
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST NEWS

Remembrance Sunday



VOICES FROM THE PAST

As this is being written, we are approaching Remembrance Day. Many of us will recall Barrie Cooper speaking about his time at Durham School, and talking about the 97 steps to the chapel, in memory of that number of their past students who lost their lives in WW1.

We have only just realised that we have a memorial for one of them in our church here in Alnmouth - **Basil Hutton Richardson**. He's not listed on our commemorative memorial nor on the Village War memorial, suggesting his main residence was not here. But there must have been close connections with Alnmouth in some way. He was commissioned straight from the Cadet Force at Durham School into the 8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. They had a terrible time in the 2nd Ypres offensive and lost about half of the battalion as they went to relieve Canadian and French troops who had suffered the first chlorine

gas attacks of the war. He was wounded and taken prisoner dying of his wounds at a hospital or POW camp in Germany. Just 19 years old, only months after joining up and just weeks after crossing over to France. There were others of those 97 who also had connections to Alnmouth, but no records in our church.

We have also been able to put back in the current vestry three memorial plaques with links to men who attended Seabank School in their young days and lost their lives in wars abroad and far from home. They were originally in the old vestry which also is occasionally in old papers referred to as a side chapel (now the kitchen), then in the current vestry but taken down when modifications were made years ago. They were latterly found in a filing cabinet in the vicarage. The current south transept vestry was an extension added after the church was built, to seat the boys from Seabank School, so an appropriate location for them. The Seabank men commemorated were

Robert Thomas Digby Jones who was awarded a VC and died in the second Boer War, 1900 at Ladysmith in South Africa. And two brothers: **Bernard Armstrong Hebeler** who also died in the second Boer War, 1901 in the Western Transvaal; and **Roland Stuart Hebeler** who was also married in our church here in Alnmouth on May 1st 1903. He died in WW1 in 1915 in France.

Having the opportunity to find out more about lives tragically lost in war, gives us the opportunity for reflection on our lives and faith, with added relevance and poignancy in these troubled times. Two of the plaques helpfully prompt us:

Basil Richardson's plaque ends with a quote "He being dead yet speaketh", a verse from Hebrews 11 4. (His parents gave the cover for the font and the wall plaque that is on the wall just by it in his memory.)

Roland Hebeler's plaque refers to *Psalm XV*: "Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbour, and casts no slur on others; who despises a vile person but honours those who fear the Lord

who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.”





This Saturday! Any donations gratefully received for refreshments, in aid of Alnwick Food bank.



THURSDAYS
HOWICK VILLAGE HALL
2 – 4pm

We are looking for new ideas, and contributions for how we might use this space in the new year.

Please do get in touch with your thoughts.

COME AND SEE

DECEMBER

1 st	Advent Art
8 th	Advent Poetry
15 th	Advent Gathering

Gatherings will recommence after Christmas on 5th January

Contact Rev Nathanael: rev.n.hayler@gmail.com



Church Services

Sunday 4th December 9.15 am Parish

Communion

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Sunday 11th December Family worship

10.30am

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Sunday 18th December 9.15 am Parish

Communion

.....

Christmas Eve Crib Service

3pm outside (weather permitting!)

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Christmas Communion 9.15 am Christmas Day

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS
COFFEE * MORNING

Saturday 3rd December
Hindmarsh Hall 10am - 12 noon

*Cakes & Produce, Christmas Raffle
Tea, Coffee, Shortbread & Mince Pies
Christmas Tombola*



Pastoral

Just a reminder that the Pastoral Care Team is still operating at the church. If you would like to have a visit from a member of the Pastoral Care Team please contact

Isabel Chalmers 830362

Or

Barbara Galbraith 830084

We are still looking for anyone willing to help with Health and Safety.

Also we need volunteers to receive training for the C-Max stair climber. Please let us know.

Lord God, keep us aware of your presence in all we
do.

Fill our hearts with JOY so that we might live each
day serving others, and in so doing, praising you.
Enlighten us by your grace, so that peace reigns in
our hearts.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

