

Upper Wansbeck News

*Benefice Newsletter
Of
St. Andrew's, Bolam,
St. Andrew's Hartburn,
St. John's Meldon,
St. Giles's, Netherwitton
St. Mary Magdalene, Whalton*



Jul / Aug 2025

Who's Who

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Facebook

Our page can be accessed via

<https://www.facebook.com/upperwansbeck>

You do not have to be a Facebook member to use this link. Service details, events and news can be found here, and reflections are posted daily.

Website

Contains service details news and events

www.mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com

Email wansbeckchurch64@gmail.com

Our Ministry Team

Revd. Elaine Jones



*Mrs Pam Walker -
Associate Minister*



Rachel Coundon - Lay Worship Leader



Editor's Note:



Hello and welcome to our Summer Edition of Upper Wansbeck News.

I hope you are all surviving the heatwaves we keep getting, personally I am not complaining at all, I love the sunshine, although I don't think some of the pots in my garden will agree!

We are coming up to the time of year for 'Whalton Village Show' and you will see an advert in this edition talking about the show. The show will take place on Saturday 20th September.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Roisel

Mitford & Hebron
St Cuthberts, Hebron St Mary Magdalene, Mitford

Hartburn with Meldon & Netherwitton
St Andrew's, Hartburn St John the Baptist, Meldon St Giles, Netherwitton

Bolam with Whalton
St Andrew's, Bolam St Mary Magdalene, Whalton

Services for July & August 2025

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|----------------------------|
| Wednesday 16 July | 09.30 – 10.30 | Morning Prayer and Coffee | St Giles, Netherwitton |
| Sunday 20 July (third Sunday) | 10.00 – 11.00 | Holy Communion | St Cuthbert's, Hebron |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Holy Communion (joint with Netherwitton) | St Giles, Netherwitton |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Celtic Morning Prayer | St Mary Magdalene, Whalton |
| | 16.00 – 17.00 | Café Church | St Helen's, Longhorsley |
| Wednesday 23 July | 09.30 – 10.30 | Celtic Morning Prayer & Community Coffee | St Cuthbert's, Hebron |
| Thursday 24 July | 14.00 – 15.00 | Anna Chaplaincy | St Cuthbert's, Hebron |
| Sunday 27 July (fourth Sunday) | 10.00 – 11.00 | Morning Prayer | St Helen's, Longhorsley |
| | 10.00 – 11.00 | BCP Service | St Mary Magdalene, Mitford |
| | 10.00 – 11.00 | Café Church | Mitford Village Hall |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Holy Communion | St Andrew's, Bolam |
| Sunday 3 August (first Sunday) | 10.00 – 11.00 | Holy Communion | St Mary Magdalene, Mitford |
| | 10.00 – 11.00 | Holy Communion | St Helen's, Longhorsley |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Holy Communion | St Andrew's, Hartburn |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Family Service | St Andrew's, Bolam |
| | 16.00 – 17.00 | Evensong | St Cuthbert's, Hebron |
| Sunday 10 August (second Sunday) | 10.00 – 11.00 | All Age Worship | St Mary Magdalene, Mitford |
| | 10.00 – 11.00 | Morning Prayer | St Helen's, Longhorsley |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Holy Communion | St Mary Magdalene, Whalton |

Mitford & Hebron
St Cuthberts, Hebron St Mary Magdalene, Mitford

Hartburn with Meldon & Netherwitton
St Andrew's, Hartburn St John the Baptist, Meldon St Giles, Netherwitton

Bolam with Whalton
St Andrew's, Bolam St Mary Magdalene, Whalton

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| Sunday 24 August (fourth Sunday) | 10.00 – 11.00 | Morning Prayer | St Helen's, Longhorsley |
| | 10.00 – 11.00 | BCP Service | St Mary Magdalene, Mitford |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Holy Communion | St Andrew's, Bolam |
| Wednesday 27 August | 09.30 – 10.30 | Celtic Morning Prayer & Community Coffee | St Cuthbert's, Hebron |
| Thursday 28 August | 14.00 – 15.00 | Anna Chaplaincy | St Cuthbert's, Hebron |
| Sunday 31 August (fifth Sunday) | 10.00 – 11.00 | Morning Prayer | St Mary Magdalene, Mitford |
| | 10.00 – 11.00 | Morning Prayer | St Helen's, Longhorsley |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Holy Communion | St John the Baptist, Meldon |

Service types may be subject to change according to minister availability.



Swift Nest Box Project 2025

Article by Anna Sill

We are increasingly aware that the population of our remarkable avian summer visitor, the swift (*Apus apus*), has declined by 66% between 1995 and 2022 - Whalton Gardening Club took action this year to maintain and increase the numbers in the local villages. It was proposed to purchase and install swift nest boxes to help increase numbers, as a major factor in this decline is the lack of suitable nest sites. Swifts are crevice nesters, and the modernisation of older properties and modern house construction has often prevented nesting.

We approached a local swift expert and enthusiast Graham Sorrie from Morpeth. In recent years Graham has installed nest boxes on his and neighbouring properties and has been involved with the RSPB in research into swift breeding, feeding and migratory routes. Morpeth swifts have previously had GPS trackers fitted showing their routes as they fly 3,500 miles to and from Africa. Swifts make these journeys often without landing en-route! Graham initially offered his advice as to the most suitable locations and subsequently gave a fascinating illustrated talk to an open meeting of Whalton Gardening Club in March. From monies raised from an excellent raffle and a grant from Whalton Parish Council we were able to purchase 20 swift nest boxes.

The majority of the boxes were installed near to where it is thought that swifts previously nested i.e. in the centre of the village and also in the vicinity of the Village Hall. Remaining boxes were placed in Ogle, rural and farm locations.

The first swifts returned in May and we wait to see if the boxes become occupied by the later swifts when they too return; box occupancy can take several years to establish.

We hope to purchase and install further boxes next Spring to help these remarkable birds.

Bolam Family Open Day – Saturday 7th June

By Jim Grant

Many thanks to all those involved in setting up and running the Bolam Open Day. We enjoyed welcoming a great assortment of all ages to look round the Church and grounds, to enjoy the cakes and coffee, and hear the joyful singing of the Wannie Liners with Kathy Anderson.

Elaine inspired the event and brought coffee machines, children's games which were enthusiastically received, tables and support from Mitford. Amazing how a car can become a small lorry!

Bolam folk brought and erected Gazebos, made bundles of cut flowers, baked cakes in profusion, ran the raffle and Tombola. Good work by young Ella and Evie in selling and buying tickets!

Thanks to the many generous donors of prizes, not least Robson and Cowan, Belsay Shop.....

People looked round the church following the self-guided trail in the leaflet and looked at the display about the services provided by the Church. Members of our congregation were boosted by friends and family, by the singers joining us from the Wannie Liners, and casual visitors informed by the roadside banner specially made for this and future years, not to mention assiduous leaflet posting through doors by Simon!

More than £350 was made for Church Funds, but best of all, the local community enjoyed a happy afternoon meeting at their beautiful old Church.





News from Belsay Primary School

A Memorable Summer Term at Belsay School

As the summer term draws to a close, we reflect on what has been an extraordinary end to the academic year at Belsay Primary School. From exciting adventures beyond the classroom to heartfelt goodbyes, our children have been busy creating memories that will last a lifetime.

A Fond Farewell to Year 6



Our Year 6 pupils have had a truly special final term, beginning with their first international residential trip to France. This milestone experience was filled with excitement, independence, and personal growth. For many, it was their first time travelling abroad without family, and they returned brimming with stories, laughter, and confidence. It was a chance to bond, try new things, and challenge themselves, all key themes in preparing for the transition to high school.

To mark the end of their time at Belsay, our Year 6s chose their own celebration activities. They opted for a fantastic day out at Beamish, where they immersed themselves in history and enjoyed the hands-on exhibits, followed by a celebratory meal at a local Italian restaurant alongside their teacher, Mr McLeod. The experience was a wonderful mix of fun, friendship, and reflection.

The celebrations culminated in our much-loved Leavers' Assembly, where parents and carers were invited to join us in saying goodbye. The assembly included heartfelt songs, moving messages from teachers, and a touching slideshow of memories from the children's journey through Belsay. There were plenty of smiles and a few tears as we celebrated everything they've achieved. We are incredibly proud of them all and wish them every success as they take the next step in their educational journey.

Active Learning at Alnwick Castle

One of the highlights of the term was being selected as one of just 50 schools across the county to take part in a special event at Alnwick Castle, titled Make Active Memories. This day was all about promoting outdoor learning, confidence building, and teamwork.

Children were encouraged to take the lead and explore different challenges and activities in the unique and historic setting of the castle grounds. From medieval roleplay to castle-based team games, the event allowed pupils to experience a different style of learning, one based on collaboration, movement, and fun. A firm favourite among the children was the broomstick-riding workshop, which brought a little magic to the day.



News from Belsay Primary School Cont.

Despite the soaring summer temperatures, the children stayed cool and happy thanks to the fountains and water features at Alnwick Garden, where they could splash, laugh, and relax. It was a joy-filled day that reminded us of the value of learning outside the classroom. We hope to be invited again next year.

Celebrating Creativity with the Kaleidoscope Project

Our creative talents were also on display this term as we took part in the Kaleidoscope Project - a Trust-wide initiative. This project celebrates identity, community, and the power of the arts to bring people together.



Hosted at Ponteland Leisure Centre, the event showcased a rich variety of creative work from across the Trust's schools. Our pupils contributed some amazing artwork that reflected who they are and how they see the world. The exhibition was complemented by wonderful dance and choir performances, where our pupils performed with enthusiasm and pride. Parents who attended enjoyed both the artistic display and the chance to share in the children's achievements.

It was a vibrant, inspiring event and a fantastic example of how creativity continues to thrive at Belsay.

Buzzing with Excitement: The Belsay Bees

Perhaps one of the most unique additions to school life this term has been the arrival of our very own Belsay Bees. This exciting initiative has not only supported learning in science and nature but also served as a meaningful way to reward positive behaviour and character.

Each week, pupils who have gone above and beyond, whether through academic achievement, outstanding effort, or acts of kindness, are chosen for a special visit to the bee hives. Dressed in full bee suits, the children get up close to the hive, learning about the bees' habits and seeing the ecosystem in action. It has quickly become a cherished part of our weekly celebrations.

Thanks to the money raised through fundraising events and generous donations, we've been able to invest in new honey extraction and spinning equipment, allowing pupils to take part in the process of harvesting honey, a rare and enriching opportunity that brings their learning to life.



News from Belsay Primary School Cont.

Looking Ahead

As we say goodbye to another school year, we do so with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Our pupils have embraced every opportunity with curiosity, courage, and kindness. From magical castle trips and creative exhibitions to cherished traditions like the Year 6 leavers' celebration, this term has reminded us of the joy and richness of school life.

We're already looking forward to welcoming everyone back in the autumn and to continuing to grow, learn, and make memories together.

Mr Shaw



News from Cambo First School



Cambo First School News

The end of the school year is always such a bitter sweet time as we say goodbye to part of our Cambo Family; our Y4 children: Patrick, John, George, Lucia, Liv, Florence, Lily and Grace are all leaving us for bigger and better things! It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming them to the Reception classroom! Where has the time gone? Don't forget to keep in touch everyone!

We ended the academic year with a bang:

We held our community sports day on Thursday 10th July 2025. We were blessed with such lovely weather! What a fabulous time we had, whether winning or not. Everyone tried their best, we all got a medal and we all laughed together! The events were followed by a lovely barbecue!

On Friday 11th July We held an Egyptian day where we ate Egyptian food, and carried out various activities linked to the Egyptians! The day concluded with a Musical Concert for the parents and the community. We are so thankful to Peter Brown and his musical excellence! What a show we had, with all of the children dressed in Egyptian costumes performing their hearts out!

The children voted for their 'Marble Jar' treat [three full jars this year!] So it had to be a big treat. Mrs Cummings voted for Ingram Valley or Cragside. True to form we certainly didn't get to go there, with only six votes across the whole school! So where did we go? King Edwards Bay, the beach, with fish and chips for lunch! We had to be super vigilant as those pesky seagulls were out in force; and many a fish bite or sausage was stolen! We played lots of games and even went rockpooling! Miraculously no one fell in!

Our final event for the year, save our Leaver's Service, was a fun packed children's choice afternoon, in the last days of term! A picnic on the field with water shooters at the ready and ice lollies to cool us down! There wasn't a dry child or adult in the school. What an end to a fabulous year!

So the holidays are upon us and I have to say HIP, HIP, HOORAY! The staff and children are also saying the same! I think everyone is worn out and fatigued! Assessments are finished and reports have been shared . Warm weather is being forecast for the holidays, [although i think this changes with the wind]. We can only hope and pray that it lasts! Sun through the day, so



News from Cambo First School Cont.

we can get outside and enjoy ourselves; with rain through the night so we don't have to water all those plants!

At Cambo we will be running our very successful Holiday Club from 21st July for one week. There are some spaces still available. Please ring 07887409641 or email cambowraparoun@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to book a place for your child.

School resumes on Wednesday the 3rd September 2025 for children in Y1,2,3,4 with Reception children beginning on Thursday 4th September. Have a lovely summer everyone and we hope to see you all safe and sound in the autumn term,

From all your friends at Cambo



The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools

Love your Neighbour as yourself so we can all aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best that we can be...

Hope - Honesty - Forgiveness - Friendship - Trust - Love

Welcome to our Whalton School News!

Well, Summer Term 1 was the longest short term we have had - only four weeks, but Summer Term 2 has flown by, and it's one of the longest at seven weeks!



Cricket coaching sessions commenced together with an after-school Cricket Club.

Unfortunately, due to the unreliable weather, hosting the outdoor adventurous activities festival did not happen here at Whalton, but the event still went ahead and our children travelled to Ponteland Community Primary for the day. An amazing time was had by all!



The Leavers' Service at Newcastle Cathedral was attended by eight of our children, four from Year 4 and four from Year 6, who joined the other Church schools' leavers. We made, with the help of Mr Chambers, a cross lit up by fairy lights and displaying our favourite memories of Whalton. Following the Service, our children had lunch of pasta or pizza at an Italian Restaurant in Newcastle before returning to school. Thanks to Whalton School Association for funding this treat.



We had a glorious day for our maypole dancing and sports; lots of parents partnered the children in the dancing, and refreshments were provided by the Whalton School Association. The transition days have taken place too and all the current children moved up a class, our leavers moved to their next school for these two days, and we welcomed the new ones coming into Reception here in September.



The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools Cont.

The Village annual 'Baal Fire' was held on 4th July and several of our children took part in the dancing. The Village then enjoyed the Morris dancing and the lighting of the bale fire.

In class, we have carried out our phonics check (Year 1), our multiplication times table check (Year 4), and completed our Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6). The results of these are sent home with the children's annual reports, which have been completed by the Class Teachers. We are so proud of all of our children for all of their hard work and brilliant progress!

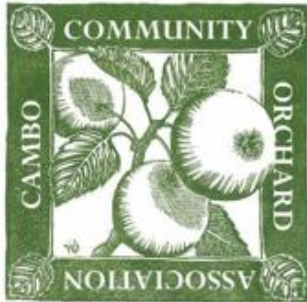
As a Federation, we had a day all together at Longhorsley, including the kitchen and office staff. The children took part in some geography fieldwork - visiting the old Church and Archie's Pond in the village. Whalton staff and children travelled, by coach, to Longhorsley after registration and returned in time for normal home time dismissal. We all had a great day with our friends.

We round the year off with our leavers' lunch (the children leaving choose the menu that day), a music concert, a pea hunt on the school field and a party. It's been a very busy last term!

Finally, a huge thank you to our Whalton School Association for making it possible for us to get our new shepherd's hut by helping to fund the purchase and installation, which is now beside the Pod. This will be used by the children for a chill out and wellbeing space - more updates to follow!

As always, if you are interested in visiting our school or finding out more about what Whalton could offer your child/ren, please do get hesitate to get in touch on whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk or by phoning the school directly on 01670 775216. We do still have some places available for September and pride ourselves on our small class sizes. Feel free to visit our school website too. [Whalton C of E Primary School](#)





Apple Pressing Day

Sunday 21st Sept
Cambo Village

Juicing by donation to the
Cambo Community Orchard Association

Please contact us for further
information & pre-book a timeslot

Noon - 4pm

Phone: 07711918285

Email: cambocommunityorchard@gmail.com
www.cambocommunityorchard.weebly.com





let's do
lunch

Hartburn Community Lunches
St. Andrews Church Hartburn

Tuesday 12th August – 12:00 – 12:30 at Hartburn Church - £6.00

Tuesday 9th September – 12:00 – 12:30 at Hartburn Church - £6.00

Contact Pooh Stafford to book – poohstafford@btinternet.com

Phone: 01670 772313



FILM NIGHT

**Film Nights will start again on
Friday 26th September,
Middleton Village Hall
7:00 – 7:30 pm**

**Film to be arranged and
advertised in the next edition
of Upper Wansbeck News**

**Refreshments will be
available, and entry is by
donation.**



SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, 5th October

3pm - A lecture in Hartburn Church by Hester Grant celebrating the 18th century philanthropic Sharp family of Hartburn followed by afternoon tea.

5pm - 18th century Evensong in Hartburn Church sung by the Cathedral Choir when John Sharp's arresting anti-slavery sermon will be read.

Saturday, 11th October

7pm - 18th century concert in Hartburn Church with the Westerly Trio, with Soprano to include music by Handel.

Money raised for the events will be for The Oswin Project and the Hartburn Community Project.

Whalton Village Show

WHALTON VILLAGE SHOW 2025

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 11.00am - 4.30pm

- Bubble Whisperer •
- 3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team •



- Teddy King Big Band • Ponteland Community Wind Band • Rock Choir •
- Dog show • Flower, vegetable & craft show • Classic vehicles •
- Trade stands • Homemade teas • Raffle •



For more information e-mail show@whaltonvillage.org.uk
WWW.WHALTONVILLAGESHOW.COM

- Prices: Adult £10 • Child £5 •
- Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £25 •
- Tickets may be bought in advance using the QR code:



WHALTON VILLAGE SHOW 2025

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 11.00am - 4.30pm

The date is once again set for this year's Whalton Village Show and planning is well underway. As a committee we are keen to get as many people involved. Thank you to everybody who willingly helps in the lead up to and on the day; if you are able to help this year please let us know.

If however you are unable to do this but you would still like to be involved, you or your business might like to consider sponsoring a part of the show; helping to cover the many costs. Whether you can offer £5, £500 or more we'd love to hear from you.

We have now started collecting items for the Tombola. If you have anything which you would like to donate please get in touch.

If you are interested in finding out more/discussing this further please feel free to contact Richard or Julie Potter on 01670 775528 or emailing show@whaltonvillage.org.uk

Many thanks

Whalton Village Show Committee

WWW.WHALTONVILLAGE.ORG.UK



WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL

July - August 2025

MONDAY

Chair Yoga 9.30am-10.15am. Come and join this 45 min class and enjoy yoga movement to strengthen, mobilise and relax the body. Suitable for those with limited mobility and physical impairments. For more details contact Barbara Swan, email barb.swan@hotmail.co.uk or call 07535631387.

Jewel in the Lotus Yoga (Evening). Open to everyone for all levels. For all classes, booking required, please bring your own Yoga mat. Contact Debbie on 07812 124888.

Whist 7.30pm – Everyone welcome, just turn up on the night to have some fun or contact Karen on 07974405178 for more information.

TUESDAY

Morpeth Art Group 10am-2pm. Re-starts Sept 2nd. For further details on joining this group visit the Morpeth Art Group Website on: www.magart.org.uk

Ringcraft training and socialisation for dogs. Re-start date TBC. 6.30pm - 8.30pm. For more information contact Joanne Graham on 07771616144

WEDNESDAY

Seniors keep fit 9.00am-10.00am. No class 28/08/25 and 04/09/25. Just turn up on the day, no booking required.

Chiropodist (Every 2nd month) - To book an appointment call Joanne Leiper on 07890322719

Carpet Bowls re-starts Sept 3rd.

THURSDAY

Post Office 9:15am – 10:15am – In the Bar Room. Post parcels and letters, withdraw cash, pay bills and all the usual things that you do in a Post Office

Kirkley Carvers 1pm – 3pm. Re-starts Sept 4th. Join this mixed gender group of self-taught hand tool woodwork enthusiasts always happy to welcome anyone interested in fashioning something out of a piece of timber. Please contact Bob 01912671930

Gardening Club (*Usually 1st Thursday of the month*) Mixture of external visits, practical sessions and speakers – contact Anna Sill 01670 775375

Women of Whalton WI 7pm (*3rd Thursday of the month*) For more information and details on joining email WhaltonWI@hotmail.com or just turn up on the night.

FRIDAY

Jewel in the Lotus Yoga 9.00-10.30am. Booking required & please bring your own Yoga mat. Contact Debbie on: Tel: 07812 124888

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 20th & Sept Sound Bath. To book a slot visit soundroomhealing.co.uk/shop

September 20th Whalton Village Show

If you require any further information please phone 07856 176358 or Email: bookings@whaltonvillage.org.uk



Wallington Demesne Parish Council

The following meeting will be held on Monday 22nd September 2025 commencing at 7:30 pm in Middleton Village Hall.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate under Public Questions.

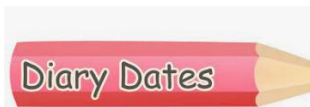


Whalton Parish Council

No confirmed date at the time of going to print
Whalton Village Hall.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate
under Public Questions.

[Link to Whalton Parish Council](#)



PCC Meeting Dates

Bolam

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| PCC Meeting – 7.00 pm | 7 th October 2025 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|

Whalton

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| PCC Meeting – 7:00 pm | 23 rd September 2025 |
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Netherwitton

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| PCC Meeting – 6:00 pm | 28 th July 2025 29 th September 2025 |
|-----------------------|---|

Hartburn and Meldon

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Longhorsley

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| PCC Meeting – 7.00 pm | 20 th August 2025 |
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Mitford & Hebron

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Deadline for the next Newsletter Submissions is 15th
September with publication planned for 18th September 2025

All future newsletter articles please email to:

roisel@btinternet.com

roiselthompson12@gmail.com

The Newsletter has been checked and verified by the Ministry
Team