



## THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW

### Parish Newsletter June 2021

#### Visit of Bishop Christine

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Christine on 16 May, when she presided over our Eucharist service, with a full church within Covid guidelines. As many churches had missed out on their normal Ascension Day services, Bishop Christine took the opportunity, ahead of Pentecost, to reflect on the Ascension. She began her sermon by quoting from the book, "The Woodland Gospels according to Captain Beaky and his band", which she told us is now out of print, but which she searches for in charity shops in order to be able to give copies to her grandchildren. The quotation dealt with where is heaven? Upwards or sideways? This was a splendid introduction into a most thoughtful and insightful sermon. The whole occasion was infused with the wonderful openness and friendliness of Bishop Christine, who went on after the service to enjoy coffee at the village shop. Here is a lovely photograph, to remember this splendid day.



#### Bishop Alec RIP

During Bishop Christine's visit to us, she shared the news of the death of Bishop Alec, reminding us of some of his great strengths. One enduring feature for all who knew Bishop Alec was his wonderful relationship with his black Labrador Zillah. I had the occasion to interview him for the BBC, when I went to the Bishop's House in Gosforth. Invited to settle myself with my recording equipment in his study, I sat on an old and comfortable brown leather settee, where the arms of it had had many repairs, mainly consisting of applications of every imaginable colour of insulating tape. No sooner had I sat down than Zillah, then quite a young dog, leapt up on to my lap, and thereafter, the interview was conducted with me manipulating the very cumbersome BBC equipment around a warm bundle of contentment.

#### From the Registers:

27 May 2021 At St Cuthbert's, Beltingham, Following a short service, burial of ashes of Elaine Brown.

## **Our Curate, Gill Alexander**

It is with very great pleasure that we can tell you that Revd Gill Alexander has now “graduated” from her curacy with flying colours, and has been nominated as Associate Priest to our Benefice. Gill is conducting services on the second Sunday of each month at Haydon Bridge and on the fourth Sunday of each month at Henshaw, as well as undertaking funeral, wedding and baptism duties. We congratulate Gill on this important stage in her ministerial progress, and give thanks for her continued work with us in our parishes by the wall.

## **Possible realignment of Parishes**

In discussion with the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne and the lay chair of the Deanery Synod, there has been a proposal that Beltingham with Henshaw should become aligned with Haltwhistle and Greenhead Parishes, so that in the re-advertising for a new incumbent, the role may have greater appeal to candidates, as it would become a full time role. We recognise the struggles which Greenhead and Haltwhistle have been having in recruiting, and also take full notice of the work which has been done by the Deanery in flagging up the likelihood that there would be fewer clergy across the Deanery. Such a new alignment would mean a break from our current benefice arrangements with Haydon Bridge, who are also being consulted on a possible realignment with St John Lee.

We are now taking forward these discussions at our PCC, but if you would like to register any points of concern, then please email the churchwarden, Anne Galbraith, on [galbraithanne55@gmail.com](mailto:galbraithanne55@gmail.com) or telephone 684302.

## **News from our PCC meeting held on Tuesday 18 May**

The PCC has resolved to maintain the current timing of Sunday services – 10.30 am – through August, and will revisit this matter at our meeting in July, to determine the pattern from September. We also set up a small working party to begin the work of preparing a parish profile, to aid the recruitment of the next Vicar.

## **Thankfulness for vaccination – a reflection**

Sharing scarce resources – Edward Jenner

The theme of Sharing scarce resources is something that is very topical as we consider how the available supplies of vaccine against Covid 19 should be shared. It's no surprise that we can always think of reasons why we can't share just yet – but the man most associated with pioneering vaccination, Edward Jenner, always wanted vaccination to be free at the point of delivery, available to everyone, no matter who they were or where they were from – so perhaps there are some lessons there for us today.

How much do you know about Edward Jenner? He was a family doctor from Gloucestershire, and he had observed that milkmaids working in the countryside around his hometown of Berkeley had remarkably clear complexions and were never afflicted by the scars of the feared disease smallpox. When he asked about this, he was told that they had all contracted cowpox in the course of their work and it was this that protected them from smallpox. So Jenner decided to try and experiment, and when a patient consulted him about the cowpox blisters she had acquired after milking a cow named Blossom, the doctor acted quickly. Using pus from her lesions, he deliberately infected the eight-year-old son of his gardener, first with cowpox and as expected, the boy contracted cowpox. Once his fever subsided, Jenner then attempted to inoculate him using live smallpox. To everyone's relief, the boy did not contract smallpox. Jenner's theory had been correct and vaccination was born.

We should bear in mind that there was rigorous scientific method behind Jenner's experiment. For some years prior to this first vaccination in 1796 he had been gathering evidence supporting the

theory that those who had once contracted cowpox were immune from smallpox. But his evidence was predominantly anecdotal and required scrutiny in the form of clinical trials.

The technique of deliberately infecting a patient with a mild dose of smallpox in the expectation that it would provide protection from a more severe infection had long been practised in China, India, the Ottoman Empire, and parts of Africa. It had gained popularity in Western medicine after 1721, when it was championed by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Lady Mary had arranged for her children to be inoculated after witnessing the practice in Turkey, and soon persuaded Caroline, Princess of Wales, to have her own children inoculated. Lady Mary's brother had died from smallpox in 1713, and she herself had suffered from it. It left her with a very disfigured face. When she was in Turkey, she saw the practice of using pus from a smallpox blister to insert it into a scratch on the arm or the leg to promote immunity to the disease. The drawback with Lady Mary's method was that in some cases, people developed real cases of smallpox, and infected others. Jenner's approach was better, using cowpox rather than smallpox for the inoculation.

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Through modern eyes we might be taken aback by the ethical implications of deliberately infecting a child with smallpox; but Jenner's theory looked to be correct when, despite exposure to the deadly virus, his gardener's son did not contract smallpox. What is more, he tried some months later to inoculate the boy with smallpox again, and again the boy had resistance to the disease.

Jenner devoted the rest of his life to telling the world about vaccination and how to perform it safely and effectively. In the garden of his house in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, he turned a rustic, thatched summerhouse into the world's first free vaccination clinic. There he ensured that this life-saving medical intervention was available on the basis of need, rather than ability to pay. Jenner called his summerhouse rather grandly the Temple of Vaccinia. Jenner went on, without fanfare or ceremony, to make his research on vaccination against smallpox freely available to the world. He did not seek to profit from his work and discouraged others from doing the same.

Jenner's tireless work to share news of vaccination was grounded in his own deep-seated compassion and wish to bring about a world free of smallpox. The fact that Jenner rarely travelled, preferring home comforts to a life on the road performing mass vaccinations, does not contradict these values. Jenner was, first and foremost, a community doctor. He primarily vaccinated within his normal practice area and taught others how to do the same in their own communities. This method of working perpetuated even to the final days of the World Health Organisation Smallpox Eradication Programme of 1966–80, when an international team of medics supported local healthcare workers to ensure vaccination was accepted in areas where people remained unprotected.

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Jenner's willingness to teach anyone to vaccinate contributed to the prompt uptake of this new practice throughout the world and was rewarded with international recognition and respect. In 1807, with Britain and France were at war, Jenner petitioned Napoleon for the release of two friends who were being held as prisoners of war. Napoleon was minded to dismiss the request until his wife Joséphine insisted he look again at who it was from. Napoleon's famous response was "What that man asks is not to be refused".

Today, as we face a new disease in the form of Covid-19, more than 140 leaders around the world have called for a people's patent-free vaccine. Discussions focus on equitable access, treatment focused on need, rather than ability to pay, and a method of distribution that is both rapid and fair. And if all that sounds familiar, it should. These ideas are not new: they are Edward Jenner's founding principles of vaccination.

Today is therefore an opportunity to reflect on two themes – first, the thanks we should give to our modern pioneers, who have worked tirelessly and at speed to produce vaccines that give a significant measure of protection against Covid 19. The scientists across the world are to be congratulated for

their efforts, and for those of us who have already had two doses, I think I reflect the view of many when I say how comforting it is to be in that situation. But that simply emphasises the second theme – Covid 19 is a worldwide disease – a pandemic – and it may be that it will never go away. None of us can be complacent about our safety until the virus can be brought under more effective control world wide. So sharing scarce resources is in all our interests and ensuring that even the poorest countries can have supplies would live up to the ideals promoted by Edward Jenner.

## **Services during June – all at All Hallows', Henshaw**

6<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am Morning Prayer with Reflection, with Reader Gwyn McKenzie from St James, Riding Mill

13<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am Eucharist with Rev Canon Rosalind Brown

20<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am Morning Prayer with Reflection

27<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am Eucharist with Rev Gill Alexancer

**Every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 am there will be a service of Morning Prayer streamed via [facebook.com/parishesbythewall](https://facebook.com/parishesbythewall) Every Wednesday St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge is open for private prayer 2pm and 3pm**

## **Mothers' Union**

There is a meeting on Wednesday 22nd July at 2.30pm when Liesbeth Langford will be talking about Psalms and music, probably by Zoom. Ring Anne Brunton on 344557 for details.

## **Women's Institute**

For WI members, there is a meeting "Tea in the Park", at Redburn Park, on Wednesday 9th June at 2.30, bring your own tea and chair and pray for good weather!!!

## **Good news – Highlights is back!**

Highlights is coming back in June, not just one show in the Village Hall, but 3! Booking essential on 344424 or on the Highlights website. Here are the details;

### **Friday June 11th 7.30pm £9 Old Herbaceous.**

Pottering amongst his seeds and cuttings at the back of his ramshackle glasshouse in the garden of a country manor, is Herbert Pinnegar. Now in his twilight years, in between potting on and potting up, he recounts his journey from orphan to legendary Head Gardener "Old Herbaceous". Sown with seeds of gardening wisdom, this charming one-man show is a love story, a touching portrayal of a single minded yet gentle man with a passion for plants.

**Saturday 19th June 2pm £25**

Half day craft workshop; **How to create a paper origami lampshade**, with design makers Caroline Collinge and Edmond Salter from paper art and origami specialists Cabinet of Curiosities. Suitable for all levels from complete beginners to advanced paper crafters wishing to learn a new technique.

**Saturday 26th June 7.30pm Love and Spice** Adult £9, child £7

An elderly couple still very much in love, look back on their lives together reliving key moments through memories of the meals they have shared. Love and Spice combines different art forms and cultural traditions in surprisingly delicious ways. Blending Kathak dance and live music, with a chef cooking live on stage - this is truly a multicultural feast for all the senses.

For this item, 2 tickets for the price of 1 offer for 16- to 35-year-olds

## **June's wild flower – cow parsley**

Cow parsley is a short lived perennial, with tall sprays of white flowers, and you will commonly find it in verges and at the roadside. The flowers are umbels, clusters of flowers with stalks which come from a common centre. There are several wild flowers that could easily be confused with cow parsley, perhaps most worrying is the hemlock which has leaves similar to those of cow parsley but its stem is spotted with purple markings and overall, the plant is much bigger – you need to be careful with hemlock as it is poisonous.

Apparently you can eat the young leaves of cow parsley, but given that it grows by the roadside, you may not fancy it! It is beloved, however by a variety of insects, including bees and hoverflies as an early source of pollen, and it is a food plant for the orange tip butterflies.

An old name for cow parsley is Queen Anne's lace. It was much used in older medicines, for the treatment of stomach and kidney problems, breathing difficulties and colds, and apparently you can use it as a mosquito repellent.

## **On the Verge 2021**

Please join us for one or all of our short, slow moving verge walks (1.5 mile there and back max) to identify and survey wild flowers on or near road verges near Haltwhistle.

**Tues 22nd June: Meet at Greenhead Church** 7pm – We'll walk up the old road and if time, look at riverside off Millenium Green. Grid ref: 661654

**Tues 20th July: Meet on road verge leading to Vindolanda – park at top end.** 7pm – We'll walk northwards to Brackies Burn where we found lovely plants last year. Grid ref: 755663

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> August: Meet Bardon Mill by War Memorial** 7pm – We'll cross the railway and river bridge and look at some river gravel plants; this is a very short walk. Grid ref: 782646

Just turn up, no need to book. We'll be on paths and/or tarmac. We aim to finish by 9pm. Any queries, please get in touch with Lesley Silvera: 07933326711.