

The Meeting of the Waters



NOVEMBER 2025

You are welcome to take a copy from those displayed in church - a donation would be much appreciated. If you would like to receive a regular copy, please see **Page 15** for details.

<https://sites.google.com/view/ntyneredesdalechurches/>



ELSDON MEMORIALS
MJ ROBERTS AND SON

MEMORIAL, VASES AND ENGRAVING SERVICES

FOR A CARING, COMPASSIONATE SERVICE WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

ANGI ROBERTS

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01669 650367

EMAIL: ELSDONMEMORIALS@GMAIL.COM

LEGAL ADVICE & ASSISTANCE

Micky Macgregor

- retired solicitor -

In attendance at
Saddlers Cottage Bellingham

Thursday mornings 9-10.30am

☎: 01434 240256

or email:

mjmacgregor48@outlook.com

A K SWAILE

FALSTONE

APPROVED SOLID FUEL

MERCHANT

FIRST CHOICE FOR

YOUR

SOLID FUEL DELIVERIES

TEL : 01434 240258



Matty Erskine

Drystone Walling Contractor

07773 576128



on the **move**

**BELLINGHAM GARAGE
SERVICES**

AdBlue
Domestic Fuels
Off-Licence
Convenience Store

Open 6am – 10pm

Station Road Bellingham NE48 2BS

Tel: 01434 220233



Redesdale
ARMS

Known locally as The First and Last

EN SUITE ROOMS, GREAT FOOD AND LOCAL ALE

WWW.REDESDALE-ARMS.CO.UK

01830 520668

A LETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Friends,

Remember, remember the fifth of November...

We are all busy remembering at the moment. There's Bonfire Night with fireworks (I love them, I know not everyone does!). There's All Souls Day on 2nd November, when we remember our loved ones who have died and give thanks for their lives. And then there's Remembrance Sunday, instituted after the First World War to remember the millions who served in the Armed Forces and died. We've been remembering them ever since, as well as those killed in more recent conflicts and wars. Since the First World War, there were no operational deaths of members of UK armed forces in 1968, 2016 (and 2024 and 2025 according to provisional data). People serving in the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, however, continue to face the possibility of death in action.

As civilians, living within Northumberland, we find ourselves unlikely to die as a result of military aggression, and I thank God for that. But this is not the reality of millions of people around the world – in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Russia and so many more places. When conflicts drop out of the news cycle, it can be hard to remember so many people we don't know, in distant places. We forget. We do the opposite of remembering.

War is a form of dismembering. We speak of people and places being "blown apart". Communities are broken, and lives are wrecked. But the opposite of dismember is re-member. Remember, put back together, heal. We might think that here in Northumberland there's no need to re-member.

However, we are human. We have different experiences and beliefs and politics. We are not immune to the polarisation of society. We are capable of falling out over flags, of worrying about increases in demand for schools and doctors and parking, and of falling out about politics, just like people anywhere. We each choose whether to provoke and pick quarrels, and whether to respond to people with harshness or compassion. We choose every day, in every tiny difference and potential argument.

My prayer for us all is that we choose kindness, compassion and love, that we always choose to remember, and re-member.

Claire

SERVICES IN THE DEANERY IN NOVEMBER 2025

1st November All Saints Day

5.00pm Service for the Bereaved at
Chollerton

2nd November: All Saints Sunday (All Souls Day)

Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18; Ephesians 1: 11-end; Luke 6: 20-31

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
11.00am Service of the Word at
Falstone
11.00am Holy Communion at
Simonburn
11.00am Holy Communion at Elsdon
4.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield
7.00pm Refresh at Humshaugh

9th November: Remembrance Sunday

Job 19: 23-27; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 13-end; Luke 20: 27-38

9.00am Holy Communion at
Thockrington
9.00am Holy Communion at
Thorneyburn
10.00am Act of Remembrance at Birtley
10.40am Service of Remembrance at
Chollerton
10.30am Service of Remembrance at
Otterburn
10.30am Service of Remembrance at
Wall
10.45am Act of Remembrance at West
Woodburn Memorial
10.45am Service of Remembrance at
Wark, followed by Acts of
Remembrance at Wark,
Simonburn and Humshaugh
Memorials
10.50am Act of Remembrance at
Bellingham Cemetery Chapel

6.00pm Evensong at Bellingham

*NB: 6.00pm there will be NO Holy
Communion at Wark*

16th November - 2nd Sunday before Advent

*Malachi 4: 1-2a; 2 Thessalonians 3; 6-13;
Luke 21: 5-19*

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

23rd November: Christ the King

*Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Colossians 1: 11-20;
Luke 23: 33-43*

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

30th November Advent Sunday (Year A)

*Isaiah 2; 1-5; Romans 13: 11-end;
Matthew 24; 36-44*

11am Benefice Holy Communion
Service at Bellingham
11am Benefice Holy Communion
Service at Humshaugh

NOTICEBOARD

FALSTONE COFFEE MORNINGS

Our next coffee mornings are:

Tuesday 18th November: in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (see poster below)

Tuesday 16th December: our first ever Christmas celebration - with Christmas treats, Christmas carols and songs, and possibly even a visit from Santa!!

All **10.30 in Falstone Village Hall**. Look forward to seeing you then!



COFFEE MORNING

TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER AT 10.30AM

IN FALSTONE VILLAGE HALL

DONATIONS THIS MONTH TO

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



DO POP IN FOR A CUPPA & A CHAT

EVERYONE VERY WELCOME

THANK YOU



**Come and join us for our
Coffee Morning in aid of St
John's Otterburn on 29th
November at 10.30 in the
Memorial Hall**



COFFEE TIME
Tombola, Home made
produce and much more



Remembrance Service 9th
November at 10.30 St
John's Otterburn. Wreath
laying at Memorial Hall
after minutes silence in the
Church

Lest we forget

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits in Hall
afterwards



REDESDALE SOCIETY NEWS

The Redesdale Society's meeting on 10th October attracted a good attendance of members and guests to hear a talk by Andrew Agate entitled "Fusing metal detecting and archaeology: Northumberland's Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)".

Andrew is a well-travelled archaeologist and academic who, since 2011, has been the Liaison Officer for the Northumberland Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) based at the Hancock Museum Newcastle. He firstly took us through the foundation of the PAS and its functions. In the later part of his talk, he described in detail several artefacts the PAS has logged.



He brought

along some pieces and we were also privileged to have an exhibition of finds in the local area, over the last ten years or so, by Alan Gray, a keen detectorist from West Woodburn. These included coins, tools and decorative pieces, some of which Andrew regarded as being of national significance.



The foundation in 1997 of the PAS in England and Wales arose from Treasure Act of 1996 which replaced the previous Treasure Trove regulations. One major reason for this change was the rapidly increasing popularity of metal detecting in the 1980s/1990s. This was leading to tension between archaeologists and detectorists with one

group of the former wanting a ban on metal detecting. Amongst its other functions, the PAS is something of a mediator in these relations now.

Moving on to more local matters, from 1997 the PAS progressively set up county groups throughout the country, including Northumberland, where the first Liaison Officer was appointed in 2004. The PAS nationally now has approx. 1.8 million objects logged in detail on its database -a very useful resource for researchers. In Northumberland alone 900 finds a year are being logged. The regulations on how and when detectorists need to report their finds are very clear, but unfortunately nationally only about 10% of the estimated total of 40,000 detectorists do so. Others are putting themselves at risk of contravening the law.

Andrew then illustrated several important finds made in Redesdale and neighbouring areas, which are rich in historical sites. His examples were primarily from Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon periods. The amount of information logged by the PAS is impressive and it is particularly interesting to see how this can often be used to link in with known historical events, battles, etc. It can also, in some cases, suggest where future archaeological digs may be productive.

Andrew, through his very informative and entertaining presentation, had an enthralled audience and everyone was very grateful to him and to Alan for introducing us to many very interesting and, in some cases, beautiful objects.

The next meeting of the Redesdale Society will be on Friday 7 November at 7.30pm in Otterburn Memorial Hall. David Petts will take us back to Lindisfarne in a talk entitled "Recent work on the early mediaeval monastery of Lindisfarne." As always, visitors are very welcome.

Best wishes, David Baines

GOD'S WORLD - OUR WORLD

Since COP30 (the UN's climate change conference) is taking place this November in Brazil, here is a brief guide to help you make sense of news reports and bring this important issue into your prayers.

Climate change is already causing severe devastation globally and, as temperatures continue to rise, the risks are increasing too. In the 2015 Paris Agreement, governments committed to limit the rise in the global average temperature to 'well below' 2°C above pre-industrial levels, ideally 1.5°C. Progress towards these goals is way off track and we are perilously close to breaching the 1.5°C goal. A key task facing all world governments ahead of the conference is to submit new national climate plans, known as 'Nationally Determined Contributions' or 'NDCs'. You may hear these mentioned on the news this month. These generally include a numerical target for how much a country should have reduced its emissions by a certain year (2030 or 2035). The idea

is that, when put together, the world's NDCs should collectively be ambitious enough to keep warming in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Sadly, NDCs submitted in the run-up to COP30 are unlikely to close this gap and experts warn that current proposals would still result in 2.4°C warming by 2100 – which would produce a devastating result for our planet.

So COP30 will centre around responding to this unhappy state of affairs by trying to set out a pathway for accelerating climate action in the years ahead. Watch out for other discussions centring around money, particularly climate financing mechanisms for vulnerable nations and technology transfer agreements between countries.

Do join the climate action group in praying for this critical conference with this prayer: *“Loving Creator, we come before You with hearts full of concern for our world. As leaders, activists, and communities gather for COP30, we ask for Your wisdom to guide their decisions. May they act with courage and compassion, prioritising justice for those most affected by the climate crisis - those who have contributed the least but suffer the most. Inspire bold commitments to protect our common home and to care for creation as You intended. We pray for unity among nations, for innovative solutions, and for the strength to follow through on promises made. Help us all to play our part, no matter how small, in restoring balance to the earth. Amen.”*

Cathy Smith

A TRIP TO GALASHIELS AND MELROSE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our trip to Melrose and Galashiels on 7th October. We had a record number of people on the coach - 36 people were aboard! It was a lovely atmosphere as people joined with old friends, and made new ones. Folks came from near and far - Wark, Kielder, Falstone, Stannersburn, Tarsset, Otterburn, Elsdon and Bellingham. Whilst many people had been on several, if not all of our coach trips, some were debutantes!

We were all really looking forward to seeing the Great Scottish Tapestry in Galashiels and in did not disappoint. En route, we stopped in lovely Melrose and enjoyed visiting the great independent shops and cafes, with some brave folks enjoying ice cream!

We arrived in Galashiels bang on time, thanks to our expert driver, Steve. Most of us headed straight for the Great Scottish Tapestry. It was amazing - consisting of over 180 large panels of Tapestries telling the story of the history of Scotland from 3000BC to the current day. The detail, textures and colours of the Tapestries were fabulous. Each Tapestry panel had a narrative of the significance of the story it depicted- so there was a lot to take in. We all had our favourite panels. Some of the panels that particularly struck me, because of their significance were: *“Cuthbert at Melrose and the Lindisfarne Gospels”*, and *“The making of the King James Bible 1611”*. Other panels were striking because of their use of colour and detail, one of these was the history of *“Scots in*

India” - the colours and the detail on the turban were superb; Also the panel depicting the hero “Eric Liddell in the 1924 Olympics” captured his running style perfectly, and importantly his integrity as “Champion of Conviction”. Of course, Liddell famously refused to run in the heats of his favoured event, as they were held on the Sabbath. Another panel depicted the Suffragette movement with their recognisable purple and green colouring.

Below are a few pictures of some of the individual panels and part of the full display, but they really have to be seen in person to be fully appreciated:



It was thirsty and demanding work taking in all the panels and information(!!) but thankfully, there was a lovely little cafe in the stunning building in which the Tapestry is housed. We all had a lovely day, and one person summed it up: “*I can’t remember when I enjoyed a day as much...absolute perfection from the word go*”. Thank you everyone who made it so!

Also a big thanks to the funding we received from the Newcastle Diocese “Partners in Community Action” (PICA) Fund, who enable us to make these trips happen - the purpose of which is to overcome social isolation in rural Northumberland. We plan to run our next trip in Spring 2026. Meanwhile we look forward to welcoming everyone to our Falstone coffee mornings, full details can be found in the ‘Noticeboard’ section earlier in this magazine.

Marie Ness

NEWS FROM BELLINGHAM DEANERY

On Saturday 11th October we had a meeting at Simonburn village hall for all Parochial Church Council (PCC) members, church wardens, readers, lay leaders etc to discuss deanery development, where we go from here and what can we do better etc. During the course of this meeting, I was asked “*Do we really work together as a deanery, and what do we do?*”. I had thought that everyone already knew (and I know that many of us *do* know) but it struck me that there may be many people who aren’t directly involved and who therefore don’t know. With that in mind, therefore, I thought it might be an idea to do a brief summary of just some of the things we do. We actually have nine ‘working’ groups, but I have only mentioned four of the busiest groups below.

Communications Group: meetings are held at Elsdon, Bellingham, Byrness and

Humshaugh. Every parish is represented in the group, where we talk about our sister publications: the broadsheet for the South of the deanery and the Meeting of the Waters for the northern section of our deanery. We have done a great deal of work to enable us to comply with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), purchasing a computer program called '*I know Church*' which is used for safe internet communication throughout the Deanery (e.g. the weekly notices about church services etc.) and we have undergone training sessions to enable us to use the program effectively. We also discuss '*A Church near you*', which is a nationwide program listing all churches in C of E and which allows both visitors and locals to access information about services, as well as other information.

Pastoral Group: we visit people who need a visit and in conjunction with Caroline Clarke from the Church and Community Partnership (CCP), we have done training in mental health awareness, suicide awareness, suicide prevention, First Aid and Dementia Awareness training - among others. We spend one day per month at Hexham mart as part of our mental health work, to advise any farmers on available help. Many of our village halls are also now dementia friendly, and this work is on-going.

Schools Group: many, many people have been involved in the work we have done. 2025 has been quiet, giving us a chance to recover from the intensive work over the last few years. Some members of the group have been preparing a book for publication, regarding the work centred around Simonburn. We aim to be up and running again in 2026 with again an Easter themed event, which is what the schools have been asking for. We will again be asking for volunteers nearer the time. Messy church is also done with many of the schools.

The Community Connections Group: involves people who run coffee mornings, lunches and other events involving our communities.

I feel quite sure that anyone wanting to be involved in any of the above groups will be made very welcome.

Best wishes from Helen Watson
(churchwarden for Bingfield and Wall and an ALM)

NEWS FROM CORSENSIDE

The Macmillan Coffee Morning on 27th September was a great success with the raffle proving very popular and the following day, Angela Wilson kindly sold off the remaining cakes to the Tynedale rugby club. The total raised was £390 from the combined events. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser, and to the committee who enabled it - namely Freddie, Angela and Andrea.

On October 25th, as mentioned in the last 'MOTW', Graham Dick, our local shepherd, has arranged another evening of traditional Northumbrian music and stories in the village hall. As per the previous event, the proceeds are to be split between the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) and the village hall. Entrance to the event will

be by ticket only. Many thanks to Graham and to the rest of the committee. Watch this space next month, to find out the amount raised.

Please note in your Diaries that there will be an Act of Remembrance on Sunday 9th November at 10.50am for 11am start. This will be followed by light refreshments at the village hall. Please notify Hazel Goodall if you wish to park your car in the old station yard.

On 29th November, there will be another tabletop sale from 10am till 2pm. This popular event is always worth a visit, especially with Christmas gifts in mind. We hope to see Rachel Raine outside, with her rescued Shetland ponies, at a petting point alongside the hall (weather permitting of course). Rachel supports the Shetland pony rescue society, so any donations are most welcome.

On Sunday 30th November, we have the Christmas play "Rumpelstiltskin" and other stories". The performance starts at 3:00 PM in Corsenside village hall. Admission prices are £3.50 for children and £7 for adults, with a reduced price for family tickets. Tickets will have be available from Ildi at West Woodburn village shop, which is open from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM Monday to Friday, and until 1:00 PM on Saturdays. Tickets will also be available from our Parish Clerk, Christine Woodcock (White Oak studios).

Finally, on Saturday 13th December, we have the children's party at the village hall. This event has been organised by the whole committee, with generous funding from the parish council, so many thanks to all who have joined together to make this event possible. Please note that all children attending must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

On Sunday 12th October, Claire Maxim led a lovely little communion service in Otterburn with a joyous reading from Philippians and a celebration of the Harvest Festival. It was decided that all donated tins would go to the People's Kitchen in Bath Lane (Newcastle). Skilful knitters had made an array of lovely woollen hats for the colder weather. Altogether, the event was a spontaneous celebration, full of joy and thankfulness and Claire's sermon mirrored the giving of thanks for God's bounty. The event was followed by hot drinks and biscuits in the vestry, for which thanks must go to Moira on behalf of us all.

On the same day, in the evening, St Cuthbert's in Belgium celebrated the licencing of the Revd Dr Claire Maxim as Rector of North Tyne and Redesdale. It was lovely to see the church full, and it was a truly ecumenical service with Roberta representing the MURC (along with various members of her congregation), the Reverend Canon Sarah Lunn. Amongst the retired clergy present, it was good to see the Reverend Doctor Richard Virden partaking once again in the service. At the back of the church, it was lovely to be able to hear the beautiful readings and the words of both Archdeacon Sourbut Groves, and of Claire. The churchwardens had made a splendid job of decorating the church and after the service there were delicious refreshments and soft drinks - and Prosecco! It was lovely to see friends from the MURC, namely Jillian Scott, and Tony and Barbara Gibson along with their son, Jon. Helen Kitchen's scones were delicious, as were all the pooled cakes. John roper's hymns and organ playing

will lovely and ended with the beautiful hymn "Great is thy Faithfulness" - a true song of thanks for God's wonderful creation and for the seasons, including our harvest season. Thanks must go to Caroline Waitt, Ann Bolam, Cath Brennand and Jill Swaile. Our prayers and thoughts also went to John Stevenson and Nigel Sherlock. Claire's profound prayers and Archdeacon Sourbut Groves' excellent sermon were also appreciated. It was a lovely and inclusive worship occasion.

Finally, I would like to thank Peter Scott from Corsenside for delivering the October MOTW in Corsenside.

With all best wishes, from Diana

NEWS FROM FALSTONE

Many people love autumn for its changing scenery, cosy atmosphere and the crisp weather which brings vibrant leaf colours, comfortable temperatures, and the return of warm drinks and comforting foods. I like it for the warmth of wearing opaque tights, knee length boots and woolly jumpers! The season is also, however, a time for reflection and slowing down, with the longer nights and the shedding of leaves inspiring a sense of peace and calm.

St Peter's held its Family Harvest Service on Sunday the 5th of October. This was certainly not calm, but we wouldn't have it any other way. It was indeed a bright and sunny autumn day despite *Storm Amy* doing her damage the day before. The service also clashed with the Kielder marathon, since the organisers had been forced to cancel the 10k race (scheduled for Saturday) due to *Amy*, and had rearranged the race for the following day! The traffic between 9am-10.30am on the road passing Falstone (called the Shilling Pot) was therefore almost at a standstill - much like the M25 "down south" on most days!! Fortunately, the traffic had abated before the start of the service, so everyone was able to get to church on time (phew!).

The church was decorated with apples and pears from The Uncle Ivan's Garden, and also wonderful autumnal flower arrangements by Nicola Swailes. Once again Falstone Toddlers (under the watchful and artistic gaze of Jill Walton) made a wonderful banner (see picture).

The church was full, with 20 adults and 7 children present, which made for a great atmosphere. Throughout the service, the children took part firstly by reading prayers and poems, then planting acorns and making autumnal paper wreaths, and definitely not forgetting some 'enthusiastic' (loud!) musical instrument playing. Mike played his guitar, which is always a joy to hear, and the children are always mesmerised by his wonderful singing voice.

I reminded the children of the 14th-century proverb "from acorns mighty oaks grow". As we know, its meaning is that great things can come from small beginnings, and it illustrates that a small, humble start can eventually lead to something large, powerful, and successful over time. The proverb highlights themes of potential, growth, and perseverance - especially with God's help and love. I asked the children what they wanted to be when they all grow up and the answers varied from teacher, farmer, tractor

driver to a vicar! Hopefully by next harvest we will see the tiny shoots of mighty oaks growing in the plant pots.

Most churches have a cleaning rota and ours contains a whole family, the Swans, who are local farmers. I particularly love their mode of transport to church for their cleaning duties, (see photo)! Thank you to James, Ashley, Emma (aged 6) and Dylan (aged 2) for your hard work in making St Peter's look spick and span.

Dates for your diary:

- **Remembrance Service** starting at the cenotaph at the cemetery on Sunday 9th of November at 10:50 then back to St Peter's to dedicate the installation of the war memorial which was moved from the URC in Falstone to St Peter's earlier this year.
- **Christmas Fair** Falstone village hall Saturday 22nd Nov 2-4pm, lots of craft stalls, tombola, refreshments, mulled wine, raffle and cake stall plus the craft competition this year is to make a Christmas decoration with the theme of Star or stars. Please pray the day is not snowed off like last year!!



With all best wishes from Jill Swaile

(Churchwarden and ALM: alanswaile@aol.com or 01434 240168)

NEWS FROM OTTERBURN

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend in Christ, Billy Donally, who was a staunch and much valued supporter of St John's in Otterburn. Along with his wife Sybil, he prepared the church for services - lighting candles, ringing the bell - and generally acted as caretaker until ill health forced him to stop. He was well known in the area and always had a cheerful word and smile for everyone. Billy was my first contact for Church attendance when I moved to Otterburn and was a real inspiration to me and others. We send our deep sympathy to Sybil and family.

Our Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 9th November with a 10.30 start. The minute silence will be held in St John's with wreath laying at the memorial outside our village hall after the service. The wreath laying will be followed by tea and coffee in the hall afterwards.

St John's coffee morning will be held at 10.30 on Saturday 29th November with various stalls including freshly baked produce. All donations gratefully received (leaflet to follow).

Moira Ledger

NEWS FROM THORNEYBURN

As I write this, we have had some lovely autumn days with mild calm weather, which has led to a magnificent display of trees, fruits and berries. Evidently it is a "mast year", which is a period when trees and shrubs produce an unusually large crop of fruits, nuts, and seeds (called "mast"). This abundance is actually an evolutionary strategy for trees to ensure some of their offspring survive by overwhelming seed predators. These years often occur every 3-5 years, and are hugely beneficial for the wildlife that depends on these food sources. It is great to see this wonder of creation, and I have enjoyed getting out to be among it, walking and collecting apples from the orchard. By the end of October, we will have had our Harvest Festival and Soup Swap, where we can thank God for His abundance.

During November (weather permitting), we will be repairing our north chancel window (next to the organ) so there will be workmen around and scaffolding up, but this shouldn't present any problems for visiting the church or attending services.

Some good news is we have finally got the date confirmed for our Soup and Pud Social, which will take place on Thurs 13th November, from 12-2pm, at Tarsset Village Hall. As always, there will be delicious soups and mouthwatering puddings for you all to enjoy, as well as a raffle. Do come along and enjoy this lovely social event if you can.

The service for November will be a said Communion and Remembrance Service on the 9th November at 9am. Please note: there will not be an evening service in November.

Our December Services will be a Communion Service on the 14th December at 9am; a Candlelit Community Carol Service on the 23rd December at 7pm, and a Christmas Day Communion Service on the 25th December at 11am. Please note: there will not be a service on 28th December this year.

You are very welcome to come to any service and to visit the church any time - it is always open - or simply come and enjoy the tranquillity of our churchyard and reflection area. I look forward to seeing you at some, or all of these services.

Caroline Waitt

caroline.waitt@btinternet.com 01434 240210 (Churchwarden)

A BRIEF WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This month's cover photos were provided by Claire Maxim and were taken at the celebration of Claire's licensing as Rector, which is a matter of celebration in our various local Parishes and across denominations.

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** Please note that the next issue of the magazine will cover both December 2025 and January 2026

The copy deadline for next month's issue, is
MONDAY 17th NOVEMBER 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!

A monthly electronic version of the magazine is also available and if you would like to be added to the online subscription list, please email sarahmotw@btinternet.com directly, and she will add you to the list.

Bellingham:	Cath Brennan	01434 220631
Corsenside:	Diana Staszewski	01434 270745
Falstone:	Jill Swaile	01434 240168
Thorneyburn:	Caroline Waitt	01434 240210
Elsdon:	Helen Howie	07791 539706
Otterburn:	Jean Turnbull	01830 521169
Horsley:	Máire West	
Byrness:	Barb Sunley	01830 520773

New adverts may be take out at very reasonable rates, and reach good coverage of the area!

Contact: Charlotte Lloyd 01434 220428 charlotte@mantlehill.co.uk



Darcy & Co.

Northumbrian Bathroom Specialists

- Plumbing and Heating
- Wetroom and level access adaptations
- Wash dry toileting
- Walk-in baths
- Supply and install unique, high-quality bathrooms

Contact Jack

Tel 07885786644

Email admin@darcyandco.co.uk

RIVERSIDE GARAGE

Servicing – Repairs
MOTs – Tyres

Mark Barber

*Fallow Green, Boat Road
Bellingham NE48 2AN*

Tel. 01434 220654
m.s.barber@live.co.uk

Galbraith

**Rural surveyors
and estate agents
covering the North
of England and
Scotland**

**Taking pride in
delivering results**

Sam Gibson

Mobile | 07769 687978

Office | 01434 693693

galbraithgroup.com

The Pheasant Inn



Kielder Water

TEL: 01434 240382
STAY@THEPHEASANTINN.COM
WWW.THEPHEASANTINN.COM

Aerial and Satellite Installation and Repairs

- Tune-ins
- Extensions
- Reception problems
- Upgrades
- Additional aerials installed
- Multi-room
- New aerials



For experienced, friendly
and reliable service



CALL
ALEX HENDERSON
OTTERBURN
01830 520656
07707 791409



CHRIS MOWATT
Landscaping LTD

GARDEN MAINTENANCE & TREE SURGEON

GRASS CUTTING

FENCING

HARD LANDSCAPING

LAWNS AIRATED AND SCARIFIED

LAWNS RESEED

HEDGE CUTTING

BORDERS MAINTENANCE

TREE SURGERY

TURF LAID

COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC

Chris Mowatt landscaping limited

07801 051923

CMLANDSCAPINGLTD@OUTLOOK.COM

THE BELLWETHER

GALLERY & SHOP

CHARLTON, NE48 1PE



A STUNNING ART GALLERY
AND SHOP, JUST A 5 MINUTE
DRIVE FROM BELLINGHAM (ON
THE WAY TO KIELDER FOREST).

FROM ORIGINAL ARTWORK, CERAMICS, GLASS AND
TEXTILES, TO A GREAT RANGE OF ICE CREAMS,
CHUTNEYS, JAMS, HONEY AND BISCUITS, EVERYTHING
AT THE GALLERY IS SOURCED FROM WITHIN THE
NORTH EAST. THE GALLERY CAN ALSO BE HIRED AS
AN EVENT AND WORKSHOP SPACE (SEE OUR
WEBSITE FOR DETAILS OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS)

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY & TUESDAY: CLOSED

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY: OPEN 11 AM – 4PM

WEBSITE: WWW.BELLWETHERGALLERY.CO.UK

EMAIL: BELLWETHERGALLERY@NCLLP.CO.UK



FIRST & LAST BREWERY
NORTHUMBERLAND

Brewery & Taproom

Foundry Yard, Bellingham

01434 239 500

Free local delivery / UK courier

Bottles / Cans / Casks / Bar Hire

MOTW Goes Electronic

A monthly electronic version of the Meeting of the Waters (MOTW) is now available.

If you would like to be added to the online subscription list, please email sarahmotw@btinternet.com and your name will be added to the list.

Painter and Decorator

Paul Easton

T: 01434 270661

M: 07585 046657

eastondecor@gmail.com



WARK FOREST LANDSCAPES

**ARBORICULTURE • TREE SURVEYS
AND FORESTRY**

warkforestlandscapes@outlook.com

01434 230050 / 07970 783706

BAY HORSE INN

West Woodburn

- En Suite Accommodation
- Open all day, every day for good, home-cooked food
 - Food served: 11am-2.30pm and 6pm-9pm
Monday - Saturday
- Sunday Lunch Carvery: 12noon-5pm and 6pm-9pm
 - Senior Citizens' Lunch: Monday - Saturday
2 courses for £12.95

Phone 01434 270218



Bespoke Metal Craft

Garden & Driveway Gates & Railings

Garden Tables, Benches & Seats

- ☒ **Steel Fabrication & Repair**
- ☒ **General Engineering**
- ☒ **General Maintenance Services**
- ☒ **Commercial & Residential**
- ☒ **Agricultural & Plant Repairs**

PHIL DENT

FOUNDRY YARD, BELLINGHAM

Tel: 07789 990710

Email: phil_dent@btinternet.com



Rawlogs

Simply Good Firewood

**Seasoned hard and softwood
logs delivered & stacked**

contact: Phil Rawdings

tel: 01434 220115

web: <https://www.rawlogs.co.uk/>

email: rawlogs@btinternet.com



STEVEN ARNUP

**Painting and
Decorating**

Bellingham

**All aspects of interior and exterior
paintwork – free estimates**

07531 512649

stevenarnup1@gmail.com

TEAM CLERGY

Rector: 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

The Revd Canon Sarah Lunn
Chollerton Vicarage, Hexham, NE46 4TF
Tel: 01434 681 721

Email: sarahlunn63@gmail.com

OTHER LOCAL CLERGY

Bellingham MURC
Revd Roberta Ritson
42 Woodcroft Road, Wylam. NE41 8DH
Tel: 01661 852702
Email: revrobertamary@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
Tarset 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/

NORTHUMBRIAN

WINDOWS

Windows & Doors
Sunrooms
Guardian Warm Roof
Gutters & Fascias

David Atkins

01434 601882 / 07762 718125

david@northumbrianwindows.co.uk

www.northumbrianwindows.co.uk

CERTASS

Certified Installer



TRUSTMARK
Government Endorsed Quality