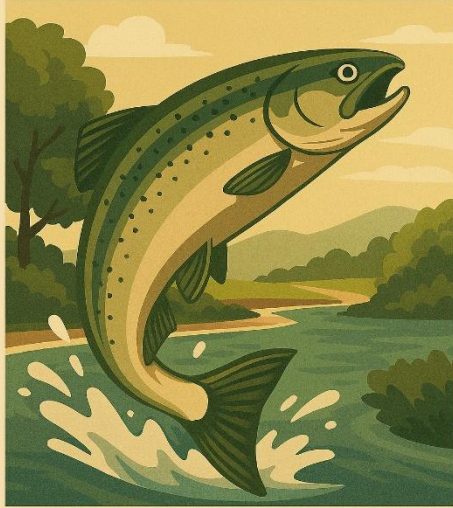


NEWSLETTER AT HORNCLIFFE



Welcome to the August/September 2026 edition

It is a pleasure to bring you village news, events, and updates whilst we enjoy the summer light. Whether you're a lifelong resident or new to the village this newsletter is for you.

Keeping Our Community Connected

Spotlight on: TMT Café Bistro at the Fishers Arms

A Fresh Chapter at The Fishers Arms

Readers may already have heard the happy news — we have fantastic new tenants at The Fishers Arms, our much-loved village pub. William and Mary Ndeme moved in on Wednesday 8th July and, in true Horncliffe spirit, they were serving freshly cooked delicious food the very same evening! Word travelled fast; within days everyone was talking about how delightful it is to be able to dine at The Fishers Arms once more.



William and Mary come from Kyuso, Kitui County of Kenya — where they met and married 31 years ago. Family is at the heart of their story, and their daughter Tabitha now lives in Yorkshire with their granddaughter, Talia. They trade as **TMT Café Bistro**, with **TMT** lovingly formed from the names Tabitha, Mary and Talia.

William's professional career began early. From the moment he left school, he was already destined to become a chef. He first learned his craft at the Travellers Beach Hotel in Mombasa, an area known for its white powdery sands and rich coastal culture. This laid the foundations for a hard-working career that has taken him from Nairobi to Kelso, Teesside, the Shetlands, Jedburgh and now Horncliffe. Along the way, he has worked with chefs from around the world, developing his own distinctive style shaped by a wide range of culinary influences.

Each step added to the skill, confidence, and creativity he now brings to the Fishers Arms kitchen.

Mary brings her own warmth and charm to the front of house, creating the kind of relaxed, friendly atmosphere that makes people linger a little longer over their meal or drink. William (53) said, “We have been warmly welcomed into this beautiful village, and we’re delighted to meet local customers as well as visitors exploring the area.”

It’s clear they’re settling in — and that The Fishers Arms will continue to thrive as the lively, welcoming heart of the village.

William plans to start a monthly specials night, like seafood, steak and game. For now, do pop in, say hello, and enjoy freshly prepared seasonal dishes and their relaxed, hospitality.

TMT Café Bistro at The Fishers Arms – Summer Opening Hours Monday to Saturday:

12:00 noon – 10:00 pm

Sunday: 12:00 noon – 8:00 pm

Please note that evening meal availability may vary.

**To reserve a table, telephone 01289 385814 or
contact William directly on 07545 259427.**

Notices & Reminders

- **TMT Café and Bistro @ The Fishers Arms** - 🍷 please check social media posters for up-to-date information and events.
- **Chain Bridge Honey Farm** – the Bus Café is open Wednesday to Sunday 10 am – 4pm and the Visitor/centre shop open 7 days a week 10am – 5pm.
- **Horncliffe Through the Lens Photo Competition 2026** – this year proceeds to *Horncliffe in Bloom*. The theme for the 2027 calendar is *‘Blooming and Wild About Horncliffe’*. See posters and entry packs in the Fishers Arms and memorial hall.
- **Parish Council Meeting:** Next meeting at the Memorial Hall will be Tuesday 1st September at 7.15 pm in the Memorial Hall. All welcome.
- **Heating Oil** – Horncliffe Buying Group. The last deadline date in 2026 for your fuel order is **Thursday 15th October**. Please call June on 01289 382683 no later than that date.
- **Horncliffe in Bloom** are a voluntary group who keep our village looking pretty all year round. They are always grateful for any volunteer help on an ad-hoc basis, without any commitment to further involvement. This has proved very useful for ‘holiday relief’ watering, and grass cutting.

If you’d like to join the Horncliffe in Bloom Volunteer WhatsApp group, please contact Gwyneth: 07854 912051

Please support the Horncliffe Village Newsletter

A small team of volunteers produce and deliver the newsletter, which is now being run independently.

Thanks to generous donations from **Horncliffe Arts Society** and local residents, the costs for this edition are covered — but we'll rely on the continued support of our community to sustain future issues.

More about how to donate and fundraising events soon.

Our goal is to produce **six editions annually**, delivered to **every household in the Parish**, ensuring everyone stays connected to village life.

Thank you to Janet Young in Norham for her generous help and advice in getting us started.

Get Involved – submit your news and stories to: newsletterathorncliffe@gmail.com or post through the letterbox at Waltham Cottage. We need more people to help distribute.

Horncliffe Memorial Hall needs you.

The memorial hall committee are seeking new committee members. If you are interested find out more there is a public meeting on Monday 17th August at 7 pm in the hall.

Tracks and Tales

This new U3A (University of the 3rd Age) group started on 1st July and will meet every **first Wednesday and third Friday** of the month at the Memorial Hall at 10.30 am. Starts with an accessible guided walk for 60 minutes, followed by creative writing for 60 minutes. U3A members only.

Walk a while, Write and while, Feel a little lighter.

For help to join Berwick U3A see online or contact Maggie 07483 254143. It costs just £13 per annum.

A special spotlight in this edition on:

Revd Canon Dr Rob Kelsey who is due to retire at the end of this year.

What first inspired you to pursue the ministry, and when did you know it was your calling?

As a teenager, I thought I might become a priest but ended up as a civil engineer. I was competent as an engineer but always felt that I wasn't quite 'in the right place.' In 1992 a friend asked me if I had ever thought of being a priest; I said no, because I hadn't felt called by God; to which he replied, 'Perhaps me asking you is God's way of calling you.' That flicked a light on for me (the idea that God does not 'shout', but works through other people). But what really clinched it was the response of my wife, when I told her what my

friend had said. Previously she had said – half-joking, but only half! – ‘If you ever become a priest, then I shall leave you.’ But, on this occasion, she was quite taken with the idea. I think the fact that the General Synod of the Church of England had recently decided that women could become priests was a helpful factor (my wife being a lifelong feminist).

What started out as a crazy idea soon became something I really wanted to do, and I have felt ‘in the right place’ ever since being ordained, nearly thirty years ago. (And I retain a ‘problem solving approach’ from my time as a civil engineer, which I think makes me a better vicar.)

Give us some insight to Rob the boy....

A bit of a geek in some ways, with an inordinate love of stationery! At one stage I wanted to be a stuntman. I liked my own company (and still do).

If you could describe this parish community in three words, what would they be?

Not enough words!

Villagers often see you in your public role — what’s something they might not know about you?

I’ve been a vegan for forty years. I enjoy the occasional fag. I’m a fan of Wagner operas. As an introvert, I can happily spend time with other people, but I need to be alone to ‘recharge my batteries’.

What is the most significant change in the ministry you have witnessed?

I think that, in the past, there were more ‘prima donnas’ among the (mostly male) clergy than there are now (which might have something to do with more women in the ministry). It seems to me that the main role of the clergy is to ‘help the church to be the church’ by encouraging the ministry and leadership of lay people, and this concept is (slowly!) gaining ground.



One of the greatest compliments I have received was from a local gardener, when we were having a fag and a chat together. He said, ‘You’re not really a vicar, are you?’ To my mind, clergy people are set aside (for a particular role), not set above (everyone else).

What part of your ministry here has brought you the greatest sense of purpose?

Trying to break down barriers between the church and the wider community, so that the church at worship is not ‘a group of people doing something special, which sets them apart from everyone else,’ but ‘a group of people doing what comes naturally, which makes them the same as everyone else.’

What has surprised you about village life — something you didn't expect but came to love?

When I first became a vicar, at Eglington in 2001, I had an 'urban church mind-set.' It surprised me that most parishioners cared quite deeply about their parish church, but weren't that bothered about going to church! It took me a while to get used to that, but now it makes perfect sense to me.

Desert Island – favourite book and luxury item

Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson

A violin.

Is there a sermon, reading, or piece of scripture that has shaped your approach to life?

Again, I couldn't name just one. My approach to life is grounded in, and informed by, regular Bible reading, prayer, and worship. I like preaching sermons because, in preparing a sermon, I feel that God is communicating to me, and through me.

What's one small, everyday joy that has kept you grounded through busy or difficult times?

My wife and family. They are all good people, and people of faith in varying degrees, but they are not as 'churchy' as I am, and quite right too!

Describe yourself as a piece of furniture

An old-fashioned cabinet, made with skill, patience and care. I am more of a craftsman than a 'high flyer', who would prefer to create something of lasting worth and beauty, rather than simply 'get things done' as efficiently as possible.

What will you miss most about the rhythm of parish life once you retire?

I hope that I will continue saying Morning and Evening Prayer most days, and worshipping on Sundays. I will miss (but in a good way), the relentlessness of it all, and the sense that, most days, I have several things to do that I should have weeks ago!

Which moment in your time serving this parish has stayed with you the most, and why?

I don't think there has been 'a moment', as such. But, if asked to name one aspect, I would say relating with the people of the parish, both in the church and beyond. They are what makes being a vicar the best job in the world.

How long have you preached at Norham, where before and what brought you here?

I have been here nearly sixteen years. My wife and I lived in Newcastle to begin with but felt called either to rural ministry or to living in the countryside (or both, since 'our deepest longing is God's calling'). I first became a vicar at Eglington, near Alnwick, and from there we felt inclined to move further north, and further away from the city.

Do you recall any funny moments

During the latest Blessing of the New Salmon Fishing Season, as I waded carefully into the river, I stepped into a dip in the riverbed, and got a welly full of water, but managed to keep my balance. From what people said to me afterwards, I realised that most people were thinking, 'It would have been better if he had fallen in'!

Do you have any advice for any young aspiring vicars?

The world, not the church, is God's first love.

The Kingdom of God is in the world, not just the church.

The church is, or should be, a centred set, not a bounded set.

The church is more like a spring of water than a swimming pool.

The church is more like a lighthouse than a lifeboat.

The job of the clergy is to help the church, not the other way round.

(I could go on, but that's enough to start with!)

And finally — what are you most looking forward to in the next chapter of your life?

Pursuing various interests that I don't really find time for at the moment, such as playing the violin; botanising; hill walking; growing vegetables; home brewing; making jams, pickles, and vegan cheese; spending more time with the grandchildren; attending concerts; watching films; and finishing the book that I've been writing for the past twenty years or so!

**Pints and Praise at the Fishers Arms - every fourth Sunday of the month at 6:00 PM.**

A relaxed "Songs of Praise" style meetup led by Rob Kelsey inside the pub. It starts as soon as everyone has a drink in hand to support the business. We sing along to hymns and share a few rhyming prayers and inspiring messages in a highly social setting. You can also request your favourite hymn.

Non-alcoholic drinks, beer, wine, tea, and cake are available.

Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming Events

What and where	Dates	Information
Games Night at the Fishers	Tues 4 th August	From 6.30 pm traditional board games – plenty to choose from or bring your own. All welcome. Every second Tuesday
Horncliffe and River Tweed Art Workshop in the VH and Fishers Arms	Thurs 6 th August	10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Includes a morning activity walk, light lunch in the Fishers Arms and afternoon artwork development in the village hall. £40 pp. More information from Pauline on 07485 281466 or plenderleithp@gmail.com Booking essential by 31st July.
Fon Thai Night at the Fishers Arms	Sat 8 th Aug	Fon Thai Night featuring a selection of delicious authentic starters, curries and desserts, available by pre-order. Contact Mo Kay 07855 028862
Games Night at the Fishers	Tues 18 th Aug	From 6.30 pm traditional board games – plenty to choose from or bring your own. All welcome. Every second Tuesday
Pints and Praise in the Fishers Arms	Sun 23 rd Aug	6pm - a relaxed and welcoming gathering with some singing and an inspiring message – all with a pint in hand, or whatever you choose! Free & open to all! Led by The Revd Rob Kelsey from St Cuthbert's Church, Norham
Quiz Night at the Fishers Arms	Mon 31 st Aug	7.30 pm a popular monthly charity quiz features a raffle and supports local charities. Raffle prize donations please.
Coffee Morning in VH	Sat 29 th Aug	10:30am-12 noon – delicious home-made cakes – all welcome.
Games Night at the Fishers	Tues 1 st Sept	From 6.30 pm traditional board games – plenty to choose from or bring your own. All welcome. Every second Tuesday
Quilters Quilting Show in the VH	Fri 25 th and Sat 26 th Sept	Details to follow – check memorial hall events page and posters?
Games Night at the Fishers	Tues 15 th Sept	From 6.30 pm traditional board games – plenty to choose from or bring your own. All welcome. Every second Tuesday
Coffee Morning in VH	Sat 29 th Aug	10:30am-12 noon – delicious home-made cakes – all welcome.
Games Night at the Fishers	Tues 1 st Sept	From 6.30 pm traditional board games – plenty to choose from or bring your own. All welcome. Every second Tuesday
Quilters Quilting Show in the VH	Fri 25 th and Sat 26 th Sept	Details to follow – check memorial hall events page and posters?