

The Benefice of Mitford and Hebron Newsletter January 2022

Dear Friends

Happy New Year

With the arrival of a new Covid variant, the Festive season may not have gone as we originally planned. (Some people even had Christmas dinner over Zoom while isolating in the same house, one upstairs and one downstairs.)

However, Christmas is never cancelled and hopefully you were all able in some way to wonder at the extravagance of a God who came into the squalor and dirt of a sinful world to show us what love looks like.

At the beginning of a new year there is always the obligatory review of the year just ended. The pandemic has overshadowed all our lives, but we need to remember and take forward the little acts of kindness that have been so clearly demonstrated. These acts of love in action are surely what the Christmas message is all about and are what we are called to take into this year.

So, make that phone call, write that letter or card, smile and greet people you pass on the street and continue with random acts of kindness. The Christmas message of love is for life, not just for Christmas.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Benefice Profile Consultation

Sunday 16th January – Mitford Church - after 9.30am service – see message from Church Wardens (later in Newsletter) for more details.

Service of Worship and Fellowship

Thursday 27th January – Hebron Church – 2.00pm

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.

Alpha Taster Session

Tuesday 1st February – Hebron Church – 7.00pm- 8.45pm. Please see Alpha article (later in Newsletter) for further details

Northern Women's Convention

Saturday 5th February – Stockton on Tees. Please see article (later in Newsletter) for further details.

70th Anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II

Sunday 6th February – Mitford Church – 9.30 am Communion

The service will be led by Bishop Mark.

A Message from the Church Wardens

Parish Profile – Review

Happy New Year from the Wardens!

We would like to update you on a number of recent developments

Firstly, we want to start consulting on the Benefice Profile. This document describes our benefice and our hopes for whoever will come to lead our church family, so everyone's input will be really appreciated.

The first consultation session will occur in Mitford Church on Sunday 16 January after the 0930 service, so it will be great if you can be there to share your thoughts. This will be followed by other sessions in our various housegroups etc., but please also feel free to share your thoughts on this with any of the wardens or ministry team members.

Walton Benefice is also seeking a part-time priest, the Archdeacon has suggested that we could share a full-time priest between us. We can see many potential advantages by such collaboration, so will be exploring this in the coming weeks.

As we embark on 2022, there are many changes, challenges and opportunities ahead of us, yet we can be confident that we will be sharing it together- and especially with our loving God.

Sean

On Behalf of the Wardens



Anna Chaplaincy Blog

Thank you.....

- to everyone who helped with the filling and distribution of the Advent Bags to our older members of the Church families. The bags were very much appreciated by everyone.
- to those who braved the cold and dark to spend some evenings carol singing outside homes in both parishes, everyone enjoyed and appreciated the effort and the singing of course.



In December, we held our annual service of light and hope for all who have been bereaved – by giving an opportunity to light a candle and hang a name on the memory tree. Hopefully next year, we can offer a cup of tea after the service to give people time to chat to one another and offer comfort.

We also held a quiet morning for all the Anna Chaplains in the Deanery which was well attended and supported. We offered some prayer stations for contemplation and ended the morning by sharing some refreshments.

Our churchyards again offered visual means of remembering and marking Advent and Christmas. We had our cribs, lights, baubles and ribbons. Many people took the opportunity of placing a prayer pebble in the cribs and adding to our memory tree and the gates.

We are looking forward to a new year of Anna Chaplaincy and would like to see this ministry grow – if you would like to know more about Anna Chaplaincy and Anna Friends, please speak to us.

With love and blessings to you all.

Janice and Mary



Prayer Morning – 27th November 2021

While we had prepared and made plans, storm Arwen had other ideas. There was no electricity supply to Mitford, fallen trees were strewn everywhere and there was the danger of further damage. So regrettably this session was cancelled. However, we will arrange such a morning in the Spring, when hopefully the weather will be kinder. Watch out for further details.

However prayer is not absent in our church life.....

Tuesday Church Family Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday evening between 7.00pm and 7.30pm members of the church family join together via Zoom to pray together. There is time for quiet reflection as well as praying for the needs of individuals, the church and the world. Not only does it offer time apart with God, but a sense of community and the power of praying with others.

Matthew 18:20 - *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*"

Please consider joining this group – you do not have to pray out loud, silent prayer is part of the evening.

If you are not able to join by Zoom, you can still set aside this time for prayer and know you are not alone as your prayers join with those of others. Although we may not be together in body, we are together in spirit.

Alan Travis provides a very helpful Prayer Points leaflet every week and if you wish to receive this, please email him - alantravis10@hotmail.com. He can also give you the Zoom link.

If you want to discuss this further, please speak with Izzy Quinby, Bev Morris, Alan Travis or Sheila Rowley.

Dear Lord, please make us people of prayer and of action. Amen.

An Appeal from Tritlington School

Tritlington School have asked if any of our church family would be willing to be involved in helping to run a couple of after school clubs- people who were good at crafts particularly, however anyone with enthusiasm and the ability to work with and relate to children are equally welcome.

Janice Robinson would be willing to lead a Messy Church as one after school club but would need a team of at least 3 others to help.

Timing would be 3.30 to 4.30 and approximately 10 children.

Please contact Janice Robinson (contact details at the end) if you think you can help.



Saying thank you and goodbye

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

Audrey Wheaton – a long time parishioner who was active in village and church life and a stalwart of Garden Fetes. A much-loved matriarch. Condolences to Joan and all the family.

Bill Teasdale – for many years Bill was the external auditor for the church accounts. A role he carried out with thoroughness and good humour. When not concerned with family and church finances he could be often seen running and then cycling the highways and byways of Northumberland. Condolences to Ginny and the family.

Tony Frost – he was actively involved with caring for the fabric of the church, usually carrying our inspections with a black Labrador in attendance. One such dog proved to have a penchant for consuming cheques for large sums of money. Condolences to Mary and the family.

Gordon Pledger – a former Chief Medical Officer, he was for very many years a resident on Spital Hill, enjoying in his retirement gliding and golf. Condolences to Anne and family.

Congratulations to...

Patrick McAlindon and Lucy Johnstone who were married at Mitford on 10th December 2021, with close family and friends supporting them. Lucy's parents live at Tranwell Cottages and were great friends of Olive and Chris Meyer.

Diocesan and Deanery News

Diocesan News - Plans are under way to select a new Bishop for Newcastle

The Diocese are asking for congregations to supply comments on what attributes a new Bishop for Newcastle should have. If you wish to complete the survey relating to this, please use

www.surveymonkey.de/r/v9FGYVV or request a paper copy by contacting Diocese on 0191 2704100

Deanery News: Revd John Park has retired as Area Dean and Revd. Chris Grocock is our new Area Dean. Revd. Chris is the Vicar of Holy Sepulchre Church, Ashington.

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



Alpha is coming soon!

When: 1 February – 5 April 2022

Where: St. Cuthbert's Church, Hebron NE61 3LA

What time: 7.00-8.45pm

Alpha is a series of weekly sessions where you can explore the Christian faith in an open-minded and welcoming environment. There is no cost and no pressure. Just lots of great conversation and space to think.

Each session includes refreshments with homemade goodies, a short video and time for discussion where you can share your thoughts about what you've heard.

Whatever questions you've got, you can ask them at Alpha!

Why not try Alpha, by coming to a Taster evening on Tuesday 1st February 2022?

If it is not for you, there is no pressure to join, and you don't need to come again. If you do enjoy the Taster evening and would like to join, the course then runs every Tuesday evening until 5 April 2022.

If you would like to come to the Taster evening or to talk to someone about the course, please email Isabel Quinby at isabel.quinby@gmail.com or phone 07827323873.

For further information look at the Alpha website found at <https://alpha.org.uk/tryalpha>

Note: *We are planning to run Alpha in person, at St. Cuthbert's Church, Hebron, from 1st February 2022, as long as this is permitted under Covid guidelines. If the situation changes and we are not allowed to meet in groups indoors, we will **still** run Alpha, but will move the course online. We will contact you with further details if this situation arises.*

A Message from Janice

January is the month of journeys -crossing over boundaries into new places. It is the time of Epiphany – a time of showing or appearances. A time when the three Eastern travellers followed a star and found at the end of their journey, the light of the world.

We are at the beginning of our journey into a new year – a journey into the unknown and we hope and pray it will be a good journey for us, full of new experiences, of new growth.

Some of us, however, feel anxious, worried, afraid of what we will might encounter on this new year journey. For we are still living with the impact of the Corona virus pandemic, which still affects so many areas of our life, we worry about the world we live in, with so much unrest, uncertainty, war, famine, refugees, climate disasters – a world which our children and grandchildren will inherit.

For reassurance and comfort, I am recommending you might like to use Psalm 121 to take into your hearts and minds at the beginning of this New Year.

For this Psalm is a Psalm for a journey – in Hebrew tradition it is known as a Psalm of ascent, it would be sung on a journey, especially the journey to Jerusalem as people made their way to the temple. It is still used today to bless loved ones embarking on any journey.



At the beginning in verses 1 & 2, it contains traveller’s questions – “where can I get help? Or Where can I look for help”?

It then tells us where that helps come from and states who that help us – God – our keeper and protector, and then tells us what God promises to do.

“to protect, shield, watch over, guard you, keep you”.

He promises to guard you as you go on your life’s journey and as you return home. As you go out and come in. As you face the dangers of the day and of the night.

These promises, however, do not state that those who walk in his shelter will never face harm, or that nothing bad will happen to them.

However, these promises do state that God will give strength, comfort, peace, hope in all and every circumstance we face on our journey.

The Psalm contains a blessing which gives us so much reassurance – I pray as we all embark on this year’s journey, you say and use this blessing every day.

“May the Lord Keep your going out and coming in, from this time on and forevermore and may the Lord give you his peace, his love, his strength and comfort in every way and every day.

May he protect you from unnecessary suffering and pain and give you unfailing strength and courage to deal with whatever you meet on this New Year’s journey”.

May we as a church family, travel together into the unknown with this blessing on each one of us.

Can you help?

Although we are now in an interregnum and a pandemic, and church life may have changed, we are still striving to be active and relevant.

To maintain and develop our ministry requires the input and effort, of a whole range of talents.



Could you help to play a vital role in the life of your church – consider your time and talents and discuss your potential contribution with a Church Warden or member of the Ministry Team. The range of opportunities are endless but include cleaning, churchyard upkeep, projection, sound system, intercessors, pastoral care etc .etc. No offer of help is too small.

We need you; we need each other.

Northern Women's Convention

This will be held on Saturday 5th February 2022 at Stockton on Tees. The title for the event is 'Brief Encounter – meeting Jesus in John 4'.

There will be a keynote speaker who will explore Jesus's encounter with the woman at the well. In addition, there are seminars during the day which will explore worship, worry and hospitality.

The day will run from 9.15. until 15.00.

If you want further details, please visit the website

<https://www.christianconventions.org.uk/northern-womens/brief-encounter-stockton-on-tees-2021/>.

Alice Lane would love to speak with anyone who might be interested in attending, please contact her on aliceleonielane@gmail.com.

It would be good to have a group from Mitford and Hebron attend, what will be hopefully, the first in person convention since the pandemic.

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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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