

## The Benefice of Mitford and Hebron Newsletter April 2025

Dear Friends

Welcome to the second of our quarterly Newsletters. As outlined last time, it is planned to produce quarterly Newsletters with monthly Notice Sheets being issued in the intervening months.

Isn't technology wonderful (or not) depending upon your point of view. Is it our friend or is it our foe? We can see and speak with family members on the other side of the world, pay our bills at the touch of a button and have groceries and pizzas delivered to our door, all from the comfort of our armchairs. However, is our gaze so fixed on our screens that we fail to look and see our neighbour struggling and in need, longing for a face-to-face visit and a cup of coffee?

Or do we fail to see the beauty and wonder of nature that is all around us as we walk along texting or checking what we are being told by 'influencers.'

At this time of year, winter is shedding her winter mantle of monochrome and heralding the beginning of Spring. Hedgerows are bursting out in colour, delicate primrose are raising their heads, creating a carpet of pale yellow on banksides and there is a cacophony of birdsong as they celebrate these warmer days and start building nests. Although the birds are very evident from their song, they are not always visible.

And this brings me back to the wonders of technology. There are several apps that when opened can record and identify birdsong. Click on the app and be astounded. A few days ago, the birds were particularly vociferous in a nearby wood, Out came the app and almost straightaway, no less than 10 different songbirds were identified. Such information greatly enhanced the experience and relationship with nature, resulting in an even deeper awareness of the wonder of creation and the God who made it all.

Equally technology can aid and enhance our Christian journey, it has its place, but we must be its master not its slave.

I'm thinking here about Bible apps and commentaries. And there are no end of thoughts and prayers for today. You may even find a worship song to accompany your study. The options are endless.



A word of caution – like all information available on the web there are some dubious and doubtful ones, and all material should be used with discretion and integrity, test the theology and theories. Just as one would be selective in choosing a 'Christian' book or deciding your biblical narrator.

To grow as a Christian, we need to develop and nurture our relationship with God, to learn his ways and seek to follow him. Technology can be our servant in these endeavours but it does not replace God's word as recorded in the Bible. But it can help us better understand and apply its teachings to ourselves and the path we are being called to follow.

Oh, and don't forget to listen to the birdsong.

# St Mary Magdalene Mitford & St Cuthbert's Hebron

April 2025  
Lent and Easter

<b>Benefice Diary April</b>		
<b>Wednesday 2nd</b>	9.00am - Experience Easter at Tritlington School 7.00pm - Lent Course 7.00pm - HCA Meeting	Tritlington School Longhorsley Hebron
<b>Saturday 5th</b>	10.00am - Prayer Gathering (coffee from 9.30am)	Mitford Stable Room
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	10.00am - Holy Communion 10.00am - Holy Communion 10.30am - Holy Communion 10.30am - Family Service 4.00pm - Evensong	Mitford Longhorsley Hartburn Bolam Hebron
<b>Wednesday 9th</b>	9.00am - Tritlington School Easter Service (all Welcome) 7.00pm - Lent Course	Hebron  Longhorsley
<b>Sunday 13th Palm Sunday</b>	10.00am - Holy Communion 10.00am - Morning Prayer 10.00am - All Age Worship 10.30am - Holy Communion and Baptisms	Hebron Longhorsley Mitford Whalton
<b>Wednesday 16th</b>	9.30am - Morning Prayer and Community Coffee 7.00pm - Lent Course	Netherwitton Longhorsley
<b>Thursday 17th Maundy Thursday</b>	10.00am - Holy Communion 10.00am - Chrism Eucharist 6.00pm - Holy Communion 6.00pm - Remembrance of the Last Supper	Longhorsley Newcastle Cathedral Bolam Mitford
<b>Friday 18th Good Friday</b>	10.00am - Family Drop in and Easter Café 2.00pm - An Hour at the Cross 6.00pm - Tenebrae Service	Longhorsley Whalton Hebron
<b>Saturday 19th Holy Saturday</b>	Prayer and Reflective Space in Church all day 8.00 - 9.00pm - Candlelit Vigil	Mitford Mitford Chapel
<b>Sunday 20th Easter Day</b>	6.00am - Sunrise Bonfire Eucharist and Breakfast 10.00am - Easter Celebration 10.00am - Holy Communion 10.30am - Holy Communion with the Wannie Liners 10.30am - Easter Celebration 10.30am - Holy Communion	Mitford Mitford Longhorsley Netherwitton Whalton Hartburn
<b>Wednesday 23rd</b>	10.00am - Morning prayer and Community Coffee 1.00pm - Funeral in Church	Hebron Mitford
<b>Thursday 24th</b>	2.00pm - Anna Chaplains	Hebron
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	10.00am - Morning Prayer followed by APCM 10.00am - BCP Morning Prayer 10.00am - Café Church with Breakfast 10.30am - Holy Communion	Longhorsley Mitford Mitford Village Hall Bolam
<b>Tuesday 29th</b>	10.00am - Woodland Toddlers	Mitford

## Notices this Month

### Stay Connected with Us!

We'd love to keep in touch with you! Visit our website at [mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com](http://mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com) to find out more about our churches, upcoming events, and ways to get involved.

If you'd like to receive regular updates, you can join our mailing list by emailing [news@mitfordchurch.org](mailto:news@mitfordchurch.org) or contacting the church office at [wansbeckvicarhelp@gmail.com](mailto:wansbeckvicarhelp@gmail.com). You're also always welcome to reach out to a member of our team—our contact details are below.

Whether you're new to our churches or have been part of our community for years, we're so glad you're here!

**Monthly Prayer Gathering** – Join us at 9.30am on the first Saturday of the month for coffee and refreshments before gathering to pray as a community for our world and each other. For more details speak to Izzy Quinby.



Mitford Church hosts a collection point for the Foodbank. If you would like to contribute or offer assistance, please let us know. If you are in need of food, please contact Revd. Elaine or Sadie at the office for a referral to receive a food parcel.



If you or someone you know would benefit from pastoral support, prayer, or communion, please contact the office. We will gladly arrange for a member of our team to visit you.

For details of services across all the benefices please take a flyer or see the Noticeboard in the porch.

Details are also available on our website!



### Changes to Service Schedule – Starting May 2025

From May 2025, there will be some changes to the service schedule at Mitford and Hebron. These adjustments will help us make the best use of our ministry team and resources while supporting both congregations.

Here's what's changing:

- The Communion Service at Hebron, currently on the 2nd Sunday, will move to the 3rd Sunday.
- There will be no morning service at Mitford on the 3rd Sunday.

This change ensures that the congregation is not split between two locations and that we do not need to provide two ministers at the same time.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we make these adjustments.

### How to Get in Touch

**Revd Elaine Jones**

**Priest in Charge**

07521 106158

[revelainejones@gmail.com](mailto:revelainejones@gmail.com)

**Sadie Flanagan**

**Benefice Administrator**

01670 913414

Monday – 9-5

Wednesday & Thursday 9-1

[Wansbeckvicarhelp@gmail.com](mailto:Wansbeckvicarhelp@gmail.com)

**Churchwardens**

**Hebron**

*James Roff*

*Ian Craigs*

**Churchwardens**

**Mitford**

*Janice Robinson*

*Richard Addison*

**Contact the**

**wardens via**

**the church**

**office:**

**01670 913414**

[mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com](http://mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com)

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## EASTER MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Easter is a time of great joy and renewal, a season that reminds us of the boundless love of God and the victory of life over death through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we gather in worship and reflection, we celebrate the hope and new beginnings that Easter brings to us all.

In a world often filled with uncertainty and hardship, the resurrection stands as a beacon of light, guiding us toward faith, love, and peace. The empty tomb is a powerful symbol that God's love is stronger than any darkness we may face. Christ's triumph over death assures us that no matter the challenges we encounter, we are never alone—God is always with us, offering grace, mercy, and strength.

This Easter, let us embrace the message of renewal, allowing Christ's resurrection to transform our hearts and lives. May we be inspired to share His love with those around us, offering kindness, compassion, and hope to our families, communities, and beyond.

I warmly invite you to join us in our Easter celebrations, as we rejoice together in this season of hope and renewal. May the joy of Easter fill your hearts and homes and may the peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter!

*Elaine*



## **Services in Mitford and Hebron in Holy Week**

Palm Sunday – 10am All Age Worship Celebration at Mitford

Palm Sunday – 10am Holy Communion at Hebron

Maundy Thursday – 6pm - Remembrance of the Last Supper at Mitford

Good Friday – 6pm Tenebrae at Hebron

Holy Saturday – 8pm An Hour Candlelit Vigil in Mitford Chapel

Easter Day – 6am Sunrise Bonfire and Eucharist followed by Breakfast at Mitford

Easter Day – 10am Easter Celebration at Mitford

*For full details of all services across the Benefices visit the website or pick up a flyer from Church*

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## **News from the Schools**

### **The Peace Garden at Tritlington School**

We are delighted to share the news about the beautiful new Peace Garden at Tritlington School, a special space dedicated to reflection, prayer, and tranquillity. This wonderful initiative has been created to provide a place where children and staff can find moments of stillness, connect with nature, and experience a sense of peace in their busy school days.

The Peace Garden has been thoughtfully designed with seating areas, flowers, and symbolic elements that encourage mindfulness and spiritual reflection. It serves as a reminder of the importance of peace—both within ourselves and in the world around us. The garden will also be used for quiet gatherings, storytelling, and times of prayer, helping to nurture the faith and wellbeing of all who visit it.

We are so lucky to work with Ben the Horticultural Manager from The Alwick Garden, who kindly created a planting scheme for the garden based on the children's ideas incorporating plants to stimulate all the senses. All of the children in school enjoyed adding a plant to the garden, creating a truly spiritual space for reflection and calm.

We give thanks for everyone who has contributed to making this vision a reality, including staff, pupils, and members of the wider community who have given their time and resources to bring it to life. May this special space continue to be a source of blessing and inspiration for years to come.





### **Experience Easter in Schools: A Journey Through the Three Windows**

This year, our *Experience Easter* program in Tritlington, Whalton and Longhorsley schools invite children to reflect on the Easter story through the concept of the *Three Windows*: Looking In, Looking Out, and Looking Up.

**Looking In**, students explored their own emotions and responses to Jesus’ journey, considering themes of hope, sacrifice, and love. Through interactive storytelling and creative activities, they reflected on what Easter means in their own lives.

**Looking Out**, they thought about how Jesus’ message of kindness and forgiveness can shape their relationships with others. Discussions centred on how they can share love and compassion within their families, schools, and communities.

**Looking Up**, they were encouraged to see beyond themselves, turning their hearts and minds toward God. Through prayer and reflection, they considered how Easter offers a message of faith, renewal, and a deeper connection with God’s love.

It was a blessing to see the children engage with the Easter story in such a meaningful way. Thank you to everyone who prayed for and supported this outreach—it truly made a difference!

Each school decorated and created their own stained-glass window as a reminder of the journey through Lent and Easter and the beauty of Jesus’ Hope.



## ANNA CHAPLAINCY BLOG

### Anna Chaplaincy News

The Anna Chaplains will be responsible for the Mothering Sunday posies and cards which will be distributed in church and our community of older people.

They will also be distributing Easter bags.

**"80th anniversary of VE Day will be celebrated on Thursday 8th May 2025."**

In Mitford we are planning an afternoon tea on Saturday 10th May in the Stable Room 2pm - 4pm for our older members of the church family and parish. (invitations will be sent out nearer the date)



On Sunday 11th May there will be a service of "Peace and Reconciliation" at 10am in Mitford Church, followed by fizz and cake in the Stable Room.

If anyone has photographs of street parties in 1945 or any memorabilia, you would be willing to share for an exhibition in the Stable Room, please let Janice Robinson know.

With good wishes to you all.

*Janice & Mary*

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## MISSION AND CHARITY GROUP



## New Hope for Children

One of the charities we currently support is New Hope for Children. This charity raises support for the work of Children's Vision in Bogota.

*Their mission is to change the destiny of the destitute. They rescue high risk children, saving them from a world of violence, abuse, hunger and death. They provide them with food, clothing, medical care, education and a place they can call home with people who love them. Children's Vision's mission is to change lives through the living and written Gospel.*

We are delighted that Richard Sanderson, one of the founders of this charity will be making his annual visit on **Sunday 27 April**. Please come along to the **Mitford Stable Room at 4 pm** for tea and cake (possibly Lemon Drizzle, a favourite of Richards) and the chance to hear Richard bring us up to date on the work in Bogota. Richard is always hugely inspiring so be sure to ring fence this date and time in your diary and come along on the day!"

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## Honouring Janice Robinson

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Janice Robinson has been nominated to receive Maundy Money from His Majesty the King at Durham Cathedral on Maundy Thursday. This is a great honour and a fitting recognition of the faithful service that Janice has given to the church and community over many years.



Maundy Money is a special tradition dating back centuries, in which the reigning monarch presents specially minted coins to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding Christian service. Janice's tireless dedication in chaplaincy and pastoral work, as well as her invaluable contributions to the deanery and wider diocese, have made a profound impact on many lives. Her compassion, wisdom, and unwavering faith have been a true blessing to our church and beyond.



We rejoice with Janice in this well-deserved honour and give thanks for her incredible ministry. Please join us in congratulating her and praying for her as she receives this special recognition.

**Royal Maundy** is a religious service in the Church of England held on Maundy Thursday. At the service, the British monarch or a royal official ceremonially distributes small silver coins known as "Maundy money" as symbolic alms to elderly recipients.

The recipients are pensioners, chosen on an interdenominational basis from various Christian churches for their service to their churches and communities.

One man and one woman are chosen for each year the monarch has lived (including the year the monarch is currently living), and they receive Maundy money equivalent in pence to that number of years.



The committee has once again put together an interesting and diverse programme and would love to welcome you along to their meetings. You are guaranteed a warm welcome, interesting speakers and fascinating facts and information. Please see below for further details.

Meetings, 7pm, every second Wednesday of the month.

**9th April** : **The Aln Railway**—A history of the Alnwick to Alnmouth railway—

Simon Hadden.

**14th May**: **A History of Chillingham Castle**—Richard Craig.

**11th June**: **Rowing the Atlantic**—Sean McGuigan.

**9th July**: **Stannington Sanitorium**—Sue Wood (Northumberland Archives).

**13th August**: **David Jewell**—Subject to be confirmed.

**10th September**: Annual general meeting followed by **Local Heroes and Villains**—Michael Gatherar.

**8th October**: **The Ad Gefrin Distillery, Wooler**—Prof Chris Ferguson.

The Village Hall, Fontside, Mitford, Northumberland, NE61 3PS.

Admission £3.00 per meeting or £20.00 for season membership.

Refreshments included.

Find us on:  at: **The Mitford Historical Society**

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## **A PRAYER FOR TODAY**

### **PRAYERS FOR SPRING**

Our Father, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the beauty of spring.

Thank You for the vibrant blooms, the gentle rains, and the warmth of the sun that awakens the earth.

May we cherish each moment of renewal and reflect Your love in our lives.

Help us to appreciate the wonders around us and share this joy with others.

Amen.

Our Father, we thank You for the beauty of Your creation, where every leaf, every breeze, and every songbird sings of Your glory.

May we find joy in the symphony of nature, recognizing Your hand in every detail.

Help us to cherish these moments, to breathe deeply, and to celebrate the life that surrounds us.

Amen.

Dear Lord, as the world awakens from winter's slumber, we thank You for the gift of renewal and rebirth.

May Your light guide us through this season of growth, filling our hearts with hope and joy.

Help us to embrace the beauty of new beginnings and to nurture the seeds of love and kindness within us.

Amen.