



25th April  
2021

HEXHAM ABBEY PEWSHEET

VOLUNTEERS ~ CONGREGATION ~ STAFF

## REFRESHMENTS AFTER EUCHARIST

We are so pleased to let you know that once again we will be able to offer you refreshments after Sunday morning Eucharist. The Beaumont have very kindly allowed us to use their tent on the Cloister Lawn following the service, allowing teas, coffees and biscuits to be served and for everyone to be able to have a chat and a catch up again. In order to keep in line with government regulations, people must be seated on no more than 6 at a table and swapping between tables must not happen but nevertheless, we are really grateful to be able to offer this again and look forward to seeing you all there!



## REFRESH

Our Refresh service takes place again this Sunday evening in the Abbey at 6.30pm. This is a time to enjoy being in the Abbey with music, reflections, prayers, the lighting of candles and some silence. Many of us have found this to be a really 'refreshing' time and a wonderful way both to end the day and start a new week. I would love to see you there on Sunday evening, David



## PRAYER

This week the Church of England have offered an email series based on praying. It has been a pleasant reminder of why we pray, taking into account how this may have changed over the past year and thinking about where and how we pray. It can be refreshing to reflect on how and why we do this and to think of how others do this to grow in this practise. For those who don't receive the reflections I will add some in over the next few weeks to share some highlights with you (I have the emails if you would like me to forward them to you or print them, just [let me know!](#))

The words are from Stephen Cottrell:

"Don't worry if you find it difficult. It doesn't depend on you nearly as much as you think. "I cannot pray", the great Dutch spiritual writer Henri Nouwen once said "but God can pray in me". IT took me a long while to learn this, and even so it is a truth I often forget. I imagine prayer to be somehow dependant on my effort, or worse, my eloquence.

There is a paradox to prayer. It is about the gift of God, and God praying in us, but it also has to be an act of human will. God calls out to every human heart and longs to make a home in every human heart. But God waits for us to respond. When we do, it is God's delight to come to us and sing his song within us. Our voice - however faint and unsure of the tune - is joined to the song of the Spirit."



# GARDENING TEAM

Over a number of years, the Abbey Gardens have been developed and tended by various volunteers who have done a wonderful job.

During the last 18 months a small group of volunteers has been maintaining The Parish Centre Garden, Prior Leschman's Garden (The Refectory Café) and the planters around the Abbey. As well as enjoying the pleasure of gardening this has also been a wonderful opportunity for friendship, good company and camaraderie and the gardening is complemented by enjoying a good coffee together.

The current group would love to have more help and if you would like to volunteer that would be wonderful. The plan is that that volunteers will be in the garden every Thursday and if you have a spare couple of hours or so it would be great if you could come along whenever you can manage it.

To find out a bit more, or to join the team please contact Lesley Middleton on 01434 602018 or 07784 184252. Alternatively you can contact Kirsty Wills in the Parish Office on [here](#).

If anyone has any information to share about the gardens, especially if anything in the gardens has been planted in memory of someone, please let Kirsty know.

Thank you to everyone who helps to look after our grounds and gardens and thank you if you are about to start volunteering!

Happy gardening!

David



## ZOOM COFFEE LOUNGE

Thank you to everyone who has joined in and enjoyed the Zoom coffee Lounge during its time. A particularly big thank you to Linda Rowell for hosting every week for the Abbey and ensuring there was a space to chat and communicate over the past few months. Linda sends the following message:

"A laugh was had by all on Wednesday just gone as I spotted a resemblance between our lovely June Olliver and da Vinci's Mona Lisa, or Moaning Lisa as June put it! The Zoom Coffee Lounge will close for the time being, the final meeting being this coming Wednesday, 28th April. However, we'll still be able to

enjoy a time of fellowship, as the Refectory Cafe will hold a couple of tables for us to meet in person each **Wednesday from 11am, beginning on 5th May**, and you won't even have to make your own coffee!"



Parish Office: 01434 602031 or [admin@hexhamabbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhamabbey.org.uk).

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

# BLANKETS AND THROWS

The shop is offering 20% off its Recycled and British Wool blankets and throws to anyone who is eating with us here, either in the Beaumont Tent or the Refectory Café and finds themselves a little chilly. Just show the staff your receipt to receive your discount!



## 21 YEARS AGO...

When you have the opportunity, stand in the middle of the crossing and look up. You can just make out signs of a trap door in the floor of the ringing room. In the year 2000 two new bells were hoisted up through here, and on up to where the bells hang. It was the culmination of a Millennium Project to augment the ring of eight bells to a ring of ten.

The story of the 'ten for 2000' project was published in April 2000 in 'The Ringing World', the weekly journal for bellringers. One of our long-standing ringers has sent me a copy to use for this piece, as this event pre-dates my move to Hexham. Opinions differ on who wrote the article, though perhaps they are simply being modest or very polite. Bellringing is a team activity after all. It is certainly a delight to read, telling a story of enthusiasm, energy and teamwork.

In November 1998 the Abbey backed the plan to install two new trebles and the project became a Millennium Project for the town. Twelve months of 'energetic and ingenious fund-raising' followed, and some of the band travelled to the Whitechapel bell foundry in London to see the bells cast in September 1999. The new bells arrived at the Abbey in November, greeted by a crowd of several hundred, led into the Abbey by a piper, and garlanded in flowers. The bells were eventually hoisted into position in March 2000.

The ringers were keen to refurbish the ringing chamber, improve the sound control, banish years of pigeon droppings, and update fixtures and fittings. Plans were in place to cover the organ to protect it from debris once the trap door was opened. However, the team thought they would make a start on some clearing and painting a week earlier... As the article records, 'our activities were brought to an abrupt halt when the Director of Music received a shower of debris on his head whilst playing the organ!' Fortunately no damage was done this time, unlike in 1885. During the work a newspaper cutting from May 1885 was discovered describing 'how the organ "had been irretrievably ruined owing to cleaning down the great tower ringing chamber, the entire organ being choked with dust"'.

When the new bells were tested for the first time there was much applause and even a few tears. The full 'sparkle of the music of [the] ten bells' was reserved for the official inauguration of the bells on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2000. It was Easter Sunday morning, arguably the most important day of the year for the bells to be heard, and so it is a great sadness that due to Covid restrictions the bells could not be rung this Easter and for the second Easter running. Hopefully we will be back with you in the coming months.

Sally Hewitt, Secretary to the Bellringers



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**Sunday 25th April 2021 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>President</b>	Rev'd Elaine Ryder
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev'd David Glover	<b>Readers</b>	John Mitchell and Jill Dexter
<b>Readings</b>	Acts 4.5-12 and John 21.1-9	<b>Intercessor</b>	Vivien Drydon
<b>11.45am</b>	<b>Zoom Worship</b>	<b>President</b>	Rev'd Elaine Ryder
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev'd David Glover	<b>Readers</b>	Geoff Glover and Roddy Findlay
<b>Readings</b>	Acts 4.5-12 and John 21.1-9	<b>Intercessor</b>	Geoff Glover
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Refresh</b>	<b>President</b>	Rev'd David Glover

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**SERVICES THIS WEEK**

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<b>Monday</b> <b>26th April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>ZOOM Morning Prayer</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>27th April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>ZOOM Morning Prayer</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
	<b>12pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>ZOOM Worship</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>28th April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>ZOOM Morning Prayer</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Tots' Praise</b>	
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Choral Evensong</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>29th April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>ZOOM Morning Prayer</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Choral Evensong</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
<b>Friday</b> <b>30th April</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>ZOOM Morning Prayer</b>	<i>David Glover</i>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>1st May</b>			

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**Sunday 2nd May 2021 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>President</b>	Rev'd David Glover
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev'd David Glover	<b>Readers</b>	Mavis Ostler and Hedley Everett
<b>Readings</b>	Acts 8.26-end and John 15.1-8	<b>Intercessor</b>	Shelagh Carter
<b>11.45am</b>	<b>Zoom Worship</b>	<b>President</b>	Rev'd David Glover
<b>Preacher</b>	Rev'd David Glover	<b>Readers</b>	Helen Milner
<b>Readings</b>	Acts 8.26-end and John 15.1-8	<b>Intercessor</b>	

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**For your prayers**

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***We pray for those who are unwell or who have asked for our prayers: Mark Ninnim, Mary Miller, Ron Lane and Ian Darley***

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***We pray for all those who have died and all those who mourn: Shirley Ridley, Shirley Walton, Bob Armstrong, Robert Scott, John Wells and Doreen Beniams***