



14th March
2021

HEXHAM ABBEY PEWSHEET
VOLUNTEERS ~ CONGREGATION ~ STAFF

A ROADMAP OF OUR OWN

Hello everyone

It has felt good this week to be able to think about plans for re-opening the Abbey, even if the process feels slow and gradual. Accompanying this pewsheet is a document which details how we plan to re-open and also gives information about our Holy Week and Easter Day Services.

When we first re-open, on Palm Sunday evening, there will still be a fair amount of scaffolding inside the Abbey but, hopefully, by Easter Day everything, apart from the scaffolding at the East end, should be gone and we should be able to use the whole Abbey.

It certainly feels really important that we can worship in-person during Holy Week. However, it is also important that we continue to look after each other. Obviously, that means we will ensure that the Abbey is Covid secure but also that we continue to provide a rich diet of Zoom worship for those who need to stay isolating at home.

It appears that when we first re-open we won't be allowed to have a choir in the Abbey. Hopefully this will change soon but, in the meantime, we will try to make our worship as rich and full as possible – but nothing quite beats having the choir!

I very much look forward to seeing you on Sunday at 10am, via Zoom, as we celebrate Mothering Sunday together. Until then I hope you have a good evening and a great Saturday!

Take care
Every blessing
David



Parish Office: 01434 602031 or admin@hexhamabbey.org.uk.

In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact Rev'd David Glover
on 07886 289311.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

A huge thank you to all volunteers who have brought in donations of knitted chicks or bunnies. We now have over 100 chicks and around 30 bunnies, and many volunteers are still knitting away. Our aim is to give every child who attends the trail a free chick or bunny with an Easter egg inside. There will be two trails in the Abbey grounds; one for younger children (3-6 years) and one aimed at older children (7-11 years). However, anyone who wants to can have a go! Thank you also to the many volunteers who have offered to help run this event in a Covid-secure way. Your help is very much appreciated.

We would still appreciate donations of knitted bunnies and chocolate eggs. The latest litter to arrive at the Abbey have come all the way from Sheffield! Please contact Cath to arrange collection or drop off. Thank you

Alongside the Easter trail, we will have available these wonderful wooden eggs, beautifully handcrafted by Patrick Lindsay who is a master woodturner. If you would like to order one of these in advance, please [get in touch](#) with the office who can arrange this for you.



HEXHAM ABBEY
HERITAGE • WORSHIP • COMMUNITY

E A S T E R
E G G S T R A V A G A N Z A



Family Easter Egg trail in the Abbey grounds

Monday 29th March to Sunday 4th April (excluding Good Friday),

11am – 2pm Monday to Thursday & Saturday

12-2pm Easter Sunday

Collect your trail in the Cloister

Porch. All welcome!



UPDATES FROM THE ABBEY COMMUNITY...

Thanks to Michael Haynes, Director of Music for sharing this image showing a full year of lockdown walks.



Muriel Woodhead has put together some thoughts after seeing pictures from within the Abbey, reminding her of being on shift stewarding in winter days and during services:

Sometimes a single line from a poem will bring back such a vivid recollection of the calm and beauty we can experience in Hexham Abbey, that it's almost painful to read it. For me R.S. Thomas's poem 'Kneeling' is just such a touchstone. He speaks of 'Kneeling before an altar of wood in a stone church', exactly as we did at every midday Tuesday communion service.

He recalls the 'waiting' involved in prayer, 'the air, a staircase for silence', as well as 'the sun's light'. Where I sat in the old choir stalls, the end of the pew would often be drenched in an amethyst glow as light poured through the stained-glass windows. And always there was a sense of being 'present' to something, which Thomas describes as 'audiences'

*Still; all that close throng
Of spirits waiting, as I,
For the message.*

For the poet, the message comes simple and clear. As perhaps it must for all of us in Lent and in this difficult stage of the pandemic. **'The meaning is in the waiting'**. Amen!

Marian Duke shares this image of Hexham and Corbridge from Temperley Grange.



Eleanor McCabe shares images of the crocus in St. Cuthbert's Church in Carlisle





A GARDENING UPDATE FROM LOWRI

My fellow Refectory gardening buddy, Margery Wylie, rang to tell me that the Winter Box is filling the garden with scent, especially on a warm day like one we had last week. So I beetled down this afternoon and had a sniff around all the likely shrubs, and located the aroma to this shy little bush, and checked the master plan (so called) and yes, it's Winter Box with teeny white flowers currently doing its best to attract the waking bees! Yours, Lowri Potts

HYMNS

It is an accidental curiosity that the authors of the two hymns sung at last Sunday's morning service, though born a century apart, were both educated at the Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford. '**O Thou, who camest from above**' was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) younger brother and loyal supporter of John Wesley, the Anglican priest whose attempts to reform the Church of England resulted in Methodism. The hymn first appeared in 1762 in *Short Hymns on Select Passages of the Holy Scriptures based on a passage from Leviticus 6:13*, "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar, it shall never go out". A line in the second verse '*With inextinguishable blaze*' with its five-syllable word considered difficult to sing, was changed in some later versions but rarely with success. Charles Wesley, regarded by many as the greatest of hymn writers, was certainly the most prolific. Estimates of the number he wrote vary but most agree that it was over 6,500. Several are much better known than the identity of their author.

It is not surprising that the second hymn '**Oh Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end**' is very often sung at confirmation services because it was written for the confirmation of his daughter and two sons in 1869 by John Ernest Bode (1816-1874) Rector of Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire. Bode was outstanding as classicist, educator and poet. Strongly favoured to become Professor of Poetry at Oxford in 1857, he lost that distinction to Matthew Arnold. A tutor in classics at Christ Church, he later became Rector of Westwell, Oxfordshire and then of Castle Camps. His hymn became so popular for confirmations at one stage that some incumbents banned it. For many it remains an important reminder of their entry into the adult Christian community.

REFLECTIONS FROM A RETIRED VERGER

The fast approaching Mothering Sunday takes my mind back to the beginning of this strange time.

Last year's Mothering Sunday fell on 22nd March. It was a poignant but very privileged time for me as it was the last time I served at the altar as Verger for the Eucharist, and it was with Philip Cunningham.

The Abbey was locked to congregation and visitors. It was just the two of us who celebrated Communion. I rang the Consecration and thought of those who would know what it represented, those who would be glad to know prayers were being said, and those who were just glad to hear a bright bell sound. It was a difficult time for us all. As I see now, in our garden, a collection of flowering primulas, mostly a collection from earlier Hexham Abbey Mothering Sundays, I think of the disappointment it must have been to Carol to have to cancel her order for last year.

However, David's Institution on the 14th of May was a landmark, an occasion full of hope, and his presence, insight and wisdom keep our congregation together on Zoom, along with the help of loving, loyal and hard working staff and volunteers.

It was wonderful to be in the Abbey on 5th July, with David, Emma, Jo, Marcie and Nina, for my retirement send-off, shared via Zoom. The generosity in words and gifts took my breath away!

I have been thoroughly enjoying my retirement, even though the first part (a month of lockdown) wasn't planned! It has added to my very privileged life. Thank you all so much for the fishing rod holders, which were presented to me, and which I have used with great pleasure last season. I caught two very decent Sea Trout in the river Tyne near Corbridge! The extremely generous collection which I was also given, has been put to great effect, providing me with some additional fishing kit, and also with some plants and equipment for the garden and a new pond. Consequently my veg patch hasn't been so productive or well cared for before, and it was the source of much pleasure and relaxation, as well as produce, for which I am very grateful.

So now, at the end of a year, as Spring warms up and the days lengthen, may we look forward to brighter times ahead.

Austin Winstanley

For your prayers

We pray for those who are unwell or who have asked for our prayers: Mark Ninnim, John Robson and Ron Lane

We pray for all those who have died and all those who mourn: Les O'Neil, Pam Thomas, Birtley Aris, Sheila Corfe and Vera Elliott

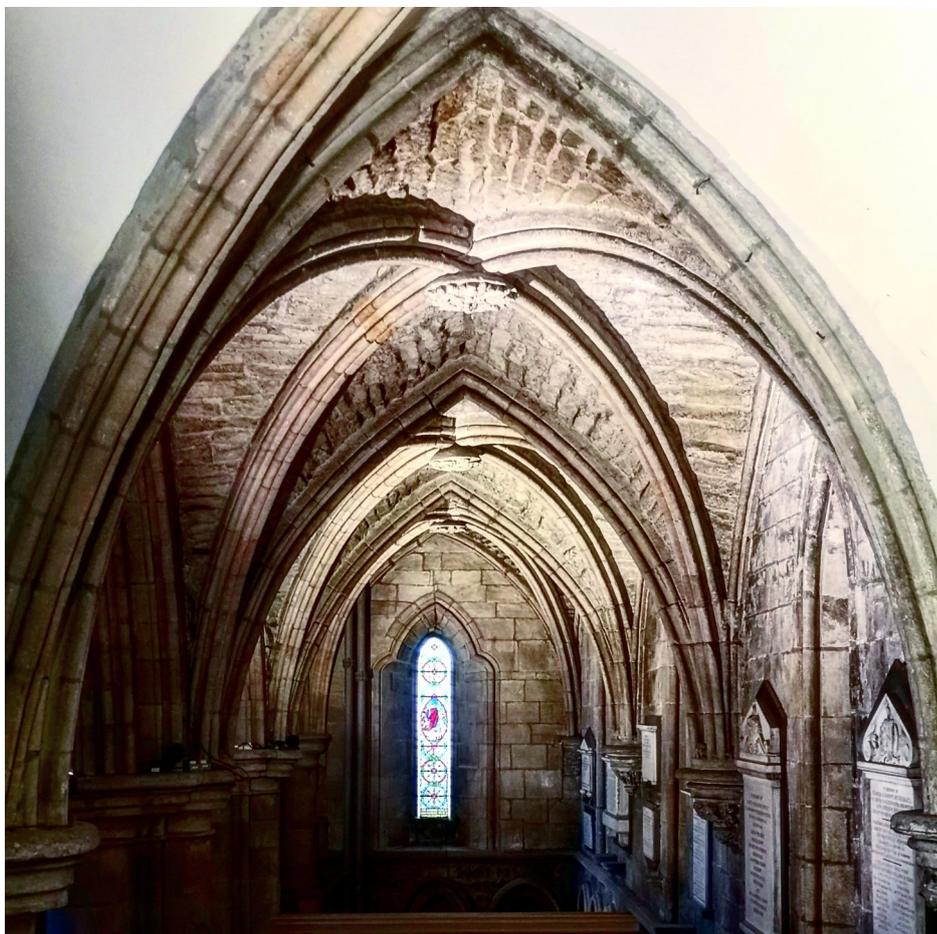
ABBEY NEWS!

A quiet week in the Abbey this week as the roofers crack on with their work and no other major dramas or mishaps! The North Nave Aisle work is almost fully complete now, with a plan for the scaffolding to start coming down from that end in the coming few weeks. A little update and a plea from Lou below!

Operation Clean up: 2021 Edition!

Although I do enjoy a good cleaning spree, even I must admit defeat and ask for help on this one! I am looking for volunteers that would be willing to help the dynamic duo of vergers in the clean up of the Abbey, post roof works. Due to the scaffolding inside the Abbey coming down during the day, we will only be able to start cleaning in the afternoons, so if anyone would like to help, we will be starting with the Nave at **4:30pm on Wednesday 17th March and Thursday 18th March**. It will mainly be dusting, vacuuming and sweeping, nothing too strenuous – but we will of course have to wear masks whilst cleaning. If you can, please bring any brooms, dustpans, dusters, vacuums so that we can avoid multiple people using the same equipment.

If you would like to volunteer, we will meet at the Cloister Porch entrance, which I will open for 4:15pm both evenings. If you would like to help but cannot make the dates next week; never fear, as we will have the North Transept and The High Altar area to clean as well in due course! Thank you all in advance, Lou xx



HEXHAM COMMUNITY GROCERY VOLUNTEERS

The **Community Grocery**, in Wanless Lane, Hexham has now opened – you may have seen the report in the Hexham Courant. A full time manager and assistant manager have been appointed to paid positions. Over 100 individuals and families have signed up for membership, and the Grocery has had a very busy week since opening. Support is now needed in terms of volunteer assistants – if you are interested in supporting this venture please contact Dale Dawson, Community Grocery Manager. (07526 896 878). Details of the Grocery [here](#).



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY 2021

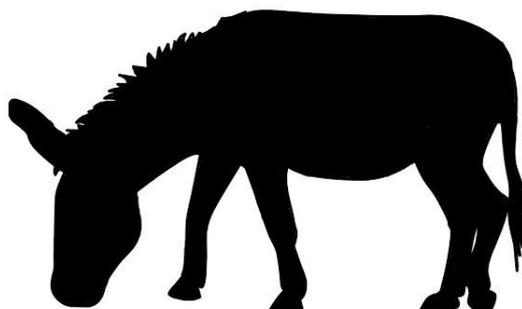
House to house **collections** will not take place again this year but Hexham Christian Aid Group are looking at the possibility of **delivery only envelopes** which will be returned by donors to central point(s) in Hexham.

We are therefore looking for volunteers this year **only to deliver** envelopes in their nearby streets.

If you are willing to do this, and even if you have delivered and collected envelopes in 2019, can you please contact John McArdle by email jjohn.mcardle@gmail.com or phone 01434 603384 before 30 March giving your name and address.

EASTER APPEAL

The lovely Judi Cornforth is asking if anyone might have a small wooden model of a donkey for the Easter Garden display in the Cloister Porch. It doesn't have to be too big but the current ones are a little too small, we are looking for something roughly 6x6 inches, but willing to look at anything anyone has to offer! If you're able to help, please contact Judi on 01434 604784.



Sunday 14th March 2021 MOTHERING SUNDAY

7.00pm	Zoom Worship	President	Rev'd David Glover
Preacher	Rev'd Janet Jackson	Reader	Lindsay Graham and Bridget Hewitt
Readings	Colossians 3.12-17 and John 19.25b-27	Intercessor	Shelagh Carter

Wednesday 17th March 2021

7.00pm	Zoom Worship	President	Rev'd David Glover
Preacher	Rev'd David Glover	Reader	Geoff Glover
Reading	Matthew 5.17-19	Intercessor	Raymond Dance

Sunday 21st March 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am	Zoom Worship	President	Rev'd David Glover
Preacher	Rev'd David Glover	Readers	Margaret Massey and Martin Hughes
Readings	1 Corinthians 1.18-25 and John 2.13-22	Intercessor	Rachael Haywood-Smith

LENT AND HOLY WEEK RESOURCES

#LiveLent can provide you with six reflections each week. Each reflection will include a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week will have a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week.

The daily reflections are available through a booklet [available to buy from Church House Publishing](#), as well as a free app, emails, smart speakers, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts. Sign up to emails and find out more [here](#).

Recorded in 2019 by the Archbishop and Archdeacon of Canterbury, with prayers led by Rev Isabelle Hamley, a [series of five podcasts](#) are now available that will take people on the Holy Week journey by exploring and reflecting on five of the biblical Stations of the Cross.

**We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.**

**We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.**

**We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.**

**We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs**

**For as long as it takes
wherever you call us. Amen**