

The Stanegate Magazine
204 March 2023

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

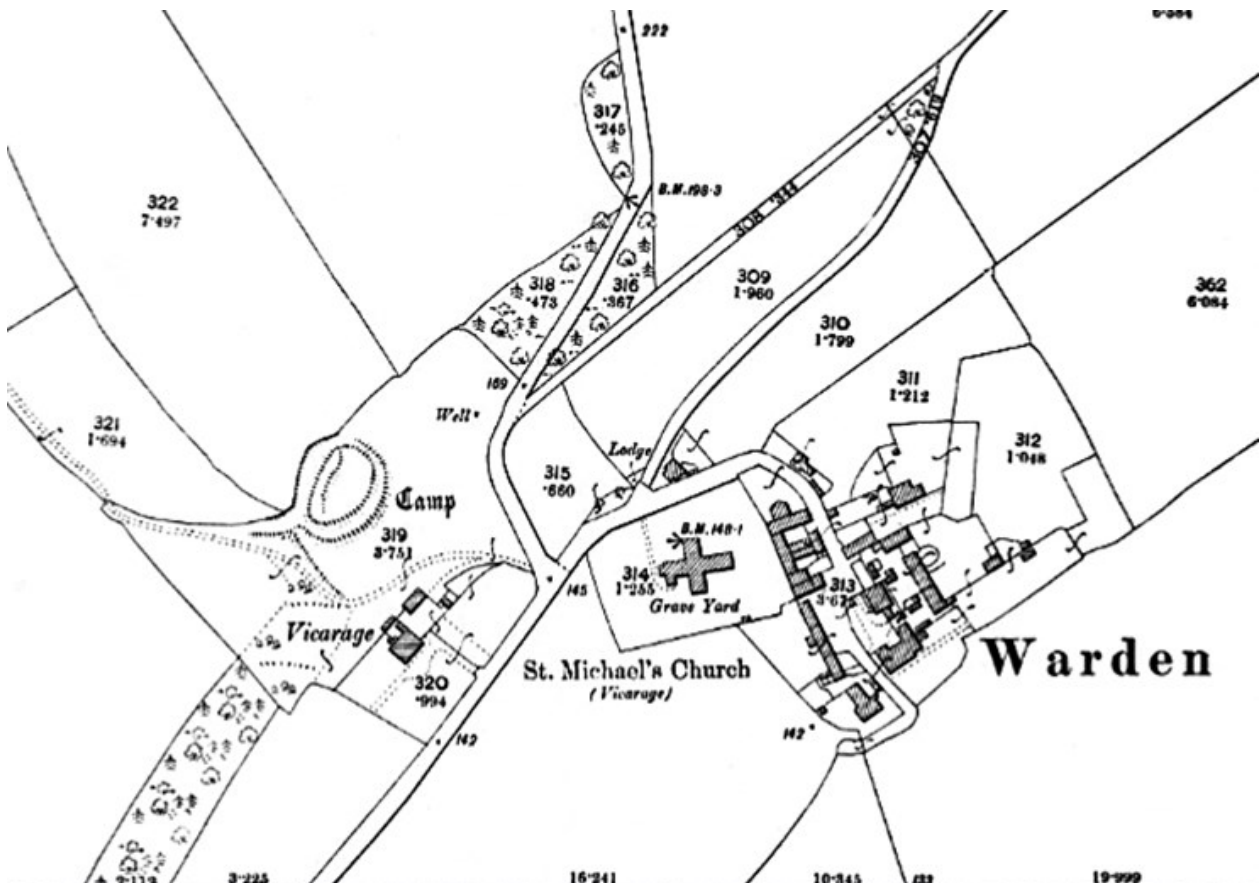
Warden in 1895

The 'Camp' is actually a small medieval castle known as a motte, strategically situated to control access to both the South and North Tyne valleys.

It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, while St Michael's Church and the Saxon cross are both Listed as Grade 1.

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Letter to the Editors.....

Over Sixties Meal

A big thank you to everyone involved in organising, cooking, serving and washing up at the Over Sixties Meal at the Red Lion on the 21st January.

It was my first time at one of these events, previously called the Pensioners Meal and held at Newbrough Town Hall.

It was excellent food, great company and brilliant service. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would go again.

As well as the free food, a glass of sherry and crackers to give a feeling of Christmas come late, there were three rounds of bingo and an extensive raffle which was a great laugh as by the end of the meal it seemed that many people had lost the ability to read their numbers.

Kevin H. Hilton

Please write to us



The Editorial Committee at The Stanegate welcomes your letters. Please write to us with news and views from the community.

Please send letters to:
The Stanegate
8 Broadacres
Fourstones
Hexham, NE47 5LW

or email the editorial team at:
thestanegate@hotmail.com

St David's Day



Daffodills are one of the national emblems of Wales, the other is the leek.

Traditionally, they are worn on St David's Day, the 1st of March and mark the start of Spring. However, like our Newbrough example (left), they can bloom much earlier and the current record goes to plants blooming on the 12th of January on a Hackney Council Estate.

But they are short lived:

'The Lenten lily, which dies on Easter day.'
(A E Housman)

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 1st St David's Day
- 1st Newbrough PC, Town Hall, 7pm
- 6th Warden PC, Town Hall, 7pm
- 9th Newbrough WI Town Hall, 7pm
- 16th Quiz Night at the Town Hall, 7.30 for 8
- 18th Film Night at the Town Hall, 8pm
'Nomadland'
See p3
- 19th Mothering Sunday
- 25th Simon & Garfunkel Tribute Act—Town Hall, 7.30pm. See p11
- 26th Clocks go forward
- 31st School closes for Easter Holidays

Advertising

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1/12 page	6.0x5cm	£27

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Tyne Valley Film Festival

"NOMADLAND"



Showing at the Town Hall
on Saturday 18th March

Prices are :

Film only — £5

Film and meal - £12

Bar opens at 6.30pm

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Film shown at 8pm

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*Copies of the full programme for the
Tyne Valley Film Festival
(17th - 26th March)*

*giving details of films, venues and how to
book, are also available from the garage.*

Bonus Ball Draw

December

24th	C Gradwell	19
31st	C Gradwell	19

January

7th	Kath Clark	18
14th	Stewart Leadbitter	24
21st	Kath Clark	18
28th	Billy Garth	25

February

4th	Riley Smith	56
11th	Susan Sutton	50

200 Club

February draw

1st	Ross Kennedy	147
2nd	Kevin Giles	58
3rd	Ann Liddle	185

200 Club Subscriptions

This is a gentle reminder to those people who haven't yet paid their 200 Club subscriptions, can you please do so by 31st March 2023. The preferred payment method is by bank transfer to :

Newbrough Town Hall
40-52-40
00022621

Payment ref: 200C name and initial.

If you are unable to pay by this method please contact Elaine Arkless on 01434 674904 so payment can be collected. This is a big money earner for the upkeep of the Town Hall, so all subscriptions are valuable. Thank you.

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Judith Kirby presided at the meeting on 9th February and she welcomed members and a prospective member Janice Baylis. The business was dealt with by Teresa Bessant and members agreed to enter a team in the domino drives. There was an invitation to a Ceilidh at Bardon Mill on 12th April and a thank you from WECAN charity for our Christmas donation.

Notice was given of the group meeting on Thursday 20th April. The competition is to buy a dress and hat from a charity shop for £15.

The Town Hall quiz is on 16th March.

We then had a cookery demonstration by Lucia Fisher. Lucia was brought up in Vienna and told us fond memories of her childhood there and of the hardships after the war. Vienna is two cities, the old and the new on either side of the Danube. Lucia looked very smart, dressed in her Austrian outfit and we thoroughly enjoyed her talk and demonstration of an easy way to make Apple

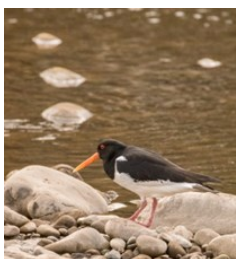
Strudel. Members enjoyed a portion of this and donations were made to the Red Cross for the Earthquake disaster.

Subscriptions are due on the 1st April - £46. Those paying by cheque and cash please bring to the next meeting and if you are paying by bank transfer please ask Val for the bank details but please don't do it until 1st April (so it doesn't interfere with this years accounts). Many thanks.

The yellow competition was won by Susan Sutton with a cute pair of baby shoes and second was Doreen Dodd with an attractive paperweight. The raffle was won by Carol Ellis, and Catherine Grant won the flowers.

The next meeting is on 9th March when the speaker will be from Hepple Gin. Hostesses are Lucia Fisher and Susan Sutton. Sheila Burrows is in charge of the raffle and the competition colour is brown. All are welcome.

Just Passing Through



A common snipe, a blackbird-size wading bird, touched down briefly on a mown verge at the bottom of the Long Bank on the 16th of January before a characteristic zig-zagging flight took it up the road towards the Tower Tye crossroads. Perhaps the hard overnight frost forced it to leave its iced up marshy bounds to seek food in unfrozen ground.

The vocal starling, ever the bully of the bird table, was once a familiar sight in gardens, but because of changing farming practices resident numbers have declined dramatically since the early 1980s. However, winter visitors flocking in from continental Europe swell the population considerably. As the light fades towards dusk flocks merge to form murmurations; great masses of starlings creating ever-changing,



swirling patterns in the sky before the birds settle down to roost. One such congregation was noted in Haydon Bridge on the 30th of January when thousands of starlings time and again flowed back and forth low in the sky above the railway station.

A much smaller flock of three to four hundred starlings, quite possibly some of the Haydon Bridge throng, were methodically probing the chemical-free pasture of The Close field at Park Shield for invertebrates such as leatherjackets¹ with fine bills in on the 5th of February. When triggered into sudden flight, flashes of white underwings showed that there were several fieldfares feeding among them.

On February the 13th two oystercatchers used Warden dew pond as a stopover.

¹ the larvae of the crane fly or daddy longlegs. The steep decline in the number of starlings has been linked to the lack of crane flies; pointing a condemning finger to the increasing use of agro-chemicals.

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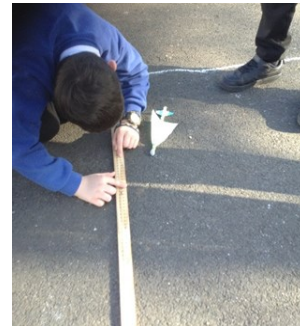
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One of the weeks in February we were focussing on DT challenges. The children have really enjoyed getting stuck into their learning about freestanding structures, designing and making packaging from nets and making a bridge using pulleys. Our oldest children also took part in a workshop making and testing gliders.

Years 5 and 6 Bridges with moving mechanisms and gliders



Years 3 and 4 Packaging



Years 1 and 2 Playground structures



Although officially it was a DT week, there have been many opportunities to apply other learning - especially science, maths and computing. Not to mention developing skills in working together, communicating ideas and perseverance. And it has been great fun!

Who knows, hopefully we have also inspired some engineers of the future.

Jo Trotter
Head Teacher

Recipes from an Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett

With Easter approaching it is time to look at an item that is closely associated with Easter and that is the egg. Eggs have long been associated with rebirth and so are a natural food to link to spring. The word Easter is derived from the pagan goddess Eostra or Eostre who represents the spring. As with most traditions this was subsumed by the Christian church into the festival we celebrate today. The use of eggs and rich breads was also carried over.

In a previous article about hot cross buns I mentioned that the cross predated Christianity and was seen on festive breads in to Greece to represent the phases of the moon.

Anyway, let's look at eggs:

Eggs are extremely nutritious, large eggs only have 75 calories, but pack 6g of protein as well as B2, B12, Vitamin D, zeaxanthin for better vision, and choline for improved memory. Both the yolk and the white have the same amount of protein. For a long time most eggs that were sold were white but in the 1970s there was a belief that brown shelled eggs were healthier. In practice there is no difference between them. Some breeds of hen lay white eggs, some brown and some that have ancestors from South America lay green/blue shelled eggs.

For hard boiled eggs it always better to use older eggs as they peel easier. Tradition says that the number of pleats in a chef's cap denote the number of ways they can cook eggs. Here are two rich, indulgent breads that use eggs, butter and spices to celebrate Easter.

Simnel Spiced Breakfast Loaf

Strong White Bread Flour	250g/9oz		
Malted Grain Bread Flour	350g/12oz		
Fresh Yeast	28g/1oz or two 7g sachets of fast action dried yeast		
Caster Sugar	25g/1oz		
Dark Brown Muscovado Sugar	50g plus one rounded tbsp		
Mixed Spice	1 tsp	Cinnamon	1 tsp
Milk	200ml/7 fl. oz.	Butter	50g/2oz, softened.
Eggs	3, medium	Raisins	175g/6oz



Add the sugar and ½ tsp of salt to the white flour. Add the sugar and spices to the malted grain flour. Either crumble 14g/½oz of fresh yeast or add one sachet of fast action dried yeast to each flour. Add 25g/1oz of butter to each flour. Finally beat one egg with 100ml/3½ fl. oz. of the milk. Add this to one of the flour mixes and then repeat for the other one. Mix each set of flours into a smooth dough, preferably using a mixer and dough hook as the white dough will be very sticky. When the dough is mixed place each one in a greased bowl and cover with a floured tea towel, cling film or a clean shower cap. Put the bowls somewhere warm to rise for an hour.

After the first proving, flour a work surface and roll out the malted grain dough into a long thin rectangle. The short side of the rectangle should be no wider than the length of a 900g/2lb loaf tin. Next, using plenty of flour roll out the white dough to the same shape and size. Whisk an egg and brush the surface of the malted dough with it.

Evenly scatter a tablespoon of dark muscovado sugar and the raisins over the egg wash.

Next take the white dough and lay it over the top, press it down evenly and smoothly. Roll the dough up, like a Swiss roll from the short edge. Roll it as tightly as possible.

Grease the loaf tin well and place the rolled dough into it. Cover with a floured tea towel and leave to rise for an hour if using fresh yeast or 20-30 minutes if dried. Heat the oven to 200°/180Fan/Gas 6 and when the loaf is fully risen bake for 20 minutes. Turn the oven down to 180°/160Fan/Gas 4 and bake for a further 20 minutes. Test whether the bread sounds hollow when the base is tapped and if it is, turn out the loaf onto a wire to cool. Serve buttered or with some honey.

The next day it makes lovely toast!

continued.....

Spiced Orange Buns with Chocolate Chips

Pre-Ferment

Strong White Bread Flour	150g
Caster Sugar	25g
Fresh Yeast	40g/2oz or 2 sachets of instant yeast
Water at 38°C	145ml
Juice of one large orange	

Final Dough

Strong White Bread Flour	350g
Salt	5g
Milk Powder	40g
Butter	100g
Egg	1 medium
Caster Sugar	100g
Ground Mixed Spice	5g
Zest of one large orange	
Dark Chocolate	100g, chopped into chips.
Dried Apricots	100g



The orange, butter and egg all make the yeast's job harder so to give it a helping hand a technique known as pre-ferment is used. This allows the yeast to get well underway before the other ingredients are added. Zest and juice the orange, add the juice to the other pre-ferment ingredients and mix well. Cover the bowl with cling film or a clean shower cap and leave it to stand in a warm place for 30 minutes. Whilst that is happening weigh out all the other ingredients and chop the chocolate into small chips.

Combine the pre-ferment and all the other ingredients into the bowl of a mixer and mix with a dough hook until a smooth and silky dough is formed. Alternatively put them in a clean bowl and after flouring your hands mix and knead by hand until a dough is achieved. I will warn you that this is a sticky dough, and a lot will remain on you if you do prepare it by hand!

Place the dough in a lightly oiled bowl, cover again and leave to stand somewhere warm for 40 minutes. After 40 minutes divide the dough up into 100g portions, this should give you a baker's dozen (13) rolls and form them into balls, (one may be slightly less than 100g).

Place the dough balls on a lined baking sheet, cover with a floured tea towel and leave in a warm place to rise for 1 hour. I leave mine on top of the range whilst the oven warms up. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C, Gas Mark 6.

When the buns have finished rising place them in the oven for 15 minutes. Whilst the buns are baking make up some stock syrup by placing 100g of granulated sugar in a pan with 100ml of water. Bring slowly to the boil making sure that all the sugar has dissolved. Simmer without stirring for 5 minutes. Leave to cool. When the buns are cooked place them on a wire rack to cool and brush them with the stock syrup.

If there are any recipes that you would like to share or if you would like a suggestion for a recipe, please contact me via e-mail at orchard.kitchen@orchardkitchen.co.uk.

Please send material to the editorial team

Janice Baylis, Dave Spearman, Sophie Straker & Chris Tolan-Smith

at

thestanegate@hotmail.com

**The deadline for the April issue is
Friday 17th March 2023**

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Town Hall News

Simon & Garfunkel Tribute act - 25th March

Doors open 6.45pm with bar service, for 7.30pm start. Short interval for drinks refills. No food will be served.

Tickets, priced at £13.50, can be bought on-line from TicketSource, or from the Garage.

Warm Wednesdays - will continue during the month from noon until 2pm serving home made soup and rolls and also tea and coffee, with the last of these events being on **29th March**.

The **quiz night** is on **16th March**.

Details of the **March film (18th)** are included on page 3 in this issue.

The Committee is discussing what alternatives could be offered by the Hall as from April, and the frequency of such events.

If you have views as to what you would like to take place to continue the success of the Warm Wednesdays over the past few months please e-mail us on:-

secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

Depending upon the weather events can take place in the courtyard or in the Lounge.

**Don't forget !
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Sunday March 26th
1am**



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Nature Notes

Chaste Snowdrop, venturesome harbinger of Spring (William Wordsworth)

While winter flowering snowdrops have always been a conspicuous forerunner of spring, there are often much less obvious signs that spring is already under way during their flowering season. This year the emerging fresh green leaves of wild arum were first noted under a hawthorn hedge at West Boat on the 24th of January and those of wild garlic the next day in Crow Wood. Both similar dates to last year. Winter gnats hovered around an ivy clad hawthorn hedge on Church Lane on the 26th.

The row of seven uniformly spaced trees standing on the south side of the river opposite Red Houses in a hedge-line running up towards West Wharmley Farm has long been a familiar feature of the local landscape; one best seen at an angle from the road some way above St. Aidan's Terrace. However, on the 15th of January it was noted that the number had been reduced to six as the one second from the top had fallen; it seems likely as a victim of the gale force winds of the 14th and 15th.

Snowdrops in St Peter's February 2023



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January Weatherwatch

Like December before it, January was a month of contrasting halves, but while the first half of December was cold and dry and the second half mild and much wetter, the reverse was true for January.

For those venturing out to celebrate the New Year it was a wet night as appreciable rain fell late on New Year's Eve and into the early hours of New Year's Day. A clear sky on the 2nd did lead to a light air frost early on the 3rd but the same day late warmth brought a mild Park Shield daily maximum of 12.2C. The unseasonable warmth extended into the 4th to bring the warmest January maximum of 12.8C at one o'clock in the morning, although the night was also wet and windy. Strong westerly breezes blew through the day and more rain fell in the afternoon and evening.

After this the days up to the 15th remained for the most part unusually warm, with the first two weeks of the month boasting a mean maximum a full four degrees Celsius above the seasonal average. But the weather was always unsettled, particularly from the 12th to the 15th when Park Shield recorded a number of gale force gusts. And except for the 6th rain fell in varying amounts each day, including 9.2 mm on the 10th, which was the wettest January day.

However, around half an inch of overnight snow lying at Park Shield on the morning of the 16th marked a wintry start to a much colder and drier second half of January. The -5.4C recorded in mid-morning was the first of eight consecutive sub-zero Celsius daily minimums. The month's lowest daily

maximum of 0.1C followed on the 17th, while the 21st produced a monthly minimum of -6.2C; not untypical of an average January. Temperatures then eased, but traces of snow still lay on the sunless northern flank of Warden Hill on the 23rd. Happily, on the generally settled chilly days frequent blue skies contributed long hours of sunshine to what was an exceptionally sunny January ¹ and reduced rainfall to a negligible amount. By the 22nd only a single millimetre had been added to the running total of 36.0mm at the close of the 14th. Another millimetre up to the 30th and showers at either end of the 31st brought the monthly total to 41.8 mm, making January the sixth driest in a twenty-six year record. From the 23rd onwards conditions were milder, but became unsettled in the closing days of the month. Cold and warmth balanced themselves so that the January mean monthly temperature was around average.

January Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.7.0C. Mean monthly minimum : c.1.5C. Monthly mean : c.4.25C. E&NE England monthly mean : 4.4C and 0.6C above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum: 15.8C at Dyce (Aberdeenshire) on the 24th. UK minimum : -10.4 at Drumnadrochit (Inverness-shire) on the 19th.

Rainfall & sunshine Park Shield average rainfall: c.70mm. One hour maximum : 2.6 mm to 0.300 on the 1st. E&NE England 84% & 158% of the 1991-2020 average. ¹ Our region enjoyed the most hours of sunshine in the UK.

Winds Largely westerly. Park Shield maximum gust : 40 mph on the 14th.



Village litter pick

Sunday 16th April

Meet at 10am at The Beacon

All equipment will be provided by NCC

Church Pages

Who's Who

Church of England

Rev'd Canon Jeremy Thompson
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St John Lee Rectory
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NE46 4PE
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website : www.sjlwn.org

Methodist

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Roman Catholic

Parish Priest : Fr Jeffrey Dodds
Assisted by Fr Luke Wilkinson
St Mary's Catholic Church
Hencotes
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NE46 3EB
Tel: 01434 603119

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Friday Coffee mornings at Methodist Chapel

Friday 10th: 11am — 2pm

Big Brew

Cake, sandwiches, tea, coffee

Part of Fairtrade Fortnight

Friday 24th March (note date)

11am - 2pm

Teas, coffee, cake, sandwiches

Messy Vintage

Tuesday 21st March

2.30pm

Everyone is welcome to join in or sit and watch

£410 was raised from the February coffee mornings and will go to DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee) for the earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria.

Thank you to the generosity of all those who contributed.

From the Registers

There were no christenings, weddings
or funerals in the Parish in the last month

Letter from Reverend Jeremy.....

Dear Friends,

Has the spring sprung? Or are we in for another cold blast from the North?

As I write on the eve before the copy deadline for the Stanegate, the temperature is certainly warming up. Snowdrops and Acconites are in bloom. The daffodils are just poking their heads above the soil, and it won't be long until the crocuses are bringing their gold and purples into the world. But... there is talk of another Beast from the East on its way if the polar vortex collapses and floods the northern hemisphere with frigid arctic air.

I guess that for many people, spring is a favoured season. It is the most beautiful time of year. It is a season full of potential. A season of new life and new growth. A season where the first warm rays of the new year's sun can be felt and enjoyed. And yet, for all the positives of the spring, these early months of the year can also be a time of deep numbing cold, icy blasts of wind, and, in more unfortunate years, even death and destruction as the tender new growth of plants and lambs are frozen and die.

It is this delicate balance of positive and negative, of potential and failure, of new growth and tragic death that make the spring for me, most like our human condition.

No matter how old we are, each of us, I would hazard, live in an eternal springtime. Each of us carries a true beauty that contains within it real potential for growth, for new life, for strong, tender beginnings. And yet ...and yet. Sadly there is too within each of us the potential to make a right royal mess of things and freeze out all that is good and hopeful. Our natural selfishness, or folly, our hardness of heart and stubbornness of will, unchecked, all have the potential to plunge us back into the icy cold of dark winter. Gardeners especially, I think, know this only too well. Unprotected plants can so easily be lost at this time of year. Without the warmth of the sun and protection from the wind, tender new shoots swiftly wither and die.

And so it is for us, too, in our spiritual lives. Each of us in our own spring times needs the warmth of the Son. Each of us, as we seek to grow and establish the new growth that God wishes for us, needs to be protected from the icy wind of self-will. Unlike plants, we can choose where we will stand. Unlike plants, we can choose or not to stand in the light and warmth of Jesus' love, under the protecting wings of the Holy Spirit, in the warm embrace of our Heavenly Father. The season of Lent (which will have begun by the time this reaches you) is a prime opportunity to pause and reflect on our relationship with God, with our neighbours and indeed, with ourselves.

It's still cold out there. The wind still has a chill. The summer hasn't yet come. We still need to keep warm.

May these coming days be for you a time to reflect on where you stand in the springtime of our lives. Are you out in the cold, or are you standing in the bright warm light of the Son?

With all my good wishes for the coming month,

Jeremy

Parish of Warden with Newbrough

Church Services for March 2023

5th March	Lent 2
8.00am	Holy Communion at St. John Lee
9.30am	Parish Communion BCP at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
11.15 am	Zoom Worship
8th March	
6.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Compline at St Aidan Fourstones
12th March	Lent 3
8.00am	Holy Communion at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
10.00am	Parish Eucharist in person and broadcast live from St John Lee
15th March	
6.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Compline at St Aidan Fourstones
19th March	Mothering Sunday
8.00am	Holy Communion at St. John Lee
9.30am	A service of the word at St Peter Newbrough
11.15am	Zoom worship
22nd March	
6.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Compline at St Aidan Fourstones
26th March	Lent 5
8.00am	Holy Communion at St Peter Newbrough
10.00am	Parish Eucharist broadcast live from St. John Lee
29th March	
6.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Compline at St Aidan Fourstones

St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge

If you have any queries about service times
please contact:

St Mary's Catholic Church, Hencotes,
Hexham

or call 01434 603119

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church Preachers for March 2023

5th	Deacon Anne Taylor
12th	Joint service at Haydon Bridge with Reverend Jenny Porterpryde
19th	Mothering Sunday Mr Jack Macadam.
26th	Reverend M Holland

Services at 10.30am. Everyone welcome