

The Meeting of the Waters



MARCH 2026

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

ANGIE 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 PASTORAL LETTER FOR MARCH 2026

Jesus went to Jerusalem many times. Soon we will follow his final journey on Palm Sunday, full of triumph and shadows. Today I invite you to recall Jesus' Jewish heritage, and, particularly, the intrinsic worth of words he himself would have recited or sung.

Psalms 120-134 are known as Pilgrims' songs (of ascent), familiar to the crowds who made their way towards the temple. You might try reading them as one long sequence, rather like listening to a song cycle or viewing a set of paintings. There are much loved verses affirming God's protection. Liberation from slavery is celebrated, as are the virtues of living well in community. The people are urged to be faithful and to persevere, fit responses to God's steadfast love. How foolish, says the psalmist, to lack trust, working round the clock rather than observing natural rhythms of dedicated activity followed by deep rest.

Sometimes the tone turns dark. Oppressors are cruel. There's turmoil without and within, so many shortcomings obscuring God's presence. At times we find fierce indignation, at others healthy remorse. Some verses herald deep joy, marking the end of such difficult years.

The journey to Jerusalem is made both alone and all together. It's also symbolic of our own pathways through life. Psalmists model what it is to be ever so real in our conversations with God. One or two psalms are so short you could easily miss them, and so I invite you to look closely at 131: *My heart is not lifted up and my eyes are not raised too high.* The thrill of a holy day, of reaching the heights is quietly put to one side. Any temptation to see ourselves as superior is abandoned. Sometimes this can happen if a project is thwarted, or a change in circumstances demands a loosening of control. It may not be easy, yet gradually striving ceases. We find inner balance and acceptance, perhaps even a purer desire to serve. The psalm continues: *But I have calmed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother. My soul is like the weaned child that is with me.*

Jesus embodies gentleness and trust. We see him as the Son, waiting on the Father's leadings, yet he could also a force to be reckoned with, especially when facing down injustice. I wonder whether you, like me, will find psalm 131 one of the most inspirational in the collection?

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body. (St Theresa d'Avila 1515-82)*

With all best wishes from *Roberta*

SERVICES IN THE DEANERY IN MARCH 2026

1st March: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17

- 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

8th March: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42

- 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

15th March: 4th Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16; 1-13; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9;

Mothering Sunday: *Exodus 2: 1-10; 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7; Luke 2: 33-35)*

- 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

22nd March 5th Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

- 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

29th March Palm Sunday – Holy Week begins

Liturgy of the Passion : Isaiah 50: 4-9a ; Philippians 2: 5-11 ; Matthew 26:14-end of 27 (or Matthew 27; 11-54 or Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 27: 1-11)

- 11.00am Benefice Communion Lower North Tyne at Wark
- 11.00am Benefice Communion North Tyne and Redesdale at Falstone

30th March Monday of Holy Week

- 7.00pm Compline at Chollerton
- 9.00pm Compline at Bellingham

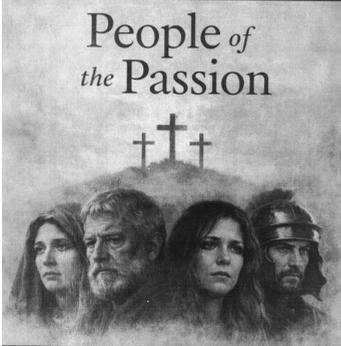
31st March Tuesday of Holy Week

- 7.00pm Compline at Chollerton
- 9.00pm Compline at Bellingham

NOTICEBOARD

ANTIPHON
 Tuesday 24th March, 7:30
 St Catharine's Church, Bellingham
 Untrickled, donations welcome
 Inspired: American CIO

People of the Passion



Music and Reflection on the themes of the passion, as witnessed by those who were there.
 With the music of Bach, Bruckner, Palestrina, Charpentier and others
ANTIPHON, Conducted by John Roper antiphonchoir.co.uk

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
 24/7 365 Days a year Prayer movement. Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 23242

BETHANY GOSPEL VOICES CHOIR



FREE EVENT

BELLINGHAM TOWN HALL

29 March at 3.30 p.m.
Palm Sunday



Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2AA



WELCOME NETWORK Hosted by Welcome Network CIO in partnership with Tyndale Christian Ministries.
 Contact: Bob Bain 07988 564299

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 18th March, and Weds 16th 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.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: The Bible study group, which meets via zoom on Tuesday evenings (7.30-9pm) is studying “*Wardrobes and rings*” by Julia Golding, Malcolm Guite and Simon Horobin: “*with weekly themes, such as temptation, time, nature and creativity, rediscover Lent through the lens of imagination-infused faith*”. Each day through Lent, the book includes a short story, Bible passage/verse and a question for personal reflection. For more information and a zoom link, please contact Marie Ness via email: marie@training4business.org

BETHANY GOSPEL VOICES: will be in concert at Bellingham Town Hall on Sun 29th March, from 3.30pm to 5pm (see poster above). The concert is a free event, hosted by *Welcome Network CIO* in partnership with Tyndale Christian Ministries. For further information, please contact: Bob Bain 07988 564299

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026: The World Day of Prayer (see poster on previous page) is a women-led, global, ecumenical movement. This year the service will be held on Friday 6th March. The service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria (see poster on previous page). 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 6th March, 7pm at St. Oswald's Bellingham**. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

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

LENT TALKS IN MARCH: We are planning four ecumenical talks 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, Michael Nixon and myself. It will be a great chance to discover about the extraordinary saints who re-established Christianity in Northumberland, and the Golden Age which followed.

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)

FALSTONE COFFEE MORNINGS: On **Wednesday 18th 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 **21st April, 19th May, 16th June and 21st 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

THE LENTEN JOURNEY

This year in the Deanery, there will be a range of opportunities to follow during Lent - as we journey towards the Cross and beyond.

There is a series of Lent talks on *The Northern Saints* on a Thursday afternoon in Bellingham run by the Churches Together Group in Bellingham (further details earlier in the magazine).

There is also the opportunity to join a discussion Group where we will be looking at the Nicene Creed (the creed that all of our churches can use) and in addition, reflecting upon some poems collected for Lent by the author Janet Morley. There will be two ecumenical discussion groups - one based in Wark on a Monday evening, and one based in Gunnerton on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. As Broadband and Free Wifi have just been fitted today at Gunnerton we can now offer a Hybrid Group, if folk would like to join in but prefer not to travel!

There will also be a Lent lunch on March 3rd in Bellingham MURC, where all are invited to share a favourite poem over a simple lunch of jacket potato with filling.

If you would like further details about any of the Groups please contact:
Reverend Roberta Ritson (revrobertamary@gmail.com)
Reverend Canon Sarah Lunn (sarahlunn63@gmail.com) or
Michael Nixon (nixonmd@outlook.com)

GOD'S WORLD - OUR WORLD



This month we are celebrating the nettle! In the coming weeks, we will see fresh green nettles begin to push through the cold earth – a wonderful sign of spring. Yes, it's possible that you may think of the nettle as a noxious weed that needs to be got rid of at all costs, but allow me a couple of minutes to persuade you to leave some in your gardens!

Nettle is a 'super' plant that can be used for food, medicine and even for making of cloth and cordage. Firstly, nettles are very important for wildlife as they support beautiful butterflies such as the comma, red admiral, peacock and painted lady. The caterpillars of these species often depend on nettles as a food source for a whole month in the summer and so do require large patches of them. The comma will lay single eggs on nettles fluttering from one patch to another whilst the peacock may lay up to 400 eggs in a single patch. Look out, too, for red admiral chrysalises on nettles, grouped in their silk 'tents'.

Not only are nettles essential for our butterfly populations, but young nettles are also delicious to eat and have a good iron content. How about trying nettle puree which can be made by simmering young leaves for 5 minutes adding butter and seasoning with onion; a tasty alternative to spinach! My family loves nettle soup – this deep green soup was affectionately known as 'pond slime' by my children when they were little – they always wanted second helpings though!!

A challenge for you this spring – why not keep a patch of nettles this year and enjoy providing for the butterflies and maybe even dare to try some nettle soup?

Cathy Smith

THE REDESDALE SOCIETY - FEBRUARY 2026

The February meeting was the Annual General Meeting of the Society, which was followed by a presentation by Steve Gibbon of the Heritage Centre, Bellingham, entitled "*Victorian Afternoon Tea: Etiquette, Remedies and Recipes*". As usual from Steve, it was a well-researched and humorous talk, delivered dressed in appropriate costume - a very rare experience at our meetings!

Afternoon tea is a tradition going back a long way in England (thought to have

been established by the Duchess of Bedford around 1840). It gained popularity among the upper classes as a light meal in the late afternoon, before people ate a quite late evening meal at around 8-9 pm. As it evolved, it became a valued social ritual, initially primarily for the upper classes but later also with some of the lower echelons.

Traditionally, the food served included scones, finger sandwiches and cakes, all presented with elegance. Black tea (often English Breakfast or Earl Grey) or herbal teas (peppermint, chamomile, etc.) accompanied the food.

Matters of etiquette were extremely important- dress in best attire and follow strict table manners, even down to things such as how to stir and drink tea or eat a scone. The well-known rule of extending your little finger while drinking from a cup (several reasons have been suggested) was considered to distinguish different social classes.

The tea party was an important means of networking and communication, even sometimes serving as a match-making venue (often attended by gentlemen as well as ladies from the upper classes.) Exchange of information was very important - including (but certainly not limited to) remedies for medical and dental use. Some of these appear horrendous to a modern eye, for example use of substances like mercury, arsenic, laudanum, and belladonna (which were likely to do more harm than good). But it has to be remembered that these were days when do-it-yourself dentistry was prevalent (unfortunately still forced upon some people today!). However, some of the herbal remedies (clove oil, for toothache, as an example) are still in successful use in modern times.

In a similar way, culinary topics would have been discussed, from use of the correct crockery and cutlery to recipes and food preparation. Again, some of those passed down to the modern age are still in use, while others can appear very quaint to our eyes.

Overall, Steve gave the very educational and amusing talk that we were all expecting. It certainly got a number of us remembering the way our grandparents did things like brewing and serving tea. Of course, the ritual of the afternoon tea survives today often for particularly special occasions - and not only for the upper classes.

With best wishes

David Baines

NEWS FROM BYRNESS

Byrness hosted the final check-in stage for the Winter Spine Race and again, St. Francis was used as a rest place for the athletes for the final push up Byrness Hill, over the Cheviot to Kirk Yetholm. The weather at the start of the race was horrendous and sadly, a number of competitors had to drop out. There were some amazing tales of courage and overcoming the conditions, as well as the mental strain of the race. One article in Trail Magazine was



written by a female runner, who was a recovering alcoholic, and on the stretch from Bellingham to Byrness she truly thought she might collapse and die. She made it to the checkpoint and then went to rest in St. Francis (the temperature in Church was a bracing minus 7C - you can get an idea of just how cold it was from the photo on the cover of this magazine). When she woke up, she thought that she may be unable to complete the race, but

when she lifted her cup to pack it away, she found in the cup a message from another runner, saying "You are amazing! Keep going - we are all with you!". This small kindness gave her the strength to carry on and complete the race. How wonderful is that!

We had a lot of publicity from the race from Montane and the Spinners, and also the running magazines - which has been a boost to both the Church and the Village Hall.

At the end of the month, we held a Community Planting Day in the village to put in the remaining 30 trees for Byrness for the Great Northumberland Forest. Over 200 trees in total have been planted - all species which will help wildlife and in particular the red squirrel: rowan, hawthorn, aspen, cherry, alder and others. Following the very wet and muddy planting, we shared a soup and home-baked bread lunch at the village hall. 17 villagers turned out, and Ned Oliver who was the first born baby in the village some 73 years ago (see picture) planted the first tree. Thanks to Kirsten Johnson the County Woodlands Officer for the Great Northumberland Forest, and to all the helpers.



Love to all, from Barb (Byrness)

NEWS FROM CORSENSIDE

Firstly, a big Thank You to Peter Scott for faithfully delivering February's MOTW magazines while I was temporarily incapacitated by a partial knee replacement. You did a sterling job, Peter!

I must also thank my farmer friends, yet again, for rescuing me and my car which became impaled on some rocks! Billy and Alan braved the mud and rain on a pitch-black and miserable night! Fortunately, I had my mobile with me, so I was able to phone for assistance. I had been unable to do a three-point turn at the last house on the lane (Mary and Richard Virden's house) as the road was too narrow, so I decided to go further on and turn at what looks like a 'Chive of Cheese' road formation...which decision led to the aforementioned rock incident. Luckily, the magazines had all been delivered prior to this event. The reason for a 'dark delivery' (I do not enjoy driving in the dark!) was due to an overnight commitment over both days of the weekend. I must admit that the Lord's Prayer kept me going during the ordeal, and Billy and Alan were certainly the Good Samaritans that night! Thank you both – I'm not sure what I'd have done without your assistance and patience!

Friday's challenges overcome, the weekend ended on a high note, with a lovely Candlemass service at Bingfield, with Canon Sarah Lunn leading what was an inclusive and welcoming service. We sang two of my favourite hymns including *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (chosen by John Roper) and the service ended with Charles Wesley's rousing hymn. Sarah also gave an excellent sermon and explained why there are now two versions of the Lord's Prayer side by side in the Evensong Service! The organist was practising beforehand, and did a wonderful job, in spite of suffering from some severe health issues which I learnt about from his lovely wife, who was extremely kind and welcoming. By the time the MOTW is printed for this month, I hope you will have had a lovely holiday, Sarah!

I dropped these notes off with Sarah, the Editor of MOTW on Monday morning, as I pass her house every Monday on my way to Song Reivers - a community choir which is based in Tasset and ably led by the wonderfully talented Kathryn Davidson. Rehearsals are on a Monday morning and it's a great start to the week! Everyone is welcome to join in, so why not come along and see if you like it?

One last mention is that the Northern Cross Pilgrims will be visiting Corsenside on the 31st March (Tuesday of Holy Week) for lunchtime refreshments. Offers of gluten-free Veggie Soup, sandwiches, cake, biscuits or anything else you can think of (fruit, perhaps?) would be very much appreciated.



In the meantime, try to keep cheerful! Snowdrops (photo courtesy Sarah Hallberg), Crocuses and Daffodil buds are already appearing on the verges and gardens – spring is on its way and life is coming back to the land!

With all best wishes

from Diana.

NEWS FROM FALSTONE

Despite weeks of rain, there are signs that spring has eventually sprung as the beautiful carpet of snowdrops outside St Peter's steps are in full bloom (see photo). I think there are more of them this year! Snowdrop mythology links them to hope, rebirth, purity and new beginnings, as they symbolise the first signs of Spring and life out of winter's darkness. Snowdrops also feature in Christian tales, where an angel transforms Eve's tears into snowdrops as a symbol of hope for humanity after Eden. When I look at them, I wonder who planted them and when? Maybe they were planted by the Victorians - who knows?



Spring is associated with spring cleaning and decluttering a job that I happen to love (The Husband describes me as a bit crazy!) One Saturday I decided to tidy and clean out the vestry and bell tower (there had been a leak in the cupboard in the vestry from all of the rain and this prompted my deep clean). With a bit of Bruce Springsteen blaring through speakers in church I set to...after two bin bags of recycling and two bin bags of rubbish were filled the job was done – most satisfying. I am glad we did not have visitors that day as I was wearing overalls and covered in dust, I looked a “reet clip” (to coin a Geordie phrase).



On a dark and rainy Tuesday evening at the end of January, I delivered a car load of food, clothes and toiletries to the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. Folk from St Peter's and surrounding churches had collected the items as part of Bishop Helen-Ann's Christmas campaign.

The People's Kitchen charity support homeless and vulnerable people, they help to fight hunger and loneliness for locals in need who may be unemployed, homeless, risk of homelessness or



living in poverty. For people who experience these difficulties, the People's Kitchen are certainly a light in the dark.

Keith (see photo) was the supervisor that evening he kindly showed me around. I met some of the folk who were enjoying a delicious hot meal of three courses with a vegetarian option also. The folk who access the venue might be sleeping rough, or have recently been placed in housing with no

belongings. Many of them don't have access to nutritious food or have a support system around them, so The People's Kitchen is their safe haven. They are open 365 days a year and are a constant for people whose lives can be chaotic.

The People's Kitchen try to make life on the streets a little easier by sharing hot meals, packages of clothing, toiletries, food and sleeping bags. They serve over 250 meals per day. They also work with services to enable people to move off the streets and they provide food, furniture and bedding to folk when they move into their first home. One of the most important things they offer is friendship and professional services to improve mental wellbeing. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated as I was able to see first-hand what a difference your generosity made to the folk in need.

Just wee update...The Mother and The Aunty are recovering well from their knee replacements which they had on the 23rd and 24th of December, they thank everyone for the well wishes they have received (see photo).

Finally, here's a date for your diaries: Easter Chocolate morning Saturday 4th of April 10-12 in Falstone village hall.

Best wishes, Jill Swaile (Churchwarden and ALM)
01434 240168 alanswaile@aol.com



NEWS FROM OTTERBURN

St John's Church, Otterburn, will be holding a Bingo night on 19th February at 7.30 pm in The Memorial Hall Otterburn - in support of St John's Church.

Services from March onwards will be Communion Service on the 1st Sunday of the month, and the Service of The Word remains on the 3rd Sunday of the

month. Please do feel free to come and join in our services - you will be made to feel very welcome with tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards, where you can both catch up with friends and maybe meet new ones.

Best wishes from Moira

NEWS FROM THORNEYBURN

News from St Aidan's: At our last service on 8th February, we were delighted to have the Director of Mission and Ministry: Revd Dr Ric Whaite taking this communion service who managed to get to us all the way from Whitley Bay and led us in a thought-provoking sermon on Racial Justice and how we could look around us and see what others do.

Falstone has come to the rescue and are having a Soup and Pud on Wed 18th March (after air ambulance collection) and hopefully I will be up to getting one organised for Tarset in April. However, I have managed to arrange a **Dementia Awareness session at Tarset Village Hall on Wed 4th March at 6pm – refreshments. Session to start at 6.30pm** This is a friendly informal session to help us all to make our environment Dementia Friendly and as supportive as possible. Please come along and find out more.

I have also been working towards having a series of informal sessions on helping us all to understand and get more out of our Phones, iPad, computer, laptop – and book appointments online etc? I have talked to some people who run Techie Teas in other areas and are keen to help us to do something. As yet, the dates and venue haven't been finalised, but we hope that this will be sorted soon and will let you know.

I have been sorting out the rota of people who help prepare the church for services by doing the flowers etc and we have a few slots left -so if you want to get involved and have time I'd love you to get in touch.

Services for Lent are Communion Sunday 8th March at 9am. Service of the word Sunday 22nd March at 6pm.

The snowdrops are out in the churchyard and look wonderful, there are also catkins and other signs that spring may be on its way despite the rain. 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.

Caroline Waitt - 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 16TH MARCH 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 directly, and she will add you to the list.

Bellingham:	Cath Brennan	01434 220631
Corsenside:	Diana Staszewski	
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

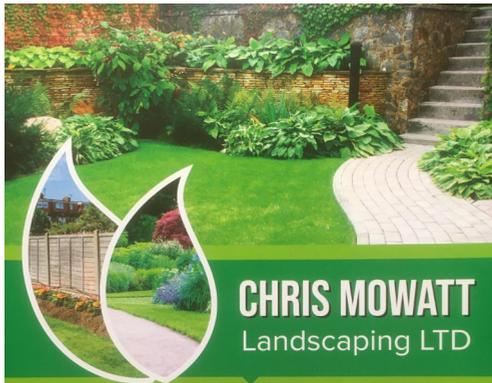
- Tune-ins
- Extensions
- Reception problems
- Upgrades
- Additional aerials installed
- Multi-room
- New aerials



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 RESEEDED | 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
Tarslet Village Hall 07498 522683

MEDICAL

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

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Non-emergency 101
Emergency 999

INTERNET SECURITY

www.getsafeonline.org/

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