

The Meeting of the Waters



APRIL 2024

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A PASTORAL LETTER FOR APRIL 2024

One of the delights of travelling around the parishes of the area is the chance to see the spring flowers in such abundance. Easter this year has come very early, and therefore the daffodils are still out in profusion and are decorating our churches as we celebrate the risen Christ both in and outside the buildings.

There are so many different varieties and sizes of daffodils! According to some sources, the daffodil symbolises rebirth and new beginnings. It is one of the first flowers to bloom at the end of winter, announcing the beginning of spring and signifying the end of the cold, dark days, and is sometimes known as the Lent Lily. Less commonly, daffodils are also seen as symbols of creativity, energy, resilience, forgiveness and vitality.

At times all of us need a new start in life, in our relationships and in how we view things. In the natural world we are beginning that season of re-birth, with a burst of new energy, and green shoots, buds, young lambs and growth of every kind. This season of Easter, which lasts until Pentecost or Whit Sunday gives each of us the chance to have a new beginning as well.

As we go through the next few weeks, we encounter Good Shepherd Sunday, where Christians are reminded that Jesus is the faithful shepherd of the sheep, and we ask God for help to hear his voice and follow his ways. Then, we move towards Rogationtide, when traditionally the bounds of the parishes would have been walked to remind people of the boundaries, so that if any were in need they would know to whom to go for help. There will be walks on Rogation Sunday at the beginning of May (followed by afternoon tea and a service at Great Bavington URC Church if you would like to join in – details elsewhere in this magazine.

A very happy and blessed Eastertide to everyone.

Sarah Lunn

SERVICES IN THE DEANERY IN FEBRUARY '24

7th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 22-35; 1 John 1:-2:2; John 20: 19-end

- 8.30am Holy Communion at Wark
- 10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham (Banns)
- 10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
- 10.00am Morning Worship at Birtley
- 10.30am MURC Service at Wark
- 1.00pm Baptism at Wark
- 11.00am Parish Worship at Falstone
- 11.00am Parish Worship at Otterburn
- 11.30am Holy Communion at Simonburn
- 4.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield
- 6.00pm Holy Communion at Elsdon (Banns)
- 8.00pm Late at 8 Contemporary Worship- Humshaugh

14th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3: 12-19; 1 John 3: 1-7; Luke 24: 36b-48

- 8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington
- 10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh (Banns)
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Thorneyburn (Banns)
- 11.30am Holy Communion at Wall
- 2.00pm Informal Communion at Corsenside Village Hall

- 5.00pm Holy Communion at Horsley
- 6.00pm Holy Communion at Wark

21st April - 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 5-12; 1 John 3: 16-end; John 10: 11-18

- 8.30am Holy Communion at Gunnerton
- 9.30am Holy Communion at Falstone
- 10.00am Holy Communion at Birtley SR
- 10.00am Parish Worship at Bellingham (Banns)
- 10.30am MURC Service at Wark
- 11.30am Service of the Word at Bingfield
- 3.00pm Holy Communion at Otterburn
- 6.00pm Evensong at Simonburn

28th April 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-end; 1 John 4: 7-end; John 15: 1-8

- 8.30am Holy Communion at Chollerton
- 10.00am Deanery Zoom
- 11.30am Holy Communion at Wall
- 3.00pm Holy Communion at Byrness
- 6.00pm Service of the Word at Thorneyburn (Banns)
- 6.00pm Holy Communion at Humshaugh (Banns)
- 6.00pm Parish Worship at Wark

ROGATION WALKS - SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2024



Rogation comes from the Latin 'rogare', meaning 'to ask'. Since medieval times, there has been a tradition of walking around parish boundaries and asking for God's blessing on the communities, agriculture and industries there. The photo shows an illustration (entitled 'Rogation') by Nick Winslow, which captures the spirit of the walk.

On Sunday 5th May (Rogation Sunday), there will be two walks - from St Bartholomew's, Kirkwhelpington, to Great Bavington (along St Oswald's Way) and from St Aidan's, Thockrington, to Great Bavington (on footpaths across the fields). The walkers will arrive at Great Bavington URC around 5.30pm for tea, cake and live music from the Band from St George's URC, Morpeth, which will be followed by the Rogation service at 6.30pm, led by Rev. Julian Sanders.

Everyone is very welcome to join the walks, or just come along in time for tea and cake. It would be really helpful if you could let us know in advance (by Wednesday 1st May) so that we have plenty of cake! We will arrange to take the walkers back to their departure points after the service.

If you would like to walk from Kirkwhelpington:

Meet at St Bartholomew's at 3.15pm, to set off at 3.30pm. Please let Jane Armstrong know if you would like to take part: jarmy_55@yahoo.co.uk or 01670 775168.

If you would like to walk from Thockrington:

Meet at St Aidan's at 4.15pm, to set off at 4.30pm. Please let Sarah Lunn know if you would like to take part: sarahlunn63@gmail.com or 01434 681721.

If you would just like to come for tea and cake, and not do the walk:

Meet at Great Bavington URC at 5.30pm, and please let us know at bavingtonchurch@gmail.com or 01830 540350.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE 2024

On Friday 1st March, World Day of Prayer services were held in 146 countries right across the globe. The World Day of Prayer is a women-led, global and ecumenical movement. Here in our small part of the world, in North Tyne and Redesdale, services were held in Bellingham (at the MURC) and in Otterburn (at St. Peter's). The service this year was particularly poignant as it had been written (before the current troubles) by the Christian women of Palestine. The theme for the service this year was: *"I beg you, bear with one another in love" (from Ephesians 4:1-6).*

In Bellingham, thirty people attended the service - braving rain, sleet, and snow! We had representatives and readers for the service from the North Tyne Anglican churches, Bellingham MURC, and St Oswald's RC Church. The service included stories and songs illuminating the experiences of Palestinian Christian women from three generations. The symbol of the olive tree was used to represent the three generations of Palestinian women through its trunk, branches and leaves.

During the service we exchanged "olive tokens" (bookmarks showing the olive tree) to represent "putting peace into each other's hands". We sang traditional Palestinian songs (as well as traditional hymns). One of the Palestinian songs was Yarbba Ssalami (God of Peace): *God of peace come among us, rain down your peace on the world.* Well, it was certainly raining that evening! We pray indeed for God's peace on the world.

At the end of the service, Archdeacon Catherine spoke briefly about the service in the current context of Palestine and gave the blessing. Father Jim Dunne offered the final prayer and after the service, we enjoyed sweet and savoury refreshments including a Middle Eastern tray bake – a coconut and semolina cake flavoured with rosewater (which was delicious, thank you Roberta!).

The offering at the World Day of Prayer in Bellingham raised £162.70 (plus £25 in Gift Aid contributions) for the WDP charities. The money goes to support a wide variety of charities especially for women and children at home and abroad, including providing safe spaces for women, homeless and disadvantaged younger people – and abroad for

educational programmes for girls in Ghana and women's programmes in Congo.

The photo was taken at Bellingham MURC and shows citrus fruits representing the fruit of Palestine (thank-you to Jacqui from George Jennings for the colourful display of citrus fruits); "olive leaves" made by MURC Messy Church; Linda's stunning (real!) plum blossom and Poppies, photos of Palestine, Olive oil, a Bible and a candle.



Thank you so much to everyone who came to support the initiative, as well as to those who read and those who brought gifts to share.

Best wishes from Marie Ness and Cath Brennand

THE REDESDALE SOCIETY 2024/25

The next meeting of The Redesdale Society will take place on Friday 12th April at Otterburn Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30 pm, and will include an illustrated talk about The Great Tapestry of Scotland.

Our speaker, Susie Finlayson, a textile artist from Hawick, was one of the stitchers who worked on the project. She also runs embroidery workshops in the Scottish Borders for complete beginners and improvers, teaching basic stitches and more advanced stitchery.

It was the author Alexander McCall Smith who first came up with the idea after a visit to the Prestonpans Tapestry. The artist Andrew Crummy, who has vast experience with large-scale community arts projects, then designed a tapestry based on a selection of events and scenes from Scottish history.

The Great Tapestry is made up of 160 linen panels, and has been hand-embroidered with 300 miles of wool. Over 1000 volunteer stitchers from across Scotland worked on the panels, with each panel taking around

500 hours to sew. The finished project is almost twice the length of the Bayeux Tapestry and is now housed in a purpose-built visitor centre in Galashiels. Susie will be bringing with her a selection of books and samples of stitching as well as the public commission that she is currently working on, to which attendees will have the opportunity to add their own stitches if they wish.

This promises to be a fascinating talk and of interest to lovers of history and stitching alike. Visitors are most welcome to join us for the whole evening. There is a small entry charge for visitors, which will include refreshments after the talk. We look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes, David Baines

A LOVE STORY

I left Exeter in 2019 on a very grey, miserable November day. I was coming north to live with Lizzie, leaving behind over 50 years of friendship and church life. It had been the lovely home where I had raised my family with no thoughts of ever leaving, but then my husband of 64 years had died and my sight had gone. There wasn't really enough background support for me to continue to live where I was. I felt my heart would break when I left my home and my beautiful garden.

I had never been to visit my daughter Lizzie in her Northumberland home. I arrived here in the dark, having no idea what the place was like, or what the house looked like. I had my own very nice extension to live in but I had no telephone of my own for several weeks so I had no contact with my old friends for some time. I missed them terribly.

At first I met one or two local people, but then we had lockdown and meeting people didn't happen any more. I had never before needed a laptop or ipad but lockdown meant it was a question of meeting on Zoom and relying on Lizzie to connect to it.

Someone mentioned the bible study group. I'd been a Christian for a long time but never been part of a bible study group. I knew the outline of all the stories in the bible but I'd never thought them through in depth. With being mostly blind and housebound, meeting on Zoom means I can still take part. So I joined.

Through the bible study group we explored stories of love, hate, betrayal, courage, big adventures and everyday experiences. I found that by

exploring the stories with others in the bible study group, the biblical characters became very much living people to me with life stories I could relate to. We discovered things together, learnt and benefitted so much on our shared journey together.

You could say, why do bible study together? I would say it's for the same reason you do other things together, like people play sport together or share hobbies together. It's for fellowship and to help and encourage one another. It is only by sharing together that we can learn from one another and support each other. We also share prayers for the things that concern us. When you see tragedies like war in Gaza you remember that the three faiths of Christianity, Judaism and Islam all have shared values and we need to stand together with one another, not to pass judgement but to pray and bring about justice and peace. We close every bible study meeting with prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

So what have I gained? I have gained wonderful friendship. I have greater confidence knowing how much God loves me and loves the person who reads this at the moment, who is loved the same way as I am. I am no longer lonely or friendless. I have dark times like everybody else and family problems like everybody else but I know I am not alone and like everybody else I can trust God in everything.

It's a question of building up a sanctuary for yourself by trusting and sharing and learning with other Christians who will give you support when you need it. The group is non-critical, non-judgemental and has a great willingness to do what we can as the body of Christ. We are all very different, from different denominations, viewpoints, backgrounds and ages. We find our differences stimulating and it helps us learn from each other.

You are very welcome to join us, whether to simply listen or whether to contribute; there's no pressure. If you would like to know more, please ring me on 07541 643340 to chat.

Margaret Sharman, Lanehead

NB: The Bible Study Group meets every Tuesday at 7.30pm – 9.00pm. If you would like to be added to the Zoom link, simply email helen@howiefamily.me.uk and we'll send you the link so you can listen in and see if it's something you'd be interested in.

CLIMATE CORNER

Reptile Survey at Corsenside: A group of eight interested volunteers met up at Corsenside on 16th March to learn about reptiles with John Grundy of *Wilderness Tamed*. It was a glorious sunny morning after weeks and weeks of rain; the Curlews were calling and a group of six Buzzards circled lazily in the sky. The sun rapidly warmed up the frosted moss and dry-stone walls giving perfect conditions for reptiles seeking some spring warmth!

John gave us plenty of interesting information about Common Lizards, Slow Worms and Adders, and then spent time showing us where we would be most likely to see these creatures. The long tussocky grass in the older part of the graveyard near to the dry-stone walls is the perfect place! We learnt John's "creep and peep" technique – walking as slowly and as silently as possible, paying attention to possible basking spots. Shadows can disturb basking reptiles and they have a keen sense of smell – so we learned to pay particular attention to where the sunlight and the wind were coming from.

We surveyed the whole graveyard during the morning but sadly found no reptiles on this occasion. In a bid to spot these camouflaged and secretive creatures another time, John helped us make some basking sites in three or four potential reptile "hotspots". Some of us intend to return with folding chairs, coffee and sandwiches and spend time watching carefully in the coming months.

Lent and creation care: The book *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio proved to be a popular choice for Lent studies this year. Six weeks of challenging material, interesting discussions and thoughtful action points have helped each group to understand more about our responsibilities for our fragile planet.

This learning was helped along by a Sunday for the Environment at Bellingham on 17th March. Head of Conservation for A Rocha, Andy Lester, came to talk at an ecumenical service, which drew interested folk from many different churches. His talk focused on the five "Ps": prayer, practical action, petition (to government, MPs, big business

etc), perseverance (in the work), and praise. After lunch together, we had a more informal session with Andy, ending with a question and answer time.

We end Lent with a sense of how critical the situation is for our Earth and with a desire to get put our new understanding into action. Watch this space over the next few months for ways to get involved in the Five Ps!!

Best wishes, Cathy Smith

OUR FRAGILE EARTH: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Deanery schools group is already busy visiting schools and sharing stories of Our Fragile Earth, and you may have already been part of putting together some of the “*Cloths of Hopes and Dreams*” that the children have designed. If so, thank you so much for helping to make that happen!

During June, we will once again be hosting schools for a day at Simonburn village hall and on a trail around the church with creation as the theme this time.

Of course to make it happen successfully, we need volunteer help with simple craft activities (instructions provided) and creation stations in church or the hall each day. Maybe you can help on the day that your local school will attend, but any days you can offer will be very much appreciated. Lunch will be provided for volunteers as usual.

School visits are on the following dates in June 2024:

10th - Greenhaugh and Kielder; **11th** - Otterburn; **12th** - Chollerton;
13th - Bellingham Middle; **14th** - Bellingham Primary; **17th** - Wark;
18th - Humshaugh; **19th** - Cambo

If you think you can help with the activities and creation stations, please email Jane Abrams janeabrams61@gmail.com

Or if you would prefer to give your help with catering (serving drinks, soup, washing up), please email Helen Watson bingfieldfarm@aol.com

NEWS FROM BELLINGHAM



The end is almost nigh. Yes, as with all major projects, it is the small jobs that seem to take a long time to complete. As you can see from the photo, we have some very smart new radiators and the new heating system is working but not at full capacity. As we have gone all electric the demand (load) on the incoming electricity

supply system is high and to balance the load it is necessary to have two supplies connected and a new smart meter. Many years ago, under-pew heaters were fitted that necessitated two supplies, so we knew that a suitable main cable had been installed (the under-pew heaters were abandoned in 1995). We have been waiting for the meter since 3 January. Eventually British Gas Lite came to install it on 13 March, however they then told us they couldn't fit a meter without the electrician who had installed the complete heating system being present to explain how it worked! We are still waiting for the new meter as we write this article.



What else has been happening? Well, the area where the pews were has been tiled and now looks very much better than the photo here! The control cabinet for the sound and live streaming system has been re-located in the Chancel to make it easier to control during a service and improve the reception from the microphones, and the vestry has

been re-organised with a wardrobe type cupboard for the vestments, a steel support for the safe, cupboards and shelves for storing candles, altar linen, etc.

Thanks to all who cleaned, dusted, and polished at the beginning of March. We were back in church on Sunday 3rd March for our first service since the temporary closure. We also welcomed Bellingham

MURC and others from across the deanery for an ecumenical service on the 17th March when Andy Lester, Head of Conservation at *A Rocha* spoke on how we can care for creation and look after our natural world through prayer and action.

John Stevenson and Cath Brennand



NEWS FROM CORSENSIDE

On Saturday 16th March, the friends of Corsenside arranged an outdoor reptile survey at saint Cuthbert's Corsenside, starting at 8am. Please see Cathy Smith's Climate Corner article earlier in this magazine for details.

On Tuesday 26th March (Holy Week), the Northern Cross Pilgrims will visit West Woodburn on their way to Holy Island and will be given lunchtime refreshments at Corsenside Village Hall. We have received some kind offers of help with food and catering, for which we are most grateful. The Pilgrims will, of course, have reached Holy Island by the time this edition of Meeting of the Waters is printed.

In Corsenside Village Hall on 27th March, an Age Concern representative will be visiting in order to help older people identify possible scam phone calls/emails/letters, etc. If people would like a home visit to discuss this matter one-to-one, Age Concern are happy to arrange this so please call them on 01670 784800 if you are interested.

On Easter Eve (Saturday 30th March), there will be a Craft Design Event for children in Corsenside Village hall. The event will run from 10am to 12 noon. Children must be accompanied by an appropriate adult.

On 6 April, Fool's Gold will be performing their production of *Old King Coal*. Tickets are £6 and are available at West Woodburn Village post office/store. Entry is free for accompanied children. Doors open at 7pm with performance starting at 7.30pm. Teas, coffees and soft drinks will be available.

As far as services are concerned at Corsenside, it is hoped that there will be an informal communion service at 2pm on Easter Day in Saint Cuthbert's and in the meantime, please keep your eyes open for further events at Corsenside.

Best wishes, Diana

NEWS FROM ELSDON

We were delighted (if that is appropriate for Good Friday?) to have Bishop Mark lead the '*Hour at the Cross*' in St. Cuthbert's Elsdon as we reflected on Christ's crucifixion. No-one can say God doesn't understand pain and suffering. He deeply knows the very worst the world can do to us, from the inside. Thank you God for Jesus!

April sees our first **Culture in a Cool Place** event of 2024 with a **biography writing workshop** on **Saturday 27th April**. Have you ever thought of writing your life story? It can be a liberating experience. Why not come along to the church at 10am on Saturday 27th and get hints and tips from Elsdon's writers group. This is the first of 2 biography writing workshops, with the second following 2 weeks later, on Saturday 11th May. You will be very welcome.

This year the North Tyne and Redesdale group of 9 churches are thinking as a whole about how to work together going forward and how this will impact on St. Cuthbert's Elsdon. We'll be discussing this at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at **7pm on Wednesday 17th April** in **Elsdon Village Hall**. We want you to be part of this process. We want to know what you value about the church and what, if anything, you would like to see change about it or any of its services. Your feedback is really important to our future direction. We really need and welcome new thoughts and ideas about how the church will operate in the mid 2020s and beyond. This is a crucial pivot point in the history of St. Cuthbert's Church, potentially a make-or-break moment.

You may be familiar with the phrase "*Speak up now, or forever hold your peace*". Well, this is one of those rare occasions. We will be meeting in the Village Hall so everyone will be comfortable and warm, with tea & coffee at **7pm on Wednesday 17th April**. Don't hold back. It's really important this year that everyone who cares about St Cuthbert's Church comes along.

Best wishes, Helen Howie

NEWS FROM FALSTONE

I start my article today with an apology (I had a menopausal moment... ..despite taking HRT 12) as last month, I forgot to submit *News from St Peter's*. I wrote a reminder in my home and work diaries and an put an alert on my iPhone as not to forget this time.

On the 21st of January, it was a pleasure to have Archdeacon Catherine (see photo on the cover of this magazine) take the service at St Peter's, the weather was kind for her journey where she witnessed a beautiful rainbow. Rainbows are beautiful, colourful occurrences that I describe as "a glimpses of glory" they make us smile once they are painted in the skies after a gloomy storm. However, rainbows cover more than just a multi-coloured sight, they are a representation of God's promise to us; He will never again destroy the earth through a flood (Genesis 9:13).



St Peter's was full to bursting for the baptism of brother and sister Emma, aged 4, and Dylan Swan, aged 11 months (see photo). As many of you will know, the Swan family are local farmers so our Rural Dean Rev Sarah (who incidentally breeds sheep) and I decided to have a sheep theme for the baptism. Emma was delighted with this idea, you may remember last year her dad James and mam Ashley brought three Valais Blacknose sheep to church – namely Molly, Dolly and Polly. There were no *real* sheep this time but 20 cuddly toy sheep, of

various sizes, hidden around the church (see photos). I told the story of The Good Shepherd, then the children had to find the sheep hidden around St Peter's and gather them safely in - which they did with great gusto.

It was lovely to hear to organ played and despite an infected hand, which was heavily bandaged and supposed to be in a sling(!), Cailean (one of the Godfathers) managed to play beautifully. The baptism water had a few drops of water from the





River Jordan added to good old North Tyne water and Emma and Dylan were as good as gold having the water sprinkled on their heads. We welcome them both into the Christian family at St Peter's.

There wasn't a Mothering Sunday service at St Peter's this year but we joined the service at St Aidan's Thorneyburn taken by Rev Sarah. It was heartening to see

the whole community coming together from all over the North Tyne and Bellingham, which in my humble opinion is the key to the survival of our rural churches. We sang some great hymns accompanied by Lizzie Kathiravel on her fiddle which was a wonderful, toe tapping experience. Thank you to Caroline Waitt, Michael Nixon and everyone at St Aidan's for the warm welcome, daffodils, primroses and delicious refreshments especially the Simnel cake made by Cath Brennan which was truly delicious.

Thank you to Jean & Nicola Swailes and Jill Walton, who put together 28 bunches of daffodils and placed them in front of the URC in Falstone on Mothering Sunday (see photo) for people to collect and give to their mothers and those who care from them. All 28 flowers were taken.



St Peter's is holding an Easter Chocolate (coffee) Morning in Falstone village Hall on the 30th March 10am - 12 noon (see next page for further info). The children will parade to the Easter Garden at St Peter's wearing their created Easter bonnets, where they will listen to the Easter story and put the finishing touches to the Easter Garden.

There will be a Family Easter Day service at St Peter's at 11am to include an egg hunt in the church yard, everyone is welcome to this special service.

Best wishes, Jill Swaile ALM and Churchwarden.

ST PETER’S CHURCH CHOCOLATE MORNING 2024



ST PETER’S CHURCH CHOCOLATE MORNING

FALSTONE VILLAGE HALL
Easter Saturday 30th March
10.00 – 12.00

Refreshments, Cake stall, tombola,
raffle plus various local craft stalls

EASTER CRAFTS FOR THE CHILDREN

COMPETITION FOR THE BEST DECORATED
HARD BOILED EGG

THE THEME THIS YEAR IS....

... YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK

OR YOU COULD ENTER A DYED EGG



This year’s Chocolate Morning will take place at Falstone Village Hall on Easter Saturday (30th March) from 10am – 12 noon.

There will be refreshments, Cake stall, tombola, raffle plus various local craft stalls. Easter crafts are provided for the children (of all ages) and there is a competition for the best decorated hard-boiled egg (the theme this year is: Your Favourite Book) - or you could enter a dyed egg instead.

NEWS FROM OTTERBURN

St John's 100 Club draw: The PCC is pleased to announce the winning numbers in the February and March draws:

February - 1st no 40; 2nd no 70; 3rd no 1

March - 1st no 51; 2nd no 59; 3rd no 28

If you are a member of the 100 club but are unsure what number(s) you hold, please email otterburn.treasurer@hotmail.com to check.

Best wishes, Gill Chilvers

NEWS FROM THORNEYBURN



The joint Mothering Sunday Service at St Aidan’s, Thorneyburn, was a great success as we hosted a congregation from Bellingham and Falstone with about 30 people there. It was lovely to have such a full church and share communion. Rev Sarah gave a wonderful sermon, and we were led in the hymns by Lizzie on the violin. This was followed by Simnel cake and shortbread with gifts of bunches of Daffs or Primula handed out, and time to chat with all.

We often have visitors to the church whom we

never see and before we had a visitors' book, we didn't know what they thought of our church. Today when I went into church, there was a message saying, '*Left totally enthralled with the stories attached to real local people – well done for bringing the past to life and remembering people – visiting from the Peak District*'. It makes it all worthwhile.

Last year we decided to join the Inclusive Church network, and this was agreed at our PCC and taken forward by Michael Nixon in the first instance. The values statement says: *We believe in inclusive Church - a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.* This was a relatively easy process, and we are now on their website. We have had some very positive comments from visitors and congregation. If any other church is interested in being part of the network, please feel free to contact me for any help in doing this. Their website is <https://www.inclusive-church.org/>

The school's group have been busy with their project entitled Our Fragile World where they have been visiting all the schools and working with the children to explore and draw what they love about their planet and area. These have then been made into patches by adult crafters in our community to create a cloth of dreams. Thanks to Amanda Gray, Jenni Holland and Kath Hoggan in co-ordinating and creating these in our area. They were taken back to school where the children were delighted with their creations. Elsewhere in this mag is information on how you can get involved in supporting the final event in June where the children will have a day at Simonburn with activities. We are developing our Cloth of Dreams into an altar frontal and if you are interested in being involved with that contact Jenni Holland or me.

It seems good to be looking forward to Spring and hopefully warmer and dryer weather. Already the hedges are starting to green, pussy willow is showing along with daffodils and other bulbs lending cheery colour. I must admit I really miss the sun and am looking forward to the spring.

We also have a busy summer ahead with 2 baptisms of Austin and Miriam's great grandchildren as well as 2 weddings (one being Ingrid and Ant Carr's daughter Martha) to look forward to later.

Caroline Waitt (Churchwarden)

A BRIEF WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This month's cover photo was submitted by Jill Swaile and details are in the 'News at Falstone' article earlier in the magazine.

If you have anything you would like to see included in the magazine (articles, cartoons, news, photos, events, birthdays, etc.), please feel free to email it to: **sarahMOTW@btinternet.com** - or you can simply give me a call on 240767.

The copy deadline for next month's issue is **MONDAY 15th APRIL 2024**.

Please note that any views, thoughts or opinions expressed within this magazine are those of the authors/contributors and do not officially represent those of the wider church or of any other group or individual.

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE MEETING OF THE WATERS

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Please note: Friday is my day off and I will respond to any queries when I return to work

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Horsley with Byrness, Elsdon and Otterburn:

Dr Andrew Brittlebank: 07740 224324
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