

Letter from the Vicar

One of the tricks you soon learn as a Vicar is that the whole of the year is dominated by one date, the date of Easter. Because the date of Easter can vary so much (depending on when the first Sunday after the first full-moon after the vernal equinox, if you are counting), it can fall between 21 March and 18 April. This means that in some years, like last year, Easter was very early, on 27 March, whereas this year it will be very late, on 16 April. The reason why this is important for my diary is that this date then defines how much 'breathing space' we get between the end of Christmas and Epiphany on February 2nd and the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Last year there were only eight days between the two and this year there is almost a month!

This means that, very unusually, February can be a time to take stock, to enjoy the time and ensure that everything from Christmas is fully packed away before Lent and the often arduous preparations for Holy Week and Easter begin. On a practical level this means I have more time in my diary for the week-by-week things I must do. But on a personal and reflective level it allows me time to enjoy this time for what it is and not just rush from one season of the church's year to another.

February might not be the obvious time to do this, surely enjoying the present moment is easier in the warm summer sun of June than the late winter winds of February. But there is something to using this time to pause and take stock. The Scandinavian life-style idea of *Hygge*, which has become so popular this year, encourages us to savour the opportunities of these dark winter months, mostly by sitting by fires and wearing warm socks I think. But behind this is a deeper wisdom to savour the gift of this moment.

In the Gospels Jesus shares with us this wisdom as well. In Matthew's Gospel, in a reading we will hear in Church this month, he encourages us to consider the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. In this famous passage, he is encouraging us all to take the chance to pause and consider the great gift of what God gives us all around us all the time; whether in the first buds of spring or the beauty of our landscape, the love of friends or the comforts of home.

I know it is February and I know we all hanker for spring and warmth after the winter. But, if you can, take time to savour this moment and thank God for all he gives us.

Benjamin

CHURCH NEWS

PCC – Thursday 9 March in the Church Room at 7.30 pm Church Room.

MU – Monday 6 February – with Barbara Packer and the Hexham Abbey branch. **Wednesday 22 February** – 'Durham Cathedral', Rev Michael Sadgrove at the Methodist Chapel, Haydon Bridge and **Tuesday 28 February** – Benefice Shrove Tuesday Lunch at 12 for 12.30 pm, General Havelock. Contact Anne Brunton (344557) for further details.

NOTES AND NOTICES

Local History Group - Monday 6 February - 2 pm at the Village Hall

Collin Storey 'Childhood Experiences of Wartime Evacuation from Gateshead to Chollerton'.

Café Scientifique - Tuesday 7 February in the Village Hall from 7-8.30 pm, £5 including refreshments. Talk by Nathan Gregory from High Hesket micro brewery about the process, science and chemistry of brewing, its history and traditions. Includes samples for tasting.

Bardon Mill Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 7 February 7 pm Henshaw

WI – Wednesday 8 February – Sarah Speed 'Habitat for Humanity'; hostesses: Diana Robison and Ruth Ridley; competition: a teddy bear; stall: bring & buy.

Hexham Debates

Saturday 11 February from 11-12.30 pm at St Mary's Centre, St Mary's R C Church, Hencotes, Hexham. **Timmon Wallis, 'The Nuclear Ban Treaty – will it make a difference?'**

Haltwhistle Garden Club

Monday 13 February at 7 pm. **AGM** plus a talk by Simon Thompson, head gardener at Wallington.

South Tyne Wildlife Group

Tuesday 14 February at 7.30 pm, The Comrades Club – Martin Kitching 'North East Cetacean Project' - £3 all welcome.

South Tyne Cinema Circuit

Tuesday 28 February 'Film and Food Night' at the General Havelock

'Brooklyn' – a romantic drama set in 1951/2, the story of a young Irish woman's immigration to Brooklyn where she quickly finds romance. When her past catches up with her she must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within them for her. **Booking necessary - £8 for meal and film – contact Joanna on 684376 for details.**

DATE FOR THE DIARY Highlights present – ‘**Dommy B in the Boy Who Cried Wolf**’ on **Sunday 12 March**. Workshop 2-3 pm, performance at 4 pm. Wonderful new family show for ages 5+ (more details next month).

PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

£4 for the year (£8 if posted please) payable to your local distributor or send to Keith Brunton at Whitegates Henshaw NE47 7EP. Cheques payable to ‘Beltingham with Henshaw PCC (Magazine Account)’.

		ROTAS		
FEBRUARY	CHURCH	WARDEN	SIDESMAN	FLOWERS
5 February	Beltingham	Storey	Scott/ Slater	Galbraith/ Jackson
12 February	Henshaw	Storrie	Hayward/ Walker	Potts/Walker /Stockdale
19 February	Henshaw	Adams	McKenna/ Hewitt	“
5 March	Beltingham	Galbraith	Galbraith/ Rowlands	A Galbraith

VICAR	The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter The Vicarage, Station Yard, Haydon Bridge NE47 6LL. Email: revbenjaminarter@gmail.com	688196
WARDENS	Mrs A Galbraith, The Old Vicarage, Beltingham, Bardon Mill NE47 7BZ Mr Adrian Storrie, Barcombe Grove, Westwood, Bardon Mill NE47 7JF	344702 344494
DEPUTIES	Mrs P Storey, Hill Top, Thorngraston, Bardon Mill Mr W Green Mrs C Adams, 3 Burnside, Westwood NE47 7JU	344436 601115 344398
PCC	<u>Hon Secretary:</u> Miss J Simpson, 2 Wilsons Cottages Henshaw <u>Hon Treasurer:</u> Mrs M J Fleming, West Wantage, Beltingham	344599
Gift Aid Recorder	Mr J G Galbraith, The Old Vicarage, Beltingham, Bardon Mill NE47 7BZ	344702
Newsletter Editor	Mrs E Scott, Greenbanks, Westwood NE47 7JG	344582

Items for publication to reach editors by 22nd of the month please either by phone (344582) or to Sally Gill at sallygill@aol.com.

ST CUTHBERT’S BELTINGHAM with ALL HALLOWS’ HENSHAW
Parish Newsletter **February 2017**

	SERVICES	
FEBRUARY	BELTINGHAM/ HENSHAW	HAYDON BRIDGE
5 February 4 before Lent	9.30 Parish Eucharist (BCP) – Beltingham	11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church
12 February 3 before Lent	9.30 Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church – Henshaw	11 am Parish Eucharist
19 February 2 before Lent	9.30 Parish Eucharist - Henshaw	11 am Parish Eucharist
Saturday 25 February	10.30 am Messy Church - Henshaw	
25 February Next before Lent	10 am Joint Eucharist – Haydon Bridge	
1 March Ash Wednesday	7.30 pm Eucharist with Ashing – Haydon Bridge	
5 March 1st in Lent	9.30 Parish Eucharist – Beltingham	11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church

Items for publication to reach editors by 22nd of the month please either by phone (344582) or tSally Gill at sallyagill@aol.com

Items for publication to reach editors by 22nd of the month please either by phone (344582) or to Sally Gill at sallyagill@aol.com

Items for publication to reach editors by 22nd of the month either by phone (344582) or to Sally Gill at sallyagill@aol.com

<u>Items for publication to reach editors by 22nd of the month either by phone (344582) or to Sally Gill at sallyagill@aol.com</u>	