

THE UPPER WANSBECK CHURCHES

*Parishes of Bolam and Whalton, Hartburn with Meldon, and Netherwitton;
Kirkwhelpington with Kirkharle and Kirkheaton, and Cambo*

Follow the Upper Wansbeck Churches on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/upperwansbeck>

CHURCH MATTERS 32 : 8th July 2020

A REFLECTION ON LUKE 18.15-30

by Pam Walker

As the result of our experience of pandemic and lockdown, we have been given a chance to re-evaluate how we live our lives. During lockdown, the Earth has flourished: nature returning to sterile streets, rivers and canals running clear, pollution lessening to the extent that the Himalayas are no longer hidden from view. Not only has it become easier to glimpse the kingdom of Heaven, we have the chance to rebuild it here on Earth. If only we have the courage to give up what we don't need, to give away the excess. To live as children, content to have enough as long as we have our Father's love.

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CHURCH MATTERS

Today's will be the last midweek edition of *Church Matters*. Moving forward, *Church Matters* will be published every Saturday, as has become usual, and circulated along with the pew sheet for that Sunday's service. Those of you attending the service on Sunday may like to print the sheet out and bring it along with you.

CHURCH BUILDINGS AND WORSHIP

There will be a joint benefices' service of Holy Communion in Kirkharle church this Sunday, 12th July, at 11am. Social distancing and other rules will apply; please be guided by the notices and the churchwardens.

Morning Prayer will be available on the Upper Wansbeck Churches' Facebook page at 8.30am on Sunday.

Reflections will continue to be posted daily on Facebook.

The service schedule for the remainder of this month is as follows:

Sunday 19th July 11am Holy Communion Whalton

Sunday 26th July 11am Holy Communion Cambo

Recognising that not everyone will be willing or able to access our services in church, we will continue to provide alternatives.

Next Zoom service:

Sunday 26th July 6pm Meldon Evensong

Contact David Moon for an invite: david.moon@merck.com

Meanwhile, various of the churches are open for private prayer, as follows:

Cambo	Wednesdays and Sundays	10am to 4pm
Hartburn	Thursdays and Sundays*	10am to 4pm
Kirkharle	Tuesdays and Saturdays	10am to 4pm
Kirkwhelpington	Thursdays and Sundays	10am to 4pm
Netherwitton	Mondays and Fridays	10am to 4pm
Whalton	Wednesdays and Sundays	10am to 4pm

For the time being, Bolam, Kirkheaton and Meldon remain closed.

*Please note that Hartburn Church will be closed for private prayer on Sunday 12th July in preparation for a funeral the following day.

NHS LINEN BAGS

The local NHS (Northumbria Healthcare Trust) are requesting more linen bags for PPE for both their staff and their patients. Frances now has material to make up 'official' linen bags for the use of Northumbria Healthcare Trust staff. They come pre-cut with cord, thread, a logo and very simple instructions. If any seamstresses would like to join the team, please let Frances know by email (frances.dower@dower.org.uk) or by telephone (01670 774297).

RESOURCES

The Upper Wansbeck Churches

A reflection, a prayer or other material is uploaded to the Upper Wansbeck Churches Facebook page each day: <https://www.facebook.com/upperwansbeck/>

Lighting a candle

Many people light a candle when they pray and find this helpful, not least as a focus for their prayer. It is now possible to light a virtual candle, thanks to the Church of England website: "You can light a candle online to pray for yourself, for a loved one or for a situation.

Whatever is going on, make space to pray in your life".

Here is the link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle>

Daily Hope Phone Line: 0800 804 8044

Daily Hope is a FREE phone line aimed at people who are unable to watch online services. It offers a range of prayers, reflections and music and is open 24 hours a day: 0800 804 8044.

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The Rev'd Jonathan Mason

Jonathan is still on sick leave. Please hold him and Sheila in your prayers. If you have any concerns please contact Pam or Fiona.

Mrs Pam Walker MBE : 01670 772301 pam.hartburn@gmail.com

The Rev'd Fiona Sample : 01670 774245 f.sample@btinternet.com