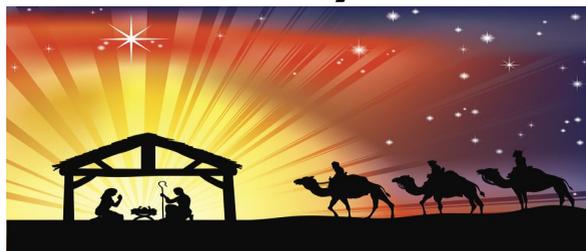


The December January Broadsheet 2021/22



**for the parishes of
Humshaugh
with Simonburn & Wark,
Chollerton with Birtley,
Gunnerton, Thockrington,
St Oswald in Lee.**

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Pastoral Letter

We are coming towards the end of another challenging year, and, as the magazines go to print, the church year is about to change. Advent begins at the end of November as we begin to make ready to celebrate once again the birth of Christ. There are many services all around the Deanery in the run up to, and at Christmas and we hope that Covid will allow us to proceed with them.

At times this year has seemed very dark, and yet some good and beautiful things have emerged. I have felt so privileged to be able to travel along with and be with many different groups of faithful and loving people, and to join together in worship and planning . We look forward together in hope for the future and for a priest to join us in the North of the Deanery

We will hold a service to mark the turning of the Year at 6.30pm on New Year's Eve at Bellingham. This will be a short reflective service where we can light a candle as we give thanks for the waning year and move forward in hope to the New Year.

As we move into the festive season and marvel at the baby in the manger, I wonder what phrases of the Christmas story and the Bible readings that we hear resonate with you? In our beautiful part of the world with dark skies I often think of 'the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light ' What might that great light be for you.? I hope that everyone has a happy, blessed and safe Christmas and a peaceful New year .

Sarah Lunn (Area Dean)



One Big Story

Did you ever wonder what the Bible is all about? Is it just a random collection of writings from different time periods? Have you ever listened to the readings in a church and wondered how they fit together? Do you feel that you could articulate the Christian Faith clearly and succinctly to someone who asked you the question 'so what's it all about?'

Amazingly, the children in our church schools can do just that by the time they leave First School, thanks to a brilliant resource called 'Understanding Christianity.'

>>>>>>>>>>

This teaches them that Christians believe that the Bible tells 'one Big Story' from beginning to end and that the story can be told using eight core concepts. The first four concepts appear in the Old Testament and are as follows: In the beginning was **God**: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God created our universe, the world and everything in it including creating humans in his image and his **Creation** was good.

Then came the **Fall**, which is when humans turned away from listening to God and began to stop caring for His Creation. The relationship between God and humans was broken and sin, struggle, decay and death came into the world. God's rescue plan was to choose a special people to be the **People of God**. He promised to take care of them and they were supposed to follow God and show everyone else how to follow Him. The rest of the Old Testament tells the story of their relationship with God. Sometimes they got things right, but often they strayed from God, ignoring his commands and worshipping other Gods.

So God came up with an unexpected solution: At the start of the New Testament we learn how God comes down to earth in human form as Jesus and this is known as **Incarnation** (God in the flesh). This is what Christians celebrate at Christmas. When Jesus grew into a Man he brought the **Gospel** (Good News). This included offering friendship to all, forgiveness and peace. He also brought **Salvation** (Rescue) through his death on a cross, wiping the slate clean for all of the bad things humans have ever done, or will do, and making a way for God to forgive them. By coming back to life from death he also gave humans the hope of eternal life after death and sent the Holy Spirit as a helper to humans in this life. We are now living in the **Kingdom of God** but this is only partially realised on earth. Some people are following God but many are still not listening to Him or caring for His Creation. The Bible says that Jesus will come to earth again, and make everything new; there will be no more sadness, pain or tears.

So that's the heart of the Christian story, summarised in eight concepts. I wonder how much you already knew and which bits are surprising to you? If you come to one of our Christmas Services, this year you might want to look for references to the '**Incarnation**' in the readings and the carols? If you want to know more ask the person leading the Service to point you in the direction of more information and resources.

<https://www.understandingchristianity.org.uk/>

Wishing you all a Peaceful and Joyous Christmas,

Melanie Wilkinson
Licensed Reader in the Church of England.

HUMSHAUGH NOTES

It has been a busy time for Sarah: on November the 7th she was made a Canon in Newcastle Cathedral and on the 11th there was a wonderful service in Simonburn, when the Bishop installed her as our Priest in Charge. Many congratulations and all our very best wishes.



A Christmas Carol: Tickets for the play (from December the 8th-11th) are now for sale in the shop and selling like hot cakes... Hurry to get yours and get the Christmas Season off to a good start!

The last Village Coffee Morning will be on Saturday, December the 4th from 10-12. If any group would like to run one next year, please contact Diana Linnett on humvillhall@gmail.com A chance to publicise your activities and raise some money.



The last Computer Café will be on Tuesday Dec. 7th from 10-12. These sessions will recommence in January if there is a demand. Please contact humvillhall@gmail.com

Humshaugh First School The majority of children in Year 1-4 went to St Peter's church for a thought provoking Remembrance Service with the Revd. Sarah Lunn. On the 17th of December it will be Break Up for Christmas and we wish everyone a lovely holiday.



The Pub Quiz in October was won by "They Think It's Wall Over". £214 was raised for the Village Bonfire Fireworks (another brilliant evening!). There will be no Quiz in December and the one in January will be on Tuesday 18th at 8pm in aid of the Crown Leek club



HAP. The film on the 14th of January will be "2001: A Space Odyssey". Made in 1968, it was produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick. It is regarded as one of the greatest films ever made. Ian Grant will give a short talk about the background before the screening. As the film is longer than most, there will be 2 intervals. Doors will open at 6.30 for 7pm. As usual, there will be a bar and nibbles and fab puddings for £2. Tickets: £5 and £2.50 for under 18s

May you have a blessed Christmas and a really, really happy New Year.

Liesbeth

WARK PARISH NEWS

After months of the minimum of events, the wonderful festival of Christmas brings for us, a feast which starts with St. Michael's Christmas Bazaar, on Sunday 5th December in The Town Hall ,at 2pm. You will find stalls selling Christmas gifts, Wreaths and cakes.

Earlier that morning MURC hold their Morning Service in St. Michael's at 10.30am.

The annual outing to Stonehaugh is on Sunday 12th December for a Christingle Service in the warm surroundings of the Village Hall at 6pm, including mince pies and mulled wine. A chance for a further Christingle Service is on Friday 17th December at 10.00am when the school hold their Christmas service in St. Michael's. On Sunday 19th December there is the choice of two services. In the evening at 6.00pm St. Michael's will hold their Carol Service. Earlier in the day MURC will hold their Morning Service at 10.30am.

On Christmas Day at 10.00am the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne will be leading, in St. Michael's, the benefice Holy Communion. All are most welcome at any of these services.

Above there has been a lot of mention of St. Michael's and there is another Michael, I'd like us to remember and that is Canon Michael Cooper who died on 13th October. Incidentally, Michael was born on Christmas Day in 1930. Along with his wife, the Revd Dr. Susan Ramsaran, he was well known in the area coming to live in Wark upon the retirement of Susan from Bellingham. Our thoughts and prayers are with Susan and Michael's family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

In what undoubtedly has been another difficult year, may I offer to the readers thanks from St. Michael's for all their support and understanding as we move forward to hopefully more stable times with confidence.

All that remains is for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will not be back until February 2022, so, until we chat again.

Love, John

Birtley Notes

We have said good-bye to Tony and Pauline Brotherton, Rose Cottage who have moved to Berwick to be nearer to Pauline's Mum also their son and family. Tony has cut the grass in the playing field, park etc. for a number of years, keeping things very tidy in and around the village, Our 'Thanks' go to him.

We welcome Ian and Pat Roy from Norfolk who have bought Rose Cottage, we wish them well in their new home and hope to see them at some functions in the Village when they get settled in.

James Feeley led the Remembrance service at the War memorial on 14th November, his son Lenard doing a reading, when people remembered relatives who died in both wars.

December services at St Giles - Carols with communion on Sun 19th Dec at 3pm and the Christmas service on Sun 26th Dec at 10.30.

The Village Hall are having Carols round the Christmas tree on Saturday 4th at 6pm with refreshments and snacks. Then there is a Social on New Year's Day from 12 noon till 3pm.

Wishing you all good wishes for the festive season,

Mary.

Chollerton Notes

Once again Chollerton and Gunnerton Churches will hold a Christmas Raffle of a Hamper of seasonal delights!

Tickets available at Village Shop or Ken Carlisle, Jen Dover, Richard Hay or Claire Dickinson.

'Carols in the Park' Saturday 11th December 5pm Barrasford

Play Park.

Chollerton First School PTFA would like you to join us in the play park for Christmas Carols by fairy light. To celebrate Christmas we invite everyone to deck their homes with festive lights. After the carols enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie as you wander and see the festive displays. Please bring your own cup (Covid Measures) All donations raised in aid of Chollerton First School.

We would like to thank Chollerton Parish Council for donating the Christmas lights for the village.

Simonburn Notes

Congratulations to Sarah, as she was made an Honary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral.

On 11th November, we welcomed Sarah as our Priest in Charge, As Bishop Christine led the Licensing service. At the service The Bishop also dedicated the new and repaired bells.

It was nice to see people out on the village green, to pay their respects and remember the fallen, on Remembrance Sunday.

The bacon butties in the village hall was really well supported and over £200 was raised for The Great North Air Ambulance.

The village hall was the venue for CPR, Defibrillator and general first aid training . A BIG Thank you to Adrian Langford and Dunmail Hodkinson for coming and giving up their free time. Well worth knowing and the more people that know these things, the better.

On 2nd December there is a Christmas Prize Bingo at 7.30pm, In aid of Tynedale Stroke Club. All Welcome.

The tickets are nearly sold out, for the Wreath making night on Wednesday 15th December in the village hall; please call 681077 for a ticket.

On Saturday 18th December from 9am, we will be decorating the church for Christmas. More helpers the better.

Sunday 19th December at 6pm, there will be A carol Service in St. Mungo's. Please come along, it has been a long time coming.

On Friday 24th December, there will be a Christmas Eve Eucharist Service starting at 11.30pm.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

See you in 2022

Love Sharon x

Santa will be visiting Simonburn on Christmas eve, at 7pm, on the village green. Come along and wish Santa A happy Christmas .



“A JOURNEY THROUGH CHRISTMAS”

**A reflection on Christmas in music and words for
Bellingham Village & Bellingham Deanery**

**with The North Tyne & Redewater Choral Society
(director John Roper)**



Saturday December 18th at 7.30pm

**in
St Cuthbert's Church, Bellingham
(retiring collection)**

**Also live-streamed on Zoom to the Bellingham Deanery for
those unable to attend Christmas services in person**



TEA at THREE!

Tuesday 21st December

At Gunnerton Church

in aid of West Tyne Food Bank.

There will a raffle and some Carol

singing



so please come along.

The January Tea will be on

Tuesday 18th January.

Everyone is welcome



St. Michael's Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 5th December

in Wark Town Hall ,

at 2pm.

**You will find stalls selling
Christmas gifts, Wreaths and
cakes.**

Please do come along



GUNNERTON LUNCH CLUB CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Wednesday 15h December at 12.00 midday

**All are welcome to join us for good conversation and home cooking
of soup, pudding and tea or coffee and that little bit extra.**

To reserve your place please contact

Brenda on 01434681306 by 8th December

Donations of £5 per head welcome, preferably given at the time of booking





Christmas Bingo

Simonburn Village Hall
Thursday 2nd December
In aid of Tynedale Stroke Club
Eyes down 7.30

Donation of prizes would be
much appreciated

Contact Sue Hickman
01434 689682



Carols Round the Christmas Tree



Birtley Village Hall
on
Saturday 4th December
at 6pm
with refreshments and snacks



A NEW YEAR

I have been connected to Agriculture for over 65 years, I do understand Rural and Farming Challenges. The daily up and downs that will occur throughout the seasons. It can be too wet, too windy or too dry. It is a daily challenge.

With this in mind we have a big challenge of how do we manage 10 Churches? One Vicar (Sarah) plus 9 other Churches up the North Tyne.

WE need planning, co-operation and most of all understanding and all of us owning the daily challenges. Not I want.

We all need to work as a team. I recall 2003 – extra time – a line out is called – Martin Johnson – Matt Dawson – Jonny Wilkinson – Rugby World Cup 2003. This did not happen by chance, it involved a lot of team planning, co-operation and most of all, working as a TEAM.

Let us take up the challenge,
Happy New Year,

Richard Hay

JANUARY

The Advent candles in the church
At their four different heights,
Stand now blown out,
There's no more need to burn:
The Christmas scene has gone,
The shepherds left some time ago.
But on Twelfth Night the Magi with their gifts
Of gold and myrrh and frankincense arrived
And gave this month the title of Epiphany.
Through snow and frost,
Through slightly milder days,
This first month of the year
Will proudly bear that name
And, at its end
Will leave the month that follows
The first few snowdrops as its dying gift. .



Liesbeth xxx

Services in the Deanery in December and January

*There are a large variety of services for us to enjoy across the Deanery over the next couple of months.
Please do come and take part !*

- **Thursday 2nd December**
10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
- **Sunday 5th December 2nd Sunday of Advent**
8.30am Holy Communion at Gunnerton
10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
10.30am MURC service at Wark
11.00am Parish Worship at Falstone
2.00pm Holy Communion at Otterburn
3.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield
8.00pm Late@8 at Humshaugh
- **Thursday 9th December**
10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
- **Sunday 12th December 3rd Sunday of Advent**
8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington
8.30am Holy Communion at Horsley
10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh
3.00pm Holy Communion at Thorneyburn
4.00pm Holy Communion at Wall
6.00pm Carol Service at Elsdon
6.00pm Christingle at Stonehaugh Village Hall
- **Thursday 16th December**
10.00am Holy Communion at Gunnerton
- **Saturday 18th December**
7.30pm Readings and music for Christmas at Bellingham
(live streamed)
- **Sunday 19th December 4th Sunday of Advent**
8.30am Holy Communion at Falstone
10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
10am parish worship at Bellingham
10.30am MURC service at Wark
11.00am Parish Worship at Otterburn
3.00pm Carol Service at Birtley
6.00pm Carol Service at Simonburn
6.00pm Carol Service at Wark



- **Monday 20th December**
6.00pm Carol Service at Byrness
- **Tuesday 21st December**
6.00pm Carol Service at West Woodburn
- **Thursday 23rd December**
10.00am Holy Communion at Wall
6.00pm Christingle at Bellingham
7.00pm Carol Service at Thorneyburn
- **Christmas Eve**
4.00pm Crib Service at Otterburn
4.00pm Christmas Service at Falstone
4.30pm Carol Service at Humshaugh
6.00pm Christmas Carol Service at Heavenfield
6.00pm Crib Service at Gunnerton
9.30pm Christmas Eucharist at Chollerton
11.30pm Christmas Eucharist at Simonburn
11.30pm Christmas Eucharist at Bellingham
11.30pm Christmas Eucharist at Elsdon
- **Christmas Day**
9.00am Christmas Eucharist at Thockrington
9.00am Christmas Eucharist at Wall
9.00am Christmas Eucharist at Horsley
10.00am Christmas Eucharist at Wark
11.00am Christmas Eucharist at Thorneyburn
- **Sunday 26th December 1st Sunday of Christmas**
8.30am Holy Communion at Chollerton
10.30am Christmas Eucharist at Birtley
10.30am Eucharist at Humshaugh
- **Thursday 30th December**
10.00am Holy Communion -Birtley
- **Friday 31st December (New Year's Eve)**
6.30pm Watchnight Service- Bellingham



January Services

P.T.O.

Services for January

- **Sunday 2nd January 2021**
 - 8.30am Holy Communion at Gunnerton
 - 10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
 - 10.30am MURC service at Wark
 - 11.00am Parish Worship at Falstone
 - 2.00pm Holy Communion at Otterburn
 - 3.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield
 - 6.00pm Holy Communion at Elsdon
 - 8.00pm Late@8 at Humshaugh
- **Thursday 6th January**
 - 10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
- **Sunday 9th January**
 - 8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington
 - 8.30am Holy Communion at Horsley
 - 10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh
 - 3.00pm Holy Communion at Thorneyburn
 - 4.00pm Holy Communion at Wall
- **Thursday 13th January**
 - 10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
- **Sunday 16th January**
 - 8.30am Holy Communion at Falstone
 - 10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
 - 10am Parish worship at Bellingham
 - 11.00am Parish Worship at Otterburn
 - 10.30 MURC at Wark
 - 11am Parish Worship at Otterburn
 - 3.00pm Holy Communion at Birtley
 - 6.00pm Holy Communion at Simonburn
- **Thursday 20th January**
 - 10.00am Holy Communion at Wall
- **Sunday 23rd January**
 - 8.30am Holy Communion at Chollerton
 - 10.00am Deanery Zoom Service
 - 3.00pm Holy Communion at Byrness
 - 6pm Parish Worship at Thorneyburn
 - 6.00pm Holy Communion at Humshaugh
 - 6.00pm Parish Worship at Wark
- **Thursday 27th January**
 - 10.00am Holy Communion at Birtley
- **Sunday 30th January**
 - 10.00am Holy Communion in the North of the Deanery (venue to be confirmed)
 - 4.00pm Holy Communion in the South of the Deanery (venue to be confirmed)

