

The Benefice of Mitford and Hebron  
Newsletter April/May 2023

Dear Friends

Happy Easter

You will notice that this Newsletter is for two months, as we are looking to move to producing the Newsletter on a quarterly basis. You may also notice that we have only included a schedule of What's on in April. We will send out What's on in May under separate cover when it is available. Hopefully in future these list can be produced on a quarterly basis and incorporated into the Newsletter.

Any updates or changes to services/events will also be sent out under separate cover between Newsletter issues.



Change is inevitable and it is all around us – at all times, but we particularly notice its effects in nature as the seasons change, -new spring green on bushes in the hedgerow, longer days, flowers coming into bloom, abundant blossom and sunshine. The idea of change tends to have a polarising effect on individuals, it is either feared or embraced and welcomed. It is rather like Marmite; you love it or hate it – there is no apparent in-between. Change usually involves being disturbed from our normal routine and having to alter course, doing what we did not set out to do, or doing something differently. Being open to the Spirit's calling.

In the telling of Christ's passion, we come across a character who was disturbed from his schedule and the outcome of his day was changed. We do not know if his life was also transformed, but we can hope it was. Simon of Cyrene, was we assume going about his own business, when he was plucked from the crowd and made to carry the cross. Whether willingly or by coercion he helped Jesus. In doing so he helped carry not just the weight of the cross, but the weight of sin, helping Jesus fulfil his earthly ministry.

There are many times in our lives when we are asked to help others. There are many times when we have the capacity and opportunity to help, but we ignore it, going on our way like some of the travellers on the Jericho road. Too focused on what we see as important.

Yes, it may not feel comfortable at first, but once you are there, helping and giving of your time, you find that you benefit more than the person you are supporting.

We are all called to help carry each other's loads, when they need that support, not when we have the time and inclination. We have to be prepared to be disturbed and change our agenda. The most important thing we may ever do is to carry someone else's cross.

Consider who you may know who is carrying a heavy burden and pray for wisdom and discernment to be able to help them, always being prepared to be disturbed and changed.



## WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Weds 5 <sup>th</sup>	0900-0930	Morning Prayer	St Mary Magdalene, Whalton
	1100-1230	Lent Course	St Cuthbert's, Hebron
	1500-1700	Chatty Café Community	The Plough Inn, Mitford
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday)	0900-0930	Morning Prayer	St Andrew's, Hartburn
	1000-1100	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's, Hebron
	1430-1600	Lent Course	St Andrew's, Hartburn
	1900-2000	Holy Communion	St Giles, Netherwitton
	1900-2000	Tenebrae Service	St Mary Magdalene, Mitford
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> (Good Friday)	1000-1200	Family Good Friday Drop-in	St Cuthbert's, Hebron
	1030-1130	Morning Prayer	St John the Baptist, Meldon
	1400-1500	An Hour at the Cross	St Mary Magdalene, Whalton
	1400-1500	An Hour at the Cross	St Mary Magdalene, Mitford
<b>Sun 9<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday)</b>	<b>0600-0700</b>	<b>Sunrise Service followed by breakfast</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene, Mitford</b>
	<b>0630-0730</b>	<b>Sunrise Service, Roost Community, Netherwitton</b>	<b>Barns Farm, NE61 4NW</b>
	<b>0930-1030</b>	<b>Easter Celebration with Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene, Mitford</b>
	<b>1030-1130</b>	<b>Easter Celebration with Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene, Whalton</b>
	<b>1100-1200</b>	<b>Family Celebration and Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Cuthbert's, Hebron</b>
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	1500-1700	Chatty Café Community	The Plough Inn, Mitford
	1900-2000	Mitford Historical Society	Village Hall, Mitford
<b>Sun 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>0930-1030</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene, Mitford</b>
	<b>1030-1130</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>St John the Baptist, Meldon</b>
	<b>1030-1130</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Giles, Netherwitton</b>

	<b>1130-1230</b>	<b>APCM Netherwitton</b>	<b>St Giles, Netherwitton</b>
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	1900-2000	APCM Bolam	St Andrew's, Bolam
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	1900-2000	APCM Whalton	St Mary Magdalene, Whalton
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup>	1500-1700	Chatty Café Community	The Plough Inn, Mitford
<b>Sun 23rd</b>	<b>0930-1030</b>	<b>Café Church with Richard Sanderson</b>	<b>St Cuthbert's, Hebron</b>
	<b>0930-1030</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene, Mitford</b>
	<b>1030-1130</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Andrew's, Bolam</b>
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Curry Night	Manzil Morpeth
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup>	1500-1700	Chatty Café Community	The Plough Inn, Mitford
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	1400-1500	Anna Chaplaincy	St Cuthbert's, Hebron
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	1030-1200	Wedding Preparation Day	St Mary Magdalene, Mitford
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>0930-1030</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene, Mitford</b>
	<b>1030-1130</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>St John the Baptist, Meldon</b>
	<b>1600-1700</b>	<b>Evensong</b>	<b>St Cuthbert's, Hebron</b>

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*  
*Luke 24:6*

### Easter Day Celebrations

**St Mary Magdalene Mitford - 6.00am - Sunrise Service with Bonfire followed by breakfast**

**The Roost Community Netherwitton - 6.30am - Sunrise Service**  
welcome in the dawning of Easter with bible readings, prayers & poetry around the campfire, and end with bacon butties and a cuppa!  
Barns Farm, NE61 4NW

**St Mary Magdalene Mitford - 9.30am - Easter Celebration with Holy Communion**

**St Mary Magdalene Whalton - 10.30am - Easter Celebration with Holy Communion**

**St Cuthbert's Hebron - 11am - Family Celebration and Holy Communion**

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE

Dear Friends,

I wonder how much chocolate there will be in your house this Easter? The writer Adrian Plass gives this tongue in cheek definition of Easter Eggs in one of his books – *“edible reminders of the resurrection made of chocolate, filled with sweets and wrapped up in shiny coloured paper, just as Our Lord was.”* He also defines the Cross – *“absurdly sentimentalised instrument of torture and death. Chances of Jesus having a secret hankering to get back to the ‘old rugged cross’ are really rather small. The point is emphasised if we imagine eating hot-garotte buns at Easter time.”* Bacon Sandwiches and Salvation – An A-Z of the Christian Life, by Adrian Plass, pub. 2007 Authentic Media



Sometimes it can seem a bit bizarre, all the trappings around Easter, the eggs, lambs, bunnies, crosses, flowers. Nowadays the shops that sell homeware and gifts have been trying for ages to tempt us to put up pink and yellow bunting and hang up Easter decorations that were definitely not a part of the

Easters of my childhood – you might have painted a hard-boiled egg or made an miniature Easter garden, but that was all. There were chocolate eggs available for a few weeks before, and hot cross buns were only sold around Easter, not all year round like now. (Oh dear, I seem to be developing that awful old person habit of moaning how ‘it wasn’t like that in my day’ and ‘the young don’t know they’re born with all that chocolate!’). And yet, despite the awfulness of the manner of Jesus’ death – one of the worst and most deliberately shameful methods human power has come up with – we are celebrating and commemorating something awesome in the true sense of the word. We are remembering the ongoing work of redemption of the whole of creation by our God who loves us so much that God sent God’s only son, to be human like us, to live among us, to experience our human life in all its joys and sorrows, its loving relationships and betrayals and its pain and death. We are celebrating that there is ultimate hope in this bruised, battered and broken world – that there is redemption for the worst of our human traits – that we are each of us loved beyond all human imagining.

As you eat your eggs and see the new life of spring around us, be reminded that although the stories of Holy Week involve betrayal and torture and pain and death – the worst we humans can afflict on each other – the story of Easter Sunday, of Jesus being alive once more, is that love triumphs over all of that and even over death itself. It is a great and wonderful mystery and I look forward to seeing you as we gather over the Easter season in church as we once more explore those stories together.

God bless and don’t eat too much chocolate all at once!

*Elaine*

## Your *Country* Church Needs You!



**Your Church  
needs  
YOU**

Have you ever wondered why churches have a Council? Well the boring answer is that our benefice, like any other charity requires a governing body! However, at Mitford and Hebron, we see our Council fulfils far more than a means of remaining “street legal “. Firstly it provides support, encouragement and advice to Elaine as she seeks to lead us forward as Christ’s local community. Secondly it provides an enabling focus for the different groups engaged in the many aspects of church activities.

We are very blessed to come from a range of backgrounds and Christian traditions as a unified church family; for us to flourish together it is so important that our Council reflects this diversity .

The elected Council meets every two months. At our annual meetings we elect 5 wardens (our formal link to the Bishop, with certain specific responsibilities) and between 7 and 11 further members of the church to serve on the Council for the coming year.

As Jesus’ followers we are called to express his love and welcome to today’s society in ever new and relevant ways. For us to be faithful in this mission, we can never be satisfied with a static Council membership. Rather we seek to be renewed and refreshed by encouraging new members to join bringing their insights.

Please therefore do pray for our Church Council. If you feel God is nudging you to contribute the Church Council, do have a chat with me or any of the current members - we would be delighted to discuss it with you.

*Elaine*

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## Parish Giving Scheme



Over the next few weeks and months, you may start to see information in church about the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This is a secure and simple way of giving and is accessible to everyone – you don’t even have to use a computer if you don’t want to!

It is easy to give via the internet, by phone or by post. Over time we hope this will replace the current Standing Order system and the pink and green/blue envelopes some of you have been using and hopefully make life a bit easier for the Sides persons, Gift Aid Secretary and Treasurer. The money is collected by PGS and all of it is then transferred to the Church’s bank account – it even claims the Gift Aid for us where applicable. More information coming soon in Church and the newsletter.

Carol Thompson

Treasurer.

## MITFORD AND HEBRON MISSION AND CHARITY GROUP

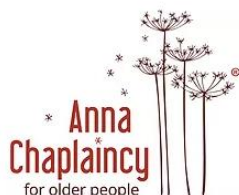


Sunday 23rd April 2023

A date for your diary. Richard Sanderson from New Hope for Children will be visiting us that day and will attend Café Church at Hebron at 9.30am.

This will be an opportunity to learn about the latest projects in Colombia, to ask questions and to hear Richard's message to us as a church and as individuals.

Please keep this space in your schedule.



### ANNA CHAPLAINCY BLOG

#### Anna Chaplaincy News

At last are we beginning to feel the warmth of the sun and the brightness of the sun shining around us. The last few months have been long and tough weather wise

yet our local gardens and countryside are now ablaze with daffodils , camellias , forsythia, primroses , flowering blossoms, pussy willow and so much more - a time when we are in awe of the wonders of nature which are all part of God's creation.



More and more we see many of you at our services and out and about in our local community. In particular at our monthly Thursday afternoon at Hebron , a short service followed by fellowship and refreshments . This has become an important time for a small , yet grateful group of church members . We have enjoyed a range of service experiences , readings, meditation, art, sometimes communion and always singing and prayers. If you would like to come along , you are so welcome but do check the dates in the newsletter. Remember that Home Communion is available for anyone who has difficulty in getting along to a service and also if you would like a private talk or to have prayer time at home please do get in touch. Never forget that you are part of the church family to which we all belong.



Last Sunday we made our first memorable 'outing 'to a live showing from the Royal Opera House 'TURANDOT' at the Vue Cramlington . - almost like being at the iconic place , comfortable , perfect view and a fraction of the cost!

The production, costumes, scenery, story, music and singing were outstanding and it also included also English subtitles.

The next production is MARRIAGE OF FIGARO, April 30 Sunday 2-00pm. If you would like a ticket please let Janice or Mary Know.



The Remembrance Garden, is progressing nicely and now has quite a show of lovely daffodils. If you would like to contribute plants, shrubs, a seat, etc please talk to Janice.  
Now thinking about planting my mini meadow seeds!

Mary

For Palm Sunday and Holy Week we hope that you all have your card, Palm Cross and prayers for you to use during this time .

With love and our prayers to you all this Easter,



Janice and Mary

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## PASTORAL CARE

*"A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you"*

We must indeed care for each other as he commands us.  
If you need help, support, advice, or prayer, or know someone who does.

**PLEASE** know that you can contact the Pastoral Care Team.

**Dick Quinby 07960792198**

**Mary Dowswell 07890269028**



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## FAMILY NEWS

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Clare Clemence!

Clare Clemence, a long standing member of the church family celebrated her 90th birthday in March. The church family sent flowers and a card.

Clare was for many years responsible for the flowers in church, and over that time, she has used her special skills with flowers and greenery to make the church beautiful for innumerable special occasions. She also has gently encouraged and nurtured would be flower arrangers along the way, always with a smile and a nod of approval.

She still enjoys flowers and her garden and delights in the changing seasons, but from a more supervisory role now.

We hope she will enjoy many more seasons.

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## SOCIAL EVENTS

### CURRY NIGHT

Please join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship. Please contact Dick Quinby for tickets. (Tel: 07960792198)



### Manzil's Meal

April 25th 2023

7.00pm

Come and enjoy a wonderful night.

Friendship & Fellowship!

Great Meal

Tombola

Quiz, Fun & Games

Help raise money for:

**The Stable Room Refurbishment.**

**Tickets are limited to 50**

**£17.50 per head**

### QUIZ NIGHT HARTBURN

Which country drinks the most coffee per capita? You might be surprised at the answer! For those of you who were unable to attend you missed a good night!

Despite a chilly night and the church heating not working there was a reasonable turnout and we managed to keep warm. Three teams took part (Meldon, Mitford Mavericks and Mitford Muppets) and were put through their paces by our two quizmasters – Elaine Jones and Pam Walker.

A total of £79 was raised to send to DEC for the Turkey/Syria appeal. Thanks to Elaine and Pam for organizing and those who attended.

Answer to quiz question: Finland



### FLOWER ARRANGING

#### Whalton Gardening Club

Demonstration in Whalton Village Hall

Kate Norris

of Northumbrian Flowers



Open Meeting

7.30pm

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

May 2023

Raffle of  
arrangements

Refreshments

£5 Entry (members free)

All welcome





## NEWS FROM MITFORD VILLAGE

### MITFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Are you interested in history, both local, regional and national? Do you want to know more about the area you live and worship in? Have you ever wondered about how people lived and worked in the past? Then Mitford Historical Society is the place for you.



There are several really interesting subjects in the pipeline for anyone who is interested and cares to visit the Society in Mitford.

Mitford Historical Society has been active for many years in the Village and aims to deliver interesting talks about local historical matters as well as interesting subjects from farther afield.

The 2023 season will begin on 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL at 7pm with a talk from Retired Police Superintendent Steve Barron about 'Operation Sanctuary'.

In MAY, Wes Turnbull will regale us with 'The affects of tenantry at Kielder on the building of the dam'.

JUNE brings Charlie Bennet on the subject of Thomas Bewick, William Brewis and himself.

JULY – TBA

AUGUST - Mr Andy Cowan – 100 years of Robson & Cowan, the Country Store at Scots Gap.

SEPTEMBER – AGM. Speaker TBA

A warm welcome and an informative evening awaits everyone.

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## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

The Rt. Reverend Dr. Helen-Ann Hartley will be installed as the new Bishop of Newcastle in the Cathedral on Saturday 22nd April at 3pm

## NEWS FROM THE DEANERY

Revd. Julia Lacey has been appointed Priest In Charge of Cresswell, Lynemouth and Widdrington and Assistant Curate to Ulgham. Julia is moving from the Diocese of Chelmsford and hopes to be in post by the summer.

## LET US PRAY

### A Prayer for King Charles.

Almighty God, you reign over all things in wisdom, power, and love.  
Hear our prayer which we offer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For Charles our King, that you may pour upon him abundant gifts  
to help him fulfil the promises made at his coronation:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

That he will have the grace, wisdom, and strength  
to live a life of service to you and to his people:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

That he will seek to uphold the values of love, joy and peace,  
and always seek to follow you, our heavenly King:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

That he may lead with patience, kindness and generosity,  
governing with humility and with a servant heart:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

That in being anointed for service to his God and his people,  
you may bless him with faithfulness, gentleness and self-control:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**



## CONTACT DETAILS

Web Site Address: [www.mitfordchurch.org](http://www.mitfordchurch.org)

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