

## Letter from the Vicar

Within days of receiving this magazine we will all be asked to cast a vote in the general election. Given that this election falls only two years after the last general election, and a year after the European referendum, and not least a month after our local elections, no one could blame us for arguing that we might be experiencing a little election fatigue. But as Christians our engagement with political life in all its forms is, I think, one of our most important obligations.

At university I studied Politics and Theology. As a result I would joke that I would never be invited to dinner parties as I would only ever want to talk about politics or religion. There is a strange belief that somehow these two do now and should not mix. Interventions by Bishops in political debates are met with mutterings from politicians of various colours about turbulent and meddling priests.

But the heart of our faith is based on a deeply political imperative. In the Gospels, when Jesus summarises God's law, he tells us that we should: 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with strength, and love your neighbour as yourself. In worship, Sunday by Sunday, we find ourselves meeting the first part of this imperative, but we should never miss the importance of the second part. To love your neighbour as yourself is a political command. It means engaging with the needs of others, it means acknowledging our reliance on each other in all things, and it means seeking justice through love for all, as God loves us.

We can do this in a multitude of ways. We can support local organisations and projects such as contributing to the West Northumberland Food Bank through the new collection point at the Village Store. It means, particularly after the atrocities in Manchester, engaging with all our neighbours of different faiths and races and beliefs. It means engaging with our political process in whatever way we can, not least by voting. And it means praying for all those standing for election, and those who will be elected, that we would be part of a country and political society that truly loves its neighbours as itself.

**Benjamin**

**PS: God's Tent – more information about this new initiative shortly.**

## CHURCH NEWS

### Church Web Site

Work is progressing well to develop a Benefice Web Site. Take part in our competition – for details see insert.

## Food Bank

New West Northumberland Food Bank deposit points are here. More food and household items ([see list](#)) are needed to support people in our area who struggle to put food on the table. One collecting point is in the Village Shop and the other in Henshaw Church Room after services. Gifts will be taken to the Food Bank in Hexham for distribution. Can you help?

**MU – Wednesday 28 June** 'Visit to the Holy Land' – Sandra Davison.

**Our Annual Church Coffee Morning** is being held on **Saturday 29 July (open from 9.30 am)** –at Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall. This is an important fund raiser and we need lots of help; in the kitchen, serving coffee, manning the stalls which will include books, bric-a-brac, tombola, raffle and produce. Contributions and prizes - contact Libby on 344582 or bring them to the hall on Friday 28 July after 2.30 pm when we will be setting up.

## NOTES AND NOTICES

### STS First Verge Walk of the Year

Led by Lesley Silvera on **Tuesday 6 June** at 7 pm at Cawfields Car Park. All welcome – no botanical knowledge required. Future walks: Tuesday 11 July and Tuesday 8 August - more information next month.

### Café Scientifique – Tuesday 6 June at the Village Hall from 7-9 pm

'Curious Naturalists' by **David Hirst** (an affectionate look at the people from Northern England who have contributed to a better understanding of our natural world). Tickets £5 including refreshments (07981-101651 to book).

**Hexham Debates – Saturday 10 June from 11-12.30 pm** at St Mary's Centre, St Mary's R C Church, Hencotes, Hexham. **Professor Paul Rogers 'Prospects for a More Peaceful World'**.

### WI – Wednesday 14 June

'Bon Marche' with fashion ...; hostesses: Carol Adams and Diane Storrie; competition: a favourite scarf; stall: bring and buy. Visitors from Wall and Newbrough so please bring a contribution to supper.

### Sunday 25 June at 6.30 pm at the Village Hall (note start time)

**Highlights** in collaboration with **November Club – Beyond the End of the Road** – a new musical with stories and anecdotes from across Northumberland, ending with a ceilidh – tickets from Geeta on 344424.

### Haltwhistle Garden Club

**Saturday 17 June** – Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church and on **Monday 26 June** – Janet Queen 'The Gardens at Rose Castle'.

### STCC – Tuesday 27 June 'Film & Food Night' at the General Havelock

**Julieta** – After a casual encounter, a broken-hearted woman decides to confront her life and the most important events about her stranded daughter. **Booking necessary - £8.50 for meal and film – contact Joanna on 684376 for details.**

**DATE FOR THE DIARY**

**Women's Health Day** at the **Village Hall** on **Saturday 22 July** from **10am-4pm**. Taster sessions of Tai Chi, yoga, massage, Pilates, Raki, etc. Come along and try something new!

	<b>ROTAS</b>			
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>WARDEN</b>	<b>SIDESMAN</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>
4 June Pentecost	Henshaw	C Adams	Walker/ McKenna	Potts/Walker /Stockdale
11 June	Henshaw	A Storrie	Hewitt/ J Galbraith	“
18 June	Beltingham	W Green	Rowlands/ Palmer	Harding/ Storey/ Walters
2 July	Beltingham	A Galbraith	Collingwood /Slater	“

**ST CUTHBERT'S BELTINGHAM with ALL HALLOWS' HENSHAW**  
**Parish Newsletter** **June 2017**

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Items for publication to reach editors by 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month please either by phone (344582) or to Sally Gill at [sallygill@aol.com](mailto:sallygill@aol.com).

	<b>SERVICES</b>	
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>BELTINGHAM/ HENSHAW</b>	<b>HAYDON BRIDGE</b>
<b>4 June Pentecost</b>	<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist (BCP) - Henshaw</b>	<b>11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church</b>
<b>11 June Trinity Sunday</b>	<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church - Henshaw</b>	<b>11 am Parish Eucharist</b>
<b>18 June Trinity 1</b>	<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist - Beltingham</b>	<b>11 am Parish Eucharist (BCP)</b>
<b>24 June Saturday</b>	<b>10.30 am Messy Church - Henshaw</b>	
<b>25 June Trinity 2</b>	<b>10 am – Joint Eucharist at Haydon Bridge</b>	
<b>2 July Trinity 3</b>	<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist (BCP) – Beltingham</b>	<b>11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church</b>

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