

The Benefice of Mitford and Hebron Newsletter February 2022

Dear Friends

How quickly time seems to fly, here we are in February, but where did January go? Our calendar is just a man-made convention, the days, months, and years all have a natural basis. (If you want the full explanation – just Google it).



However, the weeks come straight out of the Bible – ‘Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God’. (Exodus 20:8)

This directive from God sets a pattern and rhythm for our lives, a perfect combination of work, rest and time with God.

With busy lives it is often not possible or indeed practical to set aside a whole day for this sabbath rest. (If only, some of you may mutter!). But we all need to have a time set aside for us and God. Our bodies and our spirits need to be recharged and re-energised.

Perhaps when looking at our schedule and pencilling in meetings and catch ups etc., we blank out periods of time, no matter how short to say God and Me Time. This could be a good discipline to practice during Lent. After all, God always has space in His diary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Benefice Profile Consultation

Wednesday 16th February – Plough Inn Mitford – 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Please see article later in Newsletter for more details

Service of Worship and Fellowship with Communion

Thursday 24th February – Hebron Church – 2.00 pm

This is primarily for our older members of the church family who find it difficult to access an early morning service, but of course all are welcome. The service will be followed by a short time of fellowship.

Service of Ashing and Communion

Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday – Hebron Church – 10.00 am

World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 4th March - St James' Morpeth -2 pm – Please see article later in Newsletter for more details



Time with God

Any time any day, make a date.

A Message from the Church Wardens

Benefice Profile – Review

We are continuing the consultation process with different groups within the church and local communities. The Job Description of a new Priest in Charge has now been compiled in draft form. This will enable us to advertise and select the right person to replace Reverend Alyson Lamb.



We are eager to obtain the views of all in our local community. Therefore, if anyone would like to meet and chat about this with us, some of the church team will be in the Plough Inn Mitford on Wednesday 16th February from 7.00 pm until 9.00 pm. We have invited representatives of both Mitford and Hebron Parish Councils as well as other interested people in the parishes to come along and add their views.

Please feel free to join us, your views matter.

If you are not able to attend but wish to voice an opinion, then please contact any of the wardens (details later in Newsletter).

We continue with our exploratory talks with the parishes of Hartburn, Whalton, Bolam, Netherwitton and Meldon regarding us working more closer together.

To enable us all to get to know one another better, we have already had people come from Whalton to Mitford to join with us in worship and two of our Mitford church family have been to Whalton to join with them in worship.

We would encourage us all to take the opportunity to go and worship with our friends in the West from time to time to help us get to know each other better. Please see service times later in the Newsletter.

Sean and Janice

On Behalf of the Wardens

Church Management, Support and Engagement

The JPCC (The Joint Hebron & Mitford Parochial Church Councils) has instructed a small group to look into the way that our churches are managed and supported by our church family; for us all to have a better understanding of how the church works, what is on offer in terms of service, how to get engaged, and how to make service a positive experience for all.

Ways you can SERVE Ideally, we should be making the best use of the God given skills we have across our family. We need to ensure that those with real talents can use them in their church lives in a way that is also fun and interesting and can be a blessing to us all. At the same time, there are some areas of church business where extra help is needed. We see a real benefit for all in bringing these together!

These initiatives will be announced in church shortly.

For more information, please get in touch – details in Contact List.

Dick Quinby

The Churchyard

Storm Arwen's sting in the tail!

Sadly, we have had to part with one of the fir trees that have framed the path to the church door at Mitford for so many years!

Storm Arwen managed to remove a large amount of one of these trees. The damage was cleared by the Churchyard Team led by Malcolm with his chainsaw and a large amount of wood was removed.



Sadly, a review by a Tree Surgeon advised that this tree would be a real danger in the future and had to be removed-only a flat stump remains.

The Churchyard Team has a place to rest teacups and doughnuts - unless you have a better suggestion!

Churchyard Team.



Children's Society Collection Boxes

A very Happy New Year to you all, especially to those of you who have been saving your cash for the benefit of needy children. Times have been particularly hard for those children without homes, in poverty or with mental health problems and we would love to get your donated cash to the Society as soon as possible.

Could all box holders please let us have them to empty? Sorry we are a bit later this year with collecting them in, but we are now back in full swing. We are very happy to collect your boxes, or you can drop them off in church or at our home (69, Wansdyke, Lancaster Park).

You can leave a message on 07845126720 if you need to contact us

Many, many thanks on behalf of the Society for your generosity

Wendy (and Brian) Talks.

Stable Room Bookings

Richard Addison is now the contact person to arrange bookings for the Stable Room. His contact details can be found later in the Newsletter.

The Stable Room is available for individuals and organisations as well as for Church activities.

Richard is happy to discuss your requirements and to meet with you at the Stable Room to confirm that it meets your specification.

At present it is suggested that no more than 30 people should use the Stable Room at any one time.



Anna Chaplaincy Blog

Anna Chaplaincy News

We continue to support our older church family members in a variety of ways. Please let Mary Priestley or Janice Robinson know if you would like a prayer call, a

chat, or Home Communion.

Our next Anna Service

Will be on Thursday 24th February at 2pm in Hebron church

When Revd John Rowley will be celebrating communion.

Please come and join us. We will have a short time of fellowship and refreshments after the service.

With love and blessings to you all.

Janice and Mary



World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March - St James' Morpeth -2 pm

"I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU"

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, these countries have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. They have found it both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. They celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. They use the Bible text "I know the plans I have for you" from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

Services will take place beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres, such as Central Hall Westminster, and in remote village churches.

You can participate by joining the service or consider being part of the choir or music group.

Anybody interested in joining the choir or the music group should please attend the following rehearsals:

Friday 18th February 11 am

Friday 25th February 11 am

Friday 4th March 10 am and service at 2 pm all at St James', Morpeth

Further information from Carol Napper on 07732223117

Visit the website: <https://www.wwdp.org.uk>

We are family.....

*.....All of the people around us they say, can they be that close
Just let me state for the record, we're giving love in a family dose*

Being family is and has always been a core value of Mitford and Hebron Church. It manifests itself in untold acts of kindness and compassion. Just letting people know we still care even though we may not physically meet them. Sharing the laughter and the tears, coming along side and just being there.

A conversation following an email from Maureen Johnson illustrates how important the church family is. She said *'I must thank everyone at Mitford church for all the support they have given me it is really appreciated and all the little gifts that people have delivered especially Mary, Dick, Greta, and Alice who delivered a little Christmas gift in the dark after being in work all day. I am really proud to be a member of Mitford church and thank you all most sincerely for helping me through my bereavement, your support is so much help.'*

Our church family extends beyond our parish and just before Christmas we remembered our refugee families by sending them parcels filled with goodies and with our love.

We have not been able to host a Mitford Day Out for the families for two years now because of Covid, and like many families we had to find a new way of making a connection and letting them know we still cared.

So, this year we sent parcels to our extended family members, they were packed with home baked goodies, fruit, sweets, colouring books/crayons, age-appropriate gifts, and handmade gift bags with a selection of toiletries. In total we shared our love with 20 women, 14 men, 9 teenagers, 3 babies, 3 toddlers and 36 children!!!!!! Hopefully they felt love in a family dose.

Thanks to all who baked, sewed, and contributed items for the parcels.

P.S. We have heard that the children were very happy to receive the gifts and that everyone was grateful that we had remembered them.



Saying thank you and goodbye

It is with sadness and with thanksgiving that we advise you of the passing of the following parishioners.

Bruce Gillmer- funeral 26th January – Bruce worked for many years as the lead Psychologist at Northgate Hospital in the parish of Mitford, and his work was there was highly acclaimed. Condolences to Sue and family.

Ellen Doreen Waugh – Doreen lived at Molesden for over 60 years and was well known, liked and respected in the community. She is buried with her husband Tony in Mitford Church.

Pat Hoblyn – Pat was a much loved member of the church family, after the death of Douglas, and due to failing health, Pat has lived in both Foxton Court Care Home and the Royal Hampton Home in Ponteland. Private cremation, memorial service 9th February. Condolences to Sarah, Ian and their families.

Lesley Robson – Lesley was one of our oldest church members and was almost 101 years of age when he died in January. He lived for many years in Hebron village and more recently in Mill Race Court in Morpeth, where members of our church family visited and took regular home communion. Memorial Service 10 February. Condolences to Margaret and family.

Diocesan and Deanery News

Deanery News

Revd. Chris Grocock, Vicar of Holy Sepulchre Church, Ashington was installed as Area Dean for Morpeth, following the resignation of Revd. John Park, who was Area Dean for 9 years.

We thank John Park for all his support to the Benefice over his years as Area Dean and wish Chris Grocock much success as he takes on the role.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH (a discussion about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage)

Morpeth Parish are running a course in relation to Living In Love and Faith material. If you would like to know more about LLF –

www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith

If you would like to join Morpeth parish as they discuss the material, please contact Val Cowan, a Reader in the Morpeth whose email address is:

valcowan@mac.com

Diocesan News

The Vacancy In See Committee – the committee who is involved in selecting and appointing a new Diocesan Bishop has held a number of zoom meetings throughout the Diocese asking for comments, suggestions and the necessary qualities required in a new Bishop to serve the people of Newcastle.

These meetings were well supported by both lay and ordained throughout the Diocese and we await further details of a possible appointment by the summer.

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 Dowsell 07890269028



A Message from John

On my wall hangs a relic

I was always under the impression that quote "Time and tide wait for no man" was a relic of poet, author, civil servant, philosopher, and astronomer Geoffrey Chaucer. But not according to one eminently wise 5-year-old granddaughter.

Those words she informs me were first uttered by a much more prominent thinker and influencer who goes by the hashtag "Barbie". And "#Barbie knows" - and "if #Barbie says" "then it must be true Grandpa."

And so, I meekly return to the solitude and comfort of my workshop to ponder these things and wonder what Chaucer might have said to young Joy.

It so happens that on the wall of my place of solace hangs something of a relic that dominates in more ways than one. It's big – very big and it also happens to emit a relentless sound on the second and every second. Some find this immensely soothing and a source of inspiration, whilst others choose to describe it an irritating noise. *[that's why it's been promoted/relegated to the workshop.]* But I don't care because it's my relic and it's important to me True it had its glory days back in the early 1900's which coincides with the era when Tyneside was at its most industrious and its home-grown engineering technologies and innovations became world leading.



In those days my relic looked down on the powerhouse and the steam turbines that supplied energy to all Tyneside and the Northeast and in my imagination, I chose to think my piece of history helped make that happen.

OK you may think I'm being over sentimental, and my relic may be nothing more than an old power station clock, but from my perspective I know it witnessed the coming and the passing of an entire industrial revolution - and still my venerable timepiece continues to tick-tock away.

In some respects, it's a visible reminder that all things – technology, institutions and people included must have their day and move on: "... *there is a time for everything and a season for all activities under the heavens*" *[Ecclesiastes 3:1]*"

It's about transition and evolution and change and rather than be daunted by it all, we need to move on with confidence, knowing this has always been the underlying strapline in God's creation story.

I could leave this musing right here but feel compelled to share just one more thought

Should you stand facing this old clock, such is the length of the minute hand you see it noticeably moving from one minute to the next – and the next.

That sight alone is a constant reminder that every minute given to us comes as a priceless gift from God. Once gone it can never be regained. God's word advises us to use our time wisely. He knows that many distractions come our way. He implores us not to waste our time such that one day we might look back with regret – we know not what tomorrow might hold!

Dear Lord, when our life on earth is done, may we stand before you and hear the words "Well done my good and faithful servant".

*Father, we know our time is but a mere second in the entire cosmic epoch. Help us in the times ahead and inspire us to use our moment wisely. And when our day is done may the mark we leave be to your great glory. **AMEN***

We hope you will wish to receive these updates and will find them helpful. If you have a friend or neighbour who has not received this Newsletter and who would like to receive them, please get in touch. Also, if you have any queries, comments, or articles for inclusion, please contact us. Contact details are below.

Contact Details:

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Richard Addison	Stable Room Bookings	rick.addison@aol.co.uk Tel: 07714685446

Sunday Service Pattern

Sunday	Service
Sunday 1	9.30 am Morning Praise and Holy Communion MITFORD
Sunday 2	9.30 am Morning Praise MITFORD 4.00 pm Contemplative Worship HEBRON
Sunday 3	9.30 am Morning Praise MITFORD
Sunday 4	9.30 am Café Church HEBRON* 9.30 am BCP Service MITFORD
Sunday 5	9.30 am Morning Praise MITFORD

*Café Church – Breakfast at 9.15 sharp for worship at 9.30 am. A family friendly informal style of worship.

