

The Benefice of Mitford and Hebron Newsletter October 2026

Dear Friends

Welcome to our quarterly Newsletter. We hope you will find this issue both interesting and informative with details about past, present and future activities and events.

As the days grow shorter and our outdoor activities begin to slow, many of us turn from putting the garden 'to bed' for winter to the warmth of indoor pursuits—craftwork, woodwork, metal work, cooking, painting and other numerous hobbies.



Anyone who enjoys making things will know that creating something worthwhile often involves a certain amount of mess and apparent disorder: scraps of fabric scattered across the floor, a trail of threads and wool winding around the house, (especially if you are knitting poppies), wood shavings littering the workshop, or flour and icing sugar dusting the kitchen worktops.

Yet, out of all this upheaval, something beautiful and useful gradually emerges—something to be shared and enjoyed.

Life, too, can feel rather like that.

Christian faith does not pretend that life will always be tidy or easily understood. Scripture assures us that, even amid uncertainty and disorder, God is at work—patiently shaping what is unfinished and bringing new life from what may seem unpromising. Just as the craftsperson can see beyond the scattered pieces to the work taking shape, God sees within each of us, and within our church family, possibilities that we may not yet recognise. **Philippians 1:6** — “*The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*”

As we enter this quieter season, perhaps we are being invited to notice God patiently at work more closely: to make room for prayer, to offer our gifts, and to encourage one another as God forms something good among us. We may not yet see the finished picture, but we can move forward together in faith, trusting that God can gather even the untidy fragments of our lives and use them for his loving purposes. **Romans 8:28** — “*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*”

Loving God, in the untidy and unfinished places of our lives, help us to trust your patient work. Gather our gifts, hopes and prayers, and shape them for your loving purpose. Bless our parish, encourage us in faith, and help us to see the good you are forming among us. Amen.

Mitford, Hebron, Longhorsley and Upper Wansbeck Church Services

	Time	Event	Location
Saturday 3 rd	9.30am	Prayer Meeting	Stable Room
	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St Helen's Longhorsley
Sunday 4 th	10.00am	Harvest Festival and Lunch	St Mary Magdalene Mitford
	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Helen's Longhorsley
	10.30am	Traditional Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Hartburn
	10.30am	Family Service	St Andrews Bolam
	3.00pm	Mediaeval Mix Concert	St Andrews Bolam
	4.00pm	Evensong	St Cuthbert Hebron
Monday 5 th	1.00 - 3.00pm	Wellbeing Café	Mitford Village Hall
Tuesday 6 th	9.00am	Woodland Toddlers	Mitford Church
Friday 9 th	7.00pm	Harvest Buskers Night	Longhorsley Village Hall
Saturday 10 th	10.00am	Sewing Group	Stable Room Mitford
	12.00pm	Bonfire and Churchyard Tidy up	St Cuthbert Bolam
Sunday 13 th	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalene, Mitford
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	St Helens Longhorsley
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalene Whalton
	4.00pm	Messy Church	St Helen's Longhorsley
Monday 10 th	1.00 - 3.00pm	Wellbeing Café	Mitford Village Hall
Tuesday 13 th	9.00am	Woodland Toddlers	Mitford Church
	3.30 - 5.00pm	Sanctuary Mental Health Course	St Cuthbert Hebron
Thursday 15 th	2.00pm	School Harvest Festival	Tritlington School
	7.00pm	Deanery Synod	St Helens Longhorsley
Saturday 17 th	10.00am	Study Day – End of Life	Stable Room Mitford
Sunday 18 th	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's, Hebron
	10.30am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion	St Giles Netherwitton
	10.30am	Harvest Festival	St Mary Magdalene Whalton
	4.00pm	Storytime Church	St Mary Magdalene Mitford
Monday 19 th	1.00 - 3.00pm	Wellbeing Café	Mitford Village Hall
Tuesday 20 th	9.00am	School Harvest Festival	St Helens Longhorsley
	9.00am	Woodland Toddlers	Mitford Church
	3.30 - 5.00pm	Sanctuary Mental Health Course	St Cuthbert Hebron
Wednesday 21 st	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Coffee	St Giles Netherwitton
	9.30am	Stable Room Booking All Day	Stable Room Mitford
Thursday 22 nd	9.00am	School Harvest Festival	St Mary Magdalene Whalton
	2.00pm	Anna Chaplains Service	St Cuthbert Hebron
Saturday 24 th	9.00am	Stable Room Booking ALL DAY	Stable Room Mitford
	10.00am	Craft Fayre Mission and Charity	Home of Sean and Linda Fugill
Sunday 25 th	10.00am	Morning Prayer	St Helen's, Longhorsley
	10.00am	BCP Morning Prayer	St Mary Magdalene Mitford
	10.00am	Café Church	Mitford Village Hall
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Andrews Bolam
Monday 28 th	1.00 - 3.00pm	Wellbeing Café	Mitford Village Hall
	6.00pm	Mitford Charity Meeting	Stable Room Mitford
Tuesday 27 th	3.30 – 5.00pm	Sanctuary Mental Health Course	St Cuthbert Hebron
Thursday 29 th	6.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal	St Mary Magdalene Mitford
Friday 30 th	9.15am	All Age Worship School and Community	St Mary Magdalene Whalton
Saturday 31 st	9.30am	Christmas Shoebox Appeal Packing	Stable Room Mitford
Sunday 1 st November	10.00am	All Age Worship	St Mary Magdalene Mitford
	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Helens Longhorsley
	10.30am	Traditional Holy Communion	St Andrews Hartburn
	10.30am	Family Service	St Andrews Bolam
	1.30pm	Wedding	St Mary Magdalene Mitford
	3.00pm	Evensong	St Cuthbert Hebron

Notices this Month

Growing Together in Prayer at Mitford

From this month, we are introducing new opportunities to help us grow together in confidence in prayer.

Before our services, from **9.45am**, you are warmly invited to join others in the chancel to pray for the service and to listen together for what God may be saying to us. Everyone is welcome, and there is no expectation to lead a prayer. If anyone feels they have a word, thought or picture to share, this can be passed on to the service leader.

On the **second Sunday of each month**, during Communion, there will also be an opportunity to offer one another a short blessing. This is a simple and gentle way for us to grow in confidence in praying for one another and receiving prayer. If you would prefer not to take part, you are very welcome simply to remain seated quietly. If you would like to receive and/or offer a blessing, you are invited to stand. The words of the blessing will be on the screen.

Everyone is welcome to take part as much or as little as they feel comfortable.

Medieval Mixture

Director: Margaret Watchorn



"The Sparrow in the Fall"

Songs of life from the 13th – 17th century

3.00pm, Sunday 4 October 2026
St. Andrew's Church, Bolam

Free Admission, Donations Welcome

Mitford Village Hall WELLBEING CAFE

A warm, inclusive café for connection, conversation, cake, and calm. Enjoy tea and coffee, themed reminiscence sessions, gentle games, and a welcoming space for older adults, carers, and anyone in need of company.
Free to attend!



Every Monday (including Bank Holidays)
1pm till 3pm
Mitford Village Hall, Fenside, NE61 3PS

All Welcome

Café Church

STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

EXPLORING FAITH & ART: Inspired to Follow



GOOD COFFEE



GREAT ART



REAL CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT FAITH



IN
CONJUNCTION
WITH
THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Save the Date!
MITFORD PROJECT
Fundraising Event
Curry Night
MITFORD VILLAGE HALL
7pm **Saturday 7th November**
TICKETS £20
Bring your own drinks
More details will follow soon! ♥

How to Get in Touch

Rev'd Elaine Jones
Priest in Charge
07521 106158

revelainejones@gmail.com

Elodie Hewes
Benefice and Safeguarding
Administrator
07769 763104

Monday – 9-5

Tuesday and Wednesday 9-1

Wansbeckvicarhelp@gmail.com

mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com

THOUGHT FROM THE VICAR FOR OCTOBER - HARVEST

I have always rather liked Harvest. Perhaps it is because it is one of those times in the church year that feels very connected to real life. We see the changing seasons around us, the fields being harvested, the apples and vegetables appearing in our gardens, and the evenings beginning to draw in.

Harvest gives us a chance to stop and notice all the things that we can so easily take for granted.



We might think that we grow our own food, or that we buy it from the shops, but behind every loaf of bread, every apple and every bowl of soup is an extraordinary amount of work – by farmers, growers, producers and many others. And ultimately, we are dependent on things we cannot control sunshine, rain, fertile soil and the amazing processes of creation that God has put in place.



So, Harvest is a time to say thank you.

But I think it is also a reminder that what we have is not simply for ourselves. We are blessed so that we can bless others. We are given resources so that we can share them. And we are entrusted with this wonderful world so that we can care for it.

Sometimes that sharing is very practical – bringing food to a Harvest collection, helping a neighbour, supporting a local community project or simply making sure that someone who might otherwise be alone has someone to talk to. Sometimes it is as simple as sitting down together over a meal.

And that is one of the things I particularly love about Harvest: it brings people together.

Our Harvest Service this year will be at Mitford on Sunday 4th October, and it will be followed by a Harvest soup and fruit pudding lunch. I hope you will come and join us – whether you regularly come to church or haven't been for a while. There is something rather special about worshipping together, giving thanks for all that we have, and then sitting down around a table to share food and conversation.

Harvest reminds us that none of us is entirely self-sufficient. We depend on God, on creation and, perhaps more than we sometimes realise, on one another.

So, this Harvest, let's give thanks for the abundance we enjoy – but also ask ourselves: what have I been given that I could share?

Because the real joy of Harvest is not simply in gathering things in, but in having enough to share.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever.” Psalm 107:1

I look forward to celebrating Harvest with you.

Elaine

PARISH NEWS

Our Mitford Church Project – Moving Forward

There is lots to be encouraged by as we continue our Mitford Church Project!

For those who have been following the project, you will know that our vision is to make sure that St Mary Magdalene remains at the heart of our community for generations to come. We have an extraordinary historic building, and we want to care for that heritage while also making sure that the church is able to meet the needs of our worshipping community and the wider community today.



There has been a great deal of work going on behind the scenes over recent months. We have been developing the proposals, talking with our architects and advisers, listening to ideas from the church and wider community, and taking advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

We are now in the consultation and development stage, and that is an important part of the process. It gives us the opportunity to listen carefully, refine the proposals and make sure that we have thought through the practical, heritage and pastoral aspects of the project before we move on to the next stage.

The vision remains the same: to create a church which is flexible, accessible, welcoming and fit for the future, while respecting and celebrating the wonderful building we have inherited.

The proposals include improvements to accessibility, flexible seating, audio-visual equipment, heating and the way in which we can use the church for worship and a much wider range of community activities. We are already seeing how busy and well-used our church is, with worship, baptisms, weddings and funerals alongside Storytime Church, Woodland Toddlers, concerts, prayer gatherings, school activities and other community events. The project is about helping the building to support this growing pattern of life.

One particularly important part of the vision is that the church should be a space which can be used in different ways without losing its identity as a place of worship. We want to be able to welcome people through the doors for worship, prayer, music, community activities, celebrations, learning and simply spending time together.

There is still work to do before we reach the formal 28-day public notice stage of the Faculty process. We will let everyone know when we reach that point, and the relevant information will be available both in church and on the Church Project section of our website.

In the meantime, thank you to everyone who has given their time, ideas, encouragement and enthusiasm to the project. There is a real sense that we are doing something important together – not simply changing a building but investing in the future life and mission of our church.

It is exciting to think about what St Mary Magdalene might look like and how it might be used in another 10, 20 or even 100 years' time.

We are still on the journey, but we are moving forward – together.

If you would like to see plans, images and more details please take a look at the dedicated web page on our website: <https://www.mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com/church-project>

Cafe Church – Inspired to Follow: Faith & Art



This autumn our Cafe Church is taking a slightly different journey as we explore the relationship between faith and art.

And, as always, Cafe Church means breakfast, coffee and good conversation – so come ready to eat, drink, look, think and chat!

We will be using *Inspired to Follow: Faith and Art*, a resource from St Martin-in-the-Fields, created in collaboration with the National Gallery. It uses some of the world's great masterpieces to help us explore the Christian story and reflect on what it means for us to follow Jesus today.

Over the course of our sessions, we will journey through the Bible from Creation to Revelation, stopping along the way to explore paintings inspired by these stories.

You don't need to be an art expert. We'll simply start by looking: What do we notice? What catches our eye? What questions does the painting raise? Then we'll explore the Bible story behind it and think about what it might say to us today.

Art can help us to see familiar Bible stories with fresh eyes. A painting might make us notice something we've never noticed before, raise a question we hadn't considered, or challenge our assumptions. And perhaps that's something that art and faith have in common: neither is afraid of questions!

There will be plenty of opportunity to share our own thoughts and reflections, but no art knowledge or theological expertise is required. Just bring yourself, your curiosity and perhaps an appetite for breakfast!

Our Cafe Church dates

Sunday 27th September

Sunday 25th October

Sunday 22nd November

We'll then take a break in December and start again on **Sunday 24th January**.

Come and join us as we discover how art can inspire us to follow, while enjoying breakfast, coffee and good company along the way.

Cafe Church – breakfast, coffee, art, Bible, conversation and faith.

Inspired to Follow: Faith & Art – from St Martin-in-the-Fields in collaboration with the National Gallery.

A Small Change to Make Things Easier

From **1st January 2027**, there will be a small change to our pattern of Sunday worship across the benefices: **all our regular church services will be at 10.00am.**

At present, our services at Hartburn, Meldon, Whalton, Bolam and Netherwitton are at 10.30am. From January, these will move to 10.00am, bringing them into line with the rest of our churches.



This might seem like a small change, but it should make things considerably easier for everyone. Having services at the same time across all our churches gives us a much simpler pattern to work with and makes it easier for people to worship in different churches across our benefices without having to remember different start times.

It is also particularly helpful for our fabulous team of volunteers – our Readers, worship leaders, musicians, sidespeople, churchwardens and all those who help make our services happen. Having a consistent service time makes it easier to plan, share responsibilities and support one another.

And, of course, if you fancy visiting another church on a Sunday, you won't need to remember whether it starts at 10am or 10.30am – 10am will be the time to remember!

A change to Evening Prayer at Hebron

There is also a small seasonal change coming to our monthly BCP Evening Prayer at St Cuthbert's, Hebron.

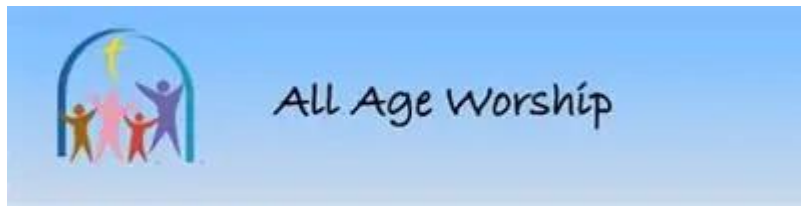
When the clocks change this autumn, the service will move to 3.00pm. This is simply to make better use of the daylight hours, particularly as the evenings draw in. It will still be our lovely, traditional BCP Evening Prayer, but at a time that makes it easier to travel and enjoy this beautiful ancient church in daylight.

So, a couple of small changes, both intended to make our worship pattern simpler, more accessible and easier for everyone – including our wonderful volunteers who make so much of our church life possible.

Thank you, as always, for your flexibility and support

Could You Be Part of Our New All Age Worship Team?

I would love to bring together a small team of people who are excited about developing and reimagining our All Age Worship at Mitford.



I don't want All Age Worship to simply mean taking our usual service and making it slightly shorter or adding something for the children. I would love us to create worship that is genuinely for all ages – engaging, creative, joyful, accessible and something that people of every generation can really take part in.

So, I am inviting anyone who might be interested to come along to an informal meeting:

Monday 19th October at 6.00pm
Stable Room, Mitford

And this isn't just an invitation for our authorised service leaders!

I'm particularly keen to hear from people who have a gift or interest in:

Creativity – ideas for crafts, visual worship, storytelling and creative ways of exploring faith

Music – singing, instruments, choosing music or helping us think differently about how we use music in worship

Engaging different generations – helping us think about how children, young people, adults and older people can genuinely participate together

Coming up with ideas – people who enjoy thinking outside the box and trying something a bit different

Supporting our service leaders – helping to plan, prepare and deliver worship so that they don't have to do it all themselves!

You don't need to be an expert, and you don't need to have lots of experience of leading worship. You might simply have a feeling that we could do things differently and would love to be part of making that happen.

My hope is that we can build a team that can dream, experiment, create and have a bit of fun, while developing an approach to All Age Worship that really works for Mitford and the people who come through our doors.

If you'd like to be part of that conversation, **come along on Monday 19th October at 6pm.**

And if you can't make the meeting but think this is something you'd like to be involved in, please have a word with Elaine.

Let's make All Age Worship genuinely ALL AGE! ☀

Mitford Wellbeing Café – A Warm Welcome Every Monday

Our **Wellbeing Café** at Mitford continues to grow, and we would love to see even more people coming through the doors.

The café meets every **Monday from 1.00–3.00pm at Mitford Village Hall**, including bank holidays. It is a relaxed, friendly place to come for a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat – with no charge and no need to book.

The café is for **everyone**. You might come because you are feeling lonely, because you are caring for someone, because you have recently moved into the area, or simply because you fancy getting out of the house and having a chat with some friendly people.

We also welcome people living with dementia and their carers. Sometimes it is the simplest things that make the biggest difference – a familiar face, someone who will listen, a cup of tea and somewhere you feel comfortable being yourself.

As well as friendship and conversation, our wonderful volunteers can offer information and signposting to other sources of support in the local community. You don't have to have a particular problem to come along – you are very welcome simply to come and enjoy yourself!

Could you help us spread the word?



One of the best ways to support the Wellbeing Café is simply to tell someone about it.

If you know someone who might benefit from a friendly place to go – perhaps an older neighbour, someone who lives alone, a carer, someone new to the area or someone who could do with a bit more company – please invite them or point them in our direction.

And if you haven't been yourself yet, why not come along? You don't need to come alone – bring a friend, neighbour or family member with you.

We have a lovely team of volunteers who make the café what it is, and we are always grateful for their time, warmth and willingness to welcome people through the door.

Mitford Wellbeing Café

Mitford Village Hall

Mondays, 1.00–3.00pm

Free refreshments • Friendly faces • No booking required

Come along for a cuppa. **Stay for the company.**



News from our School

Our Schools – Sharing the Wonder of Christmas

As we look ahead to Christmas, I am really looking forward to spending time with the children in our three church schools as we explore the wonder of the Christmas story together.

This year we will be taking **Experience Christmas** into each of our schools. These mornings are a wonderful opportunity to share the Christmas story in a way that is creative, engaging and accessible – helping children to discover afresh the amazing story of Jesus coming into the world.

There will be simple crafts, activities, stories and opportunities for the children to explore the different parts of the Christmas story. Most importantly, it is a chance to share something of the wonder, hope and joy at the heart of Christmas.

The Experience Christmas mornings will be:

- **Monday 7th December – Tritlington School**
- **Tuesday 8th December – Longhorsley School**
- **Thursday 10th December – Whalton School**



All three events will take place during the morning.

Could you help?

These school events are a lovely way for members of our churches to get involved in our schools. We are always looking for people who can lend a hand – whether that's helping children with crafts, reading a story, guiding a group around an activity or simply being there to encourage the children as they explore the story.

You don't need to be a teacher or have any particular expertise. What matters is a willingness to spend time with the children and help them discover the wonder of God's story coming into the world.

If you would like to be involved, please have a word with Elaine.

Christingle across our schools and churches

We will also be celebrating **Christingle** across our schools and churches this Christmas. I would particularly love some help with making the Christingles with the children in school before the services. They are always great fun – although there is usually rather more sticky tape and tangled red ribbon than you might expect!

Our Christingle service at **Hebron Church** will be on:

Tuesday 15th December at 9.00am

This will be a service for the children, parents and the wider community, and we would really encourage anyone who is able to come along. Your presence is a wonderful way of supporting both the children and the school staff and helping to make it a genuinely community celebration.

We will also have a **short Carol Service at Whalton Church on Thursday 17th December at 2.30pm**, for the school and village community. The children will lead us in some Christmas songs, and there will also be plenty of opportunity for everyone to join in and sing some favourite carols.

Christmas is such a wonderful opportunity for our churches to be present in our schools and communities, sharing the story of Jesus and creating moments of joy, wonder and discovery for children and families.

Thank you to everyone who already gives their time to support our schools. If you haven't been involved before, perhaps this Christmas could be your opportunity to come along and be part of it.



ANNA CHAPLAINCY BLOG

Anna Chaplaincy News

The Importance of Spiritual Care in Later Life

As we grow older, we often think about physical care – making sure someone is warm, comfortable, well-nourished and generally looked after.

All of these things are important, however, there is another kind of care that is just as important – spiritual care.

Spiritual care is about caring for the whole person, their hopes, fears, memories, questions and faith. It means giving people time to talk, to pray, to remember and sometimes simply to be quiet in the presence of another person.

For many older people faith has been part of their lives for many years. They may have prayed through times of joy and times of sorrow, they may have been married in church, brought their children to baptism, worshipped Sunday by Sunday and found strength in familiar hymns and Bible passages.

Even when someone becomes frail or their memory begins to fade, their spiritual needs do not disappear.

Jesus reminds us that every person is precious to God, and we are not valued because of what we can achieve or how independent we are, we are valued simply because we are all God's children, whatever age we reach.

Spiritual care therefore says to an older person, *you matter, you are not forgotten, your life has meaning, God is with you.*

Perhaps that is one of the greatest gifts we can give one another as we grow older – not simply to care for the body, but to care for the soul and to remind one another of the love of God which never grows old and never lets us go.



Prayer

*Loving God, thank you for the gift of every life,
especially for those who have grown older among us.*

*Help us to care not only for the body, but also for the heart and spirit.
Give us time to listen, kindness to comfort
faith to remind one another that we are never forgotten by you.*

*Be close to us in every stage of life and hold us in your loving arms
today and always.*

Amen.

Remembrance

A recipe for a remembrance cake inspired by Nigella Lawson.

Ingredients:

For the apple filling

1 eating apple, peeled, cored and chopped.

2 sprigs of fresh rosemary

1 teaspoon of caster sugar

zest and juice of ½ lemon

1 teaspoon butter.



For the cake batter
225 grams softened butter
150 grams caster sugar
3 large eggs
300 grams plain flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 long sprig of fresh rosemary (for decoration on top)

Method

prep and simmer apple base.

Preheat oven to 170 degrees

gas 3

line a 2lb loaf tin.

In a small saucepan simmer the apple filling ingredients on a low heat for 4-8 mins until soft – discard rosemary and let cool.

Batter

Blitz the cooled apple in a food processor until smooth, add the butter, 150g sugar, eggs, flour and baking powder (or mix manually in a bowl)

transfer the batter to the prepared tin and smooth the top.

Top and Bake

sprinkle a little sugar and place the long rosemary sprig down the centre to infuse oils as it bakes.

Bake for 50 minutes until a skewer comes out clean, cool completely on a wire rack.

Appeal from Anna Chaplains to all our congregation.

During Covid and the compulsory restrictions which meant people could not congregate at church but could walk or drive past the church, we decided to have a display of knitted poppies on the gates for all to see. A great number of poppies were knitted and donated, and these provided a focal point for the congregation as well as passers-by. People would stop to appreciate the care and thought taken to produce the display and also find comfort to this time of Remembrance.

Since then, we have repeated this display at both Mitford and Hebron annually and so successful was the number of knitted poppies that we also used these, when permitted, inside the church to focus on the poignancy of Remembrance Sunday and our Act of Remembrance

Afterwards when the displays are dismantled, the poppies are washed, dried and stored carefully for future use. Alas our supplies with age have got less and less so now we ask you as a congregation to challenge yourself to making! We need as many as you can make please. Easy to do when you are watching television, listening to the radio or join together with a friend or at a home group!

Poppies may be any of the colours listed but the centre is black. If you need needles or wool, please ask us. There will be a labelled basket at the back of Mitford and Hebron for all your completed poppies! Latest date 1 November as displays will be being prepared the week following.

You need
No 10 knitting needles
Red)
Purple) Wool (double knitting)
White)
Black for centre



To knit poppies- use double knitting wool - cast on 71 stitches, knit 4rows
5th row knit 6 sts then completely turn around the left-hand needle - knit 6sts and repeat the turning around the needle. Continue like this until the end of the row. Then knit 4rows, then knit 2 stitches together for the next few rows until you are left with 2 stitches. Tie off.
You will find that the knitted piece curls round, sew together.
With black wool sew a centre just by sewing over a few times.
PS You may have your own pattern so please just use!
Happy Knitting.
Love and prayers from your Anna Chaplains

Janice
07707957824.

Mary
07875148819

MISSION AND CHARITY

Mitford and Hebron Mission and Charity Group

The benefice's Mission and Charity Group supports the following partners: -

1 Children's Vision

This group provides a home, education and other practical support for disadvantaged children in Bogota, Colombia. A longstanding mission partner of Mitford and Hebron, we receive regular updates and an annual visit from one of their leaders, Richard Sanderson to keep us abreast of their work. We have provided additional funding to help their team support people after the Colombian earthquake.

2 West End Refugee Service (WERS)

Again, one of our long-term partners, who work with refugees and asylum seekers. Tessa Sayers their ex-chairperson came to church in August to talk to us about the how they have restructured their charity. This was necessary as clients previously concentrated in the West End of Newcastle are now being placed across the Northeast.

3 Barnabas

Barnabas' purpose is to make a difference to the lives of young people in the Morpeth and Northumberland, via youth work and supported housing services. Hayley Brown, Manager recently came along to a fundraising cheese and wine evening to talk about their work.

4 The Oswin Project

This project creates second chances for persons with criminal records, through training, employment and volunteering. Current initiatives include: -

- A prison-based bakery enterprise operating inside HMP Northumberland (they sell excellent bread!)
- Café 16 located at Newcastle Cathedral
- Growing Out Farm Shop: situated just outside HMP Northumberland, this sells fresh locally grown plants, produce and baked goods
- Changing the Cycle: a community bike shop

Our team collect donations at the after-service coffee for one of the charities we are supporting. Look out for details of this month's charity beside the collection bowl when you come for your cuppa!

Children in Distress, Romania

Although we do not support this charity with a regular donation, we do encourage members of the congregation to pack a shoe box; details can be found at the back of church. There will be an opportunity on 31 October to come along and help pack shoe boxes.

If you would like further information on the work of our group, please speak to any of our members. They are Linda Fugill, Dick Quinby, Janet Casson and Sue Matheson.

Finally, a plug for our next big event:

This year's coffee and craft sale to raise extra monies for our mission partners will be 10am-2pm on Saturday 24 October at 17 Abbeygate, Morpeth NE61 2XN.

Hoping to see you there. Please bring a friend or two!

Linda (Chair)



DATES FOR THE DIARY

A Musical Journey Back in Time

On Sunday 4th October at 3.00pm, we have something rather special happening at St Andrew's Church, Bolam.

We are delighted to welcome Medieval Mixture, a group of volunteer musicians who travel around communities sharing their love of early music and bringing the sounds of centuries ago to life.

Their programme, "The Sparrow in the Hall", explores songs from the 13th to the 17th centuries. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience music that would have been heard when our ancient church buildings were just a little bit younger!

There is something rather magical about sitting in a centuries-old church and listening to music from a time when these buildings were at the heart of village life. The music may be unfamiliar to many of us, but it offers a glimpse into the sounds, stories and lives of people who lived hundreds of years ago.

Medieval Mixture are volunteers who generously give their time to travel around communities, offering not only a musical repertoire but also the opportunity simply to stop, listen and experience the sounds of a time gone by.

And what better way to finish an afternoon of music than with a cheese and wine reception afterwards? There will be time to chat, meet the musicians and enjoy some good company in this beautiful historic setting.

Sunday 4th October 2026, 3.00pm
St Andrew's Church, Bolam

Free admission – donations welcome.

Cheese and wine reception afterwards.

Come along and step back in time for an afternoon – you might be surprised by just how much you enjoy the music of the past!



Mitford Church Curry Night – Saturday 7th November

Get ready for a great night out, fantastic food and some musical entertainment – all while helping to support our Mitford Church Project!

On Saturday 7th November, we are heading to Mitford Village Hall for a delicious authentic homemade curry, and we are delighted that the evening will also feature entertainment from the Mitford Buskers.

There will be plenty of opportunity to enjoy good food, good music and good company, as well as a raffle and some fundraising incentives to add a little extra fun to the evening!

So, bring your appetite, your enthusiasm – and your money!

Tickets are £20 per person, and places are limited and already filling up fast.

To book your place or find out more, please speak to Dick Quinby.

Come along, bring your friends, enjoy a fabulous curry and help us raise funds towards the future of St Mary Magdalene, Mitford.

Saturday 7th November | Mitford Village Hall | £20 per person

Places are limited – so don't leave it too late!



Harvest Festival at Mitford

Sunday 4th October

Autumn is here, and it is time to celebrate **Harvest!**

Our Harvest Festival at St Mary Magdalene, Mitford, on Sunday 4th October will be a chance to come together to give thanks for the food we enjoy, for those who grow and produce it, and for the goodness of God's creation.



But Harvest is also about sharing what we have with others. This year we will be collecting food for The People's Kitchen, helping to support people in our region who are experiencing homelessness and hardship.

If you are able, please bring along donations of non-perishable food to the Harvest Service. Every contribution, however small, can make a difference.

And, of course, Harvest is also an opportunity to enjoy some good food and fellowship together! Following the service, we will be sharing a Harvest soup and fruit pudding lunch. Come along, enjoy a bowl of warming homemade soup, something delicious for pudding and a good chat with friends.

So come and celebrate, give thanks, bring something to share – both in church and with those who need our support – and enjoy lunch together.

Sunday 4th October

St Mary Magdalene, Mitford

Harvest Festival followed by soup and fruit pudding lunch

Everyone is very welcome.

Harvest Buskers Night – A Longhorsley Evening Not to Be Missed!

There are some evenings that just sound like fun – and Harvest Buskers Night at Longhorsley Village Hall promises to be one of them!

On Friday 9th October at 7.00pm, St Helen's Church is bringing the community together for an evening of music, food, laughter and good company as we celebrate the wonderful season of Harvest.

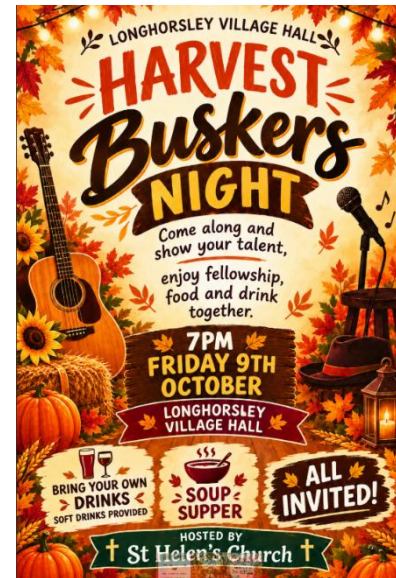
This is your chance to come along, show off your musical talent – or simply enjoy someone else's! Whether you sing, play an instrument, have a hidden talent you've been waiting for the right moment to unleash, or would rather sit back with a bowl of soup and listen, everyone is welcome.

And we really do mean *everyone*. You don't have to be a polished performer – this is about having a go, sharing a talent and enjoying making music together. There might be some familiar songs, some unexpected performances and perhaps a few surprises along the way!

There will be a delicious soup supper, so you can settle in with something warming to eat while enjoying the entertainment. Soft drinks will be provided, and you're welcome to bring your own drinks if you'd like something a little stronger to accompany your supper.

Most of all, this is about community. Harvest has always been a time for people to come together, celebrate the fruits of the season and give thanks. What better way to do that than around a table, sharing food, music and friendship?

So bring your talent, your appetite, your favourite tippie and your sense of fun!



Harvest Buskers Night

Friday 9th October | 7.00pm
Longhorsley Village Hall

- 🍲 Soup supper
- 🎸 Live music and busking
- 🍷 Bring your own drinks
- 🥤 Soft drinks provided
- 🌻 Everyone welcome

Hosted by St Helen's Church

Come along and make a joyful noise – you never know, you might even discover that your neighbour has been hiding a musical talent all these years!

Let's celebrate Harvest the Longhorsley way – with music, food, friendship and a lot of fun!

Bonfire Night at the Vicarage!

Come and join us for a lovely, family-friendly Bonfire Night in the Vicarage Garden on Thursday 5th November from 4.00pm.

We are keeping things small, relaxed and welcoming, with a little bonfire, some quiet garden fireworks and plenty of warming treats.

There will be hotdogs and hot chocolate for everyone, so bring the children, wrap up warm and come and enjoy an early evening together. The fireworks will be deliberately small and quiet, making this a gentler Bonfire Night for young children – and hopefully a little kinder to our four-legged friends too!

It is simply an opportunity to gather together, enjoy some autumn fun and spend a bit of time with friends and neighbours.

Thursday 5th November

From 4.00pm

The Vicarage Garden



Come along, wrap up warm and enjoy a little bit of Bonfire Night magic!

A poster for the 'Sanctuary Course' by Sanctuary Mental Health. The top features the title 'SANCTUARY COURSE' in large, bold letters, with a small heart icon below it. To the right is the Sanctuary Mental Health logo, which includes a stylized house icon. Below the title, the text reads: 'Nurturing wellbeing, building community, growing hope.' and 'The Sanctuary Course explores seven simple principles of mental health and wellbeing through film, discussion, reflection and practical tools.' A circular badge on the right says: 'A safe space to learn, share and support one another.' Below this, a list of '7 SESSIONS' is provided: Tuesday 1st September, Tuesday 8th September, Tuesday 15th September, Tuesday 22nd September, Tuesday 13th October, Tuesday 20th October, Tuesday 27th October, and Tuesday 3rd November. To the right of the sessions, the time '3.30pm - 5pm' is listed, followed by the location 'St Cuthbert's Hebron NE61 3LA'. Below the location, it says 'All welcome' and 'Refreshments provided'. At the bottom, a banner reads: 'Because mental health matters. Because community transforms.' and the website 'Find out more at sanctuarymentalhealth.org' is listed.