

## **Letter from the Vicar**

As I write this letter, with wind and rain sweeping across Tynedale after another long dark winter, it is hard to imagine that warmth and life will return. Of course, there are a few snowdrops and daffodils doing their best to buck the trend, but the trees remain bare and the skies grey. But then suddenly, unbelievably, spring will arrive, trees will burst into bud and flower, the sun will find the warmth it has misplaced over the winter, lambs will fill our fields and new life and possibility will erupt all around us.

Every year when I come to Holy Week and Easter I am surprised and even overwhelmed by the unstoppable power of God's love that we are told through this greatest of weeks. This might seem strange. After all we all know the story, we all know it seems all will be lost and we all know it works out in the end. But the Easter story is not a tired tale we tell year after year, it is a reality we live and experience and is changed by each time we come to it.

Like our longing for spring we come to the story from the season of Lent and a time of seemingly endless greyness. On Palm Sunday, the hope is that things might change, like those fleeting days in early spring when the sun shines more than we expect, and we think, for a moment, that spring is here. But then things get cold and bleak again. The rain and wind roll in and it seems as if winter has returned. Through Holy Week we take the journey from the fleeting hope of Palm Sunday to the despair of Good Friday, and it feels like it will never be warm again. Then without us knowing or realising, there is an eruption of new life - an unstoppable movement of God's love that the Cross and the Stone of the Tomb and not even death itself can hold back. On Easter morning, the new life God promises sweeps over us like the waves of spring that we yearn for.

In Easter, we find that there is nothing that can hold back the unstoppable power of God's love revealed to us in his son Jesus Christ. Through the worship of our Churches everyone is welcome to find and experience again the transforming and life-changing power of love and to know that, even on the coldest days, the power of God's love will come again like 'wheat that springs up green.'

With every best wish for Easter,

**Benjamin**

## **CHURCH NEWS**

**MU** – Wednesday **26 April** 'Maggie's Centre' (Mrs Janet Davies) at Henshaw.

**APCM** – Sunday **23 April** at Beltingham following the service.

## **NOTES AND NOTICES**

**South Tyne Sustainability on Saturdays 1 & 15 April at Haltwhistle Market Place**, with ideas and free seeds to help you start growing your own. More information on [www.southtynesustainability.org.uk](http://www.southtynesustainability.org.uk).

**Café Scientifique -Tuesday 4 April** in the **Village Hall from 7-9 pm, £5** (including refreshments). Talk by **Dr Robert Bluck** on '**Buddhism: Science, Philosophy or Religion?**'

**Saturday 8 April at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall** – **Highlights** present **Theatre by the Lake** in '**Two-Way Mirror**' by Arthur Miller. This is a beautiful double bill exploring illusion, love and the power of desire. Tickets are £7.50 from Geeta on 344424 or at the door.

**South Tyne Wildlife Group - Tuesday 11 April** at 7.30 pm, the Comrades Club – **Brian Young: 'The Bonny Bits'** – a celebration of some of the spectacular and rather rare minerals of the North Pennines. £3 – all welcome.

**WI** – **Wednesday 12 April** – 'Pies, Peas and Poems' (an in-house evening of home grown entertainment and fun). Hostesses: the Committee; Competition: 'a fancy cruet set'; Stall: 'bring and buy'.

**Hexham Debates - Saturday 22 April** from 11-12.30 pm at St Mary's Centre, St Mary's R C Church, Hencotes, Hexham. **Ann Feltham 'The UK and Saudi Arabia: fuelling war and repression'**.

**STCC - Tuesday 28 April 'Film & Food Night' at the General Havelock Rams** – In a remote Icelandic farming valley two brothers, who haven't spoken in 40 years, have to come together in order to save what's dearest to them – their sheep! **Booking necessary - £8.50 for meal and film – contact Joanna on 684376 for details.**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**Saturday 20 May - Annual Haltwhistle Plant Festival at the Leisure Centre from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.** Wonderful plant nurseries, crafts and good food all day.

**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!

## **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)'.**

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

	<b>ROTAS</b>			
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>WARDEN</b>	<b>SIDESMAN</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>
2 April	Beltingham	Galbraith	McKenna/ Hewitt	F Wancke/ C Wancke/ Slater
9 April Palm Sunday	Henshaw	C Adams	Galbraith/ Rowlands	Galbraith/ Potts
14 April Good Friday	Henshaw	C Adams	Palmer	
16 April Easter Day	Henshaw	A Storrie	Collingwood /Slater	*Group Effort
23 April 2 of Easter	Beltingham	A Galbraith	Scott/ Hayward	C Thompson /D Furlong

**\*Please contact Judy Potts (344480) by 9 April if you can assist with church decoration.**

<b>VICAR</b>	The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter The Vicarage, Station Yard, Haydon Bridge NE47 6LL. Email: <a href="mailto:revbenjamin Carter@gmail.com">revbenjamin Carter@gmail.com</a>	688196
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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>APRIL</b>	<b>BELTINGHAM/ HENSHAW</b>	<b>HAYDON BRIDGE</b>
<b>2 April 5<sup>th</sup> in Lent</b>	<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist (BCP) – Beltingham</b>	<b>11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church</b> (followed by Annual Church Parochial Meeting)
<b>Palm Sunday 9 April</b>	<b>10 am Joint Eucharist - Henshaw</b>	
<b>Tuesday 11 April</b>	<b>8.30 am Morning Prayer - Haydon Bridge</b>	
	<b>5 pm Evening Prayer - Henshaw</b>	
	<b>6 pm Eucharist - Henshaw</b>	
<b>Wednesday 12 April</b>	<b>8.30 am Morning Prayer – Haydon Bridge</b>	
	<b>11 am Eucharist - Henshaw</b>	
	<b>5 pm Evening Prayer – Haydon Bridge</b>	
<b>Maundy Thursday 13 April</b>	<b>8.30 am Morning Prayer – Haydon Bridge</b>	
	<b>7.30 pm Eucharist and Stripping of the Altars – Haydon Bridge</b>	
<b>Good Friday 14 April</b>	<b>10.45 am Churches Together Act of Witness beginning at War Memorial and on Old Bridge 11 am</b>	
	<b>12 Noon – The First Hour – Haydon Bridge</b>	
	<b>2 pm – The Last Hour - Henshaw</b>	
<b>Holy Saturday 15 April</b>	<b>10.30 am Messy Church - Henshaw</b>	
<b>Easter Day 16 April</b>	<b>6.30 am The Liturgy of Easter – Haydon Old Church</b>	
	<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist with Baptism - Henshaw</b>	
	<b>11 am Parish Eucharist – Haydon Bridge</b>	
<b>23 April 2 of Easter</b>	<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist – Beltingham (followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting)</b>	
	<b>11 am Parish Eucharist (BCP) – Haydon Bridge</b>	
<b>30 April 3 after Easter</b>	<b>10 am Joint Eucharist – Haydon Bridge</b>	
<b>7 May 4 after Easter</b>	<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist (BCP) – Beltingham</b>	<b>11 am Parish Eucharist + Storybook Church</b>

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