

The Meeting of the Waters



JULY 2026

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A PASTORAL LETTER FOR JULY 2026

Dear Friends,

At this time of year I am always aware of the transitions we go through, particularly in school and college – the end of term, the moving up a year, possibly moving on to a new school. There are goodbyes, some unhappy, some happier (I still remember celebrating after my last ever cookery lesson, mainly because I didn't like the teacher!). This year for me it's more poignant, as I have my own goodbyes to say to you all as I prepare to leave here and move to the Diocese of Oxford.

I have spent a fair amount of time this year pondering the nature of calling, discipleship and vocation. On the Second Sunday after Trinity, we heard the sending of the twelve apostles, to heal the sick and share the good news of Jesus Christ. But it's much easier to discern a call when Jesus is standing in front of you, issuing instructions. It can be little harder when we have to discern our way through situations and possibilities. It's more complex when we consider the nature of vocation – we may be called to parenthood, to friendship, to particular places, particular networks, particular people. The way through can be tricky to fathom, particularly when there are multiple pushes and pulls in all directions. That's when listening to others can help, and I have been blessed this year by many honest voices, some of them actually from outside the North East!

Bellingham Deanery is a wonderful place, with so many remarkable people, such skills and such a strong community ethos. I have learned much from you all, and I hope to take some of that with me to Oxfordshire - but I look forward to fulfilling my vocation as a priest, a friend, and a family member in a slightly different way, whilst rejoicing in the new friends I have made here.

May God bless us all as we seek to follow Jesus Christ, with the guidance of the holy Spirit.

This comes as ever with my love and prayers, which will not diminish with distance.

Claire

SERVICES IN THE DEANERY IN JULY 2026

5th July: 5th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 9)

Readings: Zechariah 9; 9-12; Romans 7: 15-25a; Matthew 11; 16-19, 25-end

- 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 Otterburn
- 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
(No Refresh at Humshaugh)

12th July: 6th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 10)

Readings: Isaiah 55: 10-13; Romans 8: 1-11; Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

- 9.00am Holy Communion at Thockrington
- 9.00am Holy Communion at Thorneyburn
- 10.00am Service of the Word at Chollerton
- 11.15am Holy Communion at Elsdon
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Wall
- 6.00pm Holy Communion at Wark
- 6.00pm Evensong at Bellingham

19th July: 7th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 11)

Readings: Isaiah 44: 6-8; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

- 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

26th July 8th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 12)

Readings : 1 Kings 3; 5-12; Romans 8: 26-end; Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

- 9.30am Deanery Zoom
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham BCP
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
- 11.00am Service of the Word at Wall
- 11.15am Service of the Word at Elsdon
- 3.00pm Holy Communion at Byrness
- 6.00pm Taizé Service at Humshaugh
- 6.00pm Evening Service at Thorneyburn
- 6.00pm Service of the Word at Wark

NOTICEBOARD



FALSTONE COFFEE MORNINGS: Future Coffee morning dates for your diary are below. Unless specified, all sessions are at 10.30am in Falstone Village Hall

The coffee morning on Tuesday 16th June was in aid of Smalls for All - a charity that collects pants and bras for people in Africa and the UK who can't afford, or can't get, any smalls. Thank you to everyone who came along, chatted, donated in cash and to all those who had previously left donations for Smalls for All (during the last couple of months, we have been collecting for Smalls for All in St. Peter's Church as well as at the coffee morning). We've already sent 2 boxes full of donations to the charity, and have another 3 boxes of donations of pants/bras to send. At the June coffee morning, we received donations of £132 in cash, have just been sent to Smalls for All.

Tuesday 21st July will be our Summer Party, at which we will be serving meringues with strawberries and cream in aid of Daft as a Brush charity.

We're taking a break in August and will be back on Wednesday 16th September, to coincide with the Great North Air Ambulance Service collection.

Our Coach Trip to Pooley Bridge has its own separate review and photos. THANK YOU for your support for the coffee mornings and for the coach trip to Pooley Bridge.

Watch out for the next coach trip in September/October 2026

With best wishes from Marie Ness and all the St. Peter's Falstone Coffee Morning Team xx

IT'S SHOW TIME!: Once again, the show season is upon us...

This year's **FALSTONE SHOW** will take place on Saturday, 22nd August 2026. There are several ways you can support the show and promote your business this year: advertising in the Show Catalogue, booking your Trade stands and stalls, sponsoring classes, donating prizes, stewarding on show day or judging classes. If you would like any further information about how to help or just how to take part, please email: secretary@falstoneshow.com or visit the show's website on <https://www.falstoneshow.com/>

BELLINGHAM SHOW takes place, as usual, the weekend after Falstone Show, on 29th August 2026. As usual, the organisers have put in a huge amount of effort and it looks like this year's show will be well worth putting in your diaries. More information can be found at <https://www.bellinghamshow.co.uk/>

WALK TO WELLBEING: On Friday 24 July, Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) has organised a Walk to Wellbeing event entitled: Trees, Tracks and a Sculpture Trail (5 miles) The walk starts at 11am at Falstone Tea Room. More info can be found on the Northumberland National Park website: <https://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/whats-on/walk-to-wellbeing-trees-tracks-and-a-sculpture-trail-24th-july/>



HYMNS AND PIMMS

A Summer afternoon social has been arranged at the Redesdale Arms to raise funds in support of both Holy Trinity, Horsley and St Francis, Byrness.

Starting at 12.30pm on Sunday 5th July, it will be a relaxing afternoon for a great cause, accompanied by hymns playing softly in the background (although this isn't intended as a sing-along).

There will be strawberries, home-made cakes and scones, as well as various refreshments (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and there will be a tombola and a raffle.

Why not come along and relax for a Summer afternoon!

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME THIS SUMMER

The Elsdon Village Fete will have a distinctly Medieval flavour this year!

Why not come along to Elsdon Village Green on the August Bank Holiday Monday (between 12noon and 4pm) and see what it's all about!

With local stalls, live music, food and drink, a fun Dog Show and Medieval Re-enactors, it offers something for all.

This year's Fete Draw has grand prizes of a £150 gallery voucher for the Mary Ann Rogers Art Gallery; 1 night B&B for 2 at the Bird in the Bush Pub, Elsdon; and a Family Pass for Alnwick Gardens; plus many other prizes.

Everyone is welcome!



A COACH TRIP TO POOLEY BRIDGE

On 2nd June, 32 of us set off from Bellingham to Pooley Bridge. The weather forecast was ominous - sunny days in the previous week had given way to rain, so we all set off with anoraks, umbrellas and "sensible shoes". To make matters worse, as we travelled west along the Hadrian's Wall road and past Sycamore Gap, the mist hanging over the tops of the Cumbrian fells looked less than inviting. However, fortified by coffee and scones at Haughton Hall Garden Centre (and retail therapy for some!) we journeyed south on the M6 through torrential rain.

Remarkably, by the time we arrived at Pooley Bridge just after 12 noon, the sun came out and the skies were light blue with a few white wispy clouds - so we were all wishing we had packed sun cream and sunglasses! As you can see from the photo, many of us set sail on the Ullswater Steamer across to Howtown. It was a relaxing cruise and we exchanged stories of previous times we had visited Ullswater with family and friends, had walked the Fells and had climbed the hilltops which provide stunning views from the Steamer. We alighted at Howtown and waited a few minutes before getting another Steamer back to Pooley Bridge.



Once we had safely arrived back at Pooley Bridge pier, we set off in search of food and drink (and ice creams!) in the many cafes, pubs and hotels Pooley Bridge has to offer, and we spent the rest of the day eating, drinking, shopping, chatting, walking and 'people watching' the variety of tourists and visitors ambling and rambling around Pooley Bridge town and lake side.

We all enjoyed our day and were grateful for the sunshine, the plentiful ice creams and for Joe, the driver, who safely delivered us home to the North Tyne. Thank you to everyone who came along from Falstone, Tarsset, West Woodburn, Elsdon, Otterburn, Bellingham and Wark.

The coach trip was supported by a grant from the Ray Wind Funds CICSsmall Donations Fund. The Fund has been established by energy company Vattenfall for the benefit of the communities hosting the Ray Windfarm. Watch out for news of the next coach trip in the Autumn. Your ideas for the destination of the next coach trip are very welcome.

Best wishes from Marie Ness, Falstone

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET SHARMAN

Margaret Rose Sharman, November 10th 1931 - June 8th 2026

On a windy November afternoon in 2019, our mother, who had spent most of her life in the warm hills of Devon and Cornwall, arrived in the North Tyne to begin a very different and a very brave new life.

It was a decision that she took in the true spirit of adventure, selling her own home in Exeter and packing what she thought she might need to come and join us at Redmire Cottage as she was tired of managing day to day life alone and wanted rest and peace after nursing her husband through dementia.

Both Margaret and our father, Jim, had spent all their married life looking after people - family, friends, people who needed shelter and people across the world who they would never meet. Caring for others was a very big part of their marriage. Their open house and open hearts created new friendships that are still active today. Their generosity was supported by their strong Christian faith and gave them much joy and many happy memories.

Not many of her new neighbours in Tarsset had the chance to meet Mum over the six years that she lived with us as she was very disabled by arthritis, ME and a twisted spine. She put up with pain but didn't look for any more discomfort, so decided to stay in the little flat we made her at the end of our house. However, she was always interested in the valley around her - if the sheep were on the field, where the birds were nesting, if the swallows had returned.

She was an active member of the church, joining in the deanery zooms, enjoying home communion and always wanting to hear the tunes for the coming Sunday that I would be playing on the fiddle. Our father had a lovely tenor voice and a great annual treat for her was listening to the Song Reivers when they brought Christmas to her with their wonderful singing. She was also very close to all the members of the Bible Group that meets weekly on a Tuesday and once a year, hosted an in person meet up so that everyone could relax together with soup and cake at her home. She was happy to say that this was now her home and everyone who came to help us out became a friend. She was so happy with how she was treated by people here and really loved the warmth, honesty and humour of her new community.

She also loved the peace, loved to watch the skies, loved to see the seasons pass and the changes each brought - relishing frosts and snows as well as balmy evenings and bright spring sunshine. She even enjoyed power cuts (as long as they only lasted for a couple of hours)! She never hid from the world and kept up a constant and informed programme of correspondence with those Archbishops and Chief Rabbis who she felt were not pulling their weight. But the quiet and the dark around her was always her comfort, and her chance to think through matters of faith that she wanted to unravel alongside her Bible group friends and her other very dear new connections in The Lay Community Of St Benedict, who she met with online twice a week: strong new friendships and chances to share her faith.

Mum passed away peacefully at home on Monday 8th June. There will be a thanksgiving service at St Aidan's Church on **15th July at 2pm** followed by a tea Tasset Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

With love from Lizzie Kathiravel

NEWS FROM ST CUTHBERT'S, BELLINGHAM



- **NOTICEBOARD:** A big thank you to Tom and Jim for refurbishing our outside noticeboard so skilfully. Tom's carpentry expertise, together with Jim's help, transformed our dilapidated, rotting board into a sturdy and practical noticeboard for all our notices and posters. We are very grateful to you both.

- **BENCH IN MEMORY OF JOHN STEVENSON:** I am pleased to report that the appeal for donations towards a bench in memory of John Stevenson has

been very successful. John served as churchwarden for more than thirty years and is greatly missed. Having some seating in the churchyard where people can rest and appreciate the peaceful atmosphere is something we often talked about, so this will be a fitting memorial to John. We are now in a position to place the order for the bench and arrange for it to be installed in the churchyard. We have carefully considered the best location and chosen a spot with a view of the front of the church, looking out across the churchyard. We hope the bench will be in place before the end of the summer.

- **CHURCHYARD:** Thanks to everyone who worked so hard in the churchyard one Saturday morning a few weeks ago - tidying the flower beds, tackling the ivy round the back, clearing weeds from the paths and raking the gravel. The borders are looking especially good now with some wonderful hostas contrasting with colourful geums and aquilegia.



With best wishes to all, Cathy Smith

NEWS FROM BYRNNESS AND HORSLEY

NEWS FROM BYRNNESS: On the last day of May, the Deanery Service was held at St. Francis and was well attended by our friends from the other Churches. Great bakes from Helen and Pete followed our service. On the Sunday afternoon, we were visited by a large party from St. Francis at High Heaton, who had all parked on the Forest Drive and hiked across to St. Francis (see photo on the cover of this magazine). They were a lovely crowd and after a talk on the history of our Church and the village of Byrnness, Robert (their Vicar) held a lovely, inclusive service. We intend to build links with High Heaton as they are a lovely bunch and have some well-developed ideas on ecology projects which may be transferable to Byrnness. One thing we do have in Byrnness is plenty of wildlife!

The Black House Visits have resumed up at Catcleugh reservoir, and attendees come to St. Francis following the dam tour and a visit to the wee museum. Caroline and I have honed our talk on the history of St. Francis and the importance of the Church and Rose Cottage, which was formerly the school the children from the camp attended. We have a great little book (sadly now out of print): "They Danced, They Drank and They Built a Reservoir" by Tony Evans. It tells the story of the men women and children who lived at Catcleugh during the construction of the Reservoir, and gives lots of information and fun facts. Tony was a National Parks Volunteer and self-published the book.

This week sees the start of the Summer Spine Race, with St. Francis again being used as a rest hub for the runners doing the full race. Bishop Helen Ann is running the Northern Sprint, so I'm off to clean the Church sign before she passes!

Jill is planning a fundraiser, to be held at Holy Trinity, which she will describe in her news. Meanwhile, enjoy the rest of the summer, everybody! *Barb (Byrness)*

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY, HORSLEY: It's been a steady month with the usual checks and small maintenance jobs, most things are routine and we're keeping a clear list of items that will need attention over the coming weeks including the repair of the main church gates and a hand rail up to the church door. We've also been lucky enough to receive two new benches for the church yard. As we currently have no seating outside, these will give people a place to sit and reflect when visiting the church. They will be installed shortly.

Our next community event is now confirmed: Hymns and Pimms (see poster and info on [page 4](#) of this magazine), starting at 12.30pm on Sunday 5th July at The Redesdale Arms, there will be homemade scones served with strawberries, jam and cream, homemade cakes to eat or take away, a tombola, a raffle and a book sale. It's planned as a relaxed get together, and everyone is very welcome - fingers crossed for a sunny day. Looking ahead our next service will be on Sunday 19th July at 3pm, it would be lovely to see you there and you are warmly invited to stay for tea, coffee and cake. *With best wishes from Jill Thomas*

NEWS FROM CORSENSIDE

Not, strictly speaking, Corsenside news, but as there was no nearby service, I decided to go to Sarah Lunn's Benefice service in Birtley on 31st May 2026. There was a very welcoming atmosphere, which for me, was enhanced when my friends, Jill and Roly joined me in my pew. Sarah gave an excellent sermon and it was lovely to sing some familiar hymns. The service was followed by coffee and ginger biscuits – which were very welcome indeed.

On the evening of Saturday 6th June, at Corsenside Village Hall, Graham Dick and friends organised a fundraising evening of Northumbrian entertainment. It was a wonderful event and a grand total of £890 was raised, which was split between the Northumbrian Mountain Rescue Service and Corsenside Village Hall. Congratulations and thanks must go to all involved.

On Sunday 7th June, I attended the service at Thockrington to see the

new stained glass window. The window was commissioned in honour of the 800 year link between Thockrington church and York Minster. Unfortunately, I arrived late because I was forced to reverse for oncoming traffic on a single track road, after which I had to retrace my steps. However, I arrived in time to hear extracts from Matthew's Gospel about love and forgiveness (very encouraging!). This was followed by a rousing hymn (which was familiar to all of us) and the prayers, led by Sarah Lunn, were a particularly meaningful plea for peace and harmony in our world.

At 5pm on the same day, there was a lovely service at St Cuthbert's, Corsenside. Claire Maxim was the celebrant and as usual, she gave an excellent sermon. She quoted from Matthew's Gospel to demonstrate the things which were commonly considered clean and unclean in Matthew's world. Tax Collectors, for example, were deeply unpopular because they creamed off a percentage of the monies they collected, since the Romans expected them to work for nothing. Jesus said to Matthew "Follow me!" and Matthew gave up his livelihood to do so. On the way to perform the miracle of raising Jarius's daughter from death, Jesus also stopped briefly along the route to cure the woman with the 'issue of blood' (a haemorrhage) which condition had been ongoing for 12 years and which had made her 'unclean'.

The point of these narratives is that Jesus was unperturbed by the distinctions the contemporary religions viewed as 'clean' and 'unclean', instead viewing all people equally. Claire also asked the congregation if we would be prepared, in this day and age, to drop everything to follow Jesus and become a disciple, as Matthew did. We decided that fear of the unknown in today's world would prevent us from doing so. Claire's prayers for the sick and the dying and silent prayers for those in distress were heartfelt and meaningful.

Finally, the service on 14th June, led by Claire Maxim, was excellent. Claire talked about the appointment and the names of the twelve disciples, and the fact that Jesus warned them that following him would not be a bed of roses and that they were likely to face persecution. At the end of the service, we were all saddened to hear that Claire will be leaving us for pastures new (in the Diocese of Oxford), but we wish her every success and we hope her new parishioners will appreciate the benefit of her abilities. We also hope she will be happy to be nearer to her family and friends and that she enjoys the more compact geographic area of her new ministry. *With all best wishes from Diana.*

NEWS FROM ELSDON

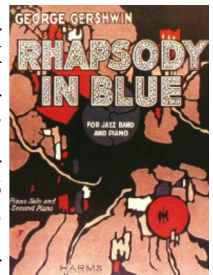
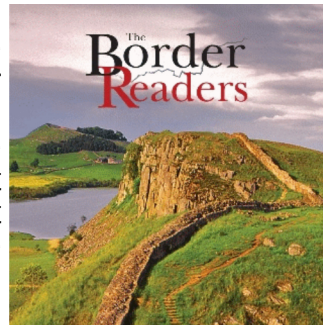
St Cuthbert's Church, Elsdon Culture in a Cool Place



This summer's season of "Culture in a Cool Place" events in St. Cuthbert's Church is underway! The first two events were the 'Crotchets and Quavers' Jazz band on Thursday 14th May and a 'Mainly Baroque' musical evening (see review below) with Elsdon musicians Richard Simmance and Dian Underwood on Thursday 4th June. Most events are either free (contributions invited) or relatively inexpensive (no more than £5 - £10).

Everyone is warmly invited to the remaining Culture in a Cool Place events, which are:

- *Writing Workshop on Saturday 8th August* - a morning's workshop 10am-1pm led by a professional writer, to help you improve your own creative writing skills.
- *The Border Readers* storytelling evening on Saturday 26th September, 7-9pm - We are delighted to welcome back the ever-popular Border Readers for another gripping evening of live storytelling. This will be the fourth year running that the brilliant professional actors will come to St Cuthbert's as part of their autumn tour of the region. The theme of this year's storytelling tour is 'Words of Love', interpreted as usual in unexpected ways, and featuring tales by renowned novelists and short story writers Penelope Lively and Jeremy Page.
- *'Strike up the Band'* - an illustrated talk by Emma Anderson on Thursday 1st October, 7-9pm. The talk covers the lives, music and lyrics of George and Ira Gershwin, with musical interludes, by the always-entertaining Emma Anderson. The talk is both a history and an appreciation, including George's music, much of which the audience will recognise even if they don't know the composer. Ira was a



brilliant, Pulitzer Prize-winning lyricist, who collaborated with his younger brother George to create some of the most memorable English-language songs of the 20th century.



A rare and spectacular 94% solar eclipse will take place in the evening on Wednesday 12th August. The eclipse starts at 6:17pm and will reach its maximum at 7:13pm, when the sun will be low in the sky, so for best views you need to have unhindered sight to the NW horizon.

In Elsdon, the landowner of the Mote Hills has kindly given permission for groups to view the eclipse from the Mote Hills historic site, just up the lane from Elsdon Village hall. Warm thanks to Dr John of the Tower for his kind consent.

Warning: Never look directly at the sun, as even during an eclipse it can lead to permanent eye damage. It is vital to purchase eclipse glasses in advance (easily bought online for around £3), to safely view the eclipse. Put the date in your diary now!

"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" Psalm 8 v3-4.

With best wishes from Helen Howie.



BEAUTIFUL BAROQUE: A baroque music evening was held in St Cuthberts Elsdon on Thursday 4th June. Well attended by 60 people, it was a tremendous success and raised over £370 for historic St Cuthberts. Locals Richard Simmance and Dian Underwoods simply wowed the audience with such consummate skill that the audience insisted on an encore. It was an absolutely magical evening and we are so lucky to have talent of this level in our community. Our thanks go to all involved in organising and of course, playing at this magical event.

Glen Graham, Treasurer, St Cuthberts, Elsdon

NEWS FROM FALSTONE



I start my article this month with a BIG thank you to all at St Francis for the warm welcome. Katrine, Brian, John and I received when we attended the Benefice service on the 31st of May. We had a grand drive over the hills and valleys to Byrness via a shorter diversion on the Hesleyside road due to the Tarsset Bridge closure. We could have come back the forest drive, but I feared for my car tyres on the bumpy road. It was a warm and sunny day and there was lots of chatter both before and after the service, with such a lovely friendly atmosphere. Plus we were treated to delicious tray bakes and cheese scones. The quality of the

refreshments at St Frances made me think we had better up our game at St Peter's – however, the Tunnocks and KitKats usually go down well after a service! We all sang a rousing Happy Birthday to lovely Barb (see picture), the churchwarden at Byrness, after the service. I feel that if we cooperate and collaborate to serve our communities together (as we try to do not only a benefice but also as a deanery) then these healthy, positive friendships can have a significant impact on the life of the whole church and bring us closer together to share the Good News.



Falstone Border Shepherd's Show is fast approaching (on Saturday 22nd of August). St Peter's will have its usual Rest and Reflection tent, plus the



legendary tombola stall - which is in its 58th year no less! This will be the first year without its founder, lovely Jean Swailes (affectionately known to lots of local folk as *Aunty Jean*), so the lot of asking for donations of tombola prizes falls to us! Please have a look in your cupboards and drawers for any suitable bits and bobs – all of which will be gratefully received. You can either leave them in St Peter's, or I can collect.

I am not able to attend many of the coffee mornings in Falstone as I work on a Tuesday, and I had not previously been able to join any bus trips away. This, however, was rectified on the 2nd of June when a

bus load of us went to Pooley Bridge. It poured down on the way there, however our collective prayers were answered, as the weather was fine and sunny once we arrived. Some of us enjoyed a trip on the steamer on Lake Ullswater (see photo), while others walked along the lake. We all enjoyed a lovely lunch followed by a bingle around the shops.



At the heart of Pooley Bridge, there is an independent bookshop, called **VEREY BOOKS** with a tearoom attached (bonus!) which I would recommend visiting. On its shelves, there is a wonderfully and thoughtfully curated selection of books – ranging from bestsellers to Lakeland greats, practical maps and children's classics. I may have made one or two purchases and I definitely ate cake! On a separate note, can I ask does anyone else love the smell of bookshops or

stationers as much as crazy me?
Answers on a postcard, please...

Thank you to Marie Ness for organising a wonderful day with plenty of laughs and chatter...and not forgetting cake!

On behalf of St Peter's, we wish Rector Claire well as she prepares to move to the Diocese of Oxford to be nearer to her family. She will take up post as the new Rector of Shelswell Benefice in the Deanery of Bicester and Islip. We hold her in our prayers.

With best wishes

from Jill Swaile,
Churchwarden and ALM
Tel: 07890096469
Email: alanswaile@aol.com



NEWS FROM TARSET

Sorry to have missed sending in the news for last month but after busy time with Tekkie teas, Easter and all the other activities we have had a bit quieter time.

The plant stall has been doing fantastically well, and I have already taken over £400 this year. I have been struggling to keep it full but thanks to some wonderful plants donated by others have managed to keep it going. This year's highlights have been some Hosta's from Katrine and Lupins from Margaret Bird as well as lots of veg and herbs from Lizzie. The new plants do fly off the stall then we are back to my Alchemilla and Old Violets and Dog Daisies! I decided to do a count and since 2020 we have made over £5350 and that's not counting this year, so will be over £6000 by the end of the year.... so thank you to all

my customers, donators and supporters, not bad for a little plant stall. Recycling and local at it's best and you know they will survive the harsh Tasset climate and not die....

Another eco thing we are doing is developing the wildflower area and I realised how resilient it is after an offer from a friend to mow a path to the gravesides of recent graves in May. This was beautifully done by Philip Spottiswood so people could visit the gravestones but allowing the rest of the graveyard to grow long and flower. However, when I went back in the afternoon the whole churchyard had been cut! by our regular cutter who had forgotten we had an agreement not to mow until after May! When I went up this week it had grown again and the pig nut and other things were flowering, so we will be having no mow June and I have delayed our count on nature until then... BUT we will have a churchyard clear up soon and combine it with the wildflower count...come and visit anytime and enjoy the tranquility.

This week we are having a survey of the roof after having successfully completed our faculty application for solar panels. Once this is done, we then are waiting for the Rural Community Energy fund to plan the installation once they get the grant funding sorted. I do hope the roof survey is easy and successful – it should be as the roof was just renewed in 2017. Another success has been the completion of the lease of a small area of the unused graveyard at Greystead to allow outside space for the holiday let. Thankfully this has all been successfully completed.

On a sad note, Magaret Sharman (Lizzie Kathiravel's) Mum died aged 94 early last week. She was very involved in the church despite being housebound and I will miss her. The remembrance service at Thorneyburn will be on Wed 15th July.

Some news for later in the year Thorneyburn will be hosting the benefice Communion on Sunday 31st August at 3pm St Aidan's Day and we hope to follow it with a picnic or tea weather dependant. More details to follow next month.

Caroline Waitt

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

A BRIEF WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This month's cover photo was provided by Barb Sunley (see News from Byrness). Apologies to all who submitted additional photos for this month's magazine, as I haven't been able to include them all in the printed magazine. I will try and include them in the online version of the magazine, in glorious technicolour...

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 13TH JULY 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 (in full colour) 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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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
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Email: sarahlunn63@gmail.com

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Horsley with Byrness, Elsdon and Otterburn:
Dr Andrew Brittlebank
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