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



December 2022 / January 2023

Who's Who

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Elaine Jones

Associate Lay Minister Mrs Pam Walker MBE

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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 https://upperwansbeckchurches.weebly.com and is administered by Sadie Flanagan

<u>www.bolamchurch.com</u> provides information about the Church and its history

Email wansbeckchurch64@gmail.com

Our Mínístry Team

Revd. Elaine Jones



Mrs Pam Walker -Associate Minister



Rachel Coundon - Lay Worship Leader



Editor's Note:



Hello

It is my pleasure in this issue to say a warm welcome to our new priest in charge, Revd. Elaine Jones and to say goodbye to our good friend and Minister in charge, Fiona Sample, although I'm quite sure we will still see Fiona out and about. Please read the lovely article written by Pam Walker regarding Fiona's final service.

As I'm writing my note today, I'm looking out of the window at the rain pouring down and noticing how it is starting to feel chilly. It is so tempting to want to hibernate indoors until Spring again, but if all we have to contend with is rain

and cold then I can cope, rather than lots of snow which I personally hate. Remember last year this time, we had Storm Arwin and fingers crossed we don't have a repeat of that again. I looked at the devastation the storm brought to St.Andrews Church yard in Bolam but with the help of very kind volunteers over the last 12 months it now resembles its' former self and in fact in some areas there is a big improvement where shrubbery had been covering some ancient headstones and these are now visible again.

We have a bumper edition of the Newsletter this time and it seems that with each edition we are getting more news articles and diary dates which is wonderful, I'm so pleased that I'm able to share with you lots of news that is happening in our communities, please keep the news coming.

As this is the last Newsletter before Christmas, it just leaves me to say I hope you and your families have a happy and healthy festive period, with very best wishes from me.

Roisel

Services for Nov, Dec 2022 & Jan 2023 Unless specified all services are at 10:30 am

The future service schedule will be issued in due course.

November		
December		
January 2023		

Message from the Ministry Team By Pam Walker

I am writing this as we approach the season of Advent. The word advent comes from the Latin adventus, meaning coming, in the Christian church calendar Advent is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ.

We tend to forget the second part of this as our and the world's attention, secular and religious, focuses on the excitement of Christmas. Yet like lent advent is a time of reflection, of understanding Christ's light in our own lives, an embracing of the truth and peace He offers and a sharing of his light with others. A time to renew our preparedness for when He comes again.

Coming implies change, He is coming to us, for us, and we will be changed, just as the world was changed irrevocably after that first Christmas. Although we, as a species, tend to fear change it is a truth that living life in Christ is a life of change, constant change for the better as we grow in understanding and love.

I was tempted to write that this Advent we will see more change than usual as we say goodbye to Fiona as our priest and prepare to welcome our new Priest in Charge, Elaine, and her husband Andy, to our communities, but reflecting on the last few years, covid, lockdowns, learning how to do recorded and zoom services, life threatening storms and blackouts I am not sure that this is true. Perhaps we are better at change than we think, something to reflect on as we look forward to celebrating the biggest change of all, the birth of Christ.

A thoughtful Advent and Happy Christmas to you all.	

Pam.

From the Registers



Baptisms:

Blessing and laughter and loving be yours! The love of a great God who names you hold while the earth turns and the flowers grow, this day, this moment and forever.

24th September – Annabelle Brewis was Christened at St.Andrews Church, Bolam



Weddings:

God is love and those who live in love live in God and he lives in them. (1 John 2.16)

5th November – Andrew Musgrove and Lillian Keen were married at St.Andrews Church, Hartburn

12th November – James Knapp and Laura Bland were married at St.Andrews Church, Bolam.

A Farewell to Revd. Fiona Sample by Pam Walker



Rev Fiona Sample's last regular service was held in Hartburn Church on November 6th. Over 70 people attended to say thank you and goodbye to Fiona. The music comprised Fiona's favourite hymns and the sermon, as ever, was engaging and uplifting. It was both a message from history and encouragement for the future.

After the service we all shared the pooled lunch that had been provided by those attending, the food was both delicious and plentiful. Fiona was presented with a generous garden gift token, some bulbs and a bouquet of flowers. As so many people attended, she had the chance to thank people, not only for her gifts but the support she had received during her ministry with us. It was an enjoyable occasion, tinged with sadness as all endings are but I am sure Fiona left knowing how much people appreciated the love, concern and hard work she had given this benefice.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, from the music, the organising of a collection, the food, the flowers, to simply being there to give Fiona a good send off.

Bolam Church Grounds Tidy Up By Jim Grant

Thank you to everyone who came to help at the Bolam Church grounds tidy up and bonfire on Sat 22 October. Clear and often sunny weather saw us surveying the scene, and then gathering small pieces to start the fire.

The Commonwealth grave was tidied, and many branches brought to the fire. Thanks for the refreshments you brought for the workers! Some of us had a story session by the fire. A happy time for local people to chat and share a bit of time together. Next one, in the spring! Thank you all, Jim Grant.



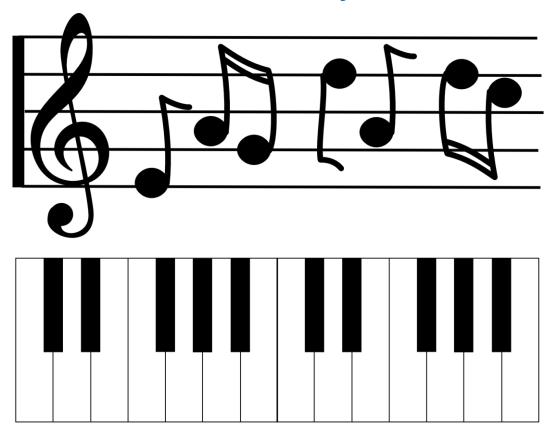








Come and Play



Come and play can you tinkle the ivories on piano, keyboard or organ, or know someone who can? We hope more people would like to play for services regularly or occasionally in church. If you might be interested, please contact Pam Walker 01670 772301, Lucy Bird (07808 490004) or Wendy Sheldon (01670 775385).

Garden Quiz - Hosted by Cambo Church Article by Jane Armstrong Cambo PCC

'And the winners are..... Whalton!'

On 29th October Cambo Church hosted a Garden Quiz in the Village Hall for surrounding parishes. The prize of a trug-full of special daffodils was hotly contested by teams of five(ish) representing each parish.

The questions ranged from local knowledge – do you know the botanical name of our county flower?; to horticultural skills – what does N-P-K stand for?; to topical – name the favourite flower of our late Queen; and for seasonal interest, as it was almost Halloween – what is Miss Wilmott's Ghost also known as? It was surprising how many people knew what, according to old English tradition, a man should never allow his wife to plant, otherwise he won't stay master in his own house!

After a couple of tie-breaker questions, Whalton was declared the winner with second place going to Kirkwhelpington. A consolation prize was given to encourage the parish with the lowest score, and Jenny Pearson won the 'guess the weight' of the enormous apple provided by Robin Dower.

We are extremely grateful for all those who contributed to the success of the evening, especially Professor Ron Cain who instigated the idea. Special thanks go to all those who donated delicious desserts and other consumables, particularly the Bainbridge family for the mountain of rolls from their bakery in Rothbury. A big thank you also to Robson and Cowan, our local supplier of gardening necessities, for their kind donation of a sack of compost, and to the other kind donors of raffle prizes. We are delighted that the evening raised £631 for Cambo Church.

Answers to gardening questions: Geranium sanguineum; Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium; Lily-of-the Valley; Eryngium giganteum or sea holly).



How to keep warm in Church

Now that Winter is well and truly on its way the PCC at Bolam Church have purchased some blankets to loan to members of the congregation to use while attending services in Church. Although we are heating the church for services it is sometimes a little chilly on a really cold day.

Another little tip is to bring along a hot water bottle to keep on your lap while in church, I can speak from experience, this is a really good way to keep warm!





News from Cambo School - by Paula Cummings - Head Teacher

What a change from December 2021. This time last year we were all still so worried about Covid 19; visitors were still absent from school; events, along with visits, were limited and most celebrations were still being held virtually! Storm Arwen caused such havoc, power cuts... and so much more. A blessed change for 2022, more like a normal end to the year even though the cost of living causes most, if not all, of us problems and the war in Ukraine continues. We can but support one another, offering support where possible and where need is greatest.

In school we are nearing the end of our Rainforest project and have had lots of fun finding out about them and the impact humans have on them. The children had many heated debates on what should and could be allowed. Visits and visitors have been fantastic offering the children a wide variety of experiences to support learning and build memories! And now we have to concede Christmas is on the horizon! We can hardly believe it, where has this year gone? Any way at Cambo...

On Wednesdays this term we welcomed Michelle Hankinson back into school to teach dance. A little bit of tap and a lot of ballet! The children have learnt lots of moves and have thoroughly enjoyed all elements of the routines developed with our topical theme! Liz Armstrong developed Multi skills across the school and we have continued to swim on Tuesdays. The children are really enjoying all elements of PE and their level of skill, enthusiasm and enjoyment have increased one hundred-fold.



The weather, or rather the wind, played havoc on the $11^{\rm th}$ November 22 and for the first time in 21 years we held our Remembrance Service in school rather than the War Memorial in Cambo

Church Yard. Our children thought about remembrance and created a Poppy wreath in commemoration of those who died to keep us free and safe. Our service was led by Rev Janet Parker and lots of the community came to join us.





In November we held our annual Anti-Bullying week. The theme this year was 'Reach Out'! The children thought about the small changes we could make in our lives which could make the biggest difference in breaking the cycle of bullying. We also thought about how we create a safe environment at Cambo for everyone. We agreed that together, we can challenge bullying if we work together. As part of Anti-bullying week we also held an 'Odd Sock

Day', oh dear it did drive some of the staff mad... 'Odd socks.... It should never happen', said one member of staff, whilst another said odd socks? Easy... I've a suitcase full of them!



News from Cambo School Cont.

November also heralded 'Children In Need'. We had our very own Great Cambo Community Ramble; Walking from Cambo School to Wallington and back. The theme for dressing up was 'Spots; We had some fabulous individuals! What photographs they made! When we arrived at Wallington we had milk and biscuits before completing several activities e.g. creating our very own Pudsey and Blush bears using the autumn leaves. More importantly we raised funds for a very worthy cause, helping those less fortunate than ourselves!

Children in Need

A trip to the Theatre Royal for the pantomime, kickstarted our Christmas season. This is the first time we have ever gone to the pantomime before Christmas... No concessions for January! BAH HUMBUG! However, the children had a fabulous time. They booed hissed, cajoled and laughed until they could laugh no more! We also visited the Hatton Gallery taking part in several art workshops.

In December we also looked to our local history and visited Wallington to see the House at Christmas. We thought about the Trevelyan family and what it must have been like to have Christmas at that time. We compared their traditions with our own. Some were very similar indeed!



Speaking of Christmas, you will be glad to know that our performance this year will be: 'Baarmy Bethlehem'. We will be performing at the village hall on Thursday the 15th December at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; the children work very hard in rehearsals and love an appreciative audience!

Our Christmas service will take place in Cambo church at 2.30pm on Monday the 19th December this year. [Weather Permitting] As always, we welcome everyone to join us; we do like a good sing and when better to do it than at Christmas!

Dawn will be cooking another delicious Christmas lunch on Wednesday the 21st December and then it will be our final celebration for Christmas...

A little bit of a surprise for the whole school and Pre-School... A magical mystery tour to... who knows where! The children will be working with their enchanted minds, hands and voices to explore the magic of Christmas! Hmm a very special day indeed and who knows who we might meet!

School closes at 1pm on Friday 23rd December for the Christmas holidays; so, it only remains for us to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Cambo! And to pray for little or no snow, except on Christmas Day [of course]!



News from Whalton School - by David Morris - Assistant Head Teacher

Hello from everybody at Whalton Church of England Primary School! We have had a jam packed couple of months at school and wanted to share with you some of our highlights:

Kielder Observatory:

At the beginning of our school year, we had a visit from Kielder Observatory as part of our Science enrichment curriculum. They brought with them their inflatable Planetarium, which filled our whole school hall! The many 'WOW' moments heard from our children was wonderful to hear as they entered the Planetarium. We were able to see the night sky projected onto the inside of the planetarium, talking about and looking at the different constellations. The children loved pointing out all of the animals, before watching the sun set and the moon move across the sky. Lots of the children put their hand up when asked if they would like to travel to space one day themselves too!



Germ Busters



Class 1 were very lucky to have a visit from Nurse Lynne, who spoke to us about the importance of hand washing. Nurse Lynne reminded us when to wash our hands and how we should be doing it. We then used a special cream and UV box to compare how clean our hands were before and after washing—the results were amazing! As a result of Nurse Lynne's visit, we are on a mission to keep our hands clean and to be germ busters, stopping any germs from spreading!

Skipping Festival

The Children in Class 2 spent a very enjoyable afternoon at Chantry Middle School on Friday 11th November. They attended a skipping festival with their Federation friends from Longhorsley Church of England First School. The children participated in a number of fun skipping-related activities, including skipping with a partner and in larger teams. Lots of new techniques were learnt by the end of the day. The children are looking forward to spending more time perfecting their skipping skills at break times!



Author Visit



Louise Dodd, a local author, came to visit us in school to tell us all about her book, 'Perfectly Paced' based on her own family's experiences:

One day a mother sits down with her little boy. She tells him about his pacemaker, the magic contained inside of him and how he is a real superstar. She wants to share

how proud she is of him and let him know that with his strength and magic, there is no stopping him.

The children then designed characters who might also have needed a little magic to help them in some way.



News from Whalton - Cont.

Remembrance Service

It was wonderful having our Remembrance Service together as a school, up in the church.

We made silhouette sunset paintings, symbolising the soldiers who fought in the World Wars. We also made a giant poppy out of bottle tops as we reflected upon how we can look after the world we live in today. During the service, we sang songs, read our prayers, and took time to reflect upon the sacrifices made by so many others during the minute silence. We ended the service singing "God Save The King".



Operation Christmas Child



Over the past years, many families from our school and community have enjoyed supporting a charity which send a specially created shoebox of gifts to those in need.

This year, lots of parents and children have been keen to support the Operation Christmas Child Charity. This is a Christian charity which sends shoeboxes to children in other parts of the world – often in Eastern Europe.

We are all really looking forward to a wonderful end of 2022 at Whalton. We have an upcoming Federation Day with our friends from Longhorsley Church of England First School, which will celebrate our British values. There will also be all of our Christmas festivities, including parties, Christmas lunch, performance, carol singing, and more!

A very Merry Christmas from us all at Whalton Church of England Primary School and a Peaceful New Year



A Northumbrian Evening with The Belta Reivers



Saturday 19th November 7.15 pm in Whalton Village Hall

Come and enjoy an evening with this upbeat Geordie folk trio who bring the best of their local songs and mix them with Irish, Scottish and often world folk music to bring you great sing-a-longs, stomping instrumentalists and plenty of fun.

Tickets £20 to include a glass of wine and supper. Bar and raffle too.

Contact Wendy Sheldon Tel: 01670 775 385 Email: gsheldon@waitrose.com

Proceeds are in aid of Whalton Church





Hartburn Christmas Market





Saturday 19th November 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

A fabulous range of Christmas Stalls with a Pop-Up Café.

Free Entry

Bring your friends and family for a fabulous day out.



COUNTRY GOSPEL MUSIC

St Wilfrid's Church, Kirkharle

SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2022 2PM

An informal concert of country gospel music and original songs by our local composer Paul Rushton.

Accompanied by David Edery on percussion.

Tickets £5 per person, to be purchased on the door.

Tea and biscuits served afterwards.



Diary Dates

Kirkhale Courtyard



Professional Musicians Performing in a Beautiful Setting!

Following on from the hugely successful summer concerts at Kirkharle Courtyard, we bring you a pair of winter concerts to be held in the beautiful 14th century grade 1 listed, centrally heated, St Wilfrid's Church, close to the Kirkharle Courtyard.

The church will be dressed in beautiful seasonal decorations and each concert will bring a sense of seasonal joy.

The concerts will each last about an hour, offering a choice of two performances; 11am and 2.30pm. Festive refreshments will be served at 10.30am before the morning performance, and following the afternoon performance.

Special Offer!

Tickets for each concert are £15, or purchase for both events at the same time for the discounted price of £25.

Kris Thomsett & Austin Gunn





Friday 25th November

Kris Thomsett - organist; Austin Gunn - tenor
Kris is the assistant director of Music at Newcastle
Cathedral, and we are delighted that he will play the
beautiful chamber organ which has recently been
lent to the church.

Austin is a respected professional tenor living in the North East and working internationally. Together they plan to perform some Byrd and Dowland songs, with some organ fantasias thrown in for good measure. This is the first time they have performed together, so it will be very special!

String Quartet*



Tuesday 13th December

Alexandra Raikhlina – violin; Iona Brown – violin; Mike Gerard – viola; Gabriel Wait – cello.

Our favourite string quartet, whose musicians are all members of the Royal Northern Sinfonia will get you in the mood for a festive celebration. Each piece in the programme will transport you to a different wintery destination, from Vivaldi's winter chills in Mantua to Piazzola's tangos in the sultry atmosphere of Argentinian winter.

Antonio Vivaldi: Winter from The Four Seasons arranged for string quartet

Astor Piazzola: Winter (from the four seasons of Buenos Aires) quartet arrangement.

Alexander Borodin String Quartet, 1st movement.



Diary Dates

Ravensworth Choir Magical Sounds of Christmas

The Ravensworth Choir will be singing in St.Andrew's Church, Hartburn 4th December at 3:30 pm.



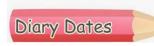


Carols at St.Giles

Everyone is invited to come and sing carols at St.Giles Netherwitton on

Friday 9th December at 5 pm





Middleton Village Hall

Presents Celtic Christmas Strings in partnership with Highlights Rural Touring

Thursday 15 December at 7.30pm

There's something magical about harps, and particularly at Christmas, though Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman's award-winning alchemy on harp and guitar creates a very special magic at all times. Individually famed for originality, innovation and virtuosity on their respective instruments, together they have created one of the most distinctive voices in modern acoustic music and brought their unique musical vision to venues large and small in twenty-two countries on five continents.

Their Christmas show, presented with warmth, charm and wit, features a breath-taking blend of traditional Irish and Scottish music, swing jazz, bluegrass and baroque plus festive favourites given a fresh voice with arrangements that are intricate, inventive, moving and beautiful, and performed in their characteristically heart-warming style – a spellbinding treat for mid-winter.

"A delightful... satisfyingly original, often refreshingly unpredictable take on festive favourites... Joyful, gorgeous and uplifting" THE LIVING TRADITION "Both are in the virtuoso class" THE GUARDIAN "Masterful playing... (ranging from) the entrancing and delicate to the wildly celebratory..." * * * * FOLK WALES "(Their) mastery and magic... produced a rapt response" THE GUARDIAN

Tickets: Adults £10.00, Child £5.00

Bookings: Phone 01670 772600 or online at www.highlightsnorth.co.uk



Diary Dates



Diary Dates

WHALTON BURNS NIGHT

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 7.00 p.m. - MIDNIGHT



SUPPER & CEILIDH

Tickets £20

Dancing and Music from REAL TO REEL

"Some hae meat and canna eat, And some wad eat that want it, But we hae meat and we can eat, And sae the Lord be thankit."

The Selkirk Grace
ROBERT BURNS

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS CALL JULIE AND RICHARD POTTER ON 01670 775528 OR 07854 322424





Hartburn Community Lunches Hartburn Church

Tuesday 13th December – 12:30 pm at Hartburn Church - £6.00 Tuesday 10th January – 12:30 pm at Hartburn Church - £6.00

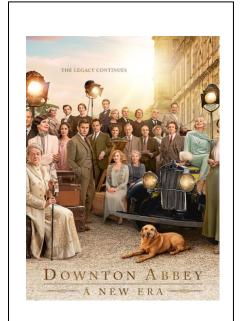
Contact Pooh Stafford to book - <u>poohstafford@btinternet.com</u>

Phone: 01670 772313

Diary Dates



Middleton Village Hall - 7.30pm Refreshments



Friday 25th November

PG-13



Friday 27th January





WHALTON VILLAGE HALL - WHAT'S ON (Dec 2022 - Jan 2023)

MONDAY

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

Whist 7.00pm - 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 - (Christmas break, finishing 13th December, returning 3rd January) For further details visit the Morpeth Art Group Website on: www.magart.org.uk

Gardening Club (1st Tuesday of the month, no meeting in January)

Mixture of visits, practical sessions and speakers – contact Anna Sill 01670 775375

WEDNESDAY

Seniors keep fit 9.30am – (December class 7th, returning 4th January) Contact Olaronke Ashiru-Gbadebo at tokunbogbadebo@gmail.com or just turn up on the day.

Chiropodist 9.30am - (25th January) - To book an appointment call Joanne Leiper on 07890322719

THURSDAY

Post Office 9:15am – 10:45am – In the Bar Room. Post parcels and letters, withdraw cash, pay bills and all the usual things that you do in a Post Office.

Whalton Toddlers 9.30am till 11.30am (Term time only, no session 15th **December)** - Contact Amy on 07791945678 or facebook @whaltontoddlers to book or just turn up on the day.

Kirkley Carvers 1pm – 3pm – (No session 15th **December, restarting 5**th **January)** A 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

Whalton WI 7pm (3rd Thursday of the month) - For more information and details on joining contact Emma on 07946217623

FRIDAY

Jewel in the Lotus Yoga 9:00am – 10:30am Booking required & please bring your own Yoga mat. Contact Debbie on: Tel: 07812 124888



WHALTON VILLAGE HALL - WHAT'S ON (Dec 2022 - Jan 2023) Cont.

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd December. Whalton Christmas Fair 11am - 4pm (Free entry) Festive stalls with gifts, arts and crafts. Teas with homemade cakes, second hand books and an ice cream cart.

21st **December. Whalton Village Carol Singing. 6pm.** Join us for carol singing around the tree with mince pies and mulled wine.

15th **January. Sound Bath. 7pm-8pm** - Enjoy this deeply relaxing meditative experience surrounded by gongs, singing bowls, chimes and other instruments. To book a place and further information available at https://soundroomhealing.co.uk

21st January. Whalton Burns Night. 7pm — midnight. Supper and Ceilidh (Tickets £20), dancing and music from Real to Reel.

To reserve tickets call Julie and Richard Potter on 01670775528 or 07854322424

If you require any further information please contact Linda Willis on 07856 176358 or Email: bookings@whaltonvillage.org.uk

Diary Dates



Wallington Demesne Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd January 2023 commencing at 7:30 pm in Middleton Village Hall.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.





Yoga Classes In Cambo & Middleton



Find balance, calm & inner peace

And at the same time build strength and flexibility



Monday Evenings 7:00pm Middleton Village Hall
Thursday Evenings 7:00pm Cambo Village Hall
All classes £8.00 P.A.Y.G









For more information or to book a place contact John Moat Mobile: 07864076923 Email: yogavisava@gmail.com

Deadline for the next Newsletter is 17 th January 2023
All future newsletter articles please email to:
<u>roisel@btinternet.com</u>
The Newsletter has been checked and verified by the Ministry Team
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