



THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW

Parish Newsletter September 2021

Singing in church

The Standing committee of the PCC met at the end of August, and agreed that we could resume singing in church, but we would continue to encourage parishioners to wear masks if they can. We will also continue to maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible, and to keep movement around the church to a minimum. The PCC will keep under review the other aspects of our worship but for the moment, we will continue to administer the Eucharist in one kind only, and the President will deliver it to those attending, rather than the congregation moving to the altar. The PCC will consider when we start serving morning coffee again at their meeting in late September. Services will continue to be held at 10.30 am each Sunday until the end of the year.

The Vacancy

The advertisement for the position of Vicar to the parishes of Greenhead, Haltwhistle and Beltingham with Henshaw seeks applications with a closing date of 7 September. It is expected that shortlisting will take place on 11 September, and interviews will be on Monday 27 September. The parishes are asked to arrange to show candidates around the churches and the area on Sunday, 26 September. Recognising the scale of the area covered by the three parishes, we have jointly made a DVD which is available as part of the recruitment pack for applicants, so that those interested can gain an idea of the geography of our area, and see the lovely churches within the parishes. If you would like to watch the DVD, you can access it through <https://youtu.be/Q566H5pf-eo>

Benjamin's visit – Service on Saturday 4 September



We are delighted to be welcoming Benjamin back for Evensong on the Feast of the Translation of Cuthbert at **6 pm at St Cuthbert's, Beltingham**. This is our first service in Beltingham for over a year, apart from weddings and funerals, and it is also our first chance to sing the hymns – so do come and help us to welcome Benjamin, to renew our love of St Cuthbert's church, and to enjoy a special service revisiting the life of St Cuthbert. There will be wine and light refreshments at the end of the service.

September Services

Saturday 4 September at 6 pm at St Cuthbert's, Beltingham

Evensong on the Feast of the Translation of Cuthbert Preacher Canon Rev Dr Benjamin Carter

Sunday 5 September at 10.30 am at All Hallows', Henshaw

Eucharist with Archdeacon Catherine Sourbutt Groves

Sunday 12 September at 10.30 am at All Hallows', Henshaw

Eucharist with Rev Rob Saner Haigh

Sunday 19 September at 10.30 am at All Hallows', Henshaw

Morning Prayer with Reader Gwyn McKenzie

Sunday 26 September at All Hallows', Henshaw

Eucharist with Rev Gill Alexander

From the Registers:

17 August 2021, Burial of Norma Elaine Brett, following a service in St Cuthbert's, Beltingham

22 August 2021, Baptism of Ada Jean Bell, in All Hallows', Henshaw

28 August 2021, Wedding of Emma Nicholson and Simon Robinson in St Cuthbert's, Beltingham

Churches in my life – from Fred Brook

I was born in Oldham in the county of Lancashire in 1936 . My parents Fred and Lilian were cotton mill workers. They were married in St Andrew's church in 1932, and that was where they had me baptised in 1936. Albert my Dad's best friend was my Godfather and Dad's sister Ellen was my Godmother. They were both millworkers. The church had an Elementary School nearby. My Dad attended it. The church was massive, built to accommodate the families of men and women who worked in the mills, engineering works, coal mines and railway works in that part of Oldham which at one time was the biggest cotton spinning town in the world. It was built on a piece of flat land on the western side of the hill on which Oldham stood. It overlooked the warehouses and sidings of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. It was a noisy place. I attended that church regularly till I left Oldham when I was 18.

My parents told me of the wonderful social life St Andrew's had. Mother's Union, Men's Fellowship, Operatic Society (conducted by Mrs Lawton who travelled up from Cheshire in her motor car to conduct it), cricket team, cubs, scouts, brownies, girl guides, whist drives and dances. They told me the Second World War brought all that to an abrupt end. It picked up afterwards, the whist drive and dance in particular, especially if there was a potato pie supper. The Operatic Society failed to restart, but the Drama group did. I saw my father in a play called "Three Half Crowns". He played a vicar, with a posh accent. Mother played the Maid, and she got her lines all mixed up. She was a giggler. The Scouts and Guides revived the pantomimes, with great success. The 15 year old Fred played Widow Twanky in Aladdin.

The Church and its School are gone. Demolished to make way for a link road with the motorway (M62). The railway sidings and warehouses are now a garden centre. The house I was born in is still there. The house next door is a sari shop. Dad died in 1962 aged 59. His funeral service was held in a crowded St Andrew's. Mum died in 1997, a month from her 90th birthday. She had lived for a short

time in a care home in Haydon Bridge. Her funeral service was held at All Hallows', Henshaw. Family only attended. She was cremated in Carlisle. Her ashes are scattered on the moors above Oldham.

Retirement of Bishop Christine

You may well have read the news that Bishop Christine is to step down at the end of November. Here is the text of the letter sent to clergy and churchwardens by Bishop Christine.

"Dear brothers and sisters,

Many of you will know that I reach my 70th birthday at the end of August, and will not be surprised to hear that my time as your Bishop is drawing to a close. Her Majesty the Queen has graciously accepted my resignation, and with the Archbishop of York's permission I will be stepping down as Bishop of Newcastle on 30th November, 2021.

When I came to our Diocese as Bishop we all knew that it would be for a limited time, and that time has passed all too quickly. I am profoundly grateful for the six years I have served this Diocese, the depth of welcome and relationships in this region has been inspirational and encouraging. We have all been called to minister together, lay and ordained, at a time of extraordinary challenge, and I am very proud of the way in which our clergy and laity have responded to this. I give thanks for all of you, it has been a privilege to be your Bishop.

I wish to invite all of you to join me with me at the Cathedral on the Feast of Christ the King, 21st November, at 4pm, to give thanks for our journey together in God's love for our churches and the communities they serve. It is not possible to know at this stage how any Coronavirus restrictions might limit numbers, so detailed arrangements will be made nearer to the day which will include livestreaming information, but please do save the date.

Bishop Mark will lead the Diocese during the vacancy, and he will be very ably supported by the Dean, Diocesan Secretary, and Archdeacons, together with the rest of the Bishop's Staff team, and the excellent teams at Church House and Bishop's House. Please pray for them as they continue to work alongside all of you in God's service for the communities in which we live and minister, as I will be praying for the Diocese as you continue with the next steps of *growing church bringing hope* under Bishop Mark's leadership, and as the process begins to appoint the next Bishop of Newcastle.

Roger and I have been incredibly blessed by the generosity and support that has been shown to both of us in our time in Newcastle Diocese. Its people, history, and landscape have an enduring place in our hearts, and we will always treasure the years we have spent here.

Grace and peace,

+ Christine"

St Vincent de Paul and the Afghan Refugee Crisis

September 27 is the date earmarked in our church calendar when we remember and celebrate the life of St Vincent de Paul. He was born in 1581 and was a French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. The Society set up in his name states its aims as follows: "The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need. Our 10,000

members, motivated by their faith, visit vulnerable or isolated people across England and Wales and offer them friendship and practical support. The essence of our work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is our greatest gift.” One aspect of their work is helping and supporting refugees.

With a base in Newcastle, the Journal newspaper recently published an article saying: “An appeal to raise £5000 to provide food and blankets for refugees from Afghanistan coming to Newcastle, as well as toys for their children, has been launched. Newcastle City Council has said the city stands ready to play its part in providing a safe haven for those escaping the violence in Afghanistan. To show its support for the city Council, the St Vincent’s Centre in Newcastle, which already provides support for refugees from all over the world, including Syria, has launched this appeal.” The centre in New Bridge Street, known as Vinnies, has a food and clothing bank run by the Society. Demand is high, which is why it has launched this appeal to bolster its provisions, so that they are ready to help the refugees as they arrive.

If you want to consider making a donation, the Society in Newcastle can be contacted by telephone, 0191 261 6027, or by email stvincentsnewcastle@svp.org.uk

St Cuthbert

As our service on September 4 is to celebrate the life of St Cuthbert, it seems appropriate to remind ourselves of some features of his life. He was born in Northumberland in 635, into a well to do family and was brought up as a Christian. There are some remarkable stories about him, not least that by his prayers he saved some monks who were in danger of being swept out to sea in their boat. As a teenager, he saw a bright light coming down and going back up to the sky, and thought this must be taking the soul of a human being to heaven. This may have been the point when he felt called to join the monastery in Melrose. At the age of about 30, he went to Lindisfarne where he became the prior. He was a popular and active missionary with a gift for spiritual healing. At the age of 40, he felt called to become a hermit and to lead a solitary life on Inner Farne. He was brought back into the church as a Bishop when he was 50, but when he felt that he was near death, he went back to Inner Farne, and died there in 687 AD. Initially he was buried on Lindisfarne which attracted many pilgrims. However, over a hundred years later, when the Viking marauders came, the monastery was partly destroyed by fire and there was much looting. The monks who remained felt unsafe and carried away their treasures, including the body of St Cuthbert, to the mainland. After settling in Chester le Street, they moved again to Ripon and then eventually back to Durham, where now Cuthbert’s remains are buried behind the High Altar.

Contributions welcome

Would you like to write something for the Parish newsletter? I was delighted to receive a contribution earlier from Anne Brunton, and one for this issue from Fred Brook and a poem from Keith Brunton, printed below. Don’t be shy – the wider the range of contributions, the better. You might want to share a recipe, or a gardening tip, or you might want to say thank you to someone who has done you a good turn or cheered you up. And just to set the ball rolling on how inconsequential the writing can be, here is a story about amazing service from the Passport Office. A young man was planning to take his wife and two daughters on holiday to Greece, to visit relatives and to enjoy a relaxing week in a villa. The night before they were due to fly, he checked all the paperwork about vaccinations and PCR tests, and insurance and he had his driving licence and passport – but sadly his passport had expired!! So the next morning, he drove to Heathrow and put the family on the flight to Greece and then made his way despondently to the Passport Office in London. Not only did he manage to secure a face to face appointment, but also within two hours they had processed his passport and he was

driving back to Heathrow, where he managed to get on a 5 pm flight to Athens. Now that's not the sort of story you usually hear about the Passport Office – so high praise to them.

Richard the Third - a poem by Keith Brunton

Some say he was a good king and some say he was bad,
But the proof of where they buried him was nowhere to be had
Till they found a body taking a rather long siesta
beneath a stretch of tarmac in a car park down in Leicester.
They dug him up and laid him out –
It's Richard the Third beyond all doubt!
But the charges from the car park will be rather steep, one fears,
'cos he's overstayed his ticket by around five hundred years.

Bowes Lyon charity

The Trust, created by the will of the Hon Francis Bowes Lyon in 1948, is administered by Trustees (currently the Churchwardens). The Trust can make small grants to people in the Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw on grounds of hardship. If you know anyone who could benefit from such a grant, please speak to Nigel Collingwood, secretary to the Trust, on 344119. All applications are treated in confidence.

From the September 1996 Parish Newsletter

They are not such silly geese

By flying in V formation, each flies in the slipstream of the bird in front and the whole flock can increase its flying range by 71% over a single bird flying alone. People who share a common direction and sense of community can arrive quicker and more easily because they are travelling with trust in each other. When the lead goose tires, it goes back into the formation and another goose takes up the lead position. It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks, and sharing leadership interdependently with each other. If a goose falls out of the formation, it quickly gets back in, to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as geese, we will step in formation with those who are headed where we want to go. The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. We need to ensure our honking from behind is encouraging, not something less helpful. When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and stay with it until it is either able to fly again or dies. If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other and give our love and support to those in need.

The new term

September sees the start of the new school year, and also the time when many youngsters are leaving home for the first time to set off to University or College, or to start their apprenticeship. We wish them all well, and pray that their education will be uninterrupted by lockdowns or spells of isolation.

Flower fund for St Cuthbert's, Beltingham



We are grateful for all that Pauline Storey has been doing for us with flowers in All Hallows' Henshaw, making use of real and silk flowers with greenery. The church has looked lovely and very welcoming. We would now like to be able to purchase a supply of silk flowers for Beltingham, as this would remove the need to keep moving arrangements between the two churches. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please give donations to Pauline – thank you so much.

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. – Isaac Newton

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.

Contact information

The contact details for the churchwardens are as follows:

Anne Galbraith, Tel: 01434 684302, Email galbraithanne55@gmail.com

Adrian Storrie, Tel: 01434 344494, Email adetree@btinternet.com

Carol Adams, Tel: 01434 344398, Email adamscarol@btinternet.com