it increases the soil organic matter thus increasing the water holding capacity around the tree, and improves aeration helping reduce compaction of the root area, especially when there is trampling as people come to look at the yew. Shortage of air in the soil leads to unhealthy roots, and these trees need all the help we can give them.

Leaf litter has little in the way of nutrients in it, but brings huge benefits for soil improvement, and soil fauna.

Only one rule applies if you are helping by bringing your leaves; please, only deciduous leaves, no conifers or hedge trimmings, and please take any bags away. Any children, in reality or at heart, can jump up and down on the heaps to speed up the settling down!

If you can't get leaves to the churchyard, phone Libby on 01434 344582 , leave your number, and I'll collect.

Parish newsletter

Now that our new benefice (Greenhead, Haltwhistle and Beltingham with Henshaw) has had some time to settle, it seems a good point at which to consider amalgamating our newsletter into the "Outlook" newsletter currently containing information about Greenhead and Haltwhistle. The PCC has this under active consideration, and it is likely that the change will take place from February next year. If you receive this newsletter by email, you will instead

receive "Outlook" in the same way. If someone prints this newsletter for you, we are looking at ways to ensure that you will still receive a copy.

Volunteers wanted

Would you be interested to become one of our intercessors at services? Steve is very keen to encourage those who would like to play a part in our services, and we would give help and support to anyone who would like to take up this opportunity. Please speak to one of the wardens if you would like to become involved, and they will be able to point you in the direction of help and support in undertaking this role.

Superfast Broadband

If you have taken a walk around Beltingham recently, you may have noticed the vans of the B4RM installers of superfast broadband. It transpired that churches could have a free connection, so we have taken advantage of this and installed it in St Cuthbert's Beltingham. This means that if we have weddings or funerals or baptisms, we can stream the service live to those who cannot attend, and indeed it would be possible to stream any normal services there. Much of the leg work about getting people signed up and helping with aspects of the installation has been done by volunteers, and we are immensely grateful for the efforts of John Prenderville and Graham and Polly Shore for their work on our behalf.

Shepherds Dene:

A day of prayer and reflection led by Rev'd Gill Alexander will be held on Monday 28 November, 10 am to 3.30 pm. Cost £25 includes morning coffee, a light lunch and afternoon tea with cake. If you would like to book a place, please contact Yvonne Hewitt, yhewitt@btinternet.com

Bowes Lyon Trust

Small grants can be made by the Bowes Lyon Trust to people within our parish who face hardship or a sudden emergency. You can apply by calling Nigel Collingwood, the secretary to the Trust in confidence on 344119.

Bardon Mill Parish Council

The Parish Council meets in the church Room at All Hallows', Henshaw. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can take part in the Annual Parish Meeting at a date to be announced for 2023. Future dates for Council meetings: 13 December and 14 February.

St Andrew's Day

This is celebrated on November 30 each year. St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, although it is not entirely clear why this should be. One story says that in the 9th Century, King Angus of Scotland was preparing for a battle against the English, and St Andrew appeared to him in a dream, promising him victory. On the day of the battle a X symbol appeared in the sky, which was the symbol of St Andrew, so the King vowed that if they won, he would make St Andrew the patron saint of Scotland, and that is what happened.

CHURCH CONTACTS - Vicar: Rev'd Canon Steve Wright, 01434 320215, canonstevewright@gmail.com

Mrs Anne Galbraith, Telephone 684302 Email galbraithanne55@gmail.com

Mr Adrian Storrie, Telephone 344494 Email adetree@btinternet.com

A reminder that summer time ends on the weekend of 29/30 October.