

THE NORTH TYNE AND REDESDALE TEAM MAGAZINE

The Meeting of the Waters



SEPTEMBER 2025

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



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A LETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

September feels like a new start in so many ways – the beginning of a new school year, with children in new classes or new schools, and with older youngsters moving on to further or higher Education.

The exam results are beginning to come through for this year, reward and fruitfulness for so much labour of mind through the years. Yet along with the congratulations for all the efforts and achievements of so many people, there also comes that excitement and maybe nervousness for the next steps in many lives. We are reminded of the fruitfulness of the earth and of people in so many ways at this time of year. Who has a huge apple or plum crop? Many sweet peas? Huge potato harvest? The hot summer has allowed the crops to be harvested very early this year, and today ploughing is already starting in the fields near the vicarage.

Spring- time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter; the faithfulness of God seen in the seasons and through each of our lives.

There is a kind of new start for both Reverend Dr Claire Maxim and I over the next couple of months!

Last year you may remember that we had many consultations about the two Benefices in the Deanery, Claire's Benefice – the Benefice of North Tyne and Redesdale, and the benefice in which I serve- The Benefice of the Lower North Tyne. Now the paperwork is done, we both need to be installed to the new Benefices!

As we are both already here this will be done in two quiet yet celebratory services by the Archdeacon– one for the Lower North Tyne on 16th September at 6.00pm in Simonburn church, and the other for North Tyne and Redesdale at Bellingham on 12th October at 6.00pm. We must have two services because each of us needs to be 'put into our Stall' the seat or desk at which we take services, as a symbol of our Offices as a Priest.

Do come and join us at either or both services as we celebrate harvest in each place as well as new starts for the clergy!

God bless you all.

Kind regards Sarah

SERVICES IN THE DEANERY IN SEPTEMBER 2025

7th September: 12th Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 30;15-end; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14: 25-33

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 Holy Communion at Elsdon

11.00am Holy Communion at Simonburn

11.00am Service of the Word at Falstone

4.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield

5.00pm Holy Communion at Corsenside

7.00pm Refresh at Humshaugh

14th September: 13th Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Holy Communion at Thockrington BCP

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

21st September

St Matthew Proverbs 3: 13-18; 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6; Matthew 9: 9-13

9.00am Holy Communion at Gunnerton

10.00am Service of the Word at Bellingham

10.00am Service of the Word at Birtley

10.30am Harvest Communion at St Oswald, Heavenfield

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

3.00pm Holy Communion at Horsley

6.00pm Harvest Evensong at Simonburn (*Archdeacon Catherine coming to do quiet Licensing!*)

28th September: 15th Sunday after Trinity

Amos 6 ; 1, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6; 6-19; Luke 16: 19-end

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

5.00 pm Service of the Word at Thorneyburn

6.00pm Taize Service at Humshaugh

6.00pm Service of the Word-at Wark

29th September: Michaelmas Day

7.00pm Holy Communion at Wark

Harvest Readings - Year C

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 100, Philippians 4:4-9 or Revelation 14:14-18, John 6:25-35

NOTICEBOARD...

DISCUSSION GROUPS AND OPENING THE GOSPEL

There are plans afoot to start a new discussion Group in the Autumn. More details will be coming soon!

There will be a session of '*Opening the Gospel*' on Thursday 18th September at 10.00am for an hour at the Vicarage in Chollerton – a coffee or tea and an informal chat about the readings set for the coming Sunday. Do come and see!

For more details please contact Reverend Canon Sarah Lunn or Mr Michael Nixon.



FALSTONE COFFEE MORNINGS

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to the coffee morning at Falstone Village Hall in July. We enjoyed sweet treats including meringues, fairy cakes, gingerbread and shortbread provided by Katrine, Fiona, Sheena and Jill – thank-you, they very much appreciated! We raised £288 in donations for The Freeman Heart and Lung Transplant Association.

The dates for the upcoming Autumn coffee mornings are as follows:

Wednesday 17th September 10.30am 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:* in aid of Tynedale Hospice at Home
- *Tuesday 18th November 10.30am Falstone Village Hall:* in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

In addition to the regular Coffee Mornings, a coach trip to Melrose and Galashiels has been organised for Tuesday 7th October. The cost will be just £5 and you can contact Marie Ness to book your place. See separate article overleaf for more details.

DEMENTIA FRIENDS TRAINING

The next session will take place on **Monday 22nd September** at Falstone Village Hall, from **4pm-5.45pm**.

The session will cover how dementia affects a person and what you can do to make a difference. Please do come along for an informal and interactive session to help make Falstone and surrounding areas dementia friendly. Become a Dementia Friend and join 3 million others taking action. Refreshments available.

COACH TRIP TO GALASHIELS AND MELROSE

We are delighted to invite you to our next coach trip to Galashiels, with a coffee stop en route in Melrose. As well as seeing Melrose Abbey, you can enjoy a cuppa in the many cafés and enjoy the independent shops. Before continuing to Galashiels, which has many shops (including M&S) and also provides the opportunity to visit the *Great Tapestry of Scotland*, recently included in the world's top 10% of visitor attractions!

Quite a few folks are interested in going to the Tapestry exhibition in Galashiels and if you would like to visit the Great Tapestry while you are there, the cost will obviously be in addition to the cost of the coach trip, and you are advised to **pre-book your entry tickets online** (entry costs £12.50). Of course, you may wish just to shop instead!



The trip will take place on Tuesday 7th October and the approximate timings are as follows:

- Leave Falstone at 9.15am (please note the coach will pick up in Wark at 8.40am, en route to Falstone), with further pick-ups at Lanehead (9.20am) and Bellingham (9.30am).
- Coffee in Melrose 11am-12noon
- Arrive at Galashiels (drop off at Tapestry Exhibition and shops) at 12.30pm.
- Leave Galashiels at 4.15pm, with return to Bellingham and Falstone expected at around 6pm

The coach trip is partly funded by PICA (Partners in Community Action), so we are able to offer places at just **£5 per person**. For more information and to book your place please contact Marie Ness Tel : 01434 240679.



Emergency First Aid at Work Course

Monday, September 22nd 2025

10am to 4.30pm

at Corsenside Parish Hall

Cost - FREE, but donations welcome*

**This course would normally cost £96 but has been generously funded by the Ray Wind Fund. Donations will fund the venue hire, and any surplus will help Friends of Corsenside arrange training and activities in the future.*

This course will equip you with emergency first aid skills. You will gain all the background knowledge you will need to take charge in a first aid emergency in low risk working environments.

Bring your own packed lunch.

To claim your space, please email Friends of Corsenside at friendsofcorsenside@gmail.com or phone 07821 860073

St Cuthbert's Church Bellingham...

...is holding a Jumble Sale!

JUMBLE SALE

Bring your friends and family and join us for our annual Jumble Sale!

Saturday, 11th October 2025, 2 p.m.

Bellingham Town Hall

Clothes for all ages. Books, games, and toys. Homeware and kitchen items. Nearly new. Bric-a-brac. Delicious cakes and refreshments.

Raffle with great prizes. Tombola

**Volunteers to help with the sale should contact
Cath Brennand: Tel: 01434 220 631,
Email: cath.brennand@gmail.com**

**Jumble donations can be left at the Town Hall on the
Saturday morning of the sale or after 6 pm on the Friday
evening before the sale.**

A MESSAGE FROM BIRTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

From January 2027, the analogue Public Switched Telephone Network will be switched off. If you are not already on the internet, or you have poor/unreliable internet provision (including satellite internet, slow broadband, etc.), you will need to speak to your telephone provider as soon as possible and ask how your phone will work on the new digital voice system. If you have an alarm or anything else connected to the phone, please make them aware.

If you are an internet user already, you will also need to check with your phone provider and also with your internet provider to make sure your current internet provision will be sufficient. Further advice is available from the following websites: Northumberland.gov.uk; Age.uk; Gov.uk and Which.co.uk

One important point is that a power back up is required to maintain service in the event of a power cut, and this is not something which is guaranteed. It is also important to let them know if your mobile phone network is patchy or non-existent, as this may also affect your ability to contact necessary people and/or providers in the event of an emergency.

TARSET LEEK AND FLOWER SHOW

The Tarsset Leek and Flower Show will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th September. For those who haven't come along to it or taken part before, there are way more things than just leeks involved!

Currently, there is free entry to all Flower, vegetable and industrial classes and there's a Gentlemen-only baking class which this year is Lemon Cake. Remember: what happens at the Tarsset Leek Show stays at the Tarsset Leek Show (sort of)!

Doors and bar open to the public at 3pm and the produce auction starts at 5pm. If you need any other info, please contact Jeff Mills on 07800 898169

GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE COLLECTION

The next twice-yearly collection in Upper Redesdale, Corsenside, Kirkwhelpington and the North Tyne, in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS), will be held on Wednesday, 17 September.

Please look out for local posters and press announcements for further information, but for your diaries, the collection times will be as follows:

- Otterburn between 10.30am and midday
- Byrness between 11.45am and 12.45pm
- Rochester between 1.15pm and 1.45pm

- West Woodburn between 11.45am and 12.30pm
- Wark between 10.30am and 11.30pm
- Bellingham between 10.30am and 11.30am
- Lanehead between 11.45am and 12.30pm
- Falstone between 10.30am and midday

The GNAAS now subcontracts all collections to Clothes Aid, a national charity founded in 1996. Notably, Clothes Aid doesn't receive a single penny from its charity partners. In fact, the GNAAS anticipates a substantial increase in its income from upcoming and future collections, primarily due to the expanded range of items that can now be donated.

Since the first of the twice-yearly collections in 2005, the GNAAS has received tremendous support from communities across Redesdale and the North Tyne totalling £127,106.60 plus further donations from coffee mornings, afternoon teas and other events organised in its support. The GNAAS will welcome your continued support on 17 September.

The list of exactly what can and cannot be donated was updated in August 2025, and there are some changes, so you will need to be aware of what you can and cannot donate. The full list (and it's quite a sizeable one now) of what's acceptable and what's not wanted can be found here:

<https://www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk/support-us/fundraising/recycle/our-collections/>

It's worth noting that some items need to be packaged separately from others, and again, details are updated regularly on the website. If the information is unclear, you can email me,

Emma Anderson, by email at
redesdale.village.notes@gmail.com



GOD'S WORLD - OUR WORLD

What a glorious summer we have had this year, enabling us all to get out and about in God's wonderful creation! Making the best use of this dry weather, several groups have been caring for God's creation in our benefice.

At the end of July, St Cuthbert's Bellingham hosted a group of folk from the Northeast Hong Kongers club for a second time, in the *Sharing our Wild*

Spiritual Spaces scheme. They generously gave their time helping in the churchyard in the morning, and in the afternoon we all enjoyed a walk to Hareshaw Linn, which was looking its best in the sunshine. It is always a joy to share our beautiful village with these interesting and hard-working city folk.

At the beginning of August, the first working party for *Friends of Bellingham Glebe* took place. Six eager folk (just look at those beaming faces in the photo) and one helpful cat (!) met up to begin to create an entrance to the



Glebe through the chest high nettles and garden debris beyond the gate. Wielding strimmers, loppers and saws, our aim was to start work on reclaiming both an entrance to the Glebe and some space at the top of the hill - with the work hopefully being completed by the end of the season. All being well, we will

begin some more serious conservation work next year, and will hopefully be able to use the newly available space for outdoor worship and community nature events.

A third group of people involved in creation care this summer were, of course, *The Friends of Corsenside*. The hot weather in August gave ample opportunity for traditional haymaking on the meadows in the church yard at St Cuthbert's (see the photo on the cover of this magazine - if you subscribe to the online version of the magazine, you will be able to see that the sky was a stunning, cloudless blue) and a good number of hay bales were provided to local folk. The bees at the churchyard have continued to be productive and some lucky folk have enjoyed their delicious honey!

The *Climate Action Group* have also been busy lobbying the government about the Global Plastics Treaty talks which were held in August. Every year, the world produces over 462 million tons of plastic, 60% of which is single use

but only 10% is ever recycled. As I write this article 6, 900 000 tonnes of plastic have been dumped in our oceans this year. Find out more about this shocking situation at <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/global-plastics-treaty>

About 100 countries, including the UK, have been pushing for curbs to plastic production in the treaty and more consistent design globally to make recycling easier. Whilst no treaty was forthcoming this time, we are glad that the UK is taking a strong stance and not agreeing to a watered-down treaty which will not tackle the problem.

As the *Season of Creation* approaches, why not get yourself prepared with some daily reflections from the Rev Richard Clarkson, Diocesan Environmental Officer for Lichfield Diocese? You can download the materials at <https://jri.org.uk/resources/creationtide-reflections/>

With all best wishes from Cathy Smith

PRAYER WALKING DOWN THE VALLEY

As part of the North Tyne Pilgrim Prayer journey, Mary and I prayer walked down the North Tyne valley over the course of four days - from Wed 16th to Sat 19th July. It was forty-nine miles in total, from the source, near Deadwater, to the Meeting of the Waters, using the Tyne Trail developed by the charity '*Daft as a Brush*'.

Mary and I were joined each day by different people on route, who walked sections of it with us. We had a few breaks to meet with others along the way, in various tearooms and homes. Voluntary drivers dropped us at our starting point each day. Helen Adamson, Donna Carr, Chris and Joan Davenport, Russell and Edith Dick, Joan Gladders, Phil and Frances Hardy, Brian Hastings, John Martin and Wynne Potts were all a part of the walk in different ways. We said hello to Fr Jim Dunne in Bellingham and to Revd Sarah Lunn in Chollerton as we walked through. Each day, we posted photos on social media, and realised others were praying with us online, and sending encouraging messages.

At one point, near Kielder Water, we missed a turn and walked along a redundant tarmac road for a few yards before it disappeared into the reservoir! It was the old road through the now flooded valley. We were very surprised to see two adders there, basking in the sun beside the road!

Later, we sat on a lovely bench, carved with animals – an otter, an eagle and

a salmon. We liked the two wooden sets of Noah's Ark on display by the fountains at Falstone, St Peters church. We ate the fruit of the land – raspberries growing on the roadside at Falstone and Redesmouth. We had to be brave a couple of times walking carefully by some bullocks! At one point, the path suddenly became very obscure, but we hacked our way through in faith, believing the path was still there, hidden in the undergrowth.

On the final afternoon, we had a very wet walk down to the Meeting of the Waters. It was raining so hard, we felt the waters had met us! We loved standing by the water's edge, looking down the Tyne and then up the respective tributaries of North and South, as they flowed in together. We stayed in Brown Rigg, the former school in Bellingham for some of our accommodation, and later at a friend's house. After walking all day, we really appreciated the hot showers! We weathered the walk well with just a few insect bites and a few blisters.



The day after we completed the walk, we attended the early morning communion service at Gunnerton, St. Christopher's, as a way of saying thank you to God for such an amazing four days. We felt that the experience God had given us had brought a calmness and a slowing down to our lives; an element of timelessness and disconnect from our normal routines, which we very much appreciated!

Our aim throughout the 'Pilgrim Prayer journey' year has been to pray and bless the communities in the North Tyne valley at five different prayer gatherings over the course of the year. Our final two prayer meetings will be:

- **Sat 20th Sept:** Meet in Humshaugh at the Village Hall at 2pm. Finish by 4pm.
- **Sat 15th November:** Meet at Acomb Methodist Church at 12 noon. Finish by 2pm.

Please do come and join us if you are free on those dates. For further

information, please contact us for the details. Bob & Mary Bain 07988564299
bobbain@hotmail.co.uk

The North Tyne Pilgrim Prayer Journey is being organised by Welcome Network CIO, a national charity which seeks to connect people together to show God's love and power in their community. They help individuals and churches in a local area to connect together in worship and prayer, and to serve the community in collaborative projects and their website is as follows: www.welcomenetwork.org

With all best wishes from Bob and Mary Bain

RAY WIND FARM NEEDS YOUR HELP...

The parishes surrounding the Ray Wind farm at Kirkwhelpington are filled with friendly, down-to-earth, and resilient communities who take pride in their local area, schools, heritage and village assets.

With the help of grant funding available from the Ray Wind Funds since 2018 the communities have been able to transform village halls into more welcoming spaces, local schools have benefitted from funding for extra-curricular activities, broadband infrastructure is currently being installed and jobs have been created, along with many other initiatives. Match funding has been sought for many of the grants and secured additional funding for the area.

Since the beginning of the Ray Wind Funds Community Interest Company in 2017 your communities have been served by Directors with our rural population's best interests at heart. Some of our original Directors will be standing down next year, therefore we are looking to bring more diversity and different skills to the Board of Directors. If you believe that you have something to offer and have a desire to support your local community and businesses, then we would like to hear from you.

The RWF Board comprises a representative from the six main parish councils within the area of benefit – Bavington, Birtley, Corsenside, Elsdon, Kirkwhelpington and Otterburn, and additional Directors that have been brought in for their unique skill set. Several other parishes fall within the boundary or cross it – Chollerton, Whittington, Capheaton, Wallington Demesne, Rothley, Hollinghill and Hepple. If you feel you have spare time to offer the Ray Wind Funds Board, we would like to hear from you. The role is voluntary, and we meet every other month for Board meetings with sub-

committee meetings either monthly or alternate months. However, you are not obliged to join a sub-committee.

If you care about your community and want to contribute to its success, please get in touch. *Email Jo Willis our Community Development Officer admin@raywindfund.co.uk or call 07762 179579. The deadline for applications is 30th September 2025.*

Here is a breakdown of grant awards made in our July 2024 to June 2025 grant year ahead of the release of our Annual Report.

- 36 Community Benefit Fund grants (including businesses and education settings listed below)
- 3 of these to local businesses
- 10 schools, pre-schools, nurseries and wraparound care facilities received grant funding
- 9 Education Apprenticeship and Training Bursaries
- 24 Small Donations Fund awards

THE REDESDALE SOCIETY

The Redesdale Society's summer recess is almost over and the first meeting of the autumn/winter season will be held on Friday 12 September at 7.30 pm in Otterburn Memorial Hall.



The talk will be on “Exploring Vindolanda’s Archives” and will be presented by Bethany Goodman, archivist at Vindolanda Trust. Bethany has scanned its extensive photographic archive, including the fascinating photographs taken by Charlie Anderson, legendary foreman and stonemason on Hadrian’s Wall, earlier excavations of the Wall, its many sites and the finds which are being

re-examined as new thinking and new technology allow new ways of interpreting the finds and looking at them in more depth (photo by S Hallberg).

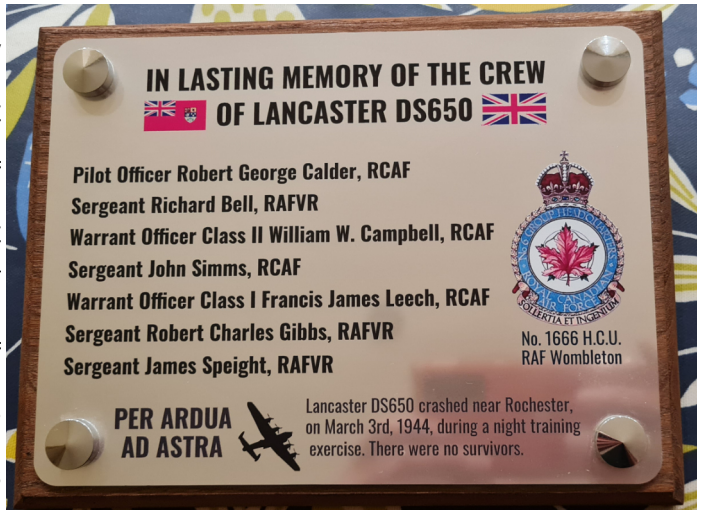
This promises to be an engrossing subject and we look forward to welcoming returning members and visitors

NEWS FROM BYRNNESS

It's been a busy August in Byrness and at St. Francis. We have had many walkers through the village on short day walks and more ambitious souls walking the Pennine Way, (or parts of it at any rate). It's also been a busy season for the Forest View (the walkers' Inn in Byrness).

Martin Gainsborough the Bishop of Kingston, in the Diocese of Southwark recorded his visit to St. Francis. The bishop was running (yes running!) the Pennine Way with his Border Collie dog to raise funds to support Children's Education in Zimbabwe. Lovely comments in our visitor's book thanking God for the respite at St. Francis.

This week we were visited by the lovely Howson family from France. Benoit Howson had researched the crash of Lancaster DS650 plane during WW2. The flight tragically ended with a crash near the Catcleugh Reservoir, which killed all seven of its crew members. All were very young men - both Canadian and British. Benoit has written and published a



lovely book in which he gives details of the men and their families. The Howson family have visited each burial place of the seven crew this summer and presented plaques to each Community: Harrogate, Edinburgh, Dunston, Pontefract, Bristol and Byrness. All the men were buried in the UK, as the Imperial War Graves Commission had a policy which did not allow repatriation of the remains. We held a small ceremony, with the Howson children playing the last post to honour the brave airmen.

A copy of Benoit's book is in St. Francis and is well worth a look. The plaque (see photo) is currently in our village hall, but we hope it will eventually reside in St. Francis.

Barb Sunley
St. Francis, Byrness

NEWS FROM CORSENSIDE

Claire Maxim has been giving a Communion service at St Cuthbert's, Corsenside, on the first Sunday of each month over the summer period. As Roberta, from the MURC, remarked: *It is a lovely, peaceful occasion to end the week in such a restful place.* Please note that everyone is welcome to come along to these services during the remainder of BST (British Summer Time). The sermons are always inspiring – the latest one being about the rich fool who wanted to pull down his existing barns and build new, bigger, ones to store his abundant crops in, little realising that he would die that night. The lesson to take away from this was that we cannot take anything with us when we pass on. We both enter and depart this world with nothing. The reading comes from Colossians 3; 1-11, if you would like to read the full passage.

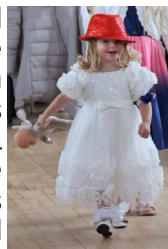
On 10th August, there was a Communion service at Otterburn, and faith in God was once again emphasised. Abraham's faith was demonstrated by the fact that he followed the words of God, believing in the promise that his descendants would be '*as numerous as the stars in the sky*' – despite his old age and the fact that Sarah, his wife, was old and barren yet still conceived. God's promise was therefore a truly uplifting lesson in faith.

Moving on to some sad news - one of our regular Village Hall attendees has recently passed away. Melvin Currie was a modest man, who was skilled with cars and mechanics in general. He was a well-known figure in our community and will be a real miss at (amongst numerous other things) our 'Cuppa and Chat' sessions on Wednesdays. He leaves behind a son, Alan, a daughter, Jan, his daughter-in-law, Caroline, and his grandchildren. May he rest in peace with his wife, who departed some years ago.

With all best wishes, from Diana

NEWS FROM ELSDON

NEWS FROM ST CUTHBERT'S: 24th July saw a very special celebration day in Elsdon as a village, and especially for the Renton family. Preparations started early for a special baptism service in St Cuthbert's, for a very special little girl. Frances Georgia Renton, at 2¾ years old, was the star of the show, in a long white dress with puffed sleeves and a bright red hat. (see photo). Her big sister, Molly wore a matching dress and was given the important job of lighting the big candle from which all





the little candles for each set of godparents were lit (see photo)!

The most special thing was that Rev. Frances Dower was able to officiate at the ceremony. Rev. Frances had also baptised the two older Renton children and had even married Davy and Jo all those years ago. Rev Frances has been a close friend to Jo and Davy's family going back many years and since Little Frances had been named after Big Frances (see photo below of Big Frances baptising Little Frances),



the whole service was a very meaningful and joyful occasion for all.

Rev. Claire Maxim shared the floor with Rev Frances, and made sure the congregation, as well as both the parents and godparents, understood their ongoing responsibilities to help the new little member in her own journey of faith. She did this while entertaining the children (and others) in guessing what we normally have at a birthday party!! Presents, cards, cake etc. were all included and she wove these things into her message. Each card for the godparents had a different theme, and an individual and memorable promise to keep. She will even check up on them in a year's time!



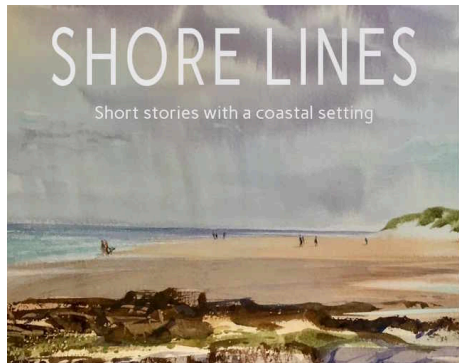
The congregation of about 50 people was made up of family, friends, neighbours, some of whom were farmers and some of whom had travelled some distance to attend. The catering at the village hall afterwards certainly lived up to expectations, and other villagers who weren't able to make the service (including big brother, Jack) joined us for the food. The day finished with many of the same group of happy people and more, watching the Women's Euro finals in the Bird in Bush where England's win on penalties was the icing on the cake at the end of a fantastic day. Congratulations and welcome to Frances Renton!

To cap off a lovely summer, the Elsdon Fete took place on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August with the church being used for a Book Sale and a Treasure Hunt.

With best wishes from Helen Howie, Rosie Prudhoe and Jo (who provided the photos)

CULTURE IN A COOL PLACE IN ST CUTHBERT'S, ELSDON

August was a busy month with two last-minute additions to the 'Culture in a Cool Place' series of events in St. Cuthbert's Church. On 7th August Emma Anderson gave a walk on the Wildlife of Northumberland: a journey through eight upland habitats, illustrated with recordings of birdsong and wildlife photography. At the end of August, the Drake Ensemble brought together musicians playing violin, viola, recorder, cello and harpsichord to delight us with an evening of baroque music.



Don't miss the next community event, on Friday 26th September at 7pm. Do join us for a selection of superb short stories told by professional northern actors. Refreshments will be provided. It's the last 'Culture in a Cool Place' event for 2025 so put it in your diary now!

NEWS FROM OTTERBURN

News from St. John's: During July, we welcomed some visitors to the congregation who were holidaying in our area and who said they had come along because they had seen our advertising of the services times and dates. It was good to receive feedback that confirms our advertising is reaching worshippers.

During the month of August we have been very pleased to welcome some new members of the congregation who have recently moved into our area, and we are looking forward to welcoming more members in the future.

Our Authorised Lay Minister completed three courses, which ran for three months, amongst which were an updated Authorised Lay Minister Course (which culminated in a Service Presentation) and a Pastoral Care course. Certificates will be presented shortly and thanks go to Nicola, whose training was superb. The commitment of the Lay Ministers in our area is to be commended.

Thanks go to our Dean, the Very Rev'd Lee Batson, who undertook a service at St John's on 13th July which was well attended and well received.

Finally, all are welcome to attend our services which are held at 11am on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month.

A BRIEF WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This month's cover photo was submitted by Cathy Smith and shows some of the results of the haymaking at St Cuthbert's, Corsenside, as per the article on **Page 9** of this 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**

The copy deadline for next month's issue, is
MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 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.

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

Area Dean

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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

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