

The Meeting of the Waters



SEPTEMBER 2026

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A FOND FAREWELL AND NEW BEGINNINGS

A lovely and lively crowd turned out at Tarsset Village Hall on 9th August to say farewell to Reverend Dr Claire Maxim, with a very happy warm and tune-filled atmosphere. Thank you to all who sang and those who provided cakes and helped in any way, especially in the washing up!

Claire has now moved down to Oxfordshire where she will be licensed to her new Benefice on September 1st. We send our love and prayers with her to the new place and new people.

The process of recruiting a new person to the post of Rector of the Benefice of North Tyne and Redesdale will begin in September once Claire is licenced to her new position. Many prayers are being offered for all of us as we discern our next steps in the Deanery and Benefice.

Since Claire came 4 years ago, we have been working on - and have just completed, on September 1st, the legal joining together of various parishes into the two Benefices that make up our Deanery. We now start a new chapter together, journeying as the People of God in this area, and working closely with our Ecumenical colleagues.

There will be meetings and conversations in the early Autumn for us all to have the opportunity to reflect on what has been good in the last few years and on what we need to develop and focus on in the next stage of the life of the Benefice and the Deanery.

As the Rural (Area) Dean I am here to keep an eye on everyone as we discern together where God is taking us, ably helped by Wardens, Readers, ALMs, Retired Clergy (without whom we would not manage!) and all of you as the people in this beautiful area.

Change can be sad but it also opens exciting new opportunities for us all to see where God may be calling us!

Kind regards,
Sarah Lunn

SERVICES IN THE DEANERY IN SEPTEMBER 2026

6th September: 14th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 18)

Readings: Ezekiel 33: 7-11; Romans 13: 8-end; Mathhew 18: 15-20

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 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)

13th September: 15th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 19)

Readings: Genesis 50: 15-21; Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21-26

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

20th September: 16th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 20)

Readings: Jonah 3:10-end of 4; Philippians 1: 21-end; Matthew 20: 1-16

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

11.00am Harvest Holy Communion at Heavenfield

3.00pm Holy Communion at Horsley

6.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise at Simonburn

27th September: 17th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 21)

Readings: Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end; Philippians 2; 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

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

Readings for Harvest :

Deuteronomy 8.7-18 or
Deuteronomy 28.1-14: Psalm 65 ; 2
Corinthians 9.6-15 Luke 12.16-30 or Luke 17.11-19

NOTICEBOARD



FALSTONE COFFEE MORNINGS: Future Coffee morning dates for your diary, are listed below and all start at 10.30am in Falstone Village Hall

July's "Summer Party"– thank you for everyone who came along and enjoyed Katrine's home-made meringues with strawberries and cream in aid of "Daft as a Brush" charity. Together we raised a fabulous £208 for the charity and we received a lovely thank-you message from Andrea Glover (CEO): *"Thank you for your generous donation of £208 to Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care. Your thoughtful donation will further assist the work the cancer charity undertakes for patients who require a bespoke transport service to and from hospital whilst undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy treatment".*

The coffee morning team took a break in August (despite the demands of some folks for us to keep going !!). We will be back on **Wednesday 16th September**, to coincide with the Great North Air Ambulance Service collection. Usual time, from 10.30am in Falstone Village Hall. We're in the "large room" in September, as its always a popular event for such a worthwhile cause. Remember your donations of clothing, bric a brac etc for GNAAS.

20th October: Charity tbc

17th November: In aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

December: Christmas party, date tbc.

Coach Trip to Durham, 29th September, 2026: Our next coach trip will be on 29th September to Durham and there are now **only 4 places left**. We have again been able to secure funding, so the cost per person will be just £5. The coaches will pick up at the usual places: Falstone, Tarsset, Bellingham and Wark. To reserve your seat, please phone Marie Ness on Tel: 01434 240679.

Marie, Diane, Andy, Christine and the Falstone coffee morning team xx

CONFIRMATION SERVICE 2026: We have a Deanery Confirmation Service booked on the afternoon of Advent Sunday, 29th November 2026 in St Mungo's, Simonburn. Bishop Mark is due to come to be with us that day. If you or someone you know would like to explore Confirmation, please do get in touch with Reverend Canon Sarah Lunn (sarahlunn63@gmail.com). We already have some young people and some adults, so you would not be alone! Children must be aged 10 years by the date of the Service. Once we know who might be interested, we will arrange some preparation!

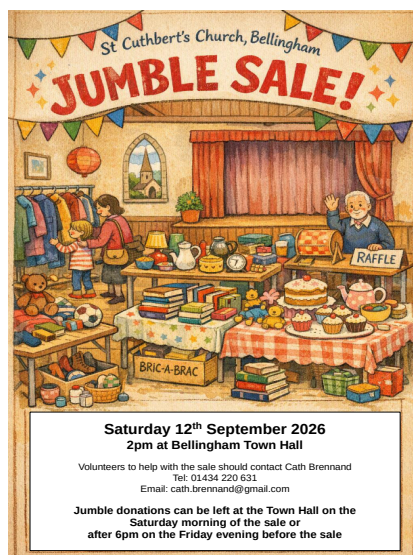
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Email: cath.brennand@gmail.com

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



GNAAS AUTUMN COLLECTION DATE: The autumn collection of clothes and other items in Redesdale and the North Tyne, in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS), will take place on Wednesday, 16 September. I am unable to announce the collection times for participating communities until Clothes Aid confirms them. Clothes Aid now manages collections on behalf of the GNAAS.

Full details will be announced in due course via your local organiser.

Emma Anderson, Organiser.

INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS SONGS OF PRAISE RECORDING AT THE GLASS HOUSE, GATESHEAD: Roberta Ritson, Minister at Bellingham MURC (Methodist United Reformed Church) has received an invite for a church group to attend the recording of Christmas Songs of Praise at The Glass House (formerly The Sage) music venue in Gateshead, on Tuesday 6th October. We have secured 16 tickets on the basis that it might appeal to those who enjoy Christmas carols and Songs of Praise!

We would especially like to invite people who may otherwise be unable to travel independently to attend such an event. We are arranging a small coach, which will leave Bellingham at approx. 3.30pm and will then pick up at The Glass House after the event (at 10pm approximately), arriving back in Bellingham at approx. 11.30pm.

So...if you are up for singing and listening to Christmas Carols in October, being part of the recording of Christmas Songs of Praise, and digging out your Christmas jumpers in October, please do let me know! For more information and to book your place, please contact Marie Ness (Tel:01434 240679).

NB: the cost of the minibus is £22.50, and we are currently seeking donations to cover the cost of the minibus. If you don't wish to come yourself but would like to donate to cover the cost of travel for others, please let Roberta or me (Marie) know.

COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY 16TH SEP AT 10.30AM

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TARSET LEEK SHOW: It's nearly time for the Tarsset and District Leek, Flower and Vegetable Show (AKA the Tarsset Leek Show). The show is on Saturday 5th September at Tarsset Village Hall. All exhibits need to be staged by 10.30am, when the doors will close ready for judging. The doors and bar (and raffle) will be open to the public at 3pm and as usual, an auction of the produce starts at 5pm.

Please note that entries don't need to be registered in advance - they will be registered on the day as they arrive. If you are not a gardener, there are various classes to enter in the Industrial section, one of which is the fiercely fought 'men only' class (which this year, is a sandwich cake with a plain top). There is also a new class: a single flower bloom of any variety. Even if you aren't able to enter, you can still support the show by coming along to see the exhibits and buying goodies in the auction.

If you would like a copy of the programme, entry forms or any other information, please ring Jeff on 07800 898169 if you want an entry form.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: 'WOMEN OF THE BIBLE'

Did you know that: "local churches are more likely to grow, engage with the local community and broaden the perspectives of their members when they have active home/bible study groups. And 67% of people surveyed said that their faith is strengthened by being part of a Bible study/home group".

The Bible study group meets, via zoom, every Tuesday evening from 7.30-9pm. We devote most of the time to studying the Bible text, and discussing the questions it raises and what it tells us about how we live out our faith in our lives. At the end of the session, we share prayers that are in our hearts - for family, friends, our communities, our churches and for the world.

Starting in September, we will be studying the "Women of the Bible": Eve, Ruth, Dorcas, Martha, Mary and Deborah, using a free online Bible study resource written by Penelope Wilcock.

Over the summer we've had a break. The photo on the next page shows a few of us meeting for a cuppa and a chat in August. As well as meeting for Christian Fellowship and learning, we have a lot of fun and

laughter too! Here are Moira, Diana, Caroline, Rosie, Barb (honorary member) and Marie.



Thank you, also, to Jill and the team at the Redesdale Arms for your excellent hospitality tea and cakes - we can certainly recommend it!

If you would like to know more about the Bible study group please contact Marie Ness (Email: Marie@training4business.org), or get in touch with any member of the group.

A FINAL MESSAGE FROM CLAIRE

Dear Friends,

One final line from me, this time simply to say thank you. Thank you for a wonderful send off – I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did (despite the number of tissues I used!). Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make it happen, from bar to cake to chairs and tables, songs and secret Song Reivers plotting. And thank you all for coming, for the magnificent gifts, the good wishes, and the hugs. I am much moved by your kindness and generosity, and will let you know what happens to that very, very unexpected cheque.

I have enjoyed my time with you very much, and I want to thank you for weaving me so deftly into community and friendships. I will carry you in my heart, and feel as though I am leaving a little bit of my heart here.

Keep doing your best to love each other, and if you love your new Rector as you have loved me, they are blessed indeed.

With love and prayers for you all,

Claire

NEWS FROM BYRNNESS AND HORSLEY

NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS', BYRNNESS: Things have been quiet at the top end of the Rede Valley, we had our last Holy Communion with Claire Maxim at the end of July and look forward to Sunday 22nd when we have Ian Kitchen for the service. Claire's leaving party at Tarsset was great fun, and we saw friends from all over the Deanery. St. Francis continues to get good footfall and donations which helps our wee Church.

Byrness Village Hall now has solar panels and batteries installed which should help with the running costs of the hall, we are now looking for funding to install an LPG generator and a new dual fuel cooker, all which will help towards the aim of the hall becoming a warm hub in the event of a major power outage.

Byrness Red Squirrel Group is now officially recognised and permission has been granted from the Forestry Commission to work in the local woods. Greys have been spotted at Horsley but are being dealt with by Lord Redesdale.

Byrness Craft Group is holding an Autumn Fayre on 17th October, from 2-4pm, with craft stalls and afternoon tea at the Village Hall in aid of Breast Cancer Now Charity. All monies raised from entry fees, table hire, raffle tickets etc. will go the charity and the Village Hall has kindly agreed to waive its usual hire charge. Keep it in your diary.

The season of 'mist and mellow fruitfulness' approaches – hope all the gardeners have a good harvest.

With best wishes from Barb Sunley, Byrness

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY, HORSLEY: A steady September ahead for us, with a few important bits to share.

Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to Chris and Micky for keeping on top of the grass cutting. It makes such a difference to both churches, especially through the summer when everything seems to grow twice as fast. Their quiet, faithful work keeps everything looking cared-for. We're also beginning early conversations about expanding the parking area. Nothing has been decided yet, but it's helpful to start exploring options. We'll keep everyone updated as things progress.

We're delighted that Ian Kitchen will be taking our services for the time being, supported by Sarah Lunn, while we look for a replacement for Claire - who has

now moved to Oxford with all our love and best wishes for her new chapter. We'll miss her, but we're glad she's settling in well.

Our September PCC meeting will include the first look at plans for the Christmas services. If there's anything you would like us to consider (timings, formats, or ideas, etc.), please let one of us know. Your thoughts are always very much appreciated.

Our September service will be held on 20th September at 3pm, and everyone is warmly welcome. If anyone needs a lift, just drop me a line — we're always happy to help. Do stay afterwards for tea, coffee, cake, and there are even doggy treats for our four-legged friends (see photo of my two new furry parishioners on the front cover of this magazine). It's always lovely to have that time to chat together.

With best wishes from Jill Thomas

NEWS FROM CORSENSIDE

On 9th August at St Cuthbert's, Elsdon, Claire Maxim gave her final Communion service. It will be sad to see her go, but she gave an excellent sermon, and Ken and Rosie Prudhoe joined in with some good Bible readings. In the evening, Claire said a final goodbye to us all at Tarsset Village Hall, which was packed with well-wishers for her future in her new benefice. Tarsset Song Reivers sang four songs, and it was lovely to see Claire joining in. Thank you to all who made this event and venue possible, and to those who provided the food.

On 23rd August, the Friends of Corsenside (FOC) will be having an afternoon picnic, featuring poetry and stories, in the churchyard of St Cuthbert's. Contributions of food will, as always, be gratefully received – but everyone is welcome to come along whether you are able to contribute or not! Last year's event was lovely and all who were there enjoyed a warm, sunny day. Hopefully, the weather will be equally kind this year, but if the weather does prove adverse, the event will be held inside the church.

This month also sees our Breast Cancer Awareness fundraising event at Corsenside Village Hall, so please watch this space for an update on the outcome.

I will be away at the end of this month, but Peter Scott has kindly agreed to

deliver the MOTW magazines to all our Corsenside subscribers. Thank you, Peter!

Finally, please note that on the 3rd October, there will be a Macmillan fundraising event at Corsenside Village Hall. More details to follow.

Best wishes, from Diana.

NEWS FROM ELSDON

Thank you to all who supported the Elsdon Fete on Bank Holiday Monday - without your support it would be near impossible to keep the church open.

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

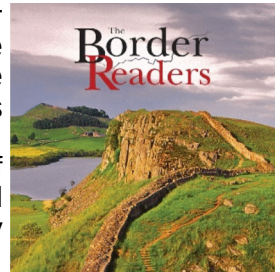


Don't miss the final two 'Culture in a Cool Place' events for this year:

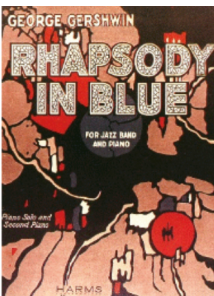
Saturday 26 September, 7pm-9pm: Border Readers Storytelling Tour 'Words of Love'.

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.



Thursday 1st October, 7pm-9pm: Strike up the Band.

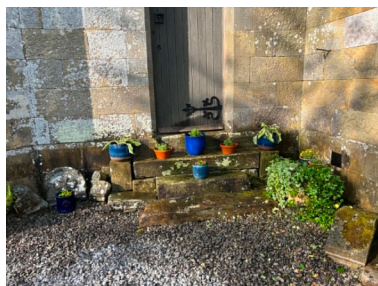


An illustrated talk on the lives, music and lyrics of George and Ira Gershwin, with musical interludes, by the always-entertaining Emma Anderson. The talk is both a history and an appreciation, including George's music, much of which the audience will recognise even if they don't know the composer. Ira 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.

NEWS FROM FALSTONE

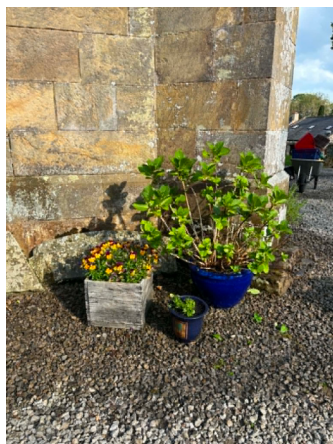
Firstly, a sorry from me for the lack of news from St Peter's last month no excusesI simply forgot! However, in my defence, I was on holiday in St Ives in Cornwall! The Husband, The Mother and The Niece and I attended the Sunday Service at St Ia which is in the centre of St Ives overlooking the sea. St Ia was a 5th or 6th century Irish princess and martyr, who became an early missionary in Cornwall.

The service was a very traditional Holy Communion Service in the Anglo-Catholic style and included a robed choir, Sanctus bell, and incense. The incense was inside a thurible (which Google tells me is metal incense burner that hangs from a chain). The altar server who was in charge of this did an amazing job, as at one point he swung it 360 degrees as he walked up the aisle, we were in awe of his skill, as he did not spill any hot coals. Our family had a great discussion after the service if I could ever control a thurible - a resounding **NO** was agreed. I would certainly hit something or, heaven forbid, someone in St Peter's if this was ever introduced in the North Tyne!! I have since found helpful YouTube videos of instructions how to manage a thurible so I have hope yet! We received a warm welcome from the congregation which included two dogs, who slept through the whole service.



Thank you to Uncle Ivan and John Waller, who have kept the pot plants outside St Peter's watered in this hot weather, they are looking very colourful and lots of people

comment about them as they pass by. Even the hydrangea has flowered this year, I thought it was pot bound, but obviously not.



Thank you, also, to Rev Ian Kitchen (retired minister who lives in the benefice) who took the communion service at St Peter's on the 16th of August, this was the first time he has taken a service with us. The congregation were enthralled by his reflection on the gospel reading from Matthew *the story of Jesus and the Canaanite woman*. His reflection made real sense, and I have found this passage difficult to understand in the past. He reminded us that sometimes, God's silence isn't



rejection it is a space where faith is refined, where motives are tested and where our trust deepens, it keeps us believing that even the smallest acts of God's mercy is enough to make the impossible possible. We look forward to welcoming him again.

After my last article I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of folk who have donated tombola prizes for St Peter's stall at Falstone Show, over 250 items have been collected and expertly labelled by The Maureen and The Eric (see photo), it only took them 3 hour !!! Pray for good weather for show day as wet tombola tickets disintegrate very quickly!

Rector Claire took her last services in the benefice on Sunday the 9th of August with a farewell get together in Tarsset village hall in the evening (see pics below). The Song Reivers choir entertained the gathering as did David McCracken with one of his Northumbrian songs which involved toasting everyone with a dram of whiskey. The benefice gave Rector Claire a generous cheque as a leaving gift so she can purchase furnishings, curtains etc for her new home. Once she settles into her new home, she will also receive a rose for her garden called (very aptly) "*The Rambling Rector*". We wish her well with her move to the Diocese of Oxford.



Best wishes from Jill Swaile (Churchwarden and ALM)
07890 096469 - alanswaile@aol.com

A BRIEF WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This month's cover photo was provided by Jill Thomas and shows two new gorgeous parishioners (of the furry kind) at Holy Trinity, Horsley.

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 14TH SEPTEMBER 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.

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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!

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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
Falstone Village Hall 07583 929353
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/

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David Atkins

01434 601882 / 07762 718125

david@northumbrianwindows.co.uk

www.northumbrianwindows.co.uk

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