

## NORHAM NEWSROUND

FEBRUARY 2026

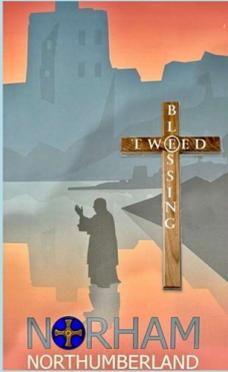
Digital version also available at [www.norhamlife.co.uk](http://www.norhamlife.co.uk)

Condolences to the friends and families of Stephen and Christine Routledge of Marmion View

### BLESSING OF THE NETS

The service of the blessing of the nets will take place on Monday 2nd February at the Pedwell landing

**The Blessing of the New Salmon Fishing Season**  
**8.00am, Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**  
At Pedwell Landing, Norham (Walk down to the river from the war memorial, and turn left.)  
/// What3Words - aquatics.grading.surging



Join us in celebrating a tradition that was originally started in the late Victorian era for the netmen at Pedwell to bless them and their catches. After the net fishing ended and following a brief pause, many thanks goes to Mr. Jim Byrthe for reintroducing the service in its current format which is held annually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February (the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> on a Sunday). Also thanks to the Riparian Owners, Mr. S. Downwood for allowing the event to be hosted and the local Quilts, the 2<sup>nd</sup> caterer and everyone else who is involved and to those attending enabling this tradition to continue.

A short service will be led by the Vicar, followed by the casting of the first line and an optional wee dram of whisky, shortbread or mineral water. All welcome. This free event is now co-managed. For more information contact either the Revd Rob Kelsey, Email [robort.kelsey@liver.com](mailto:robort.kelsey@liver.com) Tel. (01289) 382325 or <https://t.me/s/2025.wixsite.com/norham>

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### NORHAM WI

The next meeting is on 5 February 2026 in Norham Village Hall and will be a social afternoon with assorted games. The members' competition is something beginning with 'F' and the theme is The Wizard of Oz. Doors open from 1:30 pm. For further information please contact Secretary, Sally Baylis on 07570 792024.

**Soup and Sandwich Charity Lunch** will be held on Saturday 14 February 2026 from midday with a variety of soups and sandwiches. Admission by donation, raffle tickets available on the day. Profits will be donated to Berwick Cancer Cars and Alnwick & District MS Society.

### CRAFT AND CHAT

Our group is now in its 10th year and we have grown from a few founding members to up to 18 attendees every Wednesday afternoon. Do you enjoy a craft, any craft, and would you enjoy a sociable afternoon as well? Then please come along and join us. Entry is £2 from 1 to 4 pm including refreshments. For further information please contact Jan L'Argent on 07777 611714.

## **NORHAM ST CEOLWULF'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We would like to invite the community and prospective parents to an open event between 4:00 and 5pm on Thursday 12th February. In preparation for becoming a primary school last September, the school underwent some changes over the summer to the internal layout to accommodate Year 5 and 6. We would like to share with you what provision we can offer the local children or if you would just like to pop in and reminisce, please feel free to join us.

Prospective parents can make an appointment at any time to look around and chat to the staff by contacting the admin team on 01289 306170 between 9:00 and 3:30pm.

## **FRIENDS OF NORHAM CASTLE**

We have recently heard from English Heritage that the scaffolding and wrapping of the work done on the Sheep Arches should be removed in late February/early March, when they feel the risk of very cold weather will have passed. Access through that entrance can then be reinstated. Repairs to the other arches are not yet programmed in and are budget dependent. In the meantime the condition of the roadside wall of the building in the car park is an urgent concern now (apparently it may collapse into the highway) so work to repair that will, hopefully, begin in February. In terms of the bridges, there is no further news at present. All possibilities are being discussed internally in EH, including repair or replacement of one or both bridges and including removal of the Marmion Gate bridge. Identifying the right solution will take some time and require significant investment. To cover all possible solutions FNC have asked EH if there is any mileage in our putting together a proposal for repair/replacement of the inner bridge using local skills and suppliers. We await a response. EH have also confirmed they are also following up with Destination Tweed around access to and around the site - in the past there were discussions with them regarding access from the river path.

In the meantime FNC are hoping to be able to make some progress on improving informal woodland walks below and behind the castle. Watch this space!

## **NORHAM AND LADYKIRK HISTORY SOCIETY**

Sandra Gann will be speaking to Norham and Ladykirk History Society on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The title of her talk is 'Tin Tabernacles - A Victorian Story'. Everyone is welcome to come and hear about these versatile buildings that are hidden in plain sight.

Also, short term project to learn more about the castle and disseminate the information, will be starting soon. The work is funded by the National Lottery through an English Heritage's Connecting Communities grant. Watch out for information on how to get involved or email - [norhamhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:norhamhistorysociety@gmail.com).

## **COMMUNITY LUNCH**

The Community lunch is proving to be very popular and so these will continue each month. The next lunch will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February from 12.30 – 2pm. Many thanks to those on the hall committee who offer their help and if anyone else would like to be involved it could become a real community event!

An anonymous donation to these lunches has been received and this was greatly appreciated – THANK YOU!

## NORHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The new Parish Council Website is now live  
[norhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://norhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Here you will find all information relating to the Parish Council including dates of meetings, Agendas and Minutes.

[Norhamlife.co.uk](http://Norhamlife.co.uk) will provide a link to this site and will continue to present details of all other village activities including village clubs/ societies, activities, the Castle, Church and Village Hall

### War Memorial Restoration

The War Memorial is starting to show signs of weathering and some of the names of our Lost Ones are becoming difficult to read. Having looked at various options the decision has been taken to preserve the names with the addition of a Bronze plaque. The estimated cost is approximately £4000 and the Parish Council has set aside £1100 towards this. We will shortly begin fundraising and any donations would be greatly appreciated. Look out for our donation buckets around the village or alternatively you can donate via BACS War Memorial Restoration, sort code 20-58-17, Account number 90128511

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED THANK YOU

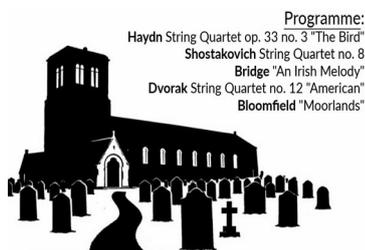
## CONCERTS@ STCUTHBERTS

Kielder String Quartet

Wed 11th February 7pm St Cuthberts Church Norham

Entry by Donation - In Aid of The St Cuthberts Project

Refreshments available



Programme:  
Haydn String Quartet op. 33 no. 3 "The Bird"  
Shostakovich String Quartet no. 8  
Bridge "An Irish Melody"  
Dvorak String Quartet no. 12 "American"  
Bloomfield "Moorlands"

Kielder String Quartet presents:

### Place and Belonging

An Evening of the Very Best String Quartet Music

Entry by  
Donation to the  
St. Cuthbert's  
Project

7:00pm, Wednesday 11th  
February 2026,  
St Cuthbert's Church, Norham

The Kielder Quartet is a string quartet formed by four close friends currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music, Jacob Wright, Georgie Bloomfield, Kirin Howat and Maya Tucker. United by a shared musical curiosity and friendship, they are passionate about sharing a wide range of repertoire, from familiar classics to music that reflects diverse cultures and voices. Inspired by its stillness, openness, and quiet reflection found in the surrounding landscape—qualities the quartet strives to bring to their music-making, the ensemble takes its name from Kielder Reservoir. This concert is all about place and belonging, who are we and where do we all come from? The programme chosen for this concert reflects many different themes; comfort of home, fractured identity, uncertainty, unfamiliar places, sense of adventure and passionate patriotism - they are also excited to feature a piece written by their very own violinist Georgie Bloomfield.

Haydn String Quartet op. 33 no. 3 "The Bird"

Shostakovich String Quartet no. 8

Bridge "An Irish Melody"

Dvorak String Quartet no. 12 "American"

Bloomfield "Moorlands"

This is a fundraising concert for The St Cuthbert's Project, which aims to improve the heating, lighting, and seating at Norham Church, to make the building more user-friendly and more useful to the wider community.

Firelight Trio  
Sun 8<sup>th</sup> March 7pm (Doors open 6.30)  
St Cuthberts Church Norham  
Standard Tickets £15; U25s £10  
NB Early bird booking until 9th Feb: Standard Tickets £12  
<https://highlightsnorth.co.uk/events/firelight-trio/>

Hailing from Scotland, Firelight Trio play European folk music that is evocative, inventive, and endlessly exciting. With over 25 years of experience as professional musicians in bands including Moishe's Bagel, Gavin Marwick's Journeyman and more, Firelight Trio's repertoire is built upon a bedrock of European folk music, encompassing both traditional material and superb original compositions which are strongly influenced by the band members' individual, diverse and broad musical experience. Combining the many gifts of Phil Alexander's accordion, Gavin Marwick's fiddle and Ruth Morris's Swedish nyckelharpa, Firelight Trio weave a rich tapestry of lively Swedish polskas and Scottish reels, lilting French waltzes, toe tapping klezmer, dazzling original tunes and more. *'It's very hard not to think about Europe and be desperately furious about loss when listening to this incredible album by Firelight Trio. It's stuffed with Latvian marches, French Chapelloise, Balkan Polskas, Ukrainian klezmer tunes and German jigs. At every turn it is joyous, deliriously uplifting, wildly inventive, it is breathtakingly beautiful, gently contemplative, wonderfully thoughtful. It is, in short, everything that makes European music so great.'* – Gavin McNamara (Tradfolk)

Refreshments available

## VILLAGE HALL

Bookings for the village hall can now be made online at the following address 'www.hallbookingonline/norham'. There is a link to this from the hall pages on the Norhamlife.co.uk website. Should there be any difficulties or issues with this then please contact us at [norhamvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:norhamvillagehall@gmail.com) or telephone Janet Young on 382736

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT, NORHAM



**You are invited to  
A Healing Service  
6.00pm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

The service will be quiet and low key, with the opportunity to light a candle and, if you wish, ask for prayers for healing and wholeness for yourself, or for someone you know.

The Vicar will be available to pray for you (perhaps alongside a member of the church), and confidentiality will be assured.

**A Service for Ash Wednesday  
6.00pm, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

The short service will include the opportunity for self-examination and the imposition of ashes.

Palm Crosses from last year may be left at the back of church before Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, so they can be burnt to make the ash for the Ash Wednesday Service.

## 'The Lent Discussion Group' 2026

On four Sundays in Lent, during the Sunday morning service, the Vicar will give a short (five minute) address, followed by a brief (two minute) Q&A session. Those who wish can continue the discussion at 6pm the following Tuesday, for up to three-quarters of an hour, in the Tower Room at the back of church.

The topics will be as follows

Date	Topic	Follow-up for those who wish at 6pm on
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	The nature of the church: lifeboat or lighthouse?	Tue 24th February
<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	To be decided	Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	What is a sacrament, and why does it matter?	Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	What are we doing when we pray?	Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> March

### 'Pints and Praise'

(Other types and volumes of drink are available.)

**The Fisher's Arms, Horncliffe**  
**The Fourth Sunday of the month**  
(From January to November 2026)

**Starts soon after 6.00pm**  
(Once everyone has a drink to hand.)



"For the grape and the grain,  
for the rhyming refrain,  
we raise our glasses together."

To request your favourite hymn(s) in advance,  
or for more info, contact the Revd Rob Kelsey,  
(01289) 382325, robert.josephkelsey@live.com

For more information about any of these services or events, please contact

The Revd Rob Kelsey on (01289) 382325.

## NORHAM COMMUNITY WEBSITE ASSOCIATION

The village website is now live – go to [www.Norhamlife.co.uk](http://www.Norhamlife.co.uk) to keep up to date with what is happening in the village. Updates continue on a regular basis so if there is anything you think should be added or if you have any questions then please contact us by email – [norhamwebncwa@gmail.com](mailto:norhamwebncwa@gmail.com)

## THE NORHAM DIRECTORY

Please find enclosed in this Newsround the first edition of The Norham Directory. It has been put together to provide information to those new to the village or those who do not use the internet to have information about the businesses, amenities, and the various groups that meet and offer activities or events of interest to local residents.

Inevitably perhaps, some of the information is a bit limited – and it would be much appreciated if this could be expanded on by those in the know before it is reprinted in about 6 months' time.

If anyone runs a business or activity that has not been mentioned then please let me know so that I can update it next time around.

Also please accept my apologies for these omissions and for any mistakes – I will publish any corrections in the next edition of the Newsround.

[Janetyoung.lazda@gmail.com](mailto:Janetyoung.lazda@gmail.com)



## The St Cuthbert's Project

Bulletin No. 10

February 2026

The St Cuthbert's Project aims to improve the heating, lighting, seating and heritage interpretation at Norham Church, to make the church building more user-friendly and more useful to the wider community. The total budget for the first phase of the project is £369,000, which is a huge sum of money. But, on Christmas Day, the Vicar announced the good news that we have now received a conditional offer of £245,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund (subject to contract and final conditions). That's nearly a quarter of a million pounds, for the benefit of Norham Church and the wider community. It's an amazing achievement, and an important milestone, which gives us confidence to proceed with the remaining approvals and fundraising. We now have about 73% of the necessary funding in the pipeline. The offers of grants received to date are not just about the money – they are also an investment in, and thus a vote of confidence in, what Norham Church is trying to achieve in our local community. And the funding is not an end in itself, but a new beginning, because the St Cuthbert's Project comprises two aspects: i) improving the facilities at the church (heating, lighting, seating, etc); ii) putting those facilities to good use (events and activities, heritage interpretation, etc). Both aspects are inextricably linked, because there's no point improving the facilities if they're not put to good use, and the current usefulness of Norham Church is constrained by the existing facilities. The first aspect is a quantitative, easily measurable change that might take about six months. The second aspect is a qualitative, less tangible change that is planned for the next two years. Both aspects should have a lasting legacy, in terms of the life of the church (which is more than what happens on a Sunday morning) and the wider community (of which the church is an integral part).

Please contact Rob Kelsey or the church wardens with comments

- Churchwarden, Lucy Carroll, 07974 416692
- Churchwarden, Nick Ellis, (01289) 382754

## CLOTHES SALE

Time for a clear out and freshen up your wardrobe? Why not take the opportunity of the Pre-loved Clothes Sale.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Blessing of the Salmon Fishing
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	WI meeting
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion service
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	History Society meeting
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Kielder Quartet
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Open event at Norham School
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	WI Soup & Sandwich lunch
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Mattins
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Mobile Library
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Community Lunch
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Pre-loved Clothes Sale

#### ITEMS FOR MARCH NEWSROUND

All contributions to be sent, in a word /jpeg format please - not pdf -  
to Janet Young – [Janetyoung.lazda@gmail.com](mailto:Janetyoung.lazda@gmail.com)  
by 6pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February