

The Meeting of the Waters



AUGUST 2025

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SEASON OF MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS?

There is no formal Pastoral letter this month, so instead you will have to put up with some vague (secular) ramblings on Late Summer and Autumn, and the natural rhythms of life in our communities.

Discussions are taking place around our parishes, about which flowers, fruits and vegetables will be blooming and/or ripening in time for the Show season this year (Falstone Show is on 23rd August, Bellingham Show will be on the 30th August and the Bellingham and Tarsset Leek Shows will both be held in early September). There is talk of jams (though not, necessarily, of Jerusalem), baking, crafting, coconuts, prize lambs and tombolas.

If you prefer music festivals to Shows (or if you have enough energy to attend both the shows and the festivals!) Redefest takes place in the first weekend of August and BAAfest will be in the first weekend in September. Both festivals are well worth going to and details can be found on their respective websites (just type their names into your internet search bars to find the websites).

Reports of wildlife activity in the area have also been coming in throughout July. No fewer than 527 bats were counted emerging from their roost at the Rectory in Bellingham on 14th July and a small herd of deer have been regularly invading the Rectory's garden - presumably for the sole purpose of providing a sounding-board for Claire when she is composing her sermons (nothing to do with the luscious plants which are so abundant in the Rectory garden, of course).

Elsewhere in the area, one unlucky resident lost four chickens to the depredations of the local Stoat(s) and in one Parishioner's garden, the Sparrowhawks have been very active (presumably while the parents have been feeding their young), evidenced by the small but nonetheless gruesome piles of feathers and other nameless remains, belonging to the various species of small birds that said residents have been carefully fattening up on their bird feeders! The local Greater Spotted Woodpeckers have had a successful breeding season and in one garden, the parents deposit (by which I mean 'abandon') their youngsters on the peanut feeder and go off to do whatever it is that adult Woodpeckers do when they've successfully distracted the majority of their brood with food, coming back to collect them an hour or so later. A number of people have also commented on an increased number of bees

SERVICES IN THE DEANERY - AUGUST 2025

3rd August: 7th Sunday after Trinity *Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; Colossians 3: 1-11; Luke 12: 13-21*

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Wark
9.00am	Holy Communion at Bellingham
9.30am	Holy Communion at Birtley
10.30am	MURC Service at Wark
10.30am	St Oswalds Day Communion at Heavenfield
11.00am	Holy Communion at Elsdon
11.00am	Holy Communion at Simonburn
11.00am	Service of the Word at Falstone
5.00pm	Holy Communion at Corsenside

10th August: 8th Sunday after Trinity *Genesis 15: 1-6; Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16; Luke 12: 32-40*

9.00am	Holy Communion at Thockrington
9.00am	Holy Communion at Thorneyburn
10.00am	Service of the Word at Chollerton
11.00am	Holy Communion at Wall
11.00am	Holy Communion at Otterburn
6.00pm	Holy Communion at Wark
6.00pm	Evensong at Bellingham

17th August: 9th Sunday after Trinity *Jeremiah 23: 23-29; Hebrews 11: 29-12:2; Luke 12: 49-56*

9.00am	Holy Communion at Gunnerton
10.00am	Service of the Word at Bellingham

10.00am	Service of the Word at Birtley
10.30am	MURC at Wark
11.00am	Holy Communion at Falstone
11.00am	Holy Communion at Humshaugh
11.00am	Service of the Word at Otterburn
11.30am	Service of the Word at Bingfield
3.00pm	Holy Communion at Horsley
6.00pm	Evensong at Simonburn

24th August: Bartholomew the Apostle (Red on Altar)

Isaiah 43: 8-13; Acst 5: 12-16; Luke 22:24-30

9.30am	Deanery Zoom
11.00am	HC BCP at Bellingham
11.00am	Service of the Word at Elsdon
11.00am	Service of the Word at Wall
11.00am	Holy Communion at Chollerton
3.00pm	Holy Communion at Byrness
6.00pm	Evensong at Humshaugh
6.00pm	Service of the Word at Wark

31st August: 11th Sunday after Trinity *Deuteronomy 30: 15-end ; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14: 25-33*

(NB As both St Giles and St Aidan are celebrated close to this date, the Readings may change locally!)

11.00am	Benefice Holy Communion at St Giles, Birtley
10.00am	Communion with Christening and celebration of St Aidan

and moths this year, with several people having recorded sightings of Hummingbird Hawk Moths in their gardens. Sadly, the number of Swallows appears to be markedly down this year, as does the number of butterflies - though the late influx of butterflies which come into our gardens when the late-flowering Buddleia blooms (in mid-to-late August) hasn't yet started.

With the advent of Autumn, people's minds naturally turn toward the Holiday season with Halloween, Bonfires (hence the 'mists' of Keat's 1819 poem 'To Autumn', alluded to in the title) and Christmas to look forward to. BADDS (Bellingham and District Dramatic Society) has begun preparations for a Christmas production and plans are afoot all over our local parishes for all sorts of activities to see us through the winter months!

In the meantime, best wishes to you all from the Editor of this magazine, and I hope to see you at the shows!

WHAT'S ON...



FALSTONE COFFEE MORNINGS

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to the coffee morning at Falstone Village Hall in June. Thank you also to Lynsey Bell and all the team at Calvert Kielder for their delicious lemon cake and ginger cake! Some folk sampled both, and confirmed both were delicious! We raised £170 in donations for Calvert Kielder and we received a lovely thank-you letter from Lynsey reminding us that *"support from groups such as ourselves is very much appreciated and enables Calvert Kielder to keep delivering transformative experiences to hundreds of disabled adults, children and their families"*. It is heart-warming to be part of the Calvert Kielder community, well done to Lynsey and team for the wonderful work you do. If anyone is interested in visiting, staying or volunteering with Calvert Kielder please do call them on 01434 250232.

By the time you read this, we will already have held the July coffee morning in aid of the Freeman Heart and Lung Association, and enjoyed

Katrine's homemade meringues with strawberries and cream! Watch out for the update in the next magazine.

The dates for the Autumn coffee mornings are below:

August: * PLEASE NOTE: We are taking a break in August, so there will be no coffee morning this month *

Wednesday 17th September: 10.30am at Falstone Village Hall (please note the September coffee morning is on a Wednesday to coincide with the Great North Air Ambulance Service collection of clothing donations). We will also be collecting cash donations in aid of GNAAS at this coffee morning.

Tuesday 21st October: 10.30am Falstone Village Hall Collection in aid of Tynedale Hospice at Home

Tuesday 18th November: 10.30am Falstone Village Hall. Collection in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

December: Date tbc. Coffee morning with carols

AUTUMN COACH TRIP: Watch out for more details in the next magazine

Thank you to everyone who supports these coffee mornings and events.

Transport is available if you need it to any of these events, via Church and Community Partnership, who have volunteer drivers who can help—contact Marie Tel:240679

DEMENTIA FRIENDS TRAINING

Monday 22nd September, 4pm, Falstone Village Hall

The NHS estimates that 1 in 11 people over the age of 65 have dementia in the UK. Many of us know a family member or friend affected by dementia.

Dementia Friends training is being run locally by the Alzheimer's Society

to help make our communities Dementia Friendly. The training session is being run by Jo Elliott and will help us become a Dementia Friend to those we know and meet. The session will last approximately 1½ hours and refreshments will be available.

Please keep the date free, look out for more details in the next Meeting of the Waters and on local Notice Boards.

THE NORTH TYNE WI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

I have just recently taken over as secretary of the North Tyne WI from Mrs Irene Carse who was secretary for 20 years, an amazing achievement. On behalf of the members, I would like to thank her for her dedication to the role over the years – luckily, she is still going to be a member. Currently we have 13 members and since this particular WI has been running for 23 years, we would like to keep it going and expanding - hence my article! You do not have to live in the immediate area to attend and you are allowed to be a member of more than one WI at any given time.

Meetings are held mostly in Falstone Village Hall (though we occasionally use Tasset Village Hall and other venues) on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7.15pm.

The **Northumberland Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI)** was formed in 1918 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then, the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. The WI is not only about jam, cake and calendar girls, you will be pleased to know!! It plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills - encouraging them to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

The WI is based on the ideals of fellowship, truth, tolerance and justice. The organisation is non-sectarian and non-party political. WIs are charitable and everything they do must be consistent with that special legal status.

If you would like to join us either just attend one of the meetings or contact me or Sarah Hallberg (the editor of this magazine) for more information, we are super friendly and welcoming group who provide delicious suppers at the meetings!

Best wishes Mrs Jill Swaile

01434 240168 or email alanswaile@aol.com

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

You will find our Cake stall at the 2025 Falstone Show in the Craft tent, so why not come along and treat yourself to something naughty, but nice, for tea!

Friendly and welcoming, the North Tyne WI (covering Kielder, Falstone and Tarsset) meets monthly. We aim to improve skills and learn new ones, but most of all, we have fun! Why not come along as a guest and see for yourself what we get up to, or contact Jill Swaile on 01434 240168 or 07890 096469 for further information.



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

NORTH TYNE WI

Welcomes new members to this friendly group, you do not need to live in the immediate area

Venue: Falstone Village Hall (unless stated in the yearly programme)

Date: 2nd Thursday of each month

Time: 7.15pm

The WI is much more than baking cakes and posing for calendars !! 😊




Visitors and guests are always welcome

Contact Secretary: Jill Swaile 01434 240168

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

**NORTH TYNE WI
PROGRAMME
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All meetings are held in Falstone Village Hall (unless stated otherwise in this programme) on the 2nd Thursday of each month, starting at 7.15pm

Visitors and guests are always very welcome!

NEWS FROM BYRNESS



Another quiet month for St. Francis - the numbers at our service on 22nd June were increased by the welcome visit of Moira from Otterburn and Diana from West Woodburn. It was lovely to see them and Claire.

Work at the old Petrol Station next to St. Francis is proceeding with the main building in the process of erection and access roads to the proposed lodges being made (see photo). Tons of top soil have been removed. The estimated completion time, I understand, is three years. On completion, there will be a café and workshops for local artisans, lodges and a fishing lake. We hope there could be some benefit to St. Francis - maybe from holiday people staying in the Lodges.

On 13th July, I completed the Race for Life in Exhibition Park, Newcastle for Cancer Research.

It was such a fun day and also moving - on our backs, we had cards saying who we were running for. Spirits were whipped up a super woman from Radio Newcastle and an aerobic warm-up. Everything was brilliantly organised so if you had entered for 3K or 5K there was no danger in getting on the wrong track and being stretchered out. I had such brilliant support with lots of people sponsoring me, even folk I hadn't seen for over ten years, so thanks to everyone. The Power of Social Media is amazing and the lives of most people have been touched by cancer in some way. The total for my race at the time of writing this report, is £651.25 (I'm delighted!!) and since Race for Life began, 30 years ago, it has raised over £970 million.

Best wishes, Barb.



NEWS FROM CORSENSIDE

Graham Dick's evening event at Corsenside raised £730 for our two churches (St Cuthbert's, Corsenside and All Saints', West Woodburn). Thank you to all who contributed to the acts and for the provision of food. It was a privilege to hear Kathryn Tickell playing and to hear and see many other talented people.

On Sunday 6th July, Claire Maxim held a traditional Communion Service at St Cuthbert's, Corsenside. She gave an excellent sermon based on Luke's Gospel (chapter 10) and linked it to Richard Virden's reading from Galatians about circumcision, and the dangers of giving in to immorality and the dangers of desires, as opposed to spiritual purity. Claire mentioned the transcendental assistance that some misguided people might use – such as seeking the aid of tarot cards. The reading covered Satan falling from the sky and Jesus sending out his disciples to spread the word and to wipe the dust from the feet of anyone who refuses to listen. He urges them to accept hospitality from anyone who welcomes them, and is prepared to listen to the Word: *"The worker deserves his wages"*. He also gives them the power to crush snakes and scorpions, and tells them to rejoice as their names will be written in heaven. He further emphasises that a man reaps what he sows and in Galatians, what counts more than circumcision is the New Creation.

On the evening of Thursday 10th July, All Saints' was packed with people listening to the internationally acclaimed guitarist, Frank Bungarten. His skill was evidenced by the total silence of the audience – you could have heard a pin drop – followed by rapturous applause. Profits raised at the event were to be split between St Cuthbert's and All Saints' and Hugo has confirmed that the amount raised is an impressive £1500 after all expenses have been deducted. Huge thanks must go to Hugo and Annabelle Remnant, and to Gary (who made the guitar!)

In the meantime, have a lovely, warm and enjoyable Summer.

With all best wishes from Diana.

NEWS FROM ELSDON

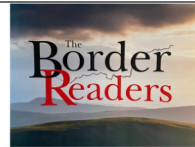
Two services a month are now being held in St. Cuthbert's Church, both at 11am, on the first and fourth Sundays. The 1st Sunday of the month is Holy Communion and the 4th Sunday is a 'Service of the Word', otherwise known as Morning Worship.



Elsdon Fete will be on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August on Elsdon Village Green, in the Village Hall and in St. Cuthbert's Church from 12 - 4pm. There's something for everyone - there'll be a fun dog show, children's activities, treasure trail, live music, BBQ on the village green, tea & cakes in the village hall, local crafts, Battle of Otterburn wargame, vintage tractors, and opportunities to show your skills at traditional sports such as archery, hoopla and

the coconut shy. Do come along!

The Border Readers Shorelines Storytelling evening is the final 'Culture in a Cool Place' event for this summer, held in our "cool" St. Cuthbert's Church. Elsdon is fortunate to be in the autumn tour by professional northern actors, who will be sharing a selection of superb stories in an event not to be missed. Do save the date now - Friday 26th September at 7pm.



St Cuthbert's Church, Elsdon
Culture in a Cool Place



Walking through the Bible: the New Testament - following the success of last year's event in Rothbury, which covered the Old Testament, the New Testament sequel will be on Saturday 4th October 10am - 4.30pm. This highly engaging and professionally led event

is a memorable way of exploring the New Testament in a fresh way.

The event will be held in Rothbury URC Church, Market Place, Rothbury NE65 7UW and costs £14 to cover the course handbook and materials. For full details or to book your place, please ring Ed Butlin on 01670 783452 or go to www.bible.org.uk and lookup Events.

Best wishes from Helen Howie

NEWS FROM FALSTONE

WOW! All that wonderful weather we have had recently brought lots of tourists to the area - as I can tell from the names in the visitor's book. I love to see where people come from and what they think about St Peter's. The church has provided a very welcome cool space where folks can enjoy a respite from the hot weather outside.

One Sunday, I decided to weed the church path (see photos), and a job that usually only takes a couple of hours took four hours! During that time, St Peter's had 16 visitors whom I welcomed, showed around the church and gave a potted history of the building. I didn't mind the interruption of the weeding (it was a welcome break for my lower back!). Amongst the visitors were people from Hull, Devon and Bishop Stortford. The lady from the latter place was a Tower Captain, which means a bell-ringing leader at her local church - which has an impressive array of six bells. She was interested in the history of St Peter's one and only bell, which is dedicated to Rev Robert Picton who was Rector from 1880-1894, in the time when the church burned down.

Rev Picton led fundraising efforts for St Peter's to be re-built, which happened in 1892 only two years after the fire. I gave her a demonstration of what the one bell sounded like, and this prompted The Uncle, Ivan Swaile, to come to church to see what was occurring!



I enjoyed the recent communion service at St Aidan's Thorneyburn, which was taken by Rev Canon Lee Batson, the Dean of our cathedral. He lives in Jesmond, so had had a bit of a journey that morning for the service start of 9am but luckily, it was glorious weather so he had enjoyed the drive. I really think it is so important to network with other parishes in our area. We may live in a sparsely populated area but we have a strong faith and working together, we can develop this even further. The former Bishop of Newcastle, Bishop Christine once said *"we mustn't always focus on growth in numbers but growing in our faith and working creatively together"*. She also said *"a flourishing congregation can be inwardly thinking, quite insular and non-welcoming, however a small congregation can be forward and outward thinking, welcoming and have a holistic vision, being generous, engaged and open with*



all" which both St Peter's and St Aidan's are.

Rev Batson delivered his sermon without any notes or prompts which I was incredibly impressed with, I could never be this confident. His sermon was based upon *The Good Samaritan* one of the most well-known of Jesus's parables. He reminded us to show mercy and compassion to others, regardless of their race, religion, or social status. As

Christians, we are called to love and act with kindness towards all people, especially those in need. This story has had a lasting impact, with the term "Good Samaritan" now synonymous with anyone who helps a stranger in need. It's a reminder that true neighbourly love is shown through our actions, not just our beliefs or words.

The above was evident to me on a visit to Birmingham recently. The Husband and I attended St Paul's C of E church in the jewellery quarter which is situated in the last Georgian Square in the city. The service was not only in English but Farsi which is the main language of Iran, the order of service was in both languages and there was a Farsi interpreter present. I was fascinated to hear the same text in both English and Farsi; the congregation were so welcoming despite English not being their first language. St Paul's Church mission and values are "to make sure that everyone in the community is cared for and has everything they need to feel safe and less alone" which is a meaningful statement to remember for us all.

Falstone Borders Shepherd's 140th Show is being held on Saturday the 23rd of August in Hawkhope Pasture. The gates open at 9am (remember it is cash only for admission). The Show is a friendly and welcoming public event exhibiting the livestock, working animals, skills and sports associated with local agriculture and the community. This traditional rural event also includes activities for children, trade stands, competitions, food & drink and entertainment. St Peter's will have their usual tombola stall which is in its 57th year!! If anyone would like to donate any prizes for the stall please contact me and I can collect. St Peter's *Rest and Reflection* tent will be pitched again which will have activities for all ages with a space to sit and rest to keep out of the sun or rain ! (I am praying that there won't be the latter weather).

Best wishes Jill Swaile (ChurchWarden and ALM)
01434 240168 or alanswaile@aol.com

NEWS FROM THORNEYBURN

Last month, we held the funeral of Marrie Herron on the 23rd June. She and her husband had lived in Tarsset, at Thorneyburn, before moving to Bellingham in the 1980's. She kept her connection with Tarsset and the church, regularly visiting her husband's grave, and I met her when she enjoyed the bicentenary BBQ. She was buried next to her husband in the churchyard. May she rest in peace.

We had an honoured visitor taking our Communion Service in July, as Claire was away. The Very Revd Lee Batson, Dean of St Nicolas Cathedral, came all the way out to take the service for us. It was a lovely service with a great sermon all about the good Samaritan and being a good neighbour. He challenged us to welcome strangers not just to *our* church and home but to make it *theirs*!

We had a full church congregation last week, with a wedding theme. It was one year ago, to the day, that Martha and Fabian got married and both Ingrid (mother of the bride for that wedding), and Kath (mother of the groom) from our most recent wedding here, which was Christopher and Molly's, were present. We also had Danni and Tom with us who are planning their wedding for 2027 and are from Redcar area. We prayed for those beginning married life and preparing for it. We are also very much looking forward to holding the Christening of Maisie Ward, Maureen McCracken's granddaughter, on 31st August. It is wonderful to be celebrating and honouring our community's major life events thank you.

Please remember the new times of service this year: Communion Service is at 9am on the 2nd Sunday of the month, and Parish Worship is usually held on the 4th Sunday of the month at 5pm. That said, this month, there will be a special service to celebrate St Aidan. This service falls on 31st August, so this month's service will actually be on the 5th Sunday at 10am. This special service will also be a Communion Service as well as the christening mentioned above, so please do try and make this.

You are always welcome to come to any service, to visit the church anytime as it is always open or come and enjoy the tranquillity of our churchyard and reflection area which is full of wildflowers.

Caroline Waitt (Churchwarden)

caroline.waitt@btinternet.com 01434 240210

A BRIEF WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This month's cover photo was submitted by Caroline Waitt and shows a Sunflower, just coming into flower now, in her garden which was grown from the seed that she was given at the Easter service to plant to celebrate new life!

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**

The copy deadline for next month's issue, is
MONDAY 18th AUGUST 2025.

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

We would like to say a huge thank you for supporting this publication. If you are an occasional reader and would like a regular copy, please contact your local distributor below - the annual sub is just £7 for 11 issues. If you would just like an occasional copy, feel free to pick one up at your local church, where a donation in the box would be gratefully received and very much appreciated!

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Thorneyburn:	Caroline Waitt	01434 240210
Elsdon:	Helen Howie	07791 539706
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web: <https://www.rawlogs.co.uk/>

email: rawlogs@btinternet.com



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TEAM CLERGY

Priest in Charge: North Tyne & Redesdale
The Revd Dr Claire Maxim
The Rectory, Bellingham, Hexham. NE48 2JS
Tel: 01434 220019

Email: revclairemaxim@gmail.com

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

Area Dean

Revd Sarah Lunn
Chollerton Vicarage, Hexham, NE46 4TF
Tel: 01434 681 721
Email: sarahlunn63@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest

Revd Dr Richard Virden
Ingram Cottage, West Woodburn. NE48 2SB
Tel: 01434 270334
Email: rev.virden@gmail.com

OTHER LOCAL CLERGY

Bellingham MURC
Revd Roberta Ritson
42 Woodcroft Road, Wylam. NE41 8DH
Tel: 01661 852702
Email: minister@northtynewithhvc@gmail.com

St Oswald's Bellingham
Fr James Dunne
Tel: 01434 220262
Mob: 07708-470079
Email: jimdunne71@gmail.com

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Bellingham and Corsenside:
Cath Brennand
Tel: 01434 220631
Email: cath.brennand@btinternet.com

Falstone with Greystead and Thorneyburn:
Jenni Holland
Tel: 01434 240337
Email: jenni_holland1@hotmail.com

Horsley with Byrness, Elsdon and Otterburn:
Dr Andrew Brittlebank
Tel: 07740 224324
Email: psochollerton@icloud.com

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Citizens' Advice Bureau 03444 111 444

CHILD PROTECTION

Childline 0800 1111
Children's Services 01670 714 411
NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

DISABILITY & CARERS

DWP Helpline 0800 882200

DOMESTIC ABUSE

NDAS (Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services) 01434 608030
Domestic Abuse Support Service Northumberland 01670 820199
Northumberland Cygnus Support 01670 853977
Social Services (Emergency) www.cygnussupport.com 999

RAPE CRISIS

Home Heat helpline 0800 0352794

ELDER ABUSE

National helpline 0800 8088141

FUEL POVERTY

Home Heat helpline 0800 336699

FARMING COMMUNITY

ARC-Addington Fund (*Housing*) 02476 690587
Farm Crisis Network 08453 679990
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (*Welfare & Financial*) 01865 727888
RSPCA 08707 538333
Samaritans 116 123

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Bellingham Town Hall 01434 220471
Byrness 07860 671442
01830 520773
Corsenside Parish Hall 01434 270360 or 07704 730909
Elsdon Village Hall 07542 903611
Otterburn Memorial Hall 07879 992175
Reed Hall Bellingham 01434 220631
Rochester Village Hall 01830 520589 or 07761 735887
Tarslet Village Hall 07498 522683

MEDICAL

Bellingham Surgery 01434 220203
Urgent (**not** life-threatening) 111
Urgent (life-threatening) 999

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Non-emergency 101
Emergency 999

INTERNET SECURITY

www.getsafeonline.org/

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