

The Benefice of Mitford and Hebron Newsletter March 2022

Dear Friends

Peace be with you.

In the days before modern technology (to our younger readers, yes, such a time existed) we used to have a printed Parish Magazine, which was circulated to members of our church family.

We still have several back issues and looking through some the other day, I was struck by how pertinent the subject matter was to the events we see unfolding in Ukraine. The article begins; *The Peace of the Lord be always with you.*

It then goes on to say – Peace is in the air as I write this letter, the peace of early spring at Mitford. The peace of a sunlit morning, with snowdrops and crocuses pushing through the earth and the sound of bird song. One of the strengths of Mitford (apologies written before we became a Benefice) is the peace and beauty of its situation, a peace and beauty we are called to treasure and express in our worship. Peace which is the absence of conflict, clutter, and the cacophony of sounds which for many make up modern life.



The Peace of the Lord, however, is more than the absence of pressure and tensions. It is peace in the midst of battle, and calm in the storm. It is knowing God's presence in every situation we may face.

Mother Teresa in a beautiful message challenges us all to take some further steps for peace in our families and communities.

Let us thank God for His gift of Peace and remember that we have been created to know His peace, to live it and to share it. Let us not look for big things, but let us begin today, each one of us to be His peace in a world so torn by hatred and violence. The place to start is right in our own heart, then we will have something to share with others.

Your personal commitment to Share the Peace may be to:

- Say thank you to someone who has been a good friend or has helped you in some way.
- Telephone or write to a friend or family member you haven't been in contact with recently.
- Say sorry to someone you have disagreed with – regardless of who was right or wrong.
- Take a small gift to someone who lives alone.
- Make a regular visit to a lonely person.

*Jesus, the Prince of Peace
Give peace to Thy church
Peace among nations,
Peace in our land
Peace in our dwellings
And peace in our hearts.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Service of Worship and Fellowship

Thursday 24th March – 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. (See Anna Blog later in the Newsletter for more details).

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 27th March – Mitford Church - 9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Hebron Church – 9.30 am Café Church

Palm Sunday

Sunday 10th April – Mitford Church – 9.30 am Morning Praise

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 14th April – Hebron Church – 7.00 pm Holy Communion

Good Friday

Friday 15th April – Hebron Church – 10 am Good Friday Meditation

Easter Sunday

Sunday 17th April – Mitford Church – 10 am Holy Communion

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 26th May – Mitford Church – 7 pm (see article later in the Newsletter for more details.)

Under 5's Junior Church Group.

Sunday 6th March will see the start of our new under 5's Junior Church group. As a church we have been praying for some time about the future of our children's work and it feels right that we make a start with provision for the youngest children. Our prayer is that these very young children will receive a simple Biblical message, focussing on God's love and care for them, and that they will enjoy coming to church and have fun.



Initially the group will take place on the first and third Sundays of the month at Mitford and will be led by Sarah Mills and Alice Lane. Parents/carers will be very welcome to attend the group alongside their children if they wish. If you know of any families who would be interested in this group, please encourage them to come along. More details are available from Sarah Mills: sarahmills123@yahoo.co.uk.

A Message from the Church Wardens

The Annual Meetings for Mitford and Hebron Parishes will be held on Thursday 26 May at Mitford Church. This will commence with two separate and short “Meetings of the Parishioners”, where those whose names are on the electoral roll of their particular parish, together with persons resident in the parish are eligible to vote for Churchwardens who will represent their parish. There will be two Churchwardens appointed for Mitford Parish and two Churchwardens appointed for Hebron Parish.



After this we will then hold the first “Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Joint Council”. As most will be aware, the ever-growing unity between our two parishes has now been recognised in the creation of a single Joint Council controlling all aspects of our life together. This meeting covers not just the “business side” such as the financial situation and the condition of our buildings; it is our chance to consider the direction we are moving in as Christ’s representatives in our locality. This is described in great detail in our Benefice Profile (available on the website), so I would strongly recommend giving it a read ahead of this date.

We also use this occasion to elect next year’s Joint Council. All who are on the electoral roll of either parish may vote and/or put themselves forward for election. Should you wish to be added to an electoral roll, please refer to Nigel Jobson’s article elsewhere in this newsletter

Sean

Revision of Electoral Rolls – Mitford and Hebron Parishes



As you may be aware, the Electoral Rolls for both the Mitford and Hebron parishes are required to be updated annually prior to both the Annual Parishioners Meetings (APMs) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). This year’s APMs and APCM are currently scheduled for May 26th.

As such, the revision of the Electoral Rolls will take place between April 1st and April 28th. “Revision of Church Electoral Roll” notices have been placed on the noticeboards at both churches. The Roll is important as it defines not only the size of the Joint Parochial Church Council, i.e. the number of volunteers who can help with the management of the two churches, but also the size of our representation on the Morpeth Deanery Synod. Further, in order to be able to vote at the upcoming APMs and APCM, you will need to be on the Roll.

To qualify to be on the Electoral Roll, you must meet one of the following criteria;

- (a) be baptised,
- (b) be aged 16 or over, and
- (c) have made one of the following three declarations

- be a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and be resident in the parish;
- be a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, be not resident in the parish, but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months;
- be a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

If you would like to be added to the Roll, for Mitford, please complete one of the forms that will be available in church from April 1st and then forward it to myself at the address shown below;

Chapelside House, The Village, Eshott, Northumberland, NE65 9EW.

For Hebron, please contact Janice Robinson in order to obtain a form. Janice can be contacted at janicerob1@gmail.com.

If you are already a member of the Electoral Roll, please note that no further action is required. However, if you no longer wish to be on either the Mitford or Hebron Electoral Roll, then please do not hesitate to let me know, either in writing to the above address, or via email at nigel_jobson@yahoo.co.uk.

Thanks in advance,

Nigel Jobson

Electoral Roll Officer for Mitford and Hebron

Northern Women's Convention

On Saturday 5 February I attended the Northern Women's Convention in Stockton-on-Tees (advertised in January's newsletter).

The Northern Women's Convention is one of 4 Christian conventions under the *Christian Conventions* umbrella (<https://www.christianconventions.org.uk/>). Their website says: *Our events provide a place for men and women to hear God speak through His Word, to sing His praises and to think together what it means to live for Christ in today's world.*



I thoroughly enjoyed the day in Stockton which was both refreshing and stimulating. We sang (great songs!), listened to Elspeth Pitt (from Highfields Church, Cardiff) unpack John 4 (the woman at the well) over 2 sessions and participated in a seminar. (I chose one entitled, *Worshipping God in Real Life*). In addition, there was a bookstall and a plentiful supply of coffee and Danish pastries throughout the day!

The Northern Women's Convention is an annual event which I would wholeheartedly recommend to any Christian woman. I believe that each year it takes place in a different location in the northeast. In just under a year's time, I hope to be able to let people know about the 2023 convention and maybe we can get a carload together from Mitford and Hebron. In the meantime, you can listen to Elspeth's excellent talks (just over half an hour each) at these links https://youtu.be/gDI7WSCQ_ME and <https://youtu.be/9nGbk2gqJsc> or via the NWC website: <https://www.christianconventions.org.uk/resources/nwc2022-brief-encounter/>

Alice Lane

Children's Society Collection Boxes - A Reminder



Thanks 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? 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) Talkes.

P.S. If you have already left your boxes at church – thank you, we will get them back to you as soon as possible.



Anna Chaplaincy Blog

Anna Chaplaincy News

Still cold but the days get longer and the spells of bright sunshine cheers us all along with the garden bulbs and Spring flowers which are beginning to bloom — we had two glorious rainbows last week and after the gale force winds and torrential rain this was a wonderful reminder that God is always with us with his love and care.

Genesis 9 v 13

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth"

It is heartening to welcome an increasing number of you to our church services and particularly to the monthly afternoon 'Evening Prayer' held at Hebron. After this service, as with Mitford, we have time for a cup of tea /coffee and enjoy fellowship together. At the next service, 24th March, we will be giving Mothering Sunday posies and a special prayer card to all those who come along. For those unable to be with us, we will be home delivering on the Friday & Saturday of that week making sure that you get your posy for this special day.



For anyone who finds the walk from the road to Hebron Church a difficulty, we do have an electric mobile scooter which you are very welcome to use. Similarly, we have wheelchair availability at Mitford with designated space inside the church. In either case please do contact us for help and assistance, as we will try our best to make coming to a service possible and a joy.

Easter is approaching and if you would like to be involved or donate to church flowers, we would so welcome your support and again, please let us know.

At this Season in the Church calendar, those of you who would like further reading & study there is a Lent Resources Booklet for the Benefice & also a Live Lent booklet at the back of each church offering much for you to peruse.



Recently it has been noticed that the Millennium Tapestry Prayer Kneelers, works of art which possibly some of you embroidered with love and care, are now in great need of kind hands who could carry out much needed repairs and return again with glory to use in church. Please contact Janice or Mary if you could help in this task — we may even be able to have our own afternoon/ morning sewing bee! A task, nay love of God, which should bring much joy in accomplishing.

Our monthly newsletter is good reading, newsy, informative and an excellent diary of forthcoming services, events etc etc. However, if you know of anybody who does not get an email copy, please encourage them to get in touch with Secretary, Bev Morris, as it is now required that a person must give their personal authority for an email or address be used. If anyone does not have an email or access to a computer then it can be arranged that a hard copy is sent to them personally.

As this is 'our' slot in the newsletter - if you have any thoughts or ideas to include in our blog, please be in touch and we will see what we can done!

We send love and prayers to you all as we travel through Lent.

Janice and Mary

Mothering Sunday

4th Sunday of Lent is Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is the midway point in Lent and has two different names, one of the oldest is Laetare Sunday – Laetare is the Latin word for Rejoice – and came to be seen as a day off from the Lenten fast.

The other name for this day is Mothering Sunday, from the 1600's people would go "mothering" on this day – meaning they would make a special trip to services at the parish where they had been baptised or to the Cathedral as the mother-church of the Diocese they lived in.

Later it became the day off for all servants to go home and to church with their Mothers. They would take a posy of wildflowers and a cake – often what became known as a Simnel Cake, a traditional light fruit cake decorated with marzipan – including 11 marzipan balls to represent the Disciples (excluding Judas)

The best reason for continuing to keep Mothering Sunday is to celebrate the loving care of one another who "Mother" us, and the loving care God has for us in Jesus.

This prayer from St. Anselm is very appropriate for this day.



“Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children. Often you weep over our sins and our pride. Tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.

You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds. In sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us. Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life; by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear. Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.”

Janice

Mitford And Hebron World Mission Group

Did you know we have a World Mission Group? (It used to be called the Mission and Charities Group).

The group members are **Sheila Rowley, Linda Fugill, Dick Quinby, Carlos Werner and Alice Lane.**

The purpose of this group is to select our church mission partners and decide how to allocate our world mission budget between them. Additionally, the World Mission Group (WMG) acts as the link between our mission partners and our church congregations. Currently, our **3 main mission/charity partners** are:

1. **New Hope for Children** <https://www.newhope4childrenuk.org/>
2. **West End Refugee Service (WERS)** <https://www.wers.org.uk/>
3. **Wansbeck Valley Food Bank** <https://wansbeckvalleyfoodbank.org/> .



As a benefice, we also support **The Hub** which helps refugees and asylum seekers in Newcastle adapt to life in the UK. One of the ways we do this is by hosting their annual outing to Mitford which many of us may have attended and/or baked for in the past. This outing could not happen last year or in 2020 due to Covid so instead we sent gift parcels at Christmas to bless families supported by The Hub and to show we had not forgotten them.

Sometimes, the WMG is able to make **one-off gifts to support extra charities**. In the past 2 years, we have made such gifts to:

1. The Children’s Society <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>
2. Anglican International Development <https://www.anglicaninternationaldevelopment.org/>
3. Revive International <https://www.revive-international.org/> .

Over the course of this year, the WMG hopes to arrange **visits from our 3 main mission partners** so church members can hear directly from them about their work. Watch this space for more information in due course! ***The WMG is in the process of formulating criteria to guide our selection of new mission partners in the future.*** Once completed later this year, the WMG will use these criteria to review existing partners and consider possible new ones. If you would like to make suggestions about the selection criteria or possible new mission partners, please get in touch with Alice Lane at aliceleonielane@gmail.com or speak to any of the WMG team.

Alice Lane

Lent

Psalm 46 says “Be Still And Know That I Am God”

How often have we heard these words? But more important, how often do we make time to be still?

All too easily we spend our lives rushing around, always aware of something else to do, something else that demands our time and attention.

Lent reminds us and calls us, to pause and reflect.

It's so easy to fool ourselves that we are observing Lent – giving up certain things, denying ourselves, particular pleasures, making bold resolutions.

It's easy to imagine this is what Lent is all about – but it's not.

For Lent above all is a time for reflection, for self-examination, for prayer, for renewed commitment.

“We come to you Lord, at the beginning of Lent to reflect, to search ourselves and to seek your guidance, to offer you, our love.

Loving God, we think we are so busy in your service, so pressurised, having so much to do.

We rush around day after day with never a moment to spare.

Yet so often we forget the one thing we really need – to make time and space in our lives to meet with you, to hear your voice, and to look at the world from your perspective, and know your presence.

Help us to be still and know you are God.” Amen

(Material taken from “No Ordinary Man” by Nick Fawcett)

Janice

Saying thank you and goodbye

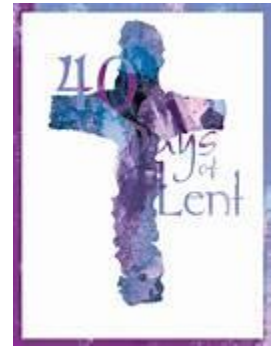
It is with sadness and with thanksgiving that we advise you of the passing of the following parishioner.

Paul Aiden Richardson

Paul Aiden Richardson was the son of Jack and Ethel Richardson and spent many years living in Mitford Vicarage when his Father Jack was the vicar.

Paul had an interesting, varied life. He was Financial Controller of the Lawn Tennis Association and then took up a post with English National Opera North – and steered them to become Opera North who then became the largest independent opera touring company in the country.

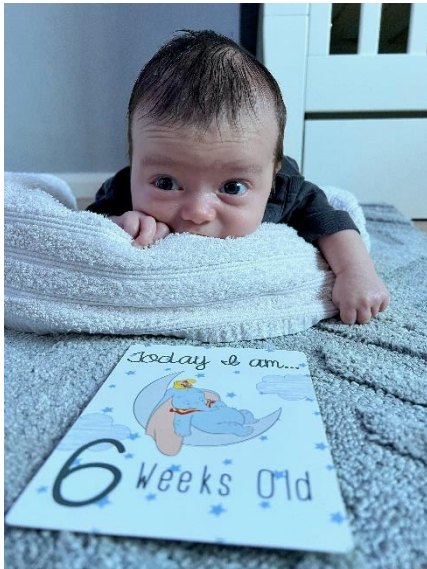
He bought and sold maritime antiques, establishing two outlets in Boston and Maine in America. He bought Ox Close in Yorkshire, the former home of Red Rum, and turned it into a ranch, where he kept American Quarter horses.



He also became very involved in politics, representing Masham and Fountains in North Yorkshire and served over 12 years in public office.

In the last 16 years of his life Paul busied himself writing, both poetry and tales of Northumberland, while living on Holy Island. He then returned to his local roots and settled in Morpeth. Despite the difficulties with his lung disease, Paul never lost his joy for life, nor his love for the years he spent in Mitford and so it was apt his funeral was held in the church he came to love and is now buried in the churchyard alongside the rest of his family.

Saying Hello and Welcome to our latest church family member



Matthew and Danielle Hadden are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Theodore Anthony Hadden. Theo (as he will be known) arrived 3 weeks early on 12th January 2022, at 22.46, weighing 6lb 10ozs.

He has a mop of dark hair and is apparently a replica of his dad in looks. He is the first grandchild for both families, so there are frequent visits for grandparent cuddles.

The border collies have reacted in different ways to the new addition. The elder, Lily knows her place and maintains an air of indifference. The younger, Rory sees Theo as a potential new playmate he takes an active interest in feeding times and seems to think that Theo's feet need special attention.

We send best wishes to this new family and look forward to seeing Theo grow and develop.

Ukraine

No – one can be unaware of the events being played out in Ukraine – we are surrounded by haunting images of desolation on the faces of individuals and the destruction of lives and homes.

We are bewildered, shocked, and saddened.

In response we send money and items needed by the refugees and those left behind. But as Christians we also unite in prayer. In any situation our first response should always be to pray. In Jeremiah we are told, *Then you will call on me and come and pray to me and I will listen.*

Last Tuesday evening a group of us gathered virtually to do just that, we also encourage people to tie a ribbon to the railings at our churches as an act of prayer for the people of Ukraine.

We prayed that we would continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and all other areas where war and conflict continue to rage.

Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and for Russia. Our regular Tuesday evening prayer sessions will include a section for Ukraine and if you would like to receive a link, please contact Alan Travis.

alantravis10@hotmail.com

Please pray for

- The church throughout the world, especially the church in Ukraine – may it be a beacon of hope in a weary world and a place of refuge, an oasis of calm and peace in a battle scared country.



- The people of Ukraine, those who remain, those who have fled, those who are injured, those who grieve over the loss of loved ones. Hold the people of Ukraine deep in your heart. Protect them, from violence, from political gamesmanship, from being used and abused. May those who are refugees find shelter and protection.
- The people of Russia, who have sent loved ones off to war and now see their way of life starting to crumble, as they seek to find ways to feed and protect their families. Where the possibility of the imposition of restrictions and the loss of freedom looms large. May they know your peace and your truth.
- For world leaders, especially in Ukraine and Russia. Grant a deep desire for peace and reconciliation in the hearts of all who wield influence. Open up new avenues of dialogue and a willingness to listen each other. Help them to act with wisdom and compassion, securing a lasting peace.
- For ourselves and our fellow weary travellers on the road of life that we may all know God's peace and share this with all we meet.

Lord hear our sighs, our cries and our prayers.
The words from Beauty from Brokenness seem appropriate at this time.



Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord, in the suffering
This is our prayer
Bread for the children
Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase!

Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain

Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed
Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak

Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise

Diocesan and Deanery News

Deanery News

St James the Great Morpeth

St James is also encouraging prayer for Ukraine by tying ribbons to their railings.

Diocesan News

Vacancy in See Committee.

The Vacancy in See Committee has elected six of its members to serve on the Newcastle Crown Nominations Commission.

The commission is responsible for nominating the next Bishop of Newcastle and is scheduled to meet on 7 June and 18 to 19 July.

The six elected members from the Vacancy in See Committee, who can be contacted at vis@newcastle.anglican.org, are Revd Yvette Daniel, Revd Canon Ian Flintoft, Liz Kerry, John Marshall, Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth and the Ven Rachel Wood.

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



Time to get walking again!

The following was received in an email and may be of interest to those of you who enjoy getting out and about in the fresh air and enjoying God's creation.

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Northumberland <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northumberland (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in



one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

N. B. If any of you follow one of these walks, you might like to let us know whether you found the walk one you would recommend (or not) plus any useful tips.

Contact Details:

Sean Fugill	Churchwarden	s.fugill@mitfordchurch.org Tel: 943414
Janice Robinson	Churchwarden & Anna Chaplain	janicerob1@gmail.com Tel: 790865
James Roff	Churchwarden	jamesroff@gmail.com Tel: 504522
Janet Robinson	Churchwarden	janet.robinson@mitfordchurch.org 07980188831
Ian Craigs	Deputy Churchwarden	joanna.craigs@btconnect.com 07720810562
Bev Morris	PCC Secretary	secretary@mitfordchurch.org Tel: 511196
Mary Priestley	Anna Chaplain	marydpriestley@aol.com Tel: 513997
John Rowley	Pastoral Services [Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals]	j.rowley@mitfordchurch.org Tel: 943414
Isabel Quinby	Safeguarding	safeguarding@mitfordchurch.org Tel: 943414
Dick Quinby	Pastoral Care	d.quinby@mitfordchurch.org Tel: 07960792198
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.

Service Times in the West

Date	Location	Service	Time
13 th March	Netherwitton	HC	10.30am
20 th March	Whalton	HC	10.30am
27 th March	Bolam	HC	10.30am
	Whalton	Family Service	10.30am
3 rd April	Hartburn	HC	10.30am
10 th April	Netherwitton	HC	10.30am
15 th April (Good Friday)	Meldon	Morning Prayer	10.30am
17 th Easter Day	Whalton	HC	10.30am