

The Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw

Parish Newsletter September 2022



View from the Vicarage

September 2022

This month starts with a joint service of our two St. Cuthbert's congregations meeting together in Beltingham on Sunday 4th September at 11am. With the sound and smell of the trees and surrounding countryside there it can all seem quite romantic to some, and I've met people in Beltingham who have travelled many miles just to see our ancient yew. It always seems very peaceful there but the yew tree (pictured) has seen both good and troubled times to be sure! The Bowes-Lyon link might be fresh in our minds but there have been some famous Riddleys and other grand folk associated with this church and I am grateful for all those who have contributed to its care over the years.

It takes a lot to care for a church and to nurture the people that worship there. Just as the changing seasons help create and maintain the huge variety in nature around us, so the timetable of significant Autumn events, Harvest, Remembrance, and Advent, nurture those who participate with thankfulness for God's provision, comfort in times of loss, and hope for the future. I hope you will come, and that you, like the trees, will grow in the presence of God. For some that will be active growing, for others of more established faith it will be regularly showing leaves in due season. I mentioned the smell of the trees and countryside in Beltingham and wonder what would make a church smell welcoming and people I've talked to about it come up with different answers – incense, musty books, flowers, coffee.



We've got a warm welcome, waiting for you every week 😊. Haltwhistle 9.30am, and Henshaw and Greenhead 11am (except on the 4th when it's Beltingham!)

An Invitation

You are most welcome to join us for our special service on 4th September at 11am, with special readings and hymns to celebrate the life of St Cuthbert. Here is a picture of his gold and garnet pectoral cross, which was buried with him. The



centre part opened and could contain a tiny relic. It was taken from his tomb in the early 19th Century, and was subsequently repaired and restored by the British Museum in the late 1930's. It is on display at Durham Cathedral, along with other treasures of St Cuthbert.

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

Sunday, 4 September, 11am	St Cuthbert's, Beltingham***	Holy Communion and celebration of the life of St Cuthbert	Rev Steve Wright
Sunday 11 September 11 am	All Hallows', Henshaw	Holy Communion	Rev Steve Wright
Sunday 18 September 11 am	All Hallows', Henshaw	Holy Communion	Rev Keith Teasdale
Sunday 25 September 11 am	All Hallows', Henshaw	Harvest Celebration	Anne Galbraith and Carol Adams
Sunday 2 October At 10 am	St Cuthbert's, Greenhead	Benefice Eucharist	Rev Steve Wright

*** For the service at St Cuthbert's, Beltingham, please park in the cemetery.

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

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

From the Registers:

9 August at All Hallows', Henshaw, a funeral service for Thomas Dobson, following burial in Corbridge.

14 August at All Hallows', Henshaw, baptism of Harvey Lumsden

Mothers' Union

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union is on **28 September** at 2.30 pm in Henshaw Church Room, when the Rev Keith Teasdale will speak about the Role of an Army Padre.

Cafe Scientifique

Tuesday 6th September, doors open at 7 pm for a 7.15 pm start, a talk on the Science of Happiness with John Lamont - motivational coach, speaker, engineer and teacher. So, what is happiness, how do we come by it and, vitally, how do we hold on to it? In this talk, John Lamont will present the most recent research into the Science of Happiness and how to harness it. A link to tickets is below, some also in the village shop. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardon-mill-henshaw-village-hall->

Tuesday, 1 November, Professor Herbie Newell will speak about the progress in the fight against cancer, from a personal perspective.

Haltwhistle Garden Club - 12 September A talk by Bill Devonshire on Gardens of the "Noble North".

Email Lynn Clemitson for more details: lynnclemitson@gmail.com or Tel: 07714 57377

Haltwhistle walking festival – Are you new to walking and unsure of your limits? Do you wonder if you could walk 4 or 5 miles or further? Would you like to find out more about Festival Walking? Here is the perfect opportunity to find out exactly what you are capable of in a friendly and supportive environment. To find out more about what's on offer, take a look at their website: www.haltwhistlewalkingfestival.org



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 Date for your Diary

The Church is holding a fundraising wine and nibbles event, by kind permission of Mrs Mary Dickinson at Crow Hall Mill on Thursday 8 September, 6.30 pm to 8 pm

Tickets £10 each from Yvonne Hewitt, Tel: 344391

Hilda Rowlands writes "What's in a name?"

When I first started attending Henshaw Church, I was thrilled to see the stained glass window dedicated to St Hilda. I always like to get to church early so that I have a time to sit quietly and think about things and to "say hello" to St Hilda in her window. An added bonus is that the opposite window depicts Ruth - one of my favourite characters in the Bible.

I wasn't meant to be called Hilda, my mother went into labour on a Saturday evening, no one could find the midwife as she'd gone off to play Bridge! My father eventually brought his sister along to help with the birth – even though she had no experience – and I was safely delivered. As she was called Hilda, I was named after her. From then on, she was known in the family as "big Hilda" and I was "little Hilda". In actual fact, I couldn't have been called after anyone better. She was a true Christian lady who spent her life helping others.

When I was small, people used to mention "Hilda Baker" who was a comedian on television in the fifties. Then I was compared to "Hilda Ogden" who was very loud and uncouth on Coronation Street! So as a child, I didn't really like my name and wanted to be called Louise! Nowadays, I'm quite happy with my name. We have friends in France through Haltwhistle Town Twinning who just cannot pronounce Hilda – it comes out as "Eeel-daaa" no matter how hard I try to get them to pronounce the "H".

At the moment I'm reading a historical novel called "Cuthbert of Farne" by Katharine Tiernan. It's not an easy read, but it's interesting and St Hilda plays a big part in it. She was the founding Abbess of the monastery at Whitby. It is said that she was famous for her "steady hand and great wisdom". She was consulted by kings and princes and yet provided nurture for the local community surrounding the Abbey. Bede describes Hilda as a mother figure "All who knew her called her mother because of her outstanding devotion and grace" So, after all, being called after St Hilda is quite an honour.

Names are interesting and anyone who is a parent knows how difficult it is to choose a name. What about your name? Would anyone else like to tell us how they were given their name?

St Cuthbert's Church Beltingham – a brief history

As our service on 4 September is to be held at St Cuthbert's in Beltingham, you may like to be reminded about some of its key features and history. It is a lovely late 15th Century, Grade 1 listed church, with outstanding stained glass windows, considered amongst the finest in Northumberland. A Guide book is available, and conducted tours can be arranged through the wardens.

The church was renovated in 1812 and 1884, and remains in excellent condition. It is built in the Perpendicular style and named after St Cuthbert who was thought to have preached here, and whose body rested overnight here when fleeing the Vikings after 875. The bell was installed in 1884, and was made by John Warner and Son of Cripplegate, London. The lychgate was donated by the Hon. Francis Bowes-Lyon, together with land adjoining in 1904. The organ was a gift from the Dowager Countess of Crawford. Harrison and Harrison built it and still service it.

Box pews were in place before the current pews were installed, their wood was reused as panelling, and some of the doors survived with their numbers on them. The altar window was made by the renowned Charles Eamer Kemp, and installed in 1891. The stone window-frame has no keystone at the top, and is called a depressed arch. How does the window stay up? The support comes from the fine tracery of stonework under the arch. Three of the other stained glass windows are thought to be by Kemp's pupils, and of fine quality, as is the modern stained glass one by Leonard Evetts with pictures in squares. Two of the windows commemorate the survival of relatives of the Bowes Lyons in an early motor car accident in 1904.



There is a metal-grated squint in the chancel and two stoneworks (pedestal brackets) either side of the East window and the vestry window frame are thought to date from the 12th century. The original doorway is blocked by a possible Viking grave cover, above which is an unusual grotesque mask. The medieval stone font was probably used for the baptism of Bishop Nicholas Ridley, who was burnt at the stake in Oxford in 1555, along with Latymer. "On this night, Master Ridley, we shall light such a fire as will never go out."

A large yew tree on the North side of the churchyard could be at least 2000 years old. The churchyard contains a Roman Altar, a Saxon Cross, and arrowhead scratches on the wall nearby. There is something special about this ancient and quiet corner of Northumberland, with a real feeling of spirituality. Do come and enjoy it.

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.

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

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