

March 1st: First Sunday in Lent

Afternoon Tea at Colburn Village Hall, to fundraise for the Natalie Harker Commemoration...

Many thanks to all who attended or volunteered at the Afternoon Tea yesterday, to help with the costs of the Memorial Commemoration. Hats off to Angie, Helen and their team for making the teas! It is wonderful that the whole event raised **£856.10** for this worthy cause. We were very grateful for the generosity of those who had contributed prizes for the raffle or tombola, and for those who had baked, or helped in other ways. Thanks also to Mike for his wonderful posters. It was great to see so many out to support John, Deborah & Alistair at this very difficult time for them all.



Thanks *also* to Alan, Maureen and Marie for running the Sequence Dance yesterday evening, again in the village hall, which was a fundraiser for St Cuthbert's general funds.

Thanks: Many thanks to Marie and Jo, who helped clear the grounds of St Cuthbert's on Monday morning, before Baby Christopher Lucas' funeral. Various important attendees had been stuck in grid-locked traffic conditions, so the funeral finally started nearly an hour late.

We were very grateful to Toni Pepe, Funeral Director from Coop Funeralcare Darlington, who generously drove the family and myself in her own Land Rover, and taking us to

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Hipswell Cemetery for the interment, the limousines not being able to get through Richmond. By then, thankfully, the sun was shining, and the snow really starting to melt. Many thanks to Katrina, Jo, Marie and others from St Cuthbert's who served refreshments to the gathered guests. We continue to hold Ann, Mel, Jonathan, Skyla-Marie, Tiani and their wider family in our prayers.



Lent: It was a privilege to share with Peter, our Reader, in the leading of our two Ash Wednesday services: at Hipswell Primary School (in the afternoon) & at St Cuthbert's at 7pm. The children were really attentive to what was explained, and engaged fully with all that went on. It was an optional choice to receive

the mark of the Cross in ash on their foreheads, as a sign of their wanting to say 'Sorry' to God, and to receive his forgiveness. Over half the children chose to do so.

There were 16 of us at St Cuthbert's that evening, where, as well as receiving the Imposition of Ashes, the members of the congregation were invited to come forward for anointing and prayers for healing and wholeness, before receiving Holy Communion. It was a good way to mark the start of Lent.

On that front, remember that we will start our simple Lent Lunches on Wednesday at 11.45am, following the Drop-in. These will continue weekly till Wednesday April 1st.

Our actual Lent Course, from 7 - 9pm on Monday evenings, focussing on God's wonderful Creation, starts tomorrow in the hall. Please do come along if you can!

This week in the Parish:

Tonight: 6 for 6.30pm Praise & Worship at St Cuthbert's

Mon: 7-9pm Lent Course Session 1 in St Cuthbert's Hall

Tues: 10-12pm Veterans' & Community Art Group, the hall 6-7pm Warden's Hour, meeting room

Wed: 9-11.30am Drop-in St Cuthbert's Community Hall 11.45am Lent Lunch & Reflection also in the hall

1pm Hymns, songs & prayers Rosedale care Home 2.30pm Hymns, songs & prayers Hillcrest Care Home

Thurs: 7.30pm Prayers for the World St Cuthbert's Hall

Prayers For those seeking comfort & healing: Brendan, Lisa, Glen, Stuart, Lee, Eve, Graham, Angelika, Gracie, Derek, Tricia, Ann, Jenny & Pauline.

We pray for the families & friends of those who have died: Christopher Lucas & Simon Williams .

Next Sunday: Second Sunday in Lent

St John's – 9.30am Holy Communion & Banns

St Cuthbert's – 11am Service of the Word & KFC