

# The Meeting of the Waters



## FEBRUARY 2026

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## **A PASTORAL LETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2026**

I am writing this on Plough Monday - the day after Plough Sunday, when traditionally, hand ploughs (or the village plough) would be dressed in flowers, blessed at church, then taken around the village both to mark the start of the new working year and to ask for blessing on the land.

Plough Sunday and Plough Monday are the first of the agricultural festivals in the year, but there are days set aside throughout the year when the land, the flocks and herds, the crops, and communities of people are prayed for and remembered and blessed.

This is the time of year when folk are thinking of their plans for the coming year, and maybe considering their holiday destinations. It is also a time when folk think about planning Life Events such as moving house, getting married or having a child christened. Baptism is the start of the Christian journey, and we have also just remembered Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan. From that start, Jesus went out to preach and teach and heal, and as Baptised people we are each sent out to live and learn more about faith throughout our lives. Currently we are in the church season of Epiphany where we learn more about Jesus being made known to the world, and about people realising that Jesus was both special and different.

The church year moves on and at the start of February, the Season of Christmas and Epiphany comes to an end with Candlemas, when Jesus was taken to the Temple by Mary and Joseph to be blessed. After that, we look towards Lent and the journey to the cross and to Easter. There will be Lent talks and discussion groups open to everyone in the area, if you would like to try something different.

There are also lots of friendly, informal community groups around the area, where we can meet and have a chat over a coffee, or soup and a pudding. Maybe we can all try something new for the New Year!

Peace be with you!

Kind regards,

Sarah Lunn

## SERVICES IN THE DEANERY IN FEBRUARY 2026

### 1<sup>st</sup> February: Presentation of Christ in the Temple

*Readings : Malachi 3: 1-5; Hebrews 2: 4-end; Luke 2: 22-40*

- 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 Elsdon
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Simonburn
- 4.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield
- 7.00pm Refresh (Contemporary Worship) at Humshaugh

### 8<sup>th</sup> February: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

*Readings: Genesis 1: 1-2:3; Romans 8: 18-25; Matthew 6: 25-end*

- 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 Otterburn
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Wall
- 6.00pm Holy Communion at Wark
- 6.00pm Evensong at Bellingham

### 15<sup>th</sup> February: Sunday next before Lent

*Readings: Exodus 24:12-end; 2 Peter 1:16-end; Matthew 17: 1-9*

- 9.00am Holy Communion at Gunnerton

- 10.00am Service of the Word at Birtley
- 10.00am Service of the Word - 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 Service of the Word at Horsley
- 6.00pm Taizé Service at Simonburn

### 18<sup>th</sup> February: Ash Wednesday

*Readings: Isaiah 58: 1-12; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6;10; Matthew 6: 1-8, 16-21*

- 11.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
- 7.00pm Holy Communion at Wall

### 22<sup>nd</sup> February: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

*Readings : Genesis 2: 15-17;3:1-7; Romans 5;12-19; Matthew 4:1-11*

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



# NOTICEBOARD

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SANDWICH**



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**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
A service for everyone!

**Friday 6 March**

*I will give you rest, come*

**Nigeria 2026**

You are invited to an ecumenical service for the World Day of Prayer at:  
**St. Oswald's, Bellingham, 7pm**  
Refreshments will be served afterwards.

We look forward to seeing you there!



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**  
26-7: 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led  
[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 233242

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026:

The World Day of Prayer is a women-led, global, ecumenical movement. This year the service will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. The service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria (see poster above). As we take part in this service, we join a great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, beginning in Samoa and ending 146 countries later in American Samoa, all praying with and for the country and people of Nigeria.

In this service, our Nigerian sisters call us to come closer to God and find rest in him. The theme of the service is "*I will give you rest, come*" (Matthew 11 28-30). When we totally trust and have faith in God our burdens become light and we find rest. As part of the service, we will hear the stories of four Nigerian women who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair. As we trust in God, our Burden Bearer, we become one body in Christ, receiving and bringing rest to the world.

We hope you can join us for this ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service, **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm at St. Oswald's Bellingham**. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

Cath Brennand, Roberta Riches, Margaret Mjaland and Marie Ness.

**AGM****Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February****The Pheasant Inn****7.30pm**

We encourage as many committee members to attend as possible. This is an opportunity to have your say. Your chance to put forward or discuss plans for this years Show.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

**GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE COLLECTIONS 2026:** The dates of the 2026 spring and autumn collections in Redesdale and the North Tyne, in support of the Great North Air Ambulance Service, are as follows: Weds 18<sup>th</sup> March, and Weds 16<sup>th</sup> September. Updates, including details of what can, and what should not, be donated, will be made available via the volunteer in your community and in the Redesdale, Bellingham and Upper North Tyne Village Notes columns in the Hexham Courant.

**GRAZING LAND FOR SHEEP NEEDED URGENTLY:** Grazing land in the North Tyne Valley (near Tarsset if possible) will be needed for 100 sheep from May 2026. If you think you can help, please phone Amelia on 01434 240358 to discuss details.

**LENT TALKS IN MARCH:** We are planning four sessions in March on the subject of *'the Northern Saints'* (who are Oswald, Aidan, Cuthbert and Bede). We will also cover Wilfrid, Hilda and the Synod of Whitby. Speakers will be Cathy Smith, Rev Dr Susan Ramsaran, Fr Jim Dunne and myself, and we would welcome any other speakers who have a special interest or knowledge.

Sessions will take place at **Bellingham Reed Hall, 3.30pm - 4.30pm, on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March.** Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available at the sessions. Everyone is very welcome!

Charlotte Loyd ([Charlotte@mantlehill.co.uk](mailto:Charlotte@mantlehill.co.uk))

## FALSTONE COFFEE MORNINGS



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone for coming along to our coffee mornings in 2025. We enjoyed meeting together to drink cuppas, eat biscuits, cakes and scones - making it a pleasure for us all to come together and chat. In December we had a "Christmas Celebration" coffee morning (see photo) and enjoyed coming together to sing Christmas carols and songs, led by Mike Wilkinson, listen to Don Clegg play the mouth organ and recite entertaining poems AND we had a visit from Santa, who gave everyone bags of sweets and treats!

In 2025 we raised an amazing £2345 for charities including: Great North Air Ambulance, Prostate Cancer UK, Tynedale Hospice at Home, Poppy Appeal, Freeman Heart and Lung, Calvert Kielder, pancreatic cancer and Doddy Aid. And we've had a lot of laughs and chats! So thank you everyone for your incredible support in 2025!

**Moving forward to 2026:** Thank you to everyone who came along and supported, served and baked for the first Falstone coffee morning of 2026. As you can see from the photo, we all had a fun time, cheered up and entertained by each other, as well as one of Don's stories, plus his beautiful rendition of "Doddie's Dream". Together we raised a fabulous £234.50 for the 'My Name is Doddie Foundation', for research into a cure for Motor Neurone Disease, and supporting people affected by MND. We received a lovely thank-you message from the charity: *"We are honoured to have been chosen (as your charity this month), and it means a lot to us to know that so many people in the community had met or knew Doddie. It is fantastic to see the community get into the Doddie Aid spirit too, thank you for your support!"* We also had a "shout-out" on their: Instagram page (if anyone is one that??) in their "Friday High 5s" feature on Instagram. This feature recognises and thanks members of the community for their recent fundraising activities.



Upcoming coffee mornings will be as follows (all at Falstone Village Hall and all starting at 10.30am):

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February:** in aid of Papyrus (prevention of suicide in young people).

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** There will be a special coffee morning AND soup and pud event (running from 10.30am - 12.30pm). This is also the date of the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) collection - see previous page for further info). Suggested donations for coffee and soup and pud will be £8 - with all donations in aid

of GNAAS. We will be serving coffee and biscuits from 10.30am and will be serving soup and pud from 11.15am through to 12.30pm.

Future coffee morning dates: will be on **21<sup>st</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> June** and **21<sup>st</sup> July 2026**. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Remember if you need transport to attend the coffee mornings please contact Marie (01434 240679), as transport is available via the Church and Community Partnership.

Thank you everyone - we look forward to being together in the upcoming sessions. From: Marie, Diane, Christine, Andy, Mike, Nicola, Katrine, Jill and all of the Falstone coffee morning team who serve tea and coffees, prepare treats, put up posters, get the chairs out, put chairs back, wash-up, and Hoover afterwards xx

## GOD'S WORLD - OUR WORLD



**Campaigning for God's World:** In an era where environmental concerns such as climate change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity are increasingly pressing, the Climate Action Group thinks that the Christian response to these issues is of paramount importance. Hence, we have been involved in two different sorts of campaigning before Christmas.

The first was a social media campaign asking the Church Commissioners to think more carefully about the biodiversity of the land **that they own**.

In the age of the climate and nature crisis, land is now our single most important environmental resource but land that is degraded, stripped of habitat or farmed intensively drives the decline of nature and the heating of our climate. Sadly, Britain is ranked in the bottom 10% of nations globally for biodiversity so big British landowners bear a huge responsibility to lead the way in rebuilding biodiversity in the UK. The Church Commissioners have the power to restore an area of land 99 times the size of Hyde Park (34,650 acres)!! This would be a truly significant contribution to the national effort. On a particular day in the Autumn, Christians bombarded the Church of England and the new archbishop's social media with pictures of themselves with encouraging messages (see photo!).

In December, some members of the Climate Action Group were involved in a Climate Roundtable meeting with our MP, where folk from a number of different groups were able to raise concerns. We spent 90mins with Joe Morris talking about local rivers, land use and home energy efficiency, in what was a friendly and productive meeting.

### **Top eco tips for January:**

- When making a cup of tea, only boil the amount of water that you need. We waste electricity (and money) heating water we won't use.
- Stop using aluminium foil for cooking wherever possible and use a container with a lid that can be reused. Aluminium is a rare metal, and its extraction and purification uses a lot of energy.



## HAPPY 2026 FROM BADDS!

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and that 2026 brings good things!



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to Tarsset Village Hall to watch, support or take part in (or all of the above!) our Christmas Production of two short Agatha Christie plays for Christmas 2025. All four nights were sold out, and for those who came along as audience members, we hope you enjoyed the plays themselves as well as the atmosphere created by cafe-style seating and the themed food.



As always, a huge number of people are involved in any production – not just those people you see on stage, but those who offer their time to produce, direct, make costumes, make wigs, make and source props, organise and cook food, man the bar, man the door, work as technicians (sound and/or lighting), make/move/decorate scenery, and act as backstage crew during performances. We also rely on, and hugely appreciate, the generosity of others in the community who quietly 'do and donate' all kinds of things that make even the cast and crew go "Wow – I didn't realise we needed that!"

The other thing that may not be so apparent to the casual observer, is the sense of friendship and community that being involved in a production brings. Each member of the cast and crew is very much a part of things and is very much appreciated.



We were extraordinarily lucky for this most recent production to have new members - some of whom, sadly, we were only able to 'borrow' for that one production, while others will hopefully join us again for our next productions. We have also lost a couple of stalwarts recently – mainly due to \*ahem\* age and/or health considerations.



If you think you may have something to contribute, whether on-stage or behind the scenes, please do contact us (we can be found on Facebook or on the Tarsset Community website) – we would be very glad to hear from you!

## **NEWS FROM BYRNESS**

Happy New Year Everyone(!), as we move into 2026 following what has been a very busy December for our wonderful Clergy.

On 21<sup>st</sup> December, we had another informal carol service at Byrness Village Hall, which was great fun as Claire related the story of the Nativity with chocolate bars. This was a great hit - especially with Theo(3) and Leonie(5)! Claire was great at including the kids (Leonie's baby doll had been renamed Jesus for the occasion, and Theo was confident about what was chocolate and what was not) and we finished by sharing good food, mulled wine and punch. Thank you to Claire for a lovely afternoon, and to Kim and Sam for playing the music.

Byrness escaped a lot of the bad weather (phew), but not the freeze, you know it's bad when it's warmer in St. Francis than it is outside! Our greenhouse heaters offered some (albeit minimal) respite from the cold.

The Montane Spine Race is using the Church this week as a rest stop for those crazy 'Spinners' who are running the length of the Pennine Way. They had a tough start, with horrendous weather from the outset in Edale - they are indeed supreme athletes!

Hope 2026 is healthy and happy for you all, from Barb at Byrness

## **NEWS FROM CORSENSIDE**

There is good news about the status of the churches in Corsenside. Thanks mainly to the combined efforts of Graham Dick, Hugo Remnant and Andrea Ashcroft, enough money was raised in 2025 to save the churches from bankruptcy.

Over the festive period, the talents of the rural community came together for an evening of entertainment at Corsenside Village Hall, organised by Graham Dick – with all proceeds going towards the church - and there was also a guitar recital at All Saints' Church which was a great success. Thanks must go to Hugo Remnant for helping to keep up the momentum by baking bread each week, which is sold locally with all the proceeds going towards church funding.

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, a lovely local carol service took place at All Saints' Church in West Woodburn. The church had been beautifully decorated by Annabelle Remnant and Jeannette Van der Veen. Glorious red berries and Holly were on full display, and delicious mulled wine and mince pies were provided after the service. It was a well-attended evening, with around 60 people there. The Christmas Story was led by Claire Maxim and the short readings were interspersed with popular carols. It was a truly welcoming and inclusive occasion.

On Christmas Day, there was a Communion service at St. John's, Otterburn and this, also, was well-attended. It was lovely to see a number of children present and Claire made the whole service bright and fun for them by telling the Christmas Story using



the names of a variety of sweets and chocolates. She then called all the children forward for a special Christmas blessing. A truly lovely service.

I would like to extend my warm wishes and good health to all subscribers and readers of the magazine for 2026 – and on that subject, please note that this year's subscription to The Meeting of the Waters is now due.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March (Tuesday of Holy Week), the Northern Cross Pilgrims will again break their journey at West Woodburn over the lunchtime period. Any offers of help – particularly with catering – would be gratefully received. With blessings for 2026, from Diana!

**CORSENSIDE CAROL SERVICE – DECEMBER 2025:** On the Sunday evening before Christmas, lots of people braved the cold and came to the Carol Service at All Saints, Middle Woodburn - we think, all told, there were about 60 or so there!

The readers were made up of those who have read before as well as some new faces. Thank you to you all for your willingness to read and for reading so well.

Thank you too for the generous contributions of holly and other seasonal foliage. I think, between the offerings from the Scotts and the Virdens, there were around ten different varieties of holly in the Church. It was wonderful to have Jeanette's help with arranging it all this year.

The evening couldn't happen without Shona, who has returned again as the willing organist. Claire took the service with lovely Christmas cheer, and the mulled wine and mince pies rounded off a proper community evening.

The collection made around four times last year's total and along with all the other fund raising events in 2025, this collection will go towards the upkeep of the two churches in the village.

Thank you to everyone who came and hopefully, we will be able to hold another Carol Service for Christmas 2026. With best wishes from Annabelle Remnant

## **NEWS FROM FALSTONE**

I would first like to wish all the readers of the Meeting of the Waters a very happy and healthy 2026!

I LOVE Christmas time - I love the hustle and bustle and all of the preparations although the actual day just passes over so quickly. My Christmas Eve was rather different this year, though, as I was up super early to drop off The Maureen (aka my mother) to North Tyneside Hospital to get a new left knee for Christmas. While I was there, I collected The Aunty (Sheila Cowan) and brought her home, as she got a new right knee the day before (they were in beds next to each other)! The 'New Knee Gals' are both doing really well, you will glad to hear, and are happily comparing notes the healing process.

The Christmas Fair (I am glad to say!) was held in the village hall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. As you may remember, it had to be cancelled last year due to snow! It was well attended, we had some new volunteers (who we were very grateful for), there was a wonderful smell of mulled wine and sweet mince pies, and lots of chatter. Over £1150 was raised for church funds, which was a record amount - so a BIG thank you to all of the stall holders, those who attended and those who volunteered on the day (see photos on the cover of this magazine). In a spirit of optimism: a date for your diary is Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026, which is the date potentially planned for the Falstone Christmas Fair 2026. I like to be organised!

St Peter's Christmas Eve Christingle/carol/noisy nativity service was as chaotic and wild as usual, and £120 was raised for the Children's Society. I wore my light up tiara but sadly, could not find the light up fairy wings in time! Rev Mike Wilkinson and I led the service, the church was packed and there were 20 children all dressed up as various nativity characters. Dylan Swan, aged 2, stole the show. He was dressed up as a camel holding a toy donkey (see photo on the cover of this magazine). Halfway through the service, he managed to wander into the pulpit and found the basket of chocolates, which he munched on, to his hearts delight, for the rest of the service. Falstone Toddlers made a super *Joy to the World* banner, which adorned the altar.

Between Christmas and new year, I was staying in Newcastle looking after The Maureen, so I attended St James parish church in Benwell. The church is nearly 200 years old and was designed by John Dobson, the famous 19<sup>th</sup> century local architect. The church opened for worship in 1833, on land donated by John Buddle, a famous mining engineer and colliery manager, who is actually buried in the churchyard in a vault designed by John Dobson himself. The developer of Newcastle's city centre, Richard Grainger, also lies in the churchyard in his family grave. I received a warm welcome in both senses of the word: the service was held in the hall attached to the church - which just happens to have a wonderful heating system.

Both the Revd Christopher Minchin, who is the Team Vicar for Mission (acting Team Rector of St James), and the regular congregation believe that Jesus calls them to keep two commandments in particular: to love God and to love their neighbour as themselves. They engage with hundreds of people every week, and work with many community partners and organisations to provide activities for anyone who may be isolated and vulnerable (which includes families in food poverty, asylum-seekers, those with poor mental health, the elderly, disabled, and others). I really think it does us all good to visit different churches and worshipping communities, so in 2026 I am going to try to do this.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to The People's Kitchen, which was Bishop Helen-Ann's Christmas appeal. This charity works incredibly hard to support and change the lives of people, including those who are homeless and vulnerable. I have a car load of donations to drop off at the end of January.

I end with the sad news another faithful member of our congregation, Brenda Meecham, died peacefully just before Christmas - aged 93. For a long time, she lived at the remote Hill House on the Donkeywood Road, and worshipped regularly at both St Peter's and St Aidan's until she went to live closer to her family in London before

the pandemic. Brenda was a skilled embroider and made the huge Last Supper Altar frontal at St Aidan's, as well as the special Remembrance kneeler at St Peter's. There will be a service in the spring where her ashes will be interred with her husband at St Aidan's, Thorneyburn.

With all best wishes from Jill Swaile

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

## **NEWS FROM OTTERBURN**

December was very busy for our Church of St John's in Otterburn. The Holiday season commenced with our Coffee morning in late November, which raised over £500 for the upkeep of our Church.

Following the Coffee Morning, the services held were Christingle, the School Carol Service and a Communion Service, and culminated in our Family Communion Service on Christmas Day. All of the services were well attended and thanks go to the people of Otterburn for all their support, especially for our coffee morning.

The children from our local first school attended the Carol Service and their singing was just wonderful to behold and well worth attending for our future events. Thanks also go to our local First School, as their attendance and input was superb.

Thanks, also, to our Vicar Claire Maxim for all her hard work and to our Ladies of the Church, Margie and Liz, for their organisational skills which helped our Coffee morning immeasurably. Finally, a huge thank you and well done to all our Congregation. December was busy but so exciting and well attended. Thank you all.

Best regards, Moira.

## **NEWS FROM THORNEYBURN**



As I sit here writing this, we have just had to cancel our January Communion service. Heavy snow overnight meant that it wasn't safe to even have the contingency plan of meeting at Horsley Cottage and attempting to travel together or have the service here. It's turning sleety now, but we have had a good few inches overnight. We are not having our evening Parish Worship service on the 25<sup>th</sup>, so the next service will be Communion at 9am on 8<sup>th</sup> February, and we are delighted to have the Director of Mission and Ministry, Revd Dr Ric Whaite, taking this communion service. So do try and come and join us then.

Our Christmas services were wonderful. Our Candlelit Community Carol Service was more packed than ever with standing room only with over 120 there! What a special service with all the community together. Beautiful singing from Song Reivers, Tasset Ceilidh band playing, and hearing the traditional readings with everyone singing their favourite Carols and coming together to celebrate Jesus's Birth. Ben Lucas reading coming home was so apt and delightful. As always,



Shona on the organ made it extra special with Rudolph at the end. This was all led so well by Rev Claire. The McCracken family banned me from the clear up, so I was able to go to the Old Rectory for mulled wine and mince pies. Thank you, Kate, her family and all the other helpers.

I was sadly unable to attend our Christmas Day Communion (as I had to have an op on my arm on Christmas Eve to get it pinned!) but the service was again well attended and lively, with over 30 there. Thanks to all who decorated, prepared and cleared up after all the festivities.

Sadly, the Soup and Pud I had hoped to run in Feb, will need to be delayed until I have both arms in use! However, we hope to run a Dementia Friends session at Tasset Village Hall soon, so we will let you know when that's arranged for. Likewise, when the weather warms up, we will have a churchyard clear up.

The Altar Frontal made by the schoolchildren and community is now ready to go to the church and we are in discussions with Greenhaugh School to arrange a time and service for it to be placed there.

It's with sadness we learned about Brenda Meecham's (formerly of Hill House) death. She was a regular attendee at Thorneyburn and her husband is buried here. She made the beautiful tapestry of the last supper that stands in front of the altar. Her ashes are to be interred provisionally at 1pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, but I will confirm details nearer the time. May she rest in peace back in the valley she loved.

Services for February are: Communion Service on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, with Rev Dr Ric Whaite, and Evensong on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 6pm (the First Sunday of Lent).

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.

Support while Rev Claire is away: While Rev Claire is away, if you have any concerns or queries, please get in touch with me or Michael Nixon on 01434 240426 or Rev Sarah Lunn 01434 681721

Caroline Waitt: [caroline.waitt@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.waitt@btinternet.com) 01434 240210 (Churchwarden)

## **A BRIEF WORD FROM THE EDITOR**

This month's cover photos were all provided by Jill Swaile, and were taken at the various celebrations and services in Falstone over the 2025 Christmas Holiday period.

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 9TH FEBRUARY 2026.**

*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](mailto:sarahmotw@btinternet.com) directly, and she will add you to the list.

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## 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](http://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  
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Urgent (life-threatening) 999

### NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Non-emergency 101  
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### INTERNET SECURITY

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# **NORTHUMBRIAN**

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