

Letter from the Vicar

If you sift through the rules of regulations of the Church of England, of which there are many, you will find a reference to principal Holy Days. These are days, where according to Canon B.14 (that is the name for a Church of England law, not a new type of camera) Holy Communion is to be celebrated in every Cathedral and Parish Church in the land. The list of days includes many that you would expect - Christmas Day, Easter Day, and Whit Sunday - and a few more that might not be as well known - The Presentation of Christ at the Temple, and The Annunciation.

All of these days though have a deep place and resonance within the patterns and rhythms of our Church year. For one they mark that link between the calendar of the Bible and calendar we live by day by day: "The Annunciation", which recalls the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, falls on 25 March, nine months before Christmas Day and so on. Alongside this many of these days are part of our shared memory. So Candlemas, which falls forty days after Christmas on 2 February, became a 'quarter day' on which farm rents were traditionally collected.

One of these principal Holy Days which hangs in our memory is Ascension Day which this year falls on Thursday 25 May. It is the culmination of our celebration of Eastertide as we remember that moment forty days after Easter when Jesus ascended into heaven. For many of you, this will be a day you remember taking as holidays from school or a day on which particular traditions were continued. For instance, many Parishes would 'Beat the Bounds' on Ascension Day, when the perimeter of the Parish would be walked and the Parish markers would be checked and 'beaten' (hit) with a walking stick.

Sadly the warp and weft of modern life means that the commemoration of Ascension Day has fallen by the wayside, not least because falling forty days after a Sunday, it always falls, inconveniently for many, on a Thursday. Like all the principal feasts there is a deep value in keeping these feasts because they remind us of the breadth and wealth of our faith, and through that God's ongoing concern and presence with us through all the seasons of the year. So this Ascension Day we will be gathering at Beltingham at 6pm with our Bishop, the Rt Rev'd Christine Hardman, to keep this principal feast in the Church's year. We will be continuing our own little Ascension Day tradition (supper at the Old Vicarage for which tickets are available) and bringing to an end our great celebration of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

Benjamin

CHURCH NEWS

The Bowes Lyon Trust

The Trust, created by the Will of the Hon Francis Bowes Lyon in 1948, is administered by Trustees (currently the Vicar and the Churchwardens). The Trust can make small grants to people in the Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw, on grounds of hardship. If you know of 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.

PCC on **Thursday 11 May** at Henshaw Church Room at 7.30 pm.

MU – **Wednesday 24 May** "60-80-30 Domestic Abuse" (Maggie Martin).

Ascension Day Supper – **Thursday 25 May** at the Old Vicarage following the Eucharist in St Cuthbert's Beltingham. Tickets £15 telephone 344702.

Saturday 29 July – Our Annual Church Coffee Morning at Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall. More info later but books, bric-a-brac and prizes will be needed – and lots of help! Contact Libby on 344582.

NOTES AND NOTICES

Wednesday 3 May at 7.30 pm at Holy Cross Church, Haltwhistle

Highlights present **The Montreal Guitar Trio** – for more than 15 years the trio's virtuosity, rigor, creativity and dynamic stage presence have been winning applause around the world. For tickets ring 320260.

Hexham Debates - **Saturday 6 May** from 11-12.30 pm at St Mary's Centre, St Mary's R C Church, Hencotes, Hexham. **John Bourton & Daniel Lenham – Veterans for Peace UK – 'How to turn your child into a killer'.**

Haltwhistle Garden Club – **Monday 8 May** at 7.30 pm Comrades Club, Clifford Caine 'Growing Fruit in Confined Spaces'.

WI – **Wednesday 10 May** – Annual Meeting and Resolutions. WIA (to be arranged); hostesses: Anne Iley and Joyce Walker.

STCC – **Tuesday 16 May 'Film & Food Night' at the General Havelock Jadoo** – A food-feud family comedy set in Leicester. **Booking necessary - £8.50 for meal and film – contact Joanna on 684376 for details.**

Annual Haltwhistle Plant Festival at the Leisure Centre

On Saturday 20 May from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm - wonderful plant nurseries, crafts and good food all day. Ring Libby for more details.

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).

		ROTAS		
MAY	CHURCH	WARDEN	SIDESMAN	FLOWERS
7 May	Beltingham	Green	Walker/ McKenna	Thompson/ D Furlong
14 May	Henshaw	C Adams	Hewitt/ Galbraith	Brunton/ Hartley/ Collingwood
21 May	Henshaw	Storrie	Rowlands/ Palmer	“
Thursday 25 May Ascension	Beltingham	A Galbraith	Collingwood /Slater	Jackson/ Scott/ Galbraith
28 May	Beltingham	A Galbraith	Scott/ Hayward	“
4 June Pentecost	Henshaw	C Adams	Walker/ McKenna	Potts/Walker /Stockdale

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PCC	<u>Hon Secretary:</u> Mrs Y Hewitt, 4 North Burnside, Westwood <u>Hon Treasurer:</u> Mrs M J Fleming, West Wantage, Beltingham	344391 344599
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Items for publication to reach editors by 22nd of the month please either by phone (344582) or to Sally Gill at sallygill@aol.com.

	SERVICES	
MAY	BELTINGHAM/ HENSHAW	HAYDON BRIDGE
7 May 4 after Easter	9.30 am Parish Eucharist (BCP) – Beltingham	11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church
14 May 5 after Easter	9.30 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church - Henshaw	11 am Parish Eucharist
21 May 6 after Easter	9.30 am Parish Eucharist – Henshaw	11 am Parish Eucharist
Thursday 25 May Ascension Day	6 pm - Joint Eucharist led by the Rt Rev'd Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle at Beltingham	
Saturday 27 May	10.30 am Messy Church at Henshaw	
28 May 7 after Easter	10 am – Joint Eucharist at Beltingham	
4 June Pentecost	9.30 am Parish Eucharist (BCP) - Henshaw	11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church

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