

The Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw

Parish Newsletter October 2022



View from the Vicarage October 2022

At the time of writing, we are preparing for the funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth and the news is full of pageantry and eulogising. At the time of reading, I don't know, but it may feel like all that is long gone and although we may share memories still, most of us are getting on with the new era by now. How quickly we move on, not least because there are things to do, like preparing for our Harvest Thanksgivings which if you didn't attend, have probably happened already! Of course, the church has special days and seasons for remembering the past, and as it happens, this month we will be preparing for Halloween, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day services. Remembering the past is very important. Learning from the past, more important still. All Saints and All Souls are days we celebrate the great deeds and lives of those who have died and one of the things we learn from this is that our days also are numbered and it's good to be prepared.



Over the last few years I'd been working with my dad to help sort out his financial affairs so that now he can't do it any more, it isn't too complicated for the family to deal with. We have realised that it would have been better to think before now about gifts so that they don't become taxable! Still, he's doing what he can and I'm glad he has such a character as to want to think about it. The modern age we live in is unusual for not really having death as an ever present reality in our homes and it means that we don't think about it much, but it's been a good exercise to think about practicalities while my dad is still able to talk about them. If you have never talked with your children or, if you have no children, your friends, about what you want to happen if ever you can't manage, then doing it sooner rather than later is better!

My dad has been able to think about gift aiding his giving to his church while he still pays tax, and even about making provision for a legacy when his great day comes. He has found it a relief to be able to do something practical to begin to sort out his affairs in advance, and I am thankful to God that although we have not been able to help with the physical affects of his ageing, we have been able to give him the gift of some peace of mind all the same.

So whether your mind is full of Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles III, Harvest Thanksgivings, or All Saints/All Souls' Day, nurture yourself with thankfulness for God's provision, comfort in times of loss, and the hope for the future made known in Jesus Christ.



Thank you for the life of The Queen,
for her service to our nation,
and for her faith in You.

Be close to all of us who mourn,
that we may we find comfort and hope
in Your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church Service Times for St Cuthbert's, Beltingham and All Hallows', Henshaw October 2022

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Sunday, 2 October At 10 am | St Cuthbert's, Greenhead *** | Benefice Eucharist | Rev Steve Wright |
| Sunday 9 October 11 am | All Hallows', Henshaw | Holy Communion | Rev Steve Wright |
| Sunday 16 October 11 am | All Hallows', Henshaw | Holy Communion | Rev Keith Teasdale |
| Sunday 23 October 11 am | All Hallows', Henshaw | Holy Communion | Rev Steve Wright |
| Sunday 30 October 11 am | All Hallows', Henshaw | All Saints/All Souls *** Holy Communion | Rev Steve Wright |

*** Please note that the service on 2 October will be at Greenhead at 10 am.

*** For the All Saints/All Souls service, please let us have the names of any of your loved ones that you would like to remember on this day. Nearer the time, there will be a sheet in church for adding names.

Please note that there is a service of Holy Communion every Thursday at Holy Cross Haltwhistle at 10 am.

Morning Prayer is streamed every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 am on Facebook.

From the Registers

Baptism: Emily Heppell at St Cuthbert's, Beltingham on September 11.

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.

Mothers' Union

On 26 October, at 2.30 pm in Henshaw Church Room – Holy Communion conducted by Rev Dr John Harrison, and Members Meeting.

Deanery Conference

There is a Deanery Conference, open to all, at Holy Cross, Haltwhistle on **Saturday 1 October at 10 am**, to consider questions about the cost of living crisis arising at these challenging times, addressing the question “what are the social and economic challenges which face your community?”

News from our School

We have had a great start to another school year at Henshaw Primary School. The children have returned refreshed and eager to get back and the teachers have been hard at work making all areas in the school fantastic places to learn. We have enjoyed giving the children opportunities to present their own Science work as part of our Science Fair and

we are looking forward to our Harvest Assembly at Henshaw Church on Friday 7th September (9:30am, all welcome to attend, donations will be given to the West Tyne Food Bank). This year, we hope to be performing a Remembrance celebration on the 5th November and a Christingle service in December - I'm sure Christmas will be here before we know it! We are very blessed to have Reverend Steve Wright delivering some of our collective worship assemblies this year and look forward to continuing to work with our local community.

Best wishes to all, from Mr Glenton

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

Lindisfarne Gospels

The Gospels are on display at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle, and the Vicar and his wife are planning to go on Friday 14 October. If you would be interested to see the Gospels with them, please contact the Vicar, canonstevewright@gmail.com

Wild flower meadow at St Cuthbert's, Beltingham

The meadow at Beltingham churchyard has now been cut and cuttings removed for the final time this season. We have about 60 plug plants all grown on in pots which need to be planted out; Devil's bit, Greater Burnet and Betony. If anyone would like to help, we are meeting on **Monday 10 October at 2.30pm**. Bring your own tools, (a small spade and fork are perhaps the best tools). We will hope that they won't need watering in by then!

Cafe Scientifique

Tuesday, 1 November, Professor Herbie Newell will speak about the progress in the fight against cancer, from a personal perspective. The causes of cancer, current statistics on incidence and survival and progress in prevention, early detection and treatment will be addressed. Emeritus Professor at Newcastle University, Prof Newell was the founding Scientific Director of the Northern Institute for Cancer Research, and he has contributed to the discovery and development of six licensed anti cancer drugs. A link to tickets is below, some also in the village shop. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardon-mill-henshaw-village-hall->

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.

Harvest Reflection

Here we are, for our Harvest Festival service, in a church full of good things, an abundance. It reminds me of the song from the musical Oliver – “Food, glorious food”. We are here to give thanks for it, and to remind ourselves how fortunate we are to have good food readily available to us, to be well fed, to enjoy choice and plenty – but it hasn’t always been so, it certainly wasn’t the case for poor little Oliver Twist and it is not a stable situation in many countries in the world. Do you remember that news clip that was shown over and over again at the start of the Covid pandemic, when things we took for granted in the shops – flour, pasta, loo rolls were suddenly in short supply or unavailable, and a poor NHS worker, coming off shift late in the evening, found there was nothing left to buy. And if you ever see scenes on TV of food aid being distributed in countries suffering from famine, the jostling and jockeying to get to the front of the queue, often for pitifully small amounts of food, bring home to us how fortunate we are.

And of course, it is not only panic buying that makes for shortages – think of the biblical plagues visited on Egypt because the Pharaoh would not set the Israelites free. There were 10 plagues, including blood, where the water in the rivers turned to blood, hail which crushed all the crops, locusts which ate the crops, darkness which did not allow the crops to grow, and even a plague of boils – it was recorded that the Pharaoh had boils on the soles of his feet! We might think that a plague of locusts or boils is unthinkable here – but what about our recent very hot weather and ensuing water shortages, or the impact of Covid affecting food production – and although Covid produced a very wide range of symptoms, I don’t think boils on the soles of your feet was one of them.

Every week when we come to church, we are reminded of the significance of food and drink in our communion service. We hear the words repeated about the breaking of the bread – and indeed we even sometimes sing about it – what about Bread is blessed and broken, or Bread of Heaven? And we pray about it too – Give us this day our daily bread. We regularly hear stories in the Bible about food – famously, the feeding of the five thousand, but many other references – what about the Last Supper? There are some wonderful quotations from Genesis that focus our minds on the biblical importance of food – “Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.” And Ecclesiastes 9:7 tells us to “Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.” The bible often reminds us about people offering hospitality to others, for example in Nehemiah: “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared.”



Think too of those times when we try to show our love through making someone’s special food, or the pleasure that comes from offering hospitality, whether that be a cheese sandwich or a blow out feast. We are reminded in Proverbs that “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

When we gather together for a feast, at those times, it can be important to say a grace to remember our good fortune – something such as “Bless, O Lord, This food to our use, And us to your service, And keep us ever mindful Of the needs of others. In Jesus' Name, Amen”. And as we survey the groaning table, and we reflect about the needs of others, it behoves us to remember that their situation may be compounded by shortages and famine. As we currently watch the efforts being made to get grain shipped out of Ukraine, we are reminded of the international dependencies for food – much of that grain would be taken to Africa where it is urgently needed. There are countries in Africa which regularly suffer from crop failures and resulting famine. Seeing images of children with limbs as thin as pencils is distressing, and it was therefore something of a miracle when a French man invented a food – plumpinut – which can be used as a treatment for emergency malnutrition cases. It is a combination of peanut paste, vegetable oil and milk powder, and contains sugar, vitamins and dietary minerals. The product is easy for children to eat because it comes packed in a tear open package from which they can suck it out. It has a shelf life of two years and needs no water, preparation or refrigeration. It can be administered without medical supervision and provides calories and essential nutrients that restore bodyweight and health in

severely malnourished children. One very odd thing about it is that it does not give rise to peanut allergies. Of course, this is not the answer to every aspect of food shortages – but it might cause us to reflect that we should do all we can to avoid food waste. The figures about the amount of food waste across the world are staggering, and 60% of it is from households, with 25 % from catering and food service, and the rest from retail. That household waste figure is really worrying, and when something does have to be thrown away, the only slight salve to my conscience is if it goes onto the compost heap. This is also a good time of year to remember all of those involved in our food production – the growers and harvesters, the packers and processors, the importers, the deliverers, the shop keepers and the cafes, pubs and restaurants that we all like to patronise. As we have grown up, one thing that is striking about the food choices we can make is the variety of foodstuffs that are now available to us. Many of us will have kitchen shelves groaning with cookbooks, and TV serves up a fairly constant stream of cookery programmes. We eat out far more than previous generations, and we can sample cuisine from countries across the world. So in our reflection about food, there is much to be thankful for. And we should recall the words of Jesus: “It is written; Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God”. Anne Galbraith

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 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.

A successful fundraising event

Thank you to Mrs Dickinson for hosting our wine and nibbles party on September 8th, when we raised £710 for church funds.

Donations for the Food Bank

Our box collection for the West Northumberland Food Bank is out again in the porch for your donations. It is likely that the food bank will be called on to an even greater extent to meet the needs of those worst affected by the rising cost of living. Nigel Collingwood will ensure that everything donated is taken to the food bank premises.

Grandparents’ Day

Did you know that October 2 is designated in our church calendar as Grandparents’ Day? There are some lovely quotes to be found about grandparents – “Grandparents have silver in their hair and gold in their hearts”. Or how about “Parents know a lot but grandparents know everything”. And a germ of truth captured in “Just about the time a woman thinks her work is done, she becomes a grandmother.”

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.