

Gilsland Village Magazine

GILSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS A NEW HEADTEACHER

By Nic Atkinson

I'm Nic Atkinson and I am extremely proud to be the new headteacher at Gilsland CE Primary School. I have enjoyed teaching for over 20 years in schools in Manchester, Cheshire and for the past 15 years, at St Michael's CE Primary School in Dalston, just outside of Carlisle.

I have been so warmly welcomed by all the children, staff and parents at the school and already feel part of Gilsland school family.

The school is blessed with incredibly skilled, dedicated and passionate staff who always go the extra mile to make the children's days as happy and purposeful as they can. The children are inquisitive, enthusiastic and along with their parents help to create a real family atmosphere in our small school. It is lovely to have been so kindly welcomed into the village and I am looking forward to meeting many more of you within the community.

Staff have worked extremely hard over the summer to develop the outdoor area which we are keen to share with the younger members of our community. Therefore, we are starting a new session for babies and toddlers on Wednesdays from 8 th October called Little Robins. The session will take place from 10 – 11am during term time and will give parents/ grandparents and carers the chance to meet up in a safe and stimulating environment whilst watching their children explore.

We are also excited that we are now providing wrap around care from 7:45 – 5:30pm offering a range of clubs for the children to enjoy, Monday to Friday. Thanks to the LGB (Local Governing Body) for organising the fantastic banners.

If you would like to visit the school, please pop in and say hello – we'd love to meet you.



AND GILSLAND HAS A NEW VICAR

By Ben Phillips, New vicar of Lanercost, Walton, Gilsland and Nether Denton

Thank you to everyone for welcoming us to this benefice and Mission Community. We have had quite a journey to get here and at the same time feel like we have arrived back at home.

I first felt a call to ministry when I was teenager; I had an experience of God that blew me away and convinced me that I should use my life in his service. I was not a saint from that time forward but I have felt God guiding me through the path that I have taken. Having been born in London I went to study history at the University of Wales and met my wife Jo at a Drama Society rehearsal. We fell in love and married at the grand old age of 21. We spent two years in Bristol and after working at a bank for a while the Church of England accepted me for ordination and sent me for training in Oxford.

Jo was born in Kendal so we did a mid-course placement in Cumbria. Bishop Graham Dow offered me a curacy and we moved to Cockermouth where our first two children Jack and Kate were born. The benefice at that time had two town churches and two rural churches so I had lots of experience of different types of church and community. Three years later I was appointed to be vicar of Stanwix, a more suburban church where we saw significant growth and our third son Tom was born. It was a home birth six days before Christmas so he used to tell people he was born underneath the Christmas tree. Whilst in Stanwix I also served as a Chaplain to the forces in the Army Reserve.

After seven years we felt that we wanted to try to work where people were in most need so I accepted a posting to Rio De Janeiro to work with the English speaking church. Three years later we moved to Canada and four years after that, back to Dalston in Cumbria.

That's a slightly whistle-stop tour of our journey but as I said, we feel like we have arrived home. I was not born in Cumbria but I do love it and although we have moved around a lot we always maintained a base in Halton Lea Gate, so although I still have much to learn about this area we have more experience of it than we might have done otherwise. I am really looking forward to getting stuck in to my new role here. I truly believe that the local church is the hope of the world and that the Kingdom of God can grow in this place. We just need to be faithful to the gospel and God will grow his church here. We are really looking forward to getting to know everyone here and getting stuck in to working with the community. God bless.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH - DARK CHOCOLATE TART

By Barrie Garton

For the chocolate pastry

- 110gm plain flour
 - 75gm cubed butter
 - 1 heaped dessert spoon of good quality cocoa powder
 - 1 heaped dessert spoon of icing sugar
 - 1 egg yolk
 - 1-2 tablespoon of cold water
1. Sift the flour, cocoa and icing sugar together to combine then place in a food processor with the butter and egg yolk.
 2. Blend to a 'breadcrumb' stage, then gradually add the cold water as required to form a soft dough. Wrap in cling film and chill for 30 minutes.
 3. Line an 8-9 inch flan tin with the pastry (retain any excess). Chill.
 4. Blind bake the pastry case for 15mins, remove the blind filling, use the reserved pastry to seal any cracks and then bake for a further 10mins. Leave to cool in the tin.

For the filling

- 280gms good quality dark chocolate
 - 100mls milk
 - 180mls double cream
 - 2 Large beaten eggs
1. Set the oven to 180c gas MK 5
 2. Melt the chocolate in a bowl over hot water, or carefully in a microwave.
 3. Bring the milk and cream to a rising boil, cool for a moment and then whisk onto the eggs, pass through a fine sieve onto the melted chocolate, combine well without creating too many bubbles.
 4. Place the pastry case on the oven shelf, fill with chocolate mix right to the top.
 5. Slide the shelf in, allow the oven temp to recover for a minute or so then turn the oven OFF and leave the door closed for at least 50mins.
 6. Remove from the oven and chill until firm then remove from the tin.

Decorate to taste. Drizzle with white chocolate? Top with whipped cream and soft fruits or nuts? Serve with a fruit coulis or ice cream?

HIGHLIGHT'S RURAL TOURING SHOW EVENTS THIS MONTH

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde + The Body Snatcher - Northumberland Theatre Company

Prepare to be captivated by the mesmerising world of Jekyll and Hyde! Experience physical theatre at its finest as the tale of duality and inner darkness unfolds on stage, gripping you with its intensity and leaving you on the edge of your seat. After premiering to rave reviews at the Durham Fringe in 2021, this haunting production is now back for a full tour, ready to immerse audiences in its shadowy embrace. Adapted by award-winning writer Stewart Howson, this modern take on a spine-chilling masterpiece promises to enthrall audiences with its gothic and atmospheric allure.

Complementing the eerie world of “Jekyll and Hyde”, the show presents a double bill with “The Body Snatcher” adapted by Philip Harrison. Likely inspired by the real-life exploits of the infamous grave robbers Burke and Hare, this is a parable about the horrors of science and how scientific experimentation, when void of compassion and humanity, becomes a dark art - a philosophical treatise as alarming as Crime and Punishment, as compelling as Paradise Lost, and as chilling as Frankenstein.

Gareth Davies-Jones: A Troubadour Journey

From 8th-20th June 2025 singer-songwriter Gareth Davies-Jones walked (with a guitar and recording equipment on his back !) from Lindisfarne to Durham Cathedral via St Oswald's Way and The Way of Light (Northern Saints Trail). As he travelled, the journey itself provided inspiration, stories, perspectives and soundscapes for what will be a new collection of songs to be written and recorded in late Summer/Autumn 2025. Each night along the way he performed a series of concerts on the theme of pilgrimage to connect with local communities and explore ideas around journeying and passing through. This Autumn Gareth performs some special gigs in intimate spaces to preview some of the new material and revisit the ideas he encountered in the 'land of the far horizon' and along the pathways of 'no ordinary county'. The gigs will also feature some of his other work and collaborations.

The artwork for the project will be designed by Fatcalf Design incorporating themes from the beautiful work of talented Northumberland artist Rebecca Vincent. Once recorded the new songs will be presented in a beautiful book/album with pictures from the journey, lyrics and reflections to be released in early 2026. The work will be performed back along the route where the songs were 'born' in Summer 2026 and toured further afield in late Summer/Autumn 2026.

For more details and to book tickets, visit www.greencroftonthewall.com.

Gilsland Dominoes Drive will be Tuesday 14th October in the Village Hall starting at 7pm sharp. Cost £3 per session which includes supper at half time. We have prizes (1st prize £10) and a raffle. Everyone is welcome whatever your level of playing. The group is really friendly and supportive so why not come along and have an enjoyable evening.

Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market on Sunday 12th October at Greenhead Village Hall from 10am to 2pm. Never too early to get ready for Christmas! Lovely produce, baking, plants and crafts. Home made refreshments while you shop. Stay local, buy the best

The Hadrian Singers have been wearing their new smart tee shirts at the Greenhead Church Harvest Supper where they entertained the guests, and enjoyed a splendid supper. New members are always welcome and very soon find themselves carried away by the joyful singing and merriment. We meet in October on Friday, 3rd at 2pm at the Community Room in the Haltwhistle Hospital. Then on the 10th we're meeting at the Youth Hostel at the Sill at 7pm where we will join with our fellow singers from the coast and city. On the 17th we're back at the community Room at the hospital at 7pm.

The Poetry Drop-in is on Wednesday, 1st October at Greenhead Village Hall from 1.30 to 3pm. The subject this month is Work - we're getting serious! All welcome; free.

The Haltwhistle History and Heritage Group are on the move this month visiting the Errington Reay Pottery at Bardon Mill on Wednesday, 8th October for a tour and talk from Potter Karl Jaques. To book a place, contact Lorna on 07419820749. Transport is via shared cars or the 658 bus, arriving in Bardon Mill about 11 o'clock. There will be an opportunity to buy examples of the traditional salt glaze work and other items. NB There's a great cafe just opposite the pottery for later!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays

- Community Coffee Morning | Village Hall | 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Youth club | Village Hall | 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Tuesdays

- Yoga | Haltwhistle Leisure Centre | 10.30am - 11.30am
- G&G Knitting Group | House of Meg | 1pm - 3pm
- Outreach Post Office | Village Hall | 1pm - 4pm
- Drama group | Village Hall | 7.00pm

Wednesdays

- Craft Group | Village Hall | 1pm - 4pm

Thursdays

- Outreach Post Office | Village Hall | 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Coffee Break | Methodist Chapel | 10.30am - 12 noon

Fridays

- Outreach Post Office | Village Hall | 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Yoga | Haltwhistle Leisure Centre | 7.15pm - 8.15pm

Saturdays

- Hatha Flow Yoga | Green Croft Arts | 9am - 10am

DIARY DATES

1st Oct, 1.30 - 3pm | Greenhead Village Hall | Poetry drop-in

6th Oct, morning | Gilsland Village | Rington's Van

8th Oct, 7pm | Community Room, Haltwhistle Hospital | Hadrian Singers

11th Oct, 19:30 - 21:30 | Gilsland Village Hall | The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde + The Body Snatcher | £15.00 / £10.00 conc

12th Oct, 10-1pm | Greenhead Village Hall | Hadrian's Wall Farmers' Market

14th Oct, 7pm | Gilsland Village Hall | Dominoes

22nd Oct, 2pm | Greenhead Village Hall | Robert Whitehead Accordion concert (£6 including refreshments)

24th Oct, 19:30 - 21:00 | The Threshing Barn | Gareth Davies-Jones: A Troubadour Journey | £15.00

25th Oct | Wark Town Hall | Ian Brown music (£12, cash only)

CHURCH SERVICES

Advance Notice of a special service in November

In Memoriam - with the Carlisle Taize Choir - A time to remember loved ones

This quiet service provides a time when anyone who has lost a loved one may remember, light a candle, listen to glorious music and hear words of comfort.

St Mary Magdalene on Sunday 2nd November at 6.30pm

Gilsland Methodist

Services start at 10.30 unless stated

5th October - Songs of Praise

19th October - Holy Communion
with Rev Tokumbo Asogbon

St. Mary Magdalene

Services start at 9.30 unless stated

12th October - Morning Worship
led by Owen Wilkins

26th October - Holy Communion
led by Rev Ben Phillips

BIN DAYS

Northumberland County Council

General waste: 9th & 23rd
Recycling: 2nd & 16th

www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste

Haltwhistle household recycling

Friday, Saturday, Sunday and
Monday 8am - 6pm

Cumberland Council

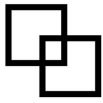
Refuse and garden: 13th & 27th
Recycling: 6th & 20th

www.carlisle.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling

Brampton household recycling

10am to 6pm, every day except
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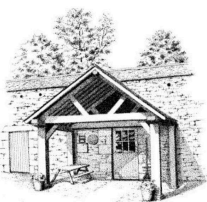
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DR JEKYLL & HYDE / THE BODY SNATCHER

Northumberland Theatre Company
Gilsland Village Hall - Saturday 11th Oct 19.30 - 21.30 £12.00

GARETH DAVIES-JONES

A Troubadour Journey - Lindisfarne to Durham
Friday 24th Oct 19.30 - 21.30 £15.00



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Mike Mitchelson

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Mike Mitchelson, 0169772871

Northumberland County Councillor

Alan Sharp, Office: 01434693693, Home: 01434320167, Mobile: 07759665200

Thirlwall Parish Council

Chair: Sue Seymour 07935259416, sue@mosspeteral.com

Vice Chair: Judith Armstrong

Clerk: clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org

Councillors: Emma Guerrero, David Keen, Owen Wilkins

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Clerk: Sue Hatt:

waterheadpc@gmail.com

Councillors: John Woodmass-Calvert

Upper Denton Parish Council

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Community Coffee Morning: Doreen Gutteridge, 47036

Craft Group: Sue Maughan, 47607

Dominos: Doreen Gutteridge, 47036

Folk Club Brampton: Katy, 01228 674209

Gilsland Parish Church: Alison Higgs, 47409; Rev Ben Phillips, 07936 099123 or ben@lanercoast.net

Gilsland School: 47302

Greenhead School: 47347

Gilsland Show secretary: Vicky Baty, 01228 675368

Methodist Church: Melvyn Whatmough, 47524

Tourism Partnership: Catherine Jarvis, 07759 020 885

Village Hall Committee & Bookings:

gilslandhallcommittee@gmail.com

Village Hall: 01697 543229

WI: Doreen Gutteridge, 47036

Youth Club: Clare Hawkins, 47371

Submissions

The magazine is always looking for submissions! The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month. Submissions may be edited.

Digital copies

Digital copies of the magazine will be available from the 1st of the month at gilslandvillagemagazine.co.uk. You can sign up to get an email alert when the issue is published on the Contact page of the website.

Credits

Thanks to the contributors and advertisers featured in this edition. This publication couldn't be produced and delivered without the help of volunteers. The magazine is edited by Sue Maughan, Chris Cantrill, Owen Wilkins and Liam McNulty.

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