

## THIS MONTH

“Knowing Me, Knowing You:  
Dave Metcalfe

“Escape to Holy Island”

The Parish bids “Farewell” To Tony Mac

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# ELLINGHAM NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

£3.50 PER



This month sees us bid “farewell” to Canon Tony Macpherson, vicar of St Maurice’s Church Ellingham. In this edition we share our thoughts and best wishes to Tony, and hear from him on his time in Ellingham.

We are always interested in receiving contributions from all parishioners and also advertisers who would like to play a part in our new look Newsletter .

The whole point of the Newsletter is to keep the community connected, so please help us by telling us what you want, contributing and getting connected yourselves!

All copy to the Editor ([eileenduncan76@gmail.com](mailto:eileenduncan76@gmail.com)) by 15th of the month, for inclusion in the next month’s edition.

Delivered free to all parishioners, thanks to a grant from Ellingham Community Trust [www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org](http://www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org)



“Those who have known Tony’s ministry have seen a dedicated priest shaped by a conviction that the Church is called to live at the heart of the community.”

## **The Vicar of St Maurice’s Church Ellingham, Canon Tony Macpherson, retires 30th June**

At the end of this month, we will mark the retirement of Canon Tony Macpherson with our deep gratitude, affection, and respect. Those warmest thanks and best wishes are to Team Macpherson, as Lynne has played an enormous part in supporting Tony in his ministry and as a friend to us all. Tony and Lynne have been with us for seven years and in that time have touched our lives positively in so many ways.

Tony guided us through the difficult times of the Pandemic wonderfully and seamlessly, by providing outdoor services when permitted and his daily online reflections and services when we instructed to stay at home or limit personal contact.

For decades of ordained ministry, and through years of faithful service in parish and cathedral life Tony, with Lynne by his side, has embodied a vocation rooted in spiritual and pastoral care always attentive to the people he served. He and Lynne have done so with compassion, perseverance, and a readiness to walk alongside people in joy, sorrow, uncertainty, and hope.

Those who have known Tony’s ministry have seen a dedicated priest shaped by a conviction that the Church is called to live at the heart of the community. That vision was illustrated by the recent meeting with the Community reaching out to all of the people of the Parish of St Maurice Ellingham. That vision has also inspired the parishes of Beadnell and North Sunderland within the Benefice Tony serves.

Retirement, of course, is never simply an ending. It is also a moment to give thanks for a long and fruitful chapter, and to recognise the quiet influence of a life faithfully offered. As he retires at the end of June, he does so with the prayers and thanks of many, whose lives have been enriched by his ministry.

We wish Tony and Lynne peace and much happiness in the years ahead, trusting that the grace Tony has so often shared with others will now accompany him and Lynne into their new season of life.

**The PCC of St Maurice's Church Ellingham**

## HOW WE WILL MARK TONY'S RETIREMENT

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June Ellingham and the other two parishes in the Benefice will be marking Tony's retirement first with a service at St Paul's Church North Sunderland at 3pm and at then a Retirement Party starting at 4.30pm at the Seahouses Community Hub, Stone Close, NE68 7YL to which all Parishioners in the Benefice are warmly invited and are most welcome.

The Churches within the Benefice are also organising a retirement gift for Tony. All Parishioners are invited to donate. Your kind gift will be hugely appreciated and can be sent direct to the following bank account being used for the three parishes: -

**North Sunderland PCC      Sort Code 20-58-17    A/C No 93983854**

**Reference – Tony**

Should you require any further information please contact one of the Church Wardens Dorothy Lightfoot on 07519 025801 or Neil Mundy on 07712751100

## Sunday Rota: June

	Reader (R)	Sidesman (S)
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Trinity 1	Green
	Mr N Mundy (R)	Mrs D Lightfoot (S)
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Trinity 2	Green
	Mrs A Laidler (R)	Miss E Duncan (S)
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Trinity 3	Green
	Miss E Duncan (R)	Mrs A Laidler (S)
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Trinity 4	Green
	<b>Short Said Benefice Eucharist</b>	

10 am

ELLINGHAM CHURCH,  
North

Published March 1884 by W. Dawson Strwick.

After more than 45 years in ministry — and six memorable years serving the communities of Ellingham, Seahouses and Beadnell — Rev Tony Mac will retire at the end of June. Ahead of his final service, Graham sat down with Tony to reflect on a remarkable life in the Church, his time in Northumberland, and his hopes for the future of village communities and St Maurice's Church



## “Keep On Going” Tony Macpherson Reflects on Faith, Community and Retirement

**Q: Tony, after 45 years in ministry, can you tell us a little about how your journey into the priesthood began, and the path that eventually brought you to Ellingham?**

Tony: I originally trained as a teacher, although I

sometimes joke that it wasn't really a “proper job.” I went to college in Birmingham intending to teach, but even at that stage I increasingly felt that being a priest was what I was truly meant to do. I was only about 21 when I first approached the Church about ordination, fully expecting them to tell me to go away and teach for a few years first. Instead, they said yes straight away, so after my teacher training I immediately began theological training. Altogether I spent six years studying before being ordained at 24.

I grew up in the Forest of Dean, between the River Severn and the River Wye, right on the Welsh border. It was a rural upbringing — villages, farming communities, sheep country and close-knit local life — and I

think that background stayed with me throughout my ministry. At the time, I didn't really know anybody from my area who had become a priest, so it didn't initially feel like a path open to someone like me. In fact, the first ordained person I knowingly met from my area was the bishop I went to see about ordination — and he turned out to have grown up in the next village.

When I went away to college in the 1970s, most people who stayed in education ended up becoming teachers, doctors or lawyers. I fell naturally into teaching, but the more involved I became in church life, the more I realised my real vocation lay elsewhere. Looking back, I think the people who encouraged me towards the priesthood saw something before I fully recognised it myself.

Most of my ministry was

spent in Yorkshire, and I served in all sorts of places. I began in Morley near Leeds, then moved to rural Pennine parishes around Penistone and Thurlstone, where several churches were spread across dozens of square miles of countryside. It was proper rural ministry — villages, isolated farms and communities where the church still formed part of everyday life.

Later I worked in Grimethorpe during the pit closure years of the late 1980s and early 1990s, which was an incredibly difficult and emotional time for the community. Most people in the village lost their jobs, and the impact on families was enormous. I became heavily involved in supporting local people during the miners' strike and its aftermath, even speaking at rallies and appearing on news programmes at the time. It was one of those periods that teaches you how important dignity, compassion and solidarity really are.

After that I spent many years in deprived areas of Wakefield, working not only with churches but with schools, rehabilitation charities and community organisations. The parish there was very mixed culturally and religiously, with a large Muslim community as well as long-established local families. We worked closely with the local mosque, which actually met

in what had once been a church hall. Those experiences taught me a great deal about resilience, hardship and the importance of communities pulling together across different backgrounds.

Later I moved to Wakefield Cathedral, first helping mentor clergy across the diocese and then serving as Sub-Dean during a major redevelopment project. That role involved everything from pastoral care to overseeing major building works, but parish life was always where my heart really was.

I'd loved Northumberland since first visiting Holy Island and Seahouses in the 1970s, and I'd always been fascinated by the Christian history of this area — the Northumbrian saints, the Celtic traditions and the deep sense of spiritual heritage here. So when the opportunity arose to come to Ellingham in 2019, it felt absolutely right. I remember arriving full of plans and ideas, thinking we'd spend the next few years building things up and developing new projects.

Of course, none of us knew what was about to happen. Within six months of arriving, the pandemic changed everything. Instead of spending my early years building relationships in the normal way, much of the role became helping people through

isolation, uncertainty and fear. We all had to adapt very quickly, including the church.

**Q: Looking back on your time here, what moments and memories stand out most strongly for you?**

Tony: There are many wonderful memories. One of the strongest is undoubtedly the churchyard carol service during COVID. We couldn't gather indoors, so everyone stood spread out around the churchyard in the cold singing together. Oddly enough, it may have been one of the most meaningful and best-attended carol services we've ever had, because people were so determined not to lose that sense of togetherness and community.

The pandemic also pushed the church into entirely new territory. Before COVID, most churches barely thought about online ministry, but suddenly we were all learning how to use Zoom and YouTube. I began recording short daily online reflections and prayers so people could stay connected while isolated at home. Those videos are still going now, and surprisingly there are still people across the UK — and even abroad — who watch them regularly. Some days twenty or thirty people tune in, and more at weekends. It cre-

ated an entirely new form of ministry that I never would have imagined before 2020.

Beyond that, I'll remember the life of the village itself — the opening of the new Village Hall, the Jubilee celebrations, working with the school, village events, weddings at St Maurice's, and the wonderful local history projects and presentations organised by David Griggs. Those events captured something important about Ellingham and the surrounding communities: people genuinely care about their shared history and about each other.

I remember particularly the events reflecting on the old village hall before it was replaced. There was something very moving and nostalgic about that — recognising how many memories were tied up in that old building while also looking forward to the future. The new hall is



marvellous, of course, but those moments reminded me how important community identity really is.

Working with the school has also been a real pleasure. I've spent a great deal of time there over the years, and it's always encouraging to see children still engaging with the church, local traditions and village life. Likewise, the weddings at St Maurice's have been very special. Because of the setting and the beauty of the church, many couples return years later just to revisit the place where they were married, and that's always lovely to see.

Communities everywhere are changing. People's lives are more spread out now, and villages don't function quite the way they once did. But places like Ellingham still have a real heart. People look after each other here, and there's still a strong willingness to support local institutions like the church, the school and the community association.

I've also been touched by how many people — even those who aren't regular churchgoers — care deeply about St Maurice's and want it to remain part of village life. That's encouraging, because rural churches everywhere face challenges with ageing congregations and changing patterns of life.

**Q: Finally, as you retire, Tony, what message would you like to leave for the community and for**

## St Maurice's Church?

Tony: First of all, there's always life after Tony! Priests come and go, and whoever follows me will bring different gifts and strengths to the parish. Every priest approaches things differently, and that's healthy.



But if I had one message, it would simply be: keep going, and don't give up. I'm a great fan of *The Lord of the Rings*, and the great message running through those books is perseverance — ordinary people continuing despite hardship and uncertainty, and achieving far more than they imagined possible.

I think that applies to churches and communities too. Rural churches face difficulties all over the country, whether in Northumberland, Cumbria, Wales or Cornwall, but I'm genuinely optimistic because there are still

people who care deeply about these places and what they represent.

The church building has stood there on the hill for hundreds of years. Not the exact same stones throughout, of course, but there has been a Christian presence there since the monks of Durham owned the land. I hope it continues standing there as a witness and gathering place for generations to come.

I also think the church still has an important role in reminding society about values like kindness, compassion and care for one another. Those values didn't appear by accident — they're deeply rooted in the Christian tradition, whether people realise it or not.

And finally, communities survive because a relatively small number of people keep showing up, helping out and carrying things forward. That's true in villages, churches, schools and charities everywhere. So my hope for Ellingham is simply that people continue supporting one another, continue valuing community life, and continue believing that small groups of committed people really can make a difference.

I'm only moving to Belford, so I

won't be disappearing entirely. I'll still be nearby, still keeping an eye on things, and still cheering the community on from just up the road.

**THANKYOU Tony!**

*Canon Tony Mcpherson, retires 30th June 2026*



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# PRIVATE HIRE AT ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

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Did you know that Ellingham Village Hall is available to book for your own private celebration, craft workshop, meeting or family event? From children's birthday parties to weddings, the hall is a perfect venue with a 50% reduction in hire charges for parishioners.



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[admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com) or phone: 07938 828699



# ELLINGHAM COMMUNITY TRUST MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 2 APRIL 2026 AT VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** John Thompson (JT) (vice Chair), George Unwin (GU), Brenda Frier (BF), Graham Edmondson (GE), Judy Glover (JG) (Trustees), Louis Fell (LF) (Treasurer), Virginia Mayes-Wright (VMW) (Clerk)

**1) Apologies:** David Metcalfe (DM) (Chair)

**2) MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The Trustees reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting held on 2nd April 2026.

**3) Treasures Report.**

LF presented the Treasurer's Report. Clerk noted email regarding an outstanding invoice for printing of the Parish Magazine. **ACTION :** LF to check the payments.

**4) Applications/Review of Schemes**

Grants/Applications In Progress

Village Hall Application – The Trustees noted receipt of an email expressing disappointment but understanding of ECT's position.

Application – Christmas Lights

The Trustees noted that this had been discussed at a previous meeting, but not previously minuted. The Trustees noted that the applications did not reach the full community, and not include other areas of the parish.

**ACTION :** DM to inform the applicant.

Photographic Archive – The Clerk noted that copies of the archive are going to Northumberland Libraries, Berwick Archives and Northumberland Archives.

St Maurice's Church – Update received from Neil Mundy.

Solid Fuel Scheme – The Clerk reported 75 applications received so far (142 last year) comprising of 23 for heatlogs, 31 for hardwood, 41 coal vouchers, 13 £250 and 1 £100.

The Trustees noted that owing to the printing issues, the deadline has been changed to 19th June. **ACTION :** Clerk to change deadline information online. The Clerk noted various changes in residency being reported after the appeal following the last meeting.

**ACTION :** Clerk to email community contacts to confirm applications.

Green Scheme – GU reported three new applications.

TESS – no new applications.

**5) Welcome Pack for Residents** The Welcome Pack has been printed and delivered. The Trustees recorded their thanks to JG and the Clerk for their work on this.

**ACTION :** Clerk to email list of community contacts to Judy for distribution. **ACTION :** Clerk to put the Welcome Pack onto the website.

**6) Communication :** The Clerk suggested that this month's communication should be an update on the Solid Fuel Scheme, noting the new deadline and the arrival of the hard copy forms. **ACTION :** Clerk to post a communication on the website. **ACTION :** Clerk to email the post to BF for social media. **ACTION :** BF to post on social media

**7) AOB.** None.

**8) ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:** 4th June 2026, 2nd July 2026,

Minutes compiled by :Virginia Mayes-Wright

ECT telephone number – 07841437614 (Trustee Brenda Frier)



# Ellingham Community Trust

## Solid Fuel Scheme 2026



**The Trust's Solid Fuel Scheme for 2026 was launched in April.**

If your primary residence is within the Parish of Ellingham you can apply to Ellingham Community Trust for a voucher for solid fuel.

If you do not have an open fire or log burner it is still worth taking advantage of this offer. Ellingham Community Trust buys in bulk, the more we can buy, the better value achievable. It is acceptable to sell the fuel (please ask a Trustee for contacts of people who would buy) or to pass on as a gift.

Alternatively, you can request to receive a cash sum from the Trust.

To receive notification of the launch of the Solid Fuel Scheme, contact the Clerk to be added to the mailing list or sign up to receive updates from the website. To apply, simply complete the application form available in April at [www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org](http://www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org) by the deadline on the form and either post or email it to [ellinghamcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:ellinghamcommunitytrust@gmail.com) or post to Virginia Mayes-Wright, 1, Chathill Farm Cottages, Chathill, NE67 5DE by **19th June 2026**.

Households submitting after this deadline will only be eligible for the £100 cash payment option. If you submit an application and do not receive confirmation of this order by phone or email, it is your responsibility to get in touch with Ellingham Community Trust.

### **Conditions**

Only one application per Household will be accepted.

ECT accepts no responsibility for use or misuse of this fuel and makes no guarantee about its performance.

Ellingham Community Trust (ECT) is committed to the protection of your privacy. We will only use the personal information that we collect from you in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. ECT will only use your personal information to process and administer the Solid Fuel Scheme. Your information is held securely during this process and is deleted immediately afterwards. We do not transfer your personal information to any third party. For further information on GDPR, please visit [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

On June 26th, we all sadly lost a friend, and someone well known in the Pack Horse and at Village events over the years.

Tragically, after becoming the victim of a devastating financial scam that wiped out his entire life savings, Jim Callighan, or "Jimbo" as he was known to his friends, lost hope and took his own life.

Known for his kindness, generosity and caring nature, he was someone who always had time for others, offered help without hesitation, and brought warmth, humour and friendship wherever he went. He touched countless lives and will be deeply missed.

Sadly, his family and those closest to him are now facing not only an unimaginable loss, but also the unexpected burden of arranging and paying for his

funeral, with no funds left to cover these costs.

A page has been created to give Jim the send-off he deserves and to help ease some of the pressure on those left behind.



<https://gofund.me/21dae832c>

Any contribution, however small, is deeply appreciated. Thank you.



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Set in the stunning Northumberland countryside just north of Alnwick, The Tempus is a place to relax, dine and unwind. At its heart, the dining experiences offer both flavour and atmosphere, with everything from coffee and freshly baked cakes to seasonal lunches, elegant Afternoon Tea and locally sourced evening menus alongside a beautifully curated cocktail hour.

On Fridays and Saturdays, the Tipi comes to life as a vibrant space, offering a unique and atmospheric setting to gather, feast and relax.

Open to all, The Tempus invites guests to drop in, linger a little longer, and enjoy the experience - whether for a quick coffee or a special occasion.



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## PACK HORSE LEEK CLUB



Our Plant Sale held on 9th May was a great success, we had a variety of vegetables & bedding plants all of which sold.

A big thank you to Ellingham Village Hall for inviting us to join them in their coffee morning, also to all who donated and supported us a big THANK YOU.

Our next event is the “**Tattie in a Bucket**” . Weigh in on: **Sun 26th July 10.00am to 12.00.**

Please bring your buckets, with the foliage cut off, to the Village Hall from 10.00am to 12.

Results will be announced at 1pm.

There will also be The Rose Competition: Roses to be displayed in a rose bowl no more than 6 inches across. This is open to everyone and the Tony Ashworth Trophy will be awarded to the winner following the results of the weigh in.

Also, the Show Day Schedule will be displayed in notice boards and again in this newsletter.

The winner of April monthly draw was **Chris Ogilvie**.

The winner of May monthly draw was **Neil Mundy**.



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## ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST EVH sub-group meeting APRIL MINUTES



**Attendees** G Macleod (T), C Stevenson (T), G Duncan (T), E Duncan (T), Jayne Dobson (T), G Edmondson (T) R McKibbin (T), A Hunt (V), J Rose (V) and I Stephenson (V)

### Bookings & marketing

EVH has received a wedding event booking for June 2027. The deposit has been paid. The 'Stained Glass' event has low booking numbers. It is possible that holding this type of event on a Sunday has affected the numbers. The event will still go ahead.

### Events

*Coffee mornings* to be held on 9 May to coincide with the Packhorse Leek Club plant sale; 13 June and 25 July 2026 to tie in with the 'Tattie in a Bucket' weigh-in. There will be no coffee morning in August.

*Quiz nights*: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month until May 2026.

Simply Smallholdings will run an all-day course on stained glass making for £140/person. EVH will offer the hall at £15/hour for this event – 19 April 2026.

*EVH BBQ*: Proposed date 1 July 2026 (music by Lee & Tom).

*Leek Show*: 12 September 2026, a Macmillan charity event.

*Christmas Fair*: 15 November 2026 - £40/table.


*Wreath making* run by Vanessa Wellock on 28 Nov 2026 (morning and afternoon sessions). £32/person with early bird price available. Market this event from July onwards.

### Landscaping


Nothing to report.

**AOB**: None.

**Date of next meeting**: 20 May 2026 at 09.00



## Home Made Jams



Available at the church

All proceeds to St Maurice Church

# The Pack Horse Leek Club



## Annual Show



The Leek Club will be holding its annual show on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, when not only leeks will be shown, but we hope to have a full show to include the following: -

Flowers

Vegetables

Cakes and Jams

Photographic Competition

Art Competition

Premature Baby Hats Competition

Children's Competition (New This Year)

Please see the schedule included in this magazine, further schedules will be put in noticeboards.

We would like to see some new members to help strengthen the club. There is plenty of advice for growing and showing. So don't be afraid!

We also have a monthly prize draw, one ticket costs £2.50, starting from the end of January, for 12 months. These are available to non-members and all numbers go into there draw for a monthly prize of £10.

For further information on membership or the prize draw tickets please contact: Diana Milburn, 2 Golden Close, Ellingham or 07732 553931

# THE PACK HORSE LEEK CLUB

# ANNUAL SHOW 2026



Saturday 12th September

Ellingham Village Hall

- 10am Hall open for staging of entries (until 12 noon)
- 4pm Show opens to the public, afternoon teas available
- 5pm Presentations and prizes
- 9.30pm Auction at The Pack Horse Inn

## VEGETABLE & FLOWER SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per class entered

## SHOW LEEKS

Open to Leek Club Members only

## INDUSTRIAL SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per class entered

## PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per entry

## KNITTING SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per entry

## ART SECTION

Open to all, fee 20p per entry

## CHILDRENS' SECTION

Open to all children, fee 20p per entry



**3 Potatoes** - kidney white

**3 Potatoes** - kidney coloured

**3 Potatoes** - round white

**3 Potatoes** - round coloured

**2 Carrots** - stump

**1 Onion** - dressed

**3 Onion** - sets flat

**3 Onion** - sets round

**2 Courgettes**

**1 Marrow**

**3 Pea Pods**

**1 Leek** - intermediate

**3 Beetroot** - round

**4 Tomatoes** - red

**1 Cucumber** - judged in quality

**1 Collection of Veg** - 4 varieties, 2 of each

**1 Veg & 1 Flower** - any variety

**1 Vase Mixed Flowers**

**1 Vase of Sweet Peas**

**3 Roses**

**SHOW LEEKS (open to members only): 2 Leeks**

### **INDUSTRIAL CLASSES**

**4 Cheese Scones**

**4 Currant Scones**

**4 Shortbread Biscuits**

**4 Chocolate Brownies**

**4 Millionaire Shortbread**

**1 Savory Flan**

**1 Carrot Cake (iced)**

**1 Fruit Cake (6" to 8" round or square)**

**1 lemon Drizzle Cake**

**1 Chocolate Cake (baked in 2 tins)**

**1 Victoria Sponge**

**1 Full Jar Blackcurrant Jam**

**1 Full Jar Blackberry Jam\***

**1 Full Jar Raspberry Jam\***

**1 Full Jar Strawberry Jam\***

**1 Full Jar Lemon Curd\***

**1 Full Jar Marmalade\***

**\* Wax and cellophane tops**

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION:**

**Wildlife in Northumberland**

**(Format 5" x 7", Landscape or Portrait, unframed)**

### **KNITTING SECTION**

**Premature Baby Hats (pattern will be available)**

### **ART SECTION**

**Any Medium**

**Overall size no bigger than A4 (mount optional), 1 entry per person**

### **CHILDRENS' SECTION**

**A Dinosaur made out of vegetables**

# ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST APRIL MANAGEMENT MEETING MINUTES



## Attendees

G Macleod, E Duncan, G Duncan, G Edmondson, C Stevenson, Jayne Dobson and R McKibbin.

Apologies: none

**Conflicts of interest:** None reported.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the 10 March 2026 were approved and signed by GM.

**Matters arising:** None.

## Treasurers Report

The fundraising benchmark percentage for EVH's normal annual running costs is almost 60% for the first 5 months of our financial year, which started on 1 November 2025. Income and outgoing totals to 28 February 2026 were as follows (previous month in brackets):

Room hire – £325.00 (£217.50).

Fund raising – £429.50 (£1086.00).

Other income – Interest – £28.62 (£20.07) and a donation of £54.90.

Expenditure - £307.58 (£874.54). Major costs include maintenance - £152.00 and electricity - £137.93.

EVH has received two donations. One of £500 plus gift aid and a second of £1000. The EVH trustees recorded their heartfelt appreciation for both donations. It was agreed that both will be added to our building fund for the extension works.

## Funding update

An 'Awards for All England' submission has been made to the National Lottery following a suggestion from CAN.

The need for three building quotations when submitting grant applications for the EVH extension was raised. It was agreed that we should investigate whether we can rely on one quotation combined with an assessment by an independent quantity surveyor.

## Policy updates

Access Statement: GM has reviewed and signed off.

Maintenance Record: IS has produced a maintenance schedule which sets out a timeline for tasks with person(s) responsible and due dates. This has identified the need for a building inspection by two trustees/volunteers every 6 months. The first inspection is planned for 1 June 2026 with a second on 1 December 2026. It was noted that the heat pump was serviced on 7 April 2026.

The Energy Audit and Environmental Policy have been added to the EVH website under the 'About' tab.

## **Hallmark II**

A preliminary meeting to discuss our Hallmark II took place with CAN representatives on 30 April 2026. Feedback included:

'One call' number to be prominently displayed.

Mark Johnson (CAN) will provide T & Cs for Wi-Fi use by public.

Firepoint certificate is out of date.

EVH have two valid hygiene certificate holders.

Locations of water stop-cock and electricity circuit board required. RM will provide locations to A Hunt who will add to the floor plan attached to Hire Agreement.. Need to identify our designated safeguarding lead (this is ED).

## **CAN meeting feedback**

JR attended the CAN Village Hall Week meeting on 18 March 2026 and provided valuable feedback which is summarised below.

Public health: Help people in our communities by connecting them – suggestions were nature gardens, lunch clubs, learning opportunities and gardening clubs.

Warmth and wellbeing: Details of the Priority Services Register were provided. It's a free, confidential support service from energy and water suppliers for vulnerable customers.

Safeguarding: Each village hall should have a designated lead (at EVH it's ED). Trustees and volunteers should undertake safeguarding courses (this already happens at EVH).

Presentation by Chatton Village Hall: The trustees turned the old school into a village hall which gave ample space to create a community gym, a permanent BBQ area outside and a children's play area. Management of the play area was proving difficult.

## **Carparking**

EVH is receiving an increasing number of requests to use our carpark from people NOT using the village hall. As a general policy EVH will allow the carpark to be used for formal church events such as weddings, christenings and funerals. Apart from funerals, it was agreed that we should charge £25/hour as the use of the carpark precludes the rental of the hall at the same time.

Hall checks and cleaning requirements

For the purpose of general duties and monthly checks the following rota for 2026 was updated and agreed: April – GM, May – IS and June – JD.

## **AOB**

None.

EVHT management meeting ended at 10.45 am

# WHAT'S ON AT ELLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL?

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Come and join us for a cuppa, a cake and a catch up.  
Everyone welcome.

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**VISIT THE WEBSITE:**  
[ellinghamvillagehall.com](http://ellinghamvillagehall.com)

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**The Grand Rummage Sale  
is back in August!**  
Sorry no furniture, CDs or DVDs

## WHY NOT HAVE A CLEAR OUT?

We need your unwanted clothing, toys, books  
household items & bric-a-brac

**Drop-off days to be announced**  
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## THANK YOU

Thank you for reproducing the interview with John Maxwell. I think it is amazing that we still have his voice recordings— thanks to David Griggs. What a good thing he made those recordings! Who will you be featuring next, and where can I find the recordings you mentioned?

**EDITOR:** *We are pleased you found the interview worth reproducing. We hope to have David's collection of recordings hosted on a weblink very shortly- although this is taking a little longer than we had hoped for. Watch this space!*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I feel compelled to write following a recent incident concerning the Pack Horse Inn, a pub which my wife and I have owned for the past 26 years and which has long been part of the social fabric of our parish.

Over those years the pub has been run by ourselves on two occasions, alongside a number of tenants, and is now operated by our son Oliver and his wife Susanna, who run the business in their own right. Like many small village pubs, the Pack Horse is far more than simply somewhere to buy a drink. It is a meeting place, a community asset and, increasingly in rural areas, one of the last remaining places where people of all ages can

come together socially.

Last Friday evening there were several families in the pub, including a number of our grandchildren, all enjoying a meal together at the end of the working week. The children were well behaved, accompanied by their parents and grandparents, and the atmosphere was warm, relaxed and friendly.

A couple from the parish entered the pub, decided it was not the environment they wanted that evening, and immediately left. That, of course, was entirely their choice and should have been the end of the matter.

Unfortunately, it was not.

Shortly afterwards, a highly critical one-star review appeared online condemning the presence of children in the pub. I have to say I found this deeply upsetting and, frankly, rather unfair.

To publicly attack a small village business simply because one does not personally wish to share space with local families seems unnecessarily vindictive.

Village pubs everywhere are under immense pressure. Current figures suggest that around two and a half pubs are closing every single day across the country. Spiralling employment costs, energy prices, insurance and general overheads make survival increasingly difficult,

particularly for independent rural businesses. In spite of this, Oliver and Suzanne continue to work extraordinarily hard to keep the Pack Horse open as a welcoming place for the whole community.

What saddens me most is that this criticism has not come from an anonymous passer-by, but from within our own parish. One may choose not to use a village pub, but actively seeking to damage its reputation publicly is another matter entirely.

We are proud that the Pack Horse remains a family-friendly village pub where different generations can spend time together. In my view, that is something rural communities should value and support, not criticise.

Yours sincerely,  
Graham Simpson

**EDITOR:** *The Pack Horse has, and hopefully always will be, a key hub of our community. Long may Olly and Sus continue to grow the business.*

*The community needs the Pack Horse, and we are grateful for what the Simpson family have done over the past several years. We all know it is a "labour of love", and for that we are deeply grateful.*

*Friday is a very social night in The Pack, and it is a sign of a strong and thriving community when, on a Friday tea-time, the bar can be shared by old and young, drinkers and diners (dogs as well!). And if children aren't welcome, where is the next generation of drinkers coming from?*

*What are you thoughts?*

The Newsletter is here to be a communication tool for every parishioner.

If you would like to express a view, on anything that is happening in our around the Parish, please send us your views.

Email to:

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A promotional banner for '30 Days Wild'. The top half features a family (a man, a woman, and a child) in a stylized orange and white background. The text 'ARE YOU READY FOR 30 Days Wild?' is written in large, green, bubbly letters. Below it, smaller green text reads '30 DAYS WILD IS A FREE FAMILY NATURE CHALLENGE WITH SIMPLE IDEAS TO HELP KIDS GET OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE NATURE THIS JUNE.' The Northumberland Wildlife Trust logo is in the top right. The bottom half of the banner is green with floral patterns and contains a white box with the text 'SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE PACK TO GET STARTED TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT NWT.ORG.UK/30DAYSWILD' and a QR code to the right.

**ARE YOU READY FOR  
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30 DAYS WILD IS A FREE FAMILY NATURE CHALLENGE WITH SIMPLE IDEAS TO HELP KIDS GET OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE NATURE THIS JUNE.

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE PACK TO GET STARTED  
TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT [NWT.ORG.UK/30DAYSWILD](https://www.nwt.org.uk/30dayswild)**



## Protecting The Rothbury Estate

Together, we can secure The Rothbury Estate for nature, for people and for a wilder future. Northumberland Wildlife Trust in partnership with The Wildlife Trusts have a one-time-only opportunity to secure the future of the historic Rothbury Estate in Northumberland.

The Rothbury Estate covers over 3,800 hectares right at the heart of Northumberland. It is a breathtaking place, with sweeping landscapes, starlit skies and abundant wildlife. Right now we have an opportunity to prevent it ending up divided between multiple owners, businesses and developers and to preserve it in its entirety - creating one of England's largest connected and protected landscapes for wildlife and for future generations. But in order to make this happen, we need your help to raise £30 million by September 2026.

## The Future of The Rothbury Estate

With the communities who live and work on and around the Estate, we will develop a vision for the future management of this remarkable landscape. Protecting the livelihoods of tenants and the farming community who have tended the land for generations. With nature-friendly, regenerative farming, we will place nature's recovery at the heart of the Estate, while respecting the rural traditions of this region.

We will show how nature, community and the rural economy can work together, with people and wildlife thriving side-by-side. We will enhance public access so that more people, locally and from across the UK, can explore and learn about the history of the area and the wonderful wildlife found here.

We must keep this exceptional, iconic landscape intact, to preserve its rich history and precious wildlife for future generations and avoid it being broken into multiple ownerships. If we don't act now, we will lose the opportunity to safeguard this landscape, which has meant so much to people for thousands of years.

Learn more and please donate: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/appeals/rothbury-estate-nature-and-nation>

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## Escape to Holy Island:

### A Brave Journey.

Many visitors making the walk from Holy Island village towards Lindisfarne Castle probably pass the memorial benches beside the roadside without a second glance. Yet those simple wooden seats commemorate one of the most remarkable wartime journeys connected with the Northumberland coast.

One plaque records the gratitude of Norwegian families for the welcome given to five young men who arrived on Holy Island on 5 November 1941 after an extraordinary escape across the North Sea. Their names — Tormod Abrahamsen, Nils Havre, Sven Moe, Jan Stumph and Kay Thorsen — are little known today, but their courage deserves to be remembered.

Their story began after Nazi Germany invaded Norway in 1940. Following the occupation, the Germans installed a collaborationist government led by Vidkun Quisling, whose name would later become synonymous with betrayal. Many Norwegians resisted the occupation, and among them were these five friends from Kristiansand, all barely out of their teens.

Determined to reach Britain and join the

Free Norwegian forces supporting the Allies, the young men secretly planned an escape. One of them, Sven Moe, was already involved with resistance work and feared remaining in Norway would become increasingly dangerous. Together, the group gathered food, warm clothing, maps and a compass before taking a small open fishing boat belonging to Sven's father.

Under cover of darkness in late October 1941, they prepared to leave the Norwegian coast. Bad weather delayed their departure, but eventually they slipped away into the North Sea. The conditions were dreadful. Heavy seas constantly filled the little boat with water, forcing the exhausted crew to bail continuously. To avoid attract-



ing the attention of German patrol vessels, they often relied on oars rather than their unreliable engine.

The crossing soon became a nightmare. Several of the young men suffered severe seasickness, while their precious fuel supplies quickly caused problems. Some of the fuel had been obtained from German aircraft stores by resistance contacts, but it proved unsuitable for the boat's engine, which repeatedly broke down. Kay Thorsen, who understood engines better than the others, worked tirelessly to keep it func-

tioning.

As they struggled westwards, danger seemed to surround them on every side. At one point the boat drifted into a minefield, forcing the crew to steer carefully between floating mines visible in the rough water. The weather then worsened dramatically, with storms and lightning battering the small craft. Exhausted, cold and increasingly short of drinking water, the group no longer knew exactly where they were.

One night they encountered a large convoy of ships passing nearby. For a terrifying moment they feared discovery, especially when the convoy suddenly extinguished its lights after mistaking the low silhouette of their boat for a possible submarine threat.

Late on 4 November they finally heard waves breaking on rocks, a sign that land was close. Yet they dared not approach in darkness, un-



certain whether they had reached Britain or territory still controlled by Germany. They remained offshore until daylight arrived.

At dawn, through the grey morning mist, they saw a rocky coastline and the outline of a

castle rising above it. Cautiously they made their way closer, eventually spotting houses and fishing boats nearby. Without realising it at first, they had reached Lindisfarne — Holy Island.

Island residents quickly noticed the exhausted strangers. Once it became clear they were Norwegian escapees rather than enemy soldiers, the five young men received a warm and generous welcome. They were taken to the Lindisfarne Hotel, given hot food, dry clothes and a chance to rest after their ordeal.

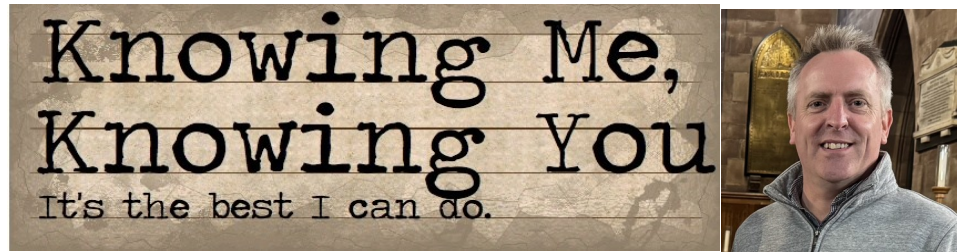
Sven Moe later wrote briefly in his diary about the relief of finally reaching safety. After days of fear, hunger and exhaustion, the simple comforts of a hot meal and shelter must have seemed extraordinary.

News of their successful escape was secretly passed back to the Norwegian resistance through a coded message sent from London. Their arrival in Britain represented not only personal survival but also a small victory against Nazi occupation.

Sadly, the war would bring further tragedy. All five joined the Free Norwegian forces serving alongside the Allies, but only Kay Thorsen survived the conflict and returned home after the war ended.

Today, the quiet memorial bench on Holy Island stands as a reminder of the bravery of ordinary young people caught up in extraordinary times.

*Photos: [www.okkupasjonen.no](http://www.okkupasjonen.no)*



For many people across the parish, Dave Metcalfe has become one of the familiar faces behind the Ellingham Community Trust. Since moving to Chathill with his family, in 2014, along with his wife Kirstie, and daughters Ellie, Catherine and Alice, he has immersed himself in community life and now chairs the Trust as it continues to support local projects and residents across the parish.

I sat down with Dave recently for a chat about Northumberland, community spirit, the famous Chathill Post Office — and why he believes the future of the Trust remains so important.

**Dave, you're not originally from Northumberland — how did you end up here, and what made you stay?**

Originally I'm from the Midlands as is Kirstie, and my work required me to move us around quite a bit over the years — Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire and eventually up to Northumberland. At

that point it was actually the furthest north we'd ever lived.

I honestly didn't arrive here with any preconceptions but what really struck me was just how beautiful the place was. The beaches, the walks, particularly the Cheviots — it's a remarkable part of the country. But more than that, it was the people, everyone was incredibly warm and welcoming. I know people say that about Northumberland all the time, but it genuinely is true.

We first moved to Longhoughton in 2009 and knew this county was for us. Our girls Ellie and Catherine quickly settled into the local schools and in 2014. Alice was born here in Northumberland so we decided that this was a great place to set down our family roots. Kirstie and I started looking around locally and quickly came across the Old Post Office in Chathill. I think the moment we walked through the door we both knew. The house just had character and warmth. We completely fell in love with it.

Of course, living right beside the railway crossing took a little getting used to, but very quickly it just felt like home. The funny thing is, the house has become a bit of a landmark. People stop to photograph it all the time. I've seen photographs of the house being sold on Ebay from £3 up to £70 at one point - my daughter Catherine once suggested that could be a sideline business for us!

What I really love though is the history attached to it. We've collected old post-cards and postal items over the years with Chathill postmarks on them, some dating as far back as 1903 and as I understand it the building even played a role during the Second World War as a local communications hub. You really feel connected to the history of the area living there.

But more than anything, it was the sense of community that made us stay. Coming from towns and larger places, this was probably the first truly rural community we'd ever lived in, and people immediately made us feel part of it.

**You're now very closely associated with the Ellingham Community Trust. How did that involvement begin?**

Ironically enough, it began through the parish magazine.

I remember seeing an advert looking for trustees. I applied once but work got in the way at the time. Then another opportunity came up later and I joined around the same time as Judy Glover, under the chairmanship of David Griggs.

At first, if I'm honest, it was partly about wanting to integrate more into the community and understand the area better. But very quickly I realised just how important the Trust actually is.

What surprised me most was how unique it is compared with most communities. I talk about the Trust sometimes with colleagues outside the area and people are genuinely amazed by it. When you explain the funding streams, the grants, the educational support, the Solid Fuel Scheme and

the way money is reinvested back into the parish, people are absolutely flabbergasted. Most places simply don't have anything like it.

I think what makes me proudest is that we've managed to continue building on what previous trustees created while still adapting to modern needs as communities change. We're seeing more young families moving into the parish now, for example, and naturally that changes the kinds of support people need.

At the same time, we've worked hard to modernise the Trust itself — refreshing policies, improving the website, strengthening long-term financial planning and trying to ensure the organisation remains fit for purpose for the future.

One thing I feel strongly about is that the Trust has to think long term. It would be easy simply to distribute all available funds, but we have a responsibility to future generations as well. Careful planning and investment are essential if the Trust is going to continue supporting the parish for many years from now.

Covid really highlighted the importance of that flexibility too. During that period we were able to respond quickly and support local businesses and residents where needed. That ability to react when the community genuinely needs help is incredibly valuable.

**The Trust has also supported improvements to communication within the parish, including the**

### newsletter itself. Why is that important to you?

Communication is absolutely central to any healthy community.

I still remember the old black-and-white parish magazine that first introduced me to the Trust. It served its purpose well, but over time we started discussing how it could be improved to be more useful for the community.

I believe that the new format has been a real step forward. For me the most important thing is that it's becoming a genuine communication tool for the parish — somewhere people can get a better understanding of things, share ideas, contribute views and feel more connected to what's happening locally.

### What are your thoughts about the future of the Trust?

As the parish grows and changes, those connections become even more important. We've had a lot of development and new people arriving over the last decade, and things like the village hall, the church, the pub, the newsletter and the Community Trust itself all play a role in helping maintain that sense of belonging. I think there's an opportunity for the Trust to keep listening and evolving. One of the interesting discussions I've had recently was around how we gather more input from residents about what they feel the priorities for the future should be. Ultimately, the Trust belongs to the community, and

it's important that people feel they have a voice in shaping its direction. What gives me confidence is that the trustees themselves genuinely represent different parts of the parish and bring very different experiences and perspectives, that balance matters. Each of the Trustees give up their time to support the community and that goes to show how close our community is.

We're incredibly fortunate to have something like the Ellingham Community Trust and what it represents here. It can genuinely make a positive difference to people's lives and long may that continue.

### THANK YOU DAVE!

If you'd be willing to speak as a villager, new or established, and allow us to get to know you a little better, then please let us know by dropping us an email at [Ellinghamviews@gmail.com](mailto:Ellinghamviews@gmail.com)



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### **For the Wicked**

A little boy had been very naughty and as a punishment his mother told him he would go without his favourite vegetable. He sat down for a meal, and his mother served, carrots, corn, - - and ? "It's no use waiting," said his mother, " I told you, no peas for the wicked."

### **Motoring Holiday**

Lost Husband: Where are we now?

Wife: Halfway between Paris and Marseilles, dear.

Husband: Don't bother me with details.

What country are we in?

### **Quiet Prayers**

The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice.

"I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered.

"Wasn't talking to you," said the small one firmly.

### **Some of the Great Questions of Life**

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called "builts"?

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

If your supermarket has been lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If "con" is the opposite of "pro," is Congress the opposite of progress?

If a firefighter fights fire and a crime fighter fights crime, what does a freedom fighter fight?

Do you find it unnerving that what doctors do is called 'practice'?



**The time of the Sunday Eucharist in the six coastal parishes on a Sunday is:-**

<b>Bamburgh St Aidan</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>Ellingham St Maurice</b>	<b>9.15 am</b>
<b>Beadnell St Ebba</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Belford St Mary</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Lucker St Hilda</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>North Sunderland St Paul</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>

## Useful Contact Information:

### **Vicar:**

Rev Tony Macpherson: 07780990354 email: [canontonymac@gmail.com](mailto:canontonymac@gmail.com)

### **Churchwardens:**

Dorothy Lightfoot : 01665 589463

Neil Mundy: 01665 589347

### **Clerk to Parish Council:**

Isobel Hunter email: [ellinghampc@gmail.com](mailto:ellinghampc@gmail.com)

### **Ellingham Community Trust:**

07841 437614 (Trustee Brenda Frier) email: [ellinghamcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:ellinghamcommunitytrust@gmail.com)

### **Northumberland County Councilor:** Guy Renner-Thompson

[guy.renner-thompson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:guy.renner-thompson@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **North East Mayor ( Public transport) Kim McGuinness**

[mayorsoffice@northeast-ca.gov.uk](mailto:mayorsoffice@northeast-ca.gov.uk)

### **Ellingham Village Hall:**

07938 828699 email: [admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com](mailto:admin@ellinghamvillagehall.com)

**All copy to the Editor ([eileenduncan76@gmail.com](mailto:eileenduncan76@gmail.com)) by 15th of the month. For non parishioners cost is £3.50 per year, payable to PCC Ellingham**