



21st February
2021

HEXHAM ABBEY PEWSHEET

VOLUNTEERS ~ CONGREGATION ~ STAFF

WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES LENTEN COURSE

The series of Lenten reflections, under the theme of 'Wilderness Encounters' begins on Tuesday 23rd February at 7pm. The meetings will continue each week until Tuesday 23rd March. Everyone is welcome, please remember to register using the link below if you would like to take part.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuc-GtrDsuGdTTJdjC0gno0eR53K9arRZG>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The link in that email will enable you to join each session.



#LIVELENT

The link to receive daily reflections via **email** from the Church of England during Lent is live on their website, you can visit the website here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-gods-story-our-story-our-lent> where there are also links to download the **free app**.

There will be six reflections each week until Easter Sunday.

You can also ask your **smart speaker** to play the Church of England's daily reflection! Start by saying either:

"Alexa, open the Church of England" or "Hey Google, talk to the Church of England"

You can then ask for:

"Play today's LiveLent reflection" or

"Play the Church of England's reflection for day 'x'"



For the less tech savvy, there is the traditional reflections **booklet** also available to order from [Church House Publications](https://www.churchhousepublications.com) for £1.99.

POETRY AND FAITH LENT 2021 WITNESSING THE DAWN

Thanks to everyone who has signed up for our meetings. A booklet of poetry is on its way to you (apologies for the delay) ahead of the first meeting on Tuesday 23rd Feb, 2pm - 3.15pm. The Zoom link will be sent to you in the usual way on the morning of the meeting. For any queries you may have, please contact Mavis on mavisostler@gmail.com



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.

READING FRIENDS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND LIBRARIES

Next week Northumberland Libraries are excited to be launching two Reading Friends programmes as part of the *Read Talk Share* campaign; a national initiative to help combat loneliness and promote well-being through the proven power of reading

Reading Friends Telephone Friends is where a person is matched with a friendly member of library staff for a regular phone call and our Reading Friends Mum's the Word Virtual Groups for expectant and new mums.

Would you like to find a Telephone Friend?



Do you know **someone** who could benefit from having a **Telephone Friend** to talk to?

Arrange your day and time with your **Telephone Friend**. **Weekly or fortnightly ... what's best for you? A short check-in or a longer catch-up chat ... it's your call.**

What is Reading Friends?

Reading Friends **brings people together** to read, share stories, meet new friends, and **have fun**.

- creating **social** connections
- taking a **person-centered** approach
- building on **interests** and **hobbies**
- getting people **talking**



Contact: Sandra Bell

Reading Friends Project Coordinator

email: readingfriends@northumberland.gov.uk

tel: 07811021375

 mylibrary.co.uk  [@nlandlibs](https://twitter.com/nlandlibs)

 [@northumberlandlibraries](https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandlibraries)  [@nlandlibs](https://www.instagram.com/nlandlibs)

 Northumberland
County Council

**THE
READING
AGENCY**



**READING
FRIENDS
READING
WELL**

What is Reading Friends: Telephone Friends?

- Reading Friends: Telephone Friends will build and extend on our existing Befriending calls scheme. Befriending Calls are currently aimed only at existing library customers over 70 who were active in the year before lockdown and calls are not necessarily regular.
- If you are making regular calls to a customer then you are already a Telephone Friend!
- Reading Friends calls will be widely promoted through local partners and participants need not initially be a library member (although we will require them to join to take part).
- When a person asks to join Reading Friends we will ask them about their interests etc and match them to a member of library staff who will agree on the frequency and length of calls which could be 20 minutes weekly, 40 minutes fortnightly based on the participant preferences.
- We are then required to submit fortnightly stats to the Reading Agency together with any evidence of the impact you are making on people's lives. As you already know, these calls are hugely appreciated.
- Once you get to know a new Telephone Friend's interests, it may be that you can signpost reading material to complement their interests etc.
- In the long term we will also look to the possibility of training volunteers to assist in delivering the calls.

UPDATES FROM THE ABBEY COMMUNITY...

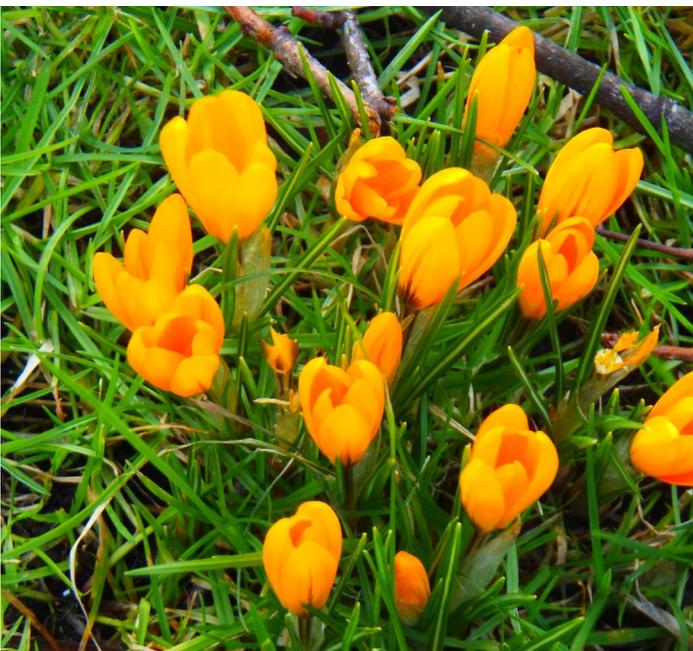
Hello again all, only a little way away from 'the announcement' due to be made on Monday, which we hope will bring hope and an end in sight to so many of us! It feels like it won't be too much longer until we are back together in person again! Whilst I don't want to mention the 'C' word too much here (and I'm not talking Christmas!) I hope lots of you are now getting vaccine letters and appointments, which we hope will bring us closer to 'normality'!

There has been a request for next week's theme, (which I am more than happy to indulge) as '**PET'S CORNER.**' Not every member of the Abbey community has a pet but we know they are as much a loved member of our community as their owner and for those who don't have them, feedback seems to tell me that it brings much joy to be able to see them! So... please send in a snap and sentence or two about your furry, fluffy, feathery or scaly friend and we can all share the love these friends bring us!



Thanks to Shelagh Carter for this cheery little fellow on her bird feeder this week.

Eleanor McCabe sends the first signs of Spring from Carlisle!



CONFESSIONS OF AN AMATEUR KNITTER

The Joy of...Knitting

'But I can't knit,' I told Judy S whose sweet persuasive voice continued and here was I, fessing up to the fact I was no knitter. The lure of chocolate crème eggs emanated from the mobile and I was lulled into a false sense of - yesss, you can do it! and after all it was for a really good cause, so I eventually weakened and agreed.

Memories of retro knitting with a wooden dolly and failed attempts to produce a scarf were cast aside, after all it was only a small chicken, surely I could manage that?

What frustration, ineptitude and misery lay before me, which I will leave - dear reader - to your imagination. The instructions, perfectly clear to a competent knitter may well have been written in Mandarin as far as I was concerned. Increasing stitches? Knitting two together? Casting on and off? I tried online videos, books, YouTube and Yoga – after all, it wasn't only the wool feeling the tension. Fortunately help was at hand, Mary Illy appeared armed with the correct size needles (albeit bent from years of use) and lessons in 'long tail casting on' began. Painstakingly she demonstrated the various knitting stages and without fail like some recalcitrant child, I messed up. 'My hands are too big for the needles' I wheedled, 'and I keep splitting the wool when I poke it in' I pouted. With the expression of a benevolent auntie she would time and time again correct my errors. Images of Madame Defarge and the tricoteuses sitting by the guillotine began to recede - It had come to mind that I would have gladly put my head on the block - than join a knitting circle.

Following a few successful rows, Mary kindly stitched up Chicken Licken and I discovered a rare talent for the more decorative bits. Attaching the blue ribbon – no gender issues here then? I started stitching the tiny beak, it did seem a little lopsided and was taking on the appearance of a Picasso as I realised it was where a left ear would have been.

Mary is now considering therapy to recover from the experience and I suspect our 'Support Bubble' may be on the brink of bursting. However, when I look at my sad little chicken, I appreciate the patience, determination and skill that is needed to produce so many of the wonderful knits that the Abbey ladies and others create. Perhaps, in the future I would be advised to start with log sized needles.

From Hélène Dolder





EASTER CHICKIES!

The brood of chicks and litter of rabbits is growing, thanks to the wonderful efforts of our Abbey volunteers. It is amazing to see how our community has remained connected, despite being

unable to be together in person.

Thank you to all volunteers who have contributed chicks, bunnies or eggs to fill them with. Once we know more details about the roadmap for reopening, we will be able to share more of the hopes for the futures of this clan!

Thank you to Lesley Middleton for the picture of her brood of chicks! They look great. Don't forget, if you have some spare time on your hands, you can email Cath for the pattern on cath.newson@hexhamabbey.org.uk

ZOOM COFFEE LOUNGE

The Zoom Coffee Loungers continue to meet every Wednesday at 10.30am until 12pm. Thank you to Linda Rowell for keeping this going during this time, her support has been unwavering and we are very grateful! Here is a snapshot of Wednesday's meeting with June showing her lovely collection of knitted bunnies!



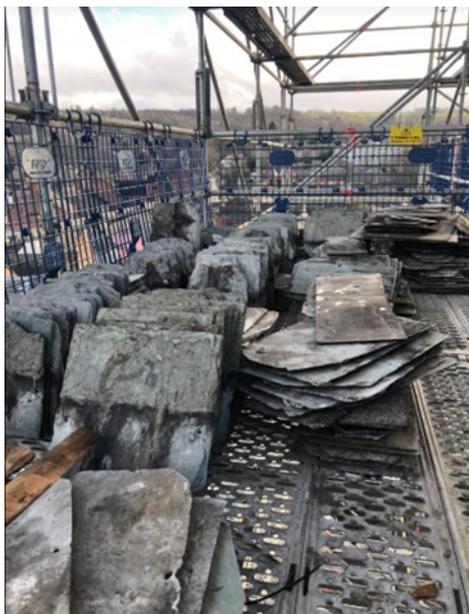
ABBEY NEWS!

Some more updates from lovely Lead Verger, Lou on the progression of the Abbey Roof!

On Tuesday afternoon I ventured up to the top of the scaffolding tower on the east end to get the measurements of the turrets that I need for a super-secret project... I have a few pictures to show you all to give you an idea of what is going on under the white sheets!



This is the view of the north transept scaffolding from the east end. When I took this, they were halfway through putting the white sheeting up over the top in preparation for the roofers to start.

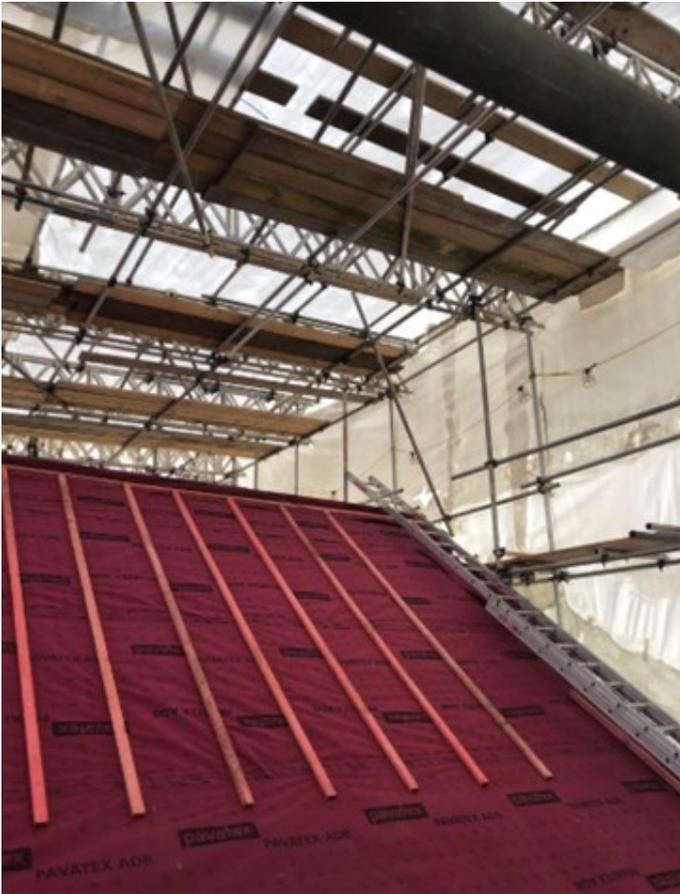


These two pictures show all the slates that have come off the east end roof and are stacked to be put back up. Some of these slates are huge!!

Below is a picture of Les, the site manager, holding one up to him to show how big they are!



Here's a look at the inside of the roof before the insulation and tiles are put back on. When I got down for a closer look, I could see the high altar area of the Abbey! It also explained why I've been hearing Jeremy Vine on BBC radio 2 coming from the roof for the last few days, the roofers must be radio 2 fans!



And finally, this is what it looks like underneath the white sheeting. The pink fabric is a thick weather proof covering that stays in while the roofers are away and the tiles are still off. The ladder to the right is what the roofers use to get up to the top of the roofs arch, and they slide it along like a library ladder.

AN OPEN LETTER TO WILFRID

A response to Wilfrid our great Founder and Superior.

I am deeply troubled to note that the advice I gave you to attend an Anger Management course went unheeded and you chose 'The Assertive Toolkit' instead. Clearly your Greatness goes before you but, you would be well advised to give it a rest after so many years and allow those who tread faithfully in your wake to continue your custodianship.

Alas in the year of our Lord 2021, Health & Safety, Employment Law, Human Resources and Covid plague us.

However, I am more concerned and must question what your considered pecuniary intentions would have been particularly in respect of clothing from 'Nuns R Us' – purveyors of trinkets and toys. You must get out of the habit of being dazzled by 'dressing up.' Rise from your palliasse, cast aside your Pallium and give no further thought to Saint Laurent. Wifrid, I beseech you to 'Clothe yourself in Humility!'

Your ever loyal servant

Eddius Catulinus

The Compassionate

For your prayers

We pray for those who are unwell or who have asked for our prayers: Mary Miller and Ron Lane

We pray for all those who have died and all those who mourn: Carol Moy, Joyce Glenwright, Gladys Greenwell, Joyce Oliver, Audrey Carey, Les O'Neil, Pam Thomas, Birtley Aris and Sheila Corfe

SOME SAD FAREWELLS

This week we received news of the sad passing of three older members of the Abbey community. Pam Thomas, Sheila Corfe and Birtley Aris will be known to many of you.

Thank you to Hugh Dixon for writing the following of Birtley Aris:

"It was sad to see the announcement of the death of Birtley Aris in last week's *Hexham Courant*. He was an outstanding artist who, not very active in recent years, once made important contributions to the Abbey community, illustrating publications and recording events. He is quite well represented in the Abbey's collection and it is the intention of the Conservation Volunteers, once such things become possible again, to mount a small exhibition in the Nave North Aisle showcases. Meanwhile here is Chris Britton's fine photograph of a painting by Birtley Aris (HEXAB 3005). It shows the Crossing and Transepts from the top of the Night Stair during the Hexham Festival Service on 15th March 1992. It is hoped that it might be a reminder, especially to those who miss being in the Abbey, of a time when it was full of company and music and love - as it will be again."

Thank you to David Thomas, Pam's husband for writing the following of Pam:

"Pam was born on October 7th 1939 and died on 12 February 2021.

We moved to Hexham in September 1979 and spent 21 happy years in Hexham before moving to Appleby.

Pam was very active in the Abbey through the PCC, Social Committee, Wednesday Club and the Abbey Newspaper editorial group when Joyce Christie was very much involved. Pam worked with Oxfam as the 'Toy Doctor' for many years and continued in that role for many years after leaving Hexham. Pam loved the Abbey and visited often to say a prayer and admire the work done since we left in 2000.

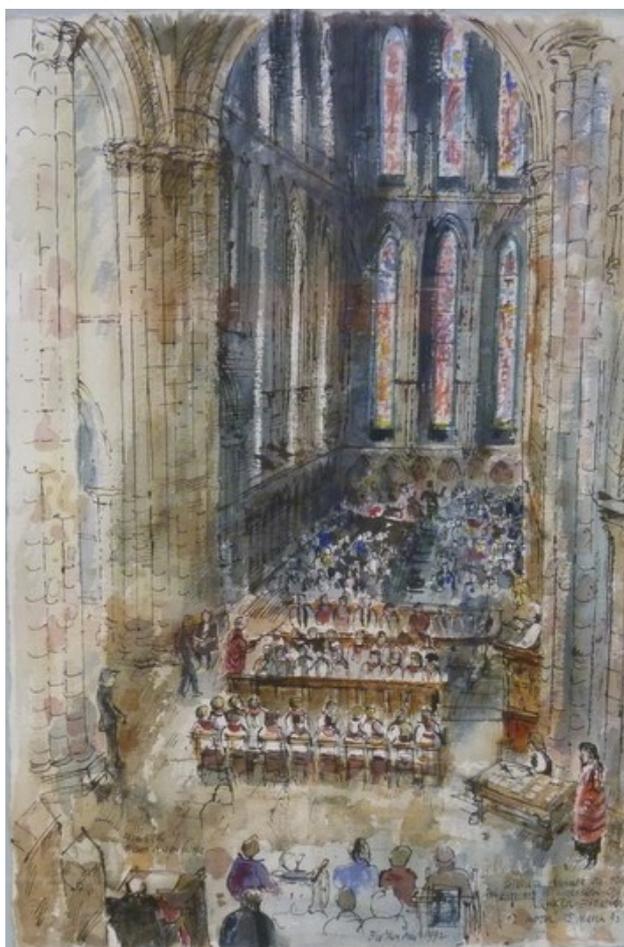
Thank you for your Friendship

With love and best wishes.

David"

Hugh also writes of Sheila:

"The same edition of the *Courant* also noted the death of Sheila Corfe. She was the widow of Tom Corfe, one of the Abbey's principal historians and guides. Sheila illustrated some of Tom's works. She was also a leading light in the production of the Millennium Banner (which usually hangs on the south wall of the Nave) and co-author with Tom of the accompanying leaflet. "



Sunday 21st February 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am	Zoom Worship	President	Rev'd David Glover
Preacher	Rev'd David Glover	Readers	Chris Milner and Rosemarie Herdman
Readings	Genesis 9.8-17 and Mark 1.9-15	Intercessor	Barbara Rowarth

Wednesday 24th February 2021 EMBER DAY

7.00pm	Zoom Worship	President	Rev'd David Glover
Preacher	Frances Stride	Reader	Hedley Everett
Readings	Luke 11.29-32	Intercessor	Rachael Haywood-Smith

RESOURCES

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1 February the CofE invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

This link will provide you with the resources to pray every day, not only does it provide you with a daily prayer throughout all of February, it give you themes and related saints. There is also the option to print these prayers in pdf format and also the chance to view the letter from the Archbishops.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

Time to Pray is a free app, available from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. It provides everything you need to pray through the day, taking into account day of week and seasons of the church's year. Time to pray is also now a podcast, where you can listen along for 10 minutes or so. Everything you need will be on the app or follow this link for more information: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

Loving Father God,
be with us in our distress;
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,
our country and our world.
Give health to the sick,
hope to the fearful,
and comfort to mourners.
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,
insight to our Government,
and patience to us all.
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.