



**St. Mary's Parish Church
Allithwaite**

within
The Cartmel Peninsula Team Ministry

Merry 
 *Christmas*



WINTER EDITION – 2018

EDITORS RAMBLINGS



6 DECEMBER - ST NICHOLAS – ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS MUCH-LOVED SAINT

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten - in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

Mike (Ed)



THIS IS NOT FROM THE VICARAGE LETTER

Dear Friends

The last Sunday of October we celebrated Bible Sunday.

The Guinness Book of Records says, "There is little doubt that the Bible is the world's best-selling and most widely distributed book."

The question is, 'but is it read?' Many of those Bibles, especially in our part of the world, sit gathering dust on the shelf. Yet its authors, 45 of them, writing over 2000 years, in 66 books, are convinced that it contains the answer to all of life's problems, and for that matter, questions surrounding our deaths too. It's astonishing how the message is the same from beginning to end. "Follow me" says God, "and you will have life." (e.g. Deut. 30:19; John's Gospel 10:10)

"We did not depend on made-up stories in making known to you the mighty coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. With our own eyes we saw his greatness. We were there! (Peter's 2nd Letter 1:16)

"Here is what we announce to everyone about the Word of life... We have heard him. We have seen him with our eyes. We have looked at him. Our hands have touched him." (John's 1st Letter 1:1)

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life." (John's Gospel 20.30-31)

This Remembrance Sunday, we celebrate the ending of the First World War, perhaps the worst example of what happens when we humans depart from living in the flow of God's beautiful created order in a century of outrages when we turned away from reading and doing God's word. Thank God it ended. Please, God, help us to pick up your Word written, and do it.

Here's a plan: find a modern, understandable translation. Find John's Gospel. Pray that God will speak as you read. Read a short section each day, quickly then slowly asking questions. Reflect on what you've read. Pray for the life God promises.

God bless us as we trust Christ to transform us, our churches and our communities.

Jim

Revd Dr James Bruce
Transitional Rector Cartmel Peninsula Team
rector.cartmel@gmail.com
Office: 015395 35560

When is CHRISTMAS DAY?

The truthful answer is that nobody knows. Scrooge might well have said 'let every day be Christmas day' Some say Dec 25th was chosen as this was a heathen festival to celebrate the birth of the sun on that day. Christians then adopted it as the birthday of the Son of Righteousness.. but this theory has little to commend it.

It was in 354 AD that Dec 25th first became a Christian festival in the Western church. The Eastern church still celebrates Christmas on Jan 6th - uniting Jesus's birth and the manifestation of the Christ at his baptism, combining Epiphany and Nativity. Western churches celebrate Epiphany as the day that the Magi, (representing the Gentiles as well as the Jews) came to honour Jesus. Since about AD 400 the Western church has separated Epiphany from Nativity. I was once, as often, late with sending my Christmas greetings, but sitting at St Petersburg airport on Jan 5th I could truthfully write 'Today here is Christmas eve so I wish you a very happy Christmas.'

Many Christian Jews believe Jesus was born during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths, which is - September /October.in our calendar. The Jewish priests were all 'Sons of Aaron' and at the time of Jesus's birth these were divided into 24 different 'districts'. Each district sent two representative priests at different weeks of the year to officiate at the Temple in Jerusalem. Luke tells us Zechariah, who became the father of John the Baptist was a priest of the order of Abijah (Lk 1v5) The 'district' of Abijah ministered during the 10th week of the Jewish year. (1 Chr 24 v10) Luke also says Zechariah was burning incense in the Holy Place in the Temple, when the angel Gabriel told him he would have a son who would be of the spirit and power of Elijah. (Lk 1 v 17) The prophet Malachi (Mal 4v5) had announced that Elijah would come before the Messiah appeared. During his office, Zechariah would have prayed for Elijah to come and Gabriel told him his prayer was answered. (Lk 1 v13). After finishing his term on duty Zechariah returned home (Lk 1 v23) and nine months later John was born during the feast of the Passover, during which celebration, even today, people look for Elijah.

Luke writes that the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and prophesied that she would have a son, who would in fact be the long expected Messiah. (Lk 1 v31). Mary then visited her cousin Elisabeth who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy. Nine months later Jesus was born, at the time of the Feast of Booths.

Other evidence can be found. The Feast of Booths is known to Jews as 'the season of our joy' and the angel announces to the shepherds he brings 'Good news of great joy which will come to all people.' Luke also tells us the babe would be found wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger or cattle booth. (Lk 2 v10-12) Swaddling clothes were used to light the 16 vats of oil with in the court of the women in the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths. During the Feast of Booths all male Jews were instructed go to Jerusalem (Deut 16v16) so the city would be overcrowded and Mary & Joseph would have found difficulty finding lodgings (Lk 2 v7).

Bethlehem, their 'family home' was only about 4 miles from Jerusalem! Luke also writes Jesus is called a light to the Gentiles & the Feast of Booths is called 'the festival of lights of all nations.' (Lk 2 v23).

When was Christmas Day? God only knows but does it really matter?

At Christmas we sing: 'O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today'

So Amen.. let it be!

Keith Buckler

TWO MINUTES SILENCE

In the month of November, when we think about those who have given their lives in war, the two minutes silence is a familiar act of remembrance. We can use the silence to reflect on those who have suffered in war or on what it means to work for a peaceful world. Or do we end up thinking about lunch or panic that we haven't switched our phone off?

Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger, but lack of meaning. The two minutes silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message, which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). In observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love, as we remember all those who have experienced pain and conflict.

Of course, we should be serious about silence and stillness in the whole of our lives, not just for two minutes at an act of Remembrance. In busy lives where so much is clamouring for our attention, silence enables us to reassess our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. Jesus made a habit of withdrawing to experience silence. He did this before choosing his disciples, after He heard of John's beheading, after feeding the 5000, after healing a leper, at the Transfiguration and to prepare for His death. 'The seeking out of solitary places was a regular practice for Jesus. So it should be for us.'

Richard Foster

The Cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "Not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."

Careful!

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. 'Is there anything breakable in here?' asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment and replied: 'Only the Ten Commandments.'



The Youth Trust will work with the Churches of the Cartmel Painsinsula to:

Grow Church amongst young people
Work in schools and the community to create opportunities for young people to hear about Jesus Christ and the Christian Faith.

Fresh Opportunities

A new school year is underway and the Youth Trust is delighted with the fresh opportunities that brings. We are excited, for example, about plans for activities at Flookburgh Primary School and with the new Bible study group with teenagers based at Thornleigh Hotel.

We also begin the new year with a new intern working with the team. Tonje Myrland arrived from Norway at the beginning of September. She has already impressed with her ability to form positive relationships with young people and with her infectious enthusiasm for her call to serve God in this place.

Mervyn Hull
Chair CTYT

Welcome Tonje

Tonje in Grange. God touched my soul when I walk up the fells, or down the promenade. His wonderful creation, for my enjoyment, to His glory.

It's even more magnificent to be allowed to be His child, the creator and maintainer of the Universe. Coming from Norway, which in many ways is a very different country from England, it is amazing to feel God's presence here. Through people's hospitality, through fellowship, worship, nature and prayer.

I am so happy to come and work with the young people in Grange, and the surrounding villages. I work in schools, churches and clubs. For a year I will be around as an intern. My wish is to get to know God more, and hopefully, people can see more of him through me.

Thank you for working with me in prayer.

Tonje

36 Hours in Liverpool – 2nd and 3rd February 2019.

The Network Youth Church is organising 36 hours in the City of Liverpool. We live in a very rural area which can often be felt like a bubble. The idea is to give young people an experience of a City by visiting some of the many attractions and meeting some local people.

The plan is to travel by train, stay at the YHA in the middle of the City centre. On the Sunday we will visit a local Church and hopefully mix with some young people. Information and sign up forms will be out beginning of November.

Contact Chris for further information: ignitewindermere@hotmail.com or mobile: 07956396576.

Chris Mason

Reflection

Why Canon David Winter appreciates St Luke.

God's Story-teller

I can always remember the date of St Luke's Day (18th October) because my younger son was born that day, and so we gave him 'Luke' as his middle name. In any case, I admit he is my favourite of the four Evangelists. I think that's largely because, as a writer, I admire his outstanding skills, but I also warm to the glorious inclusivity of his gospel. Luke has more women in his story (many more), and they're not just doing the cooking. He has more Gentiles, more sinners, more outcasts from society.

His picture of Jesus is emphatically universal. Matthew's Gospel starts with Abraham, the father of Israel. Luke's story begins with Adam, the father of the entire human race (3:18). Luke is also a master story-teller. I don't believe there is a better story better told in the whole of world literature than his account of the so-called 'Prodigal Son' (Luke 16:11-17).

Some years ago, I was asked to provide a 'reflection' for a conference of chaplains at Young Offenders' Institutions. I duly turned up with a prepared presentation, only to find (which no one had told me) that the chaplains weren't all Christian. There was one Jewish and two Muslim chaplains, and my prepared piece would be inappropriate. With no time to prepare an alternative, I decided to go in at the deep end. I simply read them that story of the 'Prodigal Son'. When I finished, I invited any reactions.

A Muslim chaplain was first to speak. 'That is a very beautiful and moving story', he said, 'I've never heard it before.' There then followed a wonderful discussion, rooted in the biblical story, about sin and forgiveness, family complications, accepting offenders despite their past and, of course, the role of God as a 'Father' whose heart's desire is that we come to Him. It was an hour I shall never forget, and I drove home thanking God, and blessed St Luke, too.

Canon David Winter

Quotes of the month:

- Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% of how you respond to it.
- Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.
- Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week.

WRAY – JUNE

Douglas turned the car in at a very old broken down gate, not a five bar gate, just looked as though it had been thrown together with bits of wood, long ago. The driveway obviously little used now, almost meadowlike, overgrown the gravel; buttercups, grasses, weeds. A sign 'The Dower House', bed and breakfast; evening meals by request. An old yellowed square house with a high roof. A little further on, when about to turn to retrace to the road, to our left a small church, thick tower, most unusual. Maybe be very old, or maybe Victorian. At first glance, a living church; at second uncared for, deteriorating, some cracked stone. It just looked unloved.

To the left a graveyard not very full, very tidy, some graves with fresh flowers; and one new grave; square sods of grass formed into a heap. Someone's loss and sadness. Maybe a local person or parishioner.

I walked up the steps to the church door. Notice: 'This Church is no longer in use'. Nearby a thin wooden fence, an electric fence, a few cows and calves and one enormous golden brown bull. He was their protector. He was so close to the fence, I felt safe, though the fence looked frail.

I imagined the early vicars helping the people of this parish with sermons, prayers and biblical teachings, or hoped they did so. And that the people came away with new visions of hope in their lives, until after a week of frustrations and sorrows, troubles, they put on their Sunday clothes and well washed and shaven, and hopeful, they walked into this small church for renewals of hope for the next week and the next and next ...

Flo



This October we celebrated Harvest with a special worship in St Mary's Church with friends and family. We started by displaying some of the work produced by children within their class worships and in our classroom reflective spaces. The children's work was all centralised around our termly whole school Christian Value 'Courage'. Each class then went on to perform in a variety of ways to our large and supportive audience. The Snowy Owls sang 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' on stage in front of everyone and they were very brave and fantastic! Some confident children even spoke through the microphone. The Tawny Owls showed their work on a 'Harvest Rainbow', even singing the rainbow song with sign language. The Barn Owls talked about 'Fruits of the Sea' and how to protect our resources. The Eagle Owls entertained with their Harvest version of 'Ready Steady Cook!' and the lucky audience even got to try their apple crumble and vegetarian wrap.

Thank you to all the families who generously donated to our collection for Barrow Foodbank to support those in our local community. This was a genuine display of the meaning of Harvest, sharing and providing for all.

This month we are focusing upon remembrance, exploring peace and hope. We are working on a joint topic, with birds as a symbol of peace. Each class is producing a form of artwork, which will shortly be displayed in St Mary's Church and in school itself. We hope that many of you will visit church and enjoy the children's art and the symbolism behind it.

CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favour of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies.

Starting on [Christmas](#) Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.

Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more sombre task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow combatants who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines.

The so-called Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers' threats of disciplinary action—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers' essential humanity endured.

During [World War I](#), the soldiers on the Western Front did not expect to celebrate on the battlefield, but even a world war could not destroy the Christmas spirit.

Broad

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

CHRISTMAS DAY ON THE SOMME

Australian soldier Leslie George Rub (**picture on the right**) fought and died in the Great War. He was single and one of nine children of a pioneering family (originally from Germany) in Drayton, Queensland. He was a carpenter by trade.

Like so many others he left a diary, some letters and a picture. From these his great-niece Julie Price is now compiling a small book. While reading his letters she came across a gem: the poem *Christmas Day on the Somme*, that her great-uncle apparently wrote in France, in 1916.

The poem doesn't have literary pretensions, but it is universal in expressing the feelings and experiences of the common soldier who tries to survive on one of the most terrible battlefields in history.



The cheerful sarcasm in which Leslie dipped his pen is *so* Australian, that the poem could not have been written by a soldier of any other belligerent country. Only Australians ridiculed the war (and their commanding officers) in this way. That makes this Christmas poem quite unique and refreshing.

Christmas Day On The Somme

T'was Christmas Day on the Somme
The men stood on parade,
The snow laid six feet on the ground
T'was twenty in the shade.

Up spoke the Captain 'gallant man',
"Just hear what I've to say,
You may not have remembered that
Today is Christmas Day."

"The General has expressed a wish
This day may be observed,
Today you will only work eight hours,
A rest that's well deserved.

I hope you'll keep yourselves quite clean
And smart and spruce and nice,
The stream is frozen hard
But a pick will break the ice."

"All men will get two biscuits each,
I'm sure you're tired of bread,
I'm sorry there's no turkey
but there's Bully Beef instead.

The puddings plum have not arrived
But they are on their way,
I'll guarantee they'll be in time
To eat next Christmas Day."

"Your parcels would have been in time
But I regret to say
The vessel which conveyed them
was Torpedoed on the way.

The Quartermaster's got your rum
But you may get some yet,
Each man will be presented with
A Woodbine Cigarette."

"The Huns have caught us in the rear
And painted France all red,
Pray do not let that trouble you,
Tomorrow you'll be dead.

Now ere you go I wish you all
This season of good cheer,
A very happy Christmas and
A prosperous New Year."

THE GOLD WRAPPING PAPER – An Inspirational Short Christmas Story

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

Anon

Try Before You Buy!

Myra was going to the Christmas office party but needed a new party dress.

In the clothing store she asked, 'May I try on that dress in the window, please?'

'Certainly not, madam,' responded the salesgirl, 'You'll have to use the fitting room like everyone else.'

I CANNOT CHANGE THE WAY I AM.

I cannot change the way I am,
I never really try,
God made me different and unique,
I never asked Him why.

If I appear peculiar,
There's nothing I can do,
You must accept me as I am,
As I've accepted you.

God made a casting of each life,
Then threw the mould away,
Each child is different from the rest,
Unlike as night and day.

So often we will criticise,
The things that others do,
But, do you know, they do not think,
The same as me and you.

So God in al His wisdom,
Who knows us all by name,
He didn't want us to be bored,
That's why we're not the same.

Anon

THANK YOU

It was January 2017 when Hilary was first taken ill, we thank you all for the generous outpouring of your love and prayers, for your visits that have meant so much and have been so uplifting. Since that time, also during the following episodes of illness that love and care has continued. We thank you so much. You have shown, so many times "God's Love in Action" you are very special to us. We thank God for you all. Also, during this period of time we are very much aware of how the church family has given that love prayers and care to so many of the church family and wider family who have been in need. Those who are facing difficult times through illness, family difficulties, loss of a loved one. We pray to for a very dear and special friend, as we know so many of you do.

Rev Rach. It means so very much to know that someone cares and is praying for you. We pray you have the gift of Faith The Blessings of Hope the Peace of His Love. May the true meaning of Christmas be with you today and always. Thank you for praying. Thank you for being there.

God Bless

Bryan and Hilary

CHRISTMAS: WHERE DID IT COME FROM? WHERE IS IT GOING

In many countries of the world, the celebration of Christmas on December 25th is a high point of the year. But why? Can it have any real meaning for us today? Is there a ‘real’ Christmas message?

From November onwards, it is impossible to forget that Christmas is coming. Coloured lights decorate many town centres and shops, along with shiny decorations, and artificial snow painted on shop windows. In streets and shops, ‘Christmas trees’ (real or plastic evergreen ‘conifer’ trees) will also be decorated with lights and Christmas ornaments.

Christmas cards

The custom of sending Christmas cards started in Britain in 1840 when the first ‘Penny Post’ public postal deliveries began. (Helped by the new railway system, the public postal service was the 19th century’s communication revolution, just as email is for us today.)

The old man with the sack ‘Father Christmas’ (or ‘Santa Claus’) has become the human face of Christmas. Pictures will be seen everywhere of the old man with long white beard, red coat, and bag of toys. Children are taught that he brings them presents the night before Christmas (or in some countries on 6th December – St. Nicholas Day).

Who was he?

Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name ‘Santa Claus’ which comes from the Dutch ‘Sinterklaas’. Nicholas was a Christian leader from Myra (in modern-day Turkey) in the 4th century AD. He was very shy and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it.

Boxing Day

In English-speaking countries, the day following Christmas Day is called ‘Boxing Day’. This word comes from the custom which started in the Middle Ages around 800 years ago: churches would open their ‘alms boxe’ (boxes in which people had placed gifts of money) and distribute the contents to poor people in the neighbourhood on the day after Christmas.

Making sense of Christmas

Today in the West, not many people consider the religious meaning to Christmas. Most people in UK or Europe will not go to a religious church meeting, even at Christmas. It has become a busy race to spend money on presents and get ready for the Day. In UK, our shops stay open till late Christmas Eve and often open again on Boxing Day with the cut-price ‘sales’. (Not much holiday for the poor shop workers!) A visitor from another world would think that Christmas was a festival to the gods of money and shopping.

How did Christmas start?

Since about 400 AD, Christians have celebrated the birth of Jesus. ‘Christ’ means ‘Messiah’ or ‘Anointed One’ – the title given to Jesus – and ‘Mass’ was a religious festival.

In the West today, the real meaning of Christmas is often forgotten. It has become a non-religious holiday! More children believe in Father Christmas than in Jesus. Christmas Day is a time for eating and drinking too much and watching television.

But the real Christmas story is found in the Christian Bible. It is told in two different books: Matthew and Luke chapters 1 and 2. If you have no Bible, you can read these chapters online. You may think that the story of the birth of Jesus, and the way that the West celebrates Christmas today, do not seem to have many connections.

The story of the Wise Men

After Jesus was born, wise men came to look for Him, from an area which is now in either Iran or Saudi Arabia. Although they are often called the “Three Kings”, the Bible does not say how many there were, or that they were kings. Three is only a guess because they brought with them three gifts.

Jesus a refugee

Herod, the evil king of the area, heard about the child, saw Him as a threat, and sent soldiers to kill Jesus. But God told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and the baby and escape to Egypt. They lived there till King Herod died and then went back to live in Nazareth. We read nothing more about the life of Jesus, except for one story when he was 12, until He reached 30.

The end of the story

Jesus was indeed "the man born to die". But that was not the end of the story. It is still going on, and you can be part of the story, if you wish.

No other person has had such an effect on human lives as Jesus. He came back to life again, and millions say they know Him today as a friend and helper in their lives. You owe it to yourself to find out more about Him. Is He who He claimed to be? Can He help us in our lives today? You have nothing to lose! Christmas is the time to stop and think about these important questions.

Mike (Ed)

NB: Abridged article from the Observer/Guardian.

CHRISTMAS 1940

By the end of 1940, 24,000 civilians had been killed in the Blitz and hundreds of thousands made homeless. In November, German bombers had obliterated Coventry city centre and there had been particularly fierce raids on Manchester and Liverpool in the days leading up to Christmas. The public were now mourning the loss of their loved ones on the home front and in combat, as well as praying for the 41,000 British soldiers captured on the continent.

In order to avoid the bombs, many families spent some of the festive period in air-raid shelters and other places of refuge and decked out their temporary homes with makeshift decorations. Very short Christmas trees were in demand because of the height of the shelters.

'On the ration'

Assuming that gas or electricity was available, Christmas dinner would have still been a triumph of ingenuity. Turkey was unaffordable and most made do with other cuts of meat, which were still expensive.

Presents and gifts

The public were discouraged from giving presents and encouraged to give as much as they could to the war effort. Almost £10 million in war bonds was sold in the week before Christmas.

Men and women on duty

Postmen attempted to deliver millions of letters and parcels to streets that had been razed by the bombing, whilst many more civilian men and women were on duty in their roles as ARP wardens, Home Guardsmen, Observers, fire fighters, ambulance drivers and other crucial occupations. Travel was discouraged; not just because of fuel rationing, but to keep the roads and railways free for transporting war goods and returning troops.

No Christmas bells

Entertainment over the festive period included Charlie Chaplin satirising Hitler in "The Great Dictator" and BBC Radio broadcasts of "Kitchen Front", the King's Speech and variety shows. The BBC also broadcast a Christmas sermon from the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. Elsewhere, church services happened as normal (bomb-damage permitting) but bells were not allowed to be rung, as this signified an invasion, and the windows were not allowed to be lit.

The City burns

Mercifully, there was an unofficial postponement of the bombing by both sides from Christmas Eve until the 27th. Sunday 29 December marked one of the fiercest bombing raids of the whole Blitz - so fierce it caused what became known as the Second Great Fire of London. As the City rapidly became a raging inferno, the dome of St Paul's Cathedral was photographed towering unscathed above the carnage. This became one of the most powerful images of the whole war, and one which inspired the British public on the eve of another year of conflict.

Anon

EASYFUNDING

Don't forget when ordering good or booking rail tickets or holidays on line to use **EASYFUNDRAISING**.

Amazon, Marks and Spencer, Travelodge, Argos, Next, there are so many High Street stores that will give us a donation. If you are interested in helping the church in this way just click on **EASYFUNDRAISING** and name **St Mary's, Allithwaite** as your chosen charity.

THE COST OF LOVE'

When I was six, I spilled my milk. And it poured over my plate, and onto my lap and down to the floor. So my mother soaked up the milk, and mopped up the floor, and stopped me from crying and popped me into a fresh set of clothes. And when she finally got back to the table, her dinner was cold.

When the milk gets spilled, somebody needs to clean it up. And cleaning up means giving up something for someone else.

I turned on the evening news and there was a house on fire. No one knew how the fire started. Arson? Faulty wiring? But everyone knew that there was an old woman trapped in the house. So a fireman went in and carried her out. And there he sat, sooty, sweaty and sucking in g down oxygen.

When the milk gets spilled, somebody has to clean it up. When the fire burns, somebody needs to pull it out. And putting it out means pulling yourself at risk for someone else.

I watched the film "The Passion of Christ" when it first came out. I sat through two hours of violence and pain. And I asked myself, "Why? Why did Jesus have to die that way?"

Then I thought about my mother. And I thought about the fireman. And I thought about this world of ours, where people get knocked down and blood gets spilled and hatred burns. And I wondered, if it takes the sacrifice of a mum to mop up milk, and the sacrifice of a fireman to put out a fire, maybe, just maybe, nothing less than the sacrifice of God himself is adequate to clean up the whole of a mess of this world.

Then the milk gets spilled, somebody needs to clean it up. When the fire burns, somebody needs to put it out. When the world goes wrong, somebody needs to fix it. And fixing it up means God giving himself up for us.

Keith Buckler

PRIORY DAY FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

On Monday, 1st October, approximately 135 pupils from the six local primary schools in the Cartmel Peninsula attended a workshop day in Cartmel Priory. The learning theme was centred around the Bible story of Moses and the burning bush, and as 9 o'clock approached the sounds of excited children could be heard outside the building. It is very fortunate that all six local schools have a Christian foundation and are all Church of England based faith schools. The children who attended were year 5 and year 6 pupils between the ages of 9 and 11.

The schools workshop day is something that has been happening now for quite a number of years and is organised and led by Jenny Leahy from Lindale Church. Jenny uses the skills of between 20 and 30 local church members all of whom worship at different churches within the Cartmel Peninsula.

Once the children entered the building they were given name badges and assigned to one of six groups identified by different colours. They then went to find their group leader who gave them the first assignment, a familiarisation quiz within the Priory. In recent years Jenny has organised '*Jester for Jesus*' - Mark and his wife, Sarah - to lead the day. After the introductory sessions, the groups rotated around the six workshops where great fun and productive activity was witnessed. These groups were led by the different church members, with Jenny in overall charge to ensure that all went smoothly.

Each group activity lasted about half an hour, all being linked somehow with the chosen Biblical story. They included drama, singing, craft, prayer space, games (this time in the Methodist Church), and an outdoor treasure hunt in the grounds of the Priory. As the groups rotated throughout the day, each child encountered the different experiences, with all coming together for short periods throughout the day for a recap by Mark on what the children were learning. This also included a sort of grand finale at the end of the afternoon, when everybody was brought together to conclude what had been achieved. Parents and school staff assembled at the rear of the church before collecting of the children were able to see for themselves what had been going on.

The whole day was a marvellous example of people from the different churches coming together to put on a worthwhile educational experience for a very large group of children, all of whom behaved and responded impeccably. The following comment has been sent to Jenny "the children were buzzing at the end of the day and had all really enjoyed it".

There was also the opportunity over coffee for the teachers from the different schools to meet one another and share in fellowship.

In fact, to conclude this article I felt it most fitting to include the thoughts of our newly appointed interim Team Rector, the Rev'd Dr Jim Bruce, who was in attendance and fully involved for the whole day.

Colin Milner

Dear Jenny

What a wonderful joyful kingdom building day! It was the best day I've spent in mission and ministry for years: thank to you and all your team so very much.

The children so obviously enjoyed themselves. The teachers too, and a number commented to me about how superbly well it was organised, as well as smiling and laughing in joy themselves.

If ever there was a great example of how churches working together on mission should look, and how the body of Christ should operate, and how the priesthood of all believers can act as a bridge to and from the Lord, today was it.

Thank you, and through you, to all involved

God bless us as we trust Christ to transform us, our churches, and our communities.

Jim

Revd Dr James Bruce
Transitional Rector, Cartmel Peninsula Team



MAGAZINE EDITOR REQUIRED



Please note that it is with deep regret that I am leaving the post of editor for the magazine after the Easter edition 2019.

This is due to personal reasons. Please contact Ian Davey or Mike (present editor) for further information. It is a very rewarding job and, after 3 years, it is time to hand over to someone else.

SEVEN REASONS WHY WE PUT PRAYER INTO ACTION AT ST MARY'S.

Prayer is an Act of Faith: Prayer may seem impracticable, but it is our way of getting God to do something. It may seem ridiculous but 'You do not test the resources of God until you attempt the impossible' (F.B.Meyer)

Prayer is an Act of Obedience: Our Lord commands it: He says *WHEN* you pray. What a privilege to enter the Holy of Holies through Jesus and introduce our needy loved ones to Him for His blessing. let's make a list of those we know who need Him most.

Prayer is an Act of Worship: The imitation and adoration of Christ must necessarily include prayer. As we pray we recognise His sovereignty and our helplessness, and we put Him back on the throne that is His. The temple where man meets God was set out to be a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56 v7-8)

Prayer is an act of warfare: Ephesians 6 reminds us of this and our need to 'pray at all times in the Spirit with prayer and supplication.' Let us particularly pray for those who seem casualties in this war and who suffer the consequences.

We can only imagine what they endure but we can escort them into the presence of the King of Kings who promises that He even notices when sparrows fall down.

Prayer is an act of sacrifice: Not Just for those in the persecuted church overseas but God invites us to sacrifice our time, our comforts, and our programmes. Busyness can prevent us from doing business with God.

Luther confessed 'I have so much business, I can't get on without spending three hours daily in prayer'. Let's check our priorities.

Prayer is an act of labour: It means hard work. Fitting in time to persevere with God. Prayer doesn't come naturally. Oswald Chambers wrote 'Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work.'

Let's try to arrange a time each day when we put up the notice 'Do not disturb'. It may require forward planning, even buying an alarm clock if we're early risers or a turning off the TV if we are more awake in the evening

Prayer is an act of love: There is no better way of showing we love someone than by praying for them. God's Holy Spirit pours His love into our hearts, so we can love someone as He loves them, even when by nature we may not even like them.

Jesus loves that person enough to die for them and the Father accepted His sacrifice for them as He did for us.

Let us remember each other as we pray and so encourage each other In seeking God's best for His/our church.

Keith Buckley

CAR WASH ST MARY'S SATURDAY 3RD NOV.



A great time was had by all who came along to support this event which Raised £170.00 and will be used to help families in the church enjoy our Church Weekend Away 11th to 13th January, which will be a time of fun and fellowship as we hear God's word together.

A very big Thankyou to the many volunteers who helped either wash cars made coffee and cakes washed up and or spent time just chatting to the many visitors we had mainly from the village,

The deal was £5.00 to have your car washed and have coffee, or Tea, and cake, it was a Win Win and there were many compliments as how clean the cars were, a special thanks to Jean, Arthur and Andrew Robinson who all helped wash their own cars as well as others and paid for the privilege.



As you can see from the photos taken many of the young people also mucked in not all of them in the pictures but Sophie and Lucy soon got stuck in when they came along. It was also lovely to have Tonya helping out and who admitted to liking washing cars, so if you need any help she's the one to call.

Isabel Davey

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church draws people of all ages together and invites them to experience a fun-filled Christian community outside of regular Sunday Worship.

Messy church is a wonderful way of using creativity and food to help people come close to God and each other. We have a large number of helpers to unable this to happen, without whom all of this would not be possible. The next Messy Church is on 3rd December at 3pm, St Marys, all are welcome



Our Annual General Meeting took place this month. Lunch was served to the members by the committee prior to the formal business.

Annual reports were given from the Treasurer, Secretary and President. Wendy Graham was re-elected president of the Allithwaite and Cartmel WI. This was followed by social time.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th December at 2pm, when we will be entertained by the children from Allithwaite School. New members are welcome, please contact Carol Lamb on 32876.



Copy for Next issue by the 1st March please.

Sunday Services

There are services every Sunday at: 8.00am and 10.45am.

The **First Sunday** of the month is a Service of the Word.

The **Second** and **Fourth Sundays** in the month are Holy Communion.

The **Third Sunday** of the month is an All-Age Service.

The occasional **Fifth Sunday** could be anything!

Our **Sunday School** meets during the morning service on most Sundays apart from All-Age Services.

Saturday morning prayers. Meet at St Mary's Church every Saturday morning at 9am for an informal time of prayer. All are welcome.

Service sheets—large print copies are available on the Welcome Desk, we also have a hearing loop system.

PCSO CONTACT

Howard Firth: howard.firth@cumbria.police.uk Tel. 101 ext. 45186. Grange, Allithwaite and Flookburgh

Debbie Ross: debbie.ross@cumbria.police.uk Tel. 101 ext. 45334. Bowness and Cartmel.

TO REPORT

Roads and highways, including potholes, road closures, road signs, gritting and pavements, are managed by Cumbria County Council. Hotline: 0300 303 2992

SLDC: Abandoned vehicles, street lighting, fly tipping, litter bins, dog fouling and road sweeping, contact: Hotline: (01539) 733333 or e-mail: customer.services@southlakeland.gov.uk.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

In case of flooding or other related problems the emergency contact numbers for the various organisations are below:

ORGANISATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE (Emergencies 24/7)
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	Main switchboard	03708 506 506
FLOODLINE	To report flooding	0345 988 1188
ELECTRICITY	Electricity North West	0800 195 4141
GAS	Transco	0800 111 999
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	BT	0843 504 3130
WATER, DRAINS, SEWAGE	United Utilities	0845 746 2200

The Lower Allithwaite Parish Council's Emergency Plan can be viewed by visiting: www.allithwaiteandcartmel.co.uk website where a copy of the plan can be found in 'Publications'.

GP Surgeries	Telephone
Cartmel	(015395) 36366
Flookburgh	(015395) 58307
Grange-over-Sands	(015397) 15715

The Bulletin Board

St Mary's Church, Allithwaite
AWAY WEEKEND
11th-13th January 2019
at the Lancaster House Hotel
University Campus, Lancaster
Adults £150 – accompanied children (16 or under) free



We have a number of people already booked for this event but there are still a few rooms available. If you would like to come, please pick up a brochure from the Welcome Desk, fill it in and hand it to John Tindale with your deposit. If you require further information, please contact Pat Rowsell on 015395 38871. We can be assured of great teaching, fun and sharing.

Sunday 9th December – Levens Choir Concert, 7.30pm St Mary's Allithwaite

Wednesday 12th December – 'The Big Sing' in Church 6pm and at the Pheasant Inn 7.30pm

Sunday 23rd December – Carol Service 10.45 – St Mary's Allithwaite

Christmas Eve – Christingle Service 4pm – St Mary's Allithwaite

Christmas Day – Family Communion 10.00am – St Mary's Allithwaite

HOUSE SWAP

If you would like to visit Australia in 2020 for a month or so, the Rt Revd David Mulready (Retired Bishop of NW Australia) would love to discuss swapping houses. He and his wife live in Gerringong, on the coast 2 hours south of Sydney. They would love to hear from you: 28muls@gmail.com

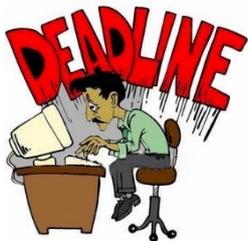


Please note that it is with deep regret that I am leaving the post of editor for the magazine after the Easter edition 2019.

This is due to personal reasons. Please contact Ian Davey or Mike (present editor) for further information. It is a very rewarding job and, after 3 years, it is time to hand over to someone else.

**THE CARTMEL PENINSULA TEAM MINISTRY
PARISH OF SAINT MARY'S, ALLITHWAITE**

TEAM VICAR	The Reverend Rachel Stavert Rachel is currently off work, please contact the Church Warden Ian Davey on 35950, or Rev Amiel Osmaston on 35476.	
TEAM RECTOR	Rev Dr James Bruce (Tues, Wed and Fri – 015395 35560 – Voicemail otherwise)	rector.cartmel@gmail.com (07776 821 736)
TEAM VICAR	Vacant	
ASST PRIEST	The Reverend George Wilson	(59215)
TEAM CURATE	The Reverend Andrew Norman	(39355)
CHURCHWARDENS	Ian Davey	(35950)
PCC SECRETARY	John Arthurs	(35406)
PCC TREASURER	John Tindale	(07984 342 266)
TEAM OFFICE (Tues Wed 10.00 —12.30) (Fri 9.00 — 13.00)	Linda Brown cptmoffice@gmail.com	(35560)
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Mike Lamb	(32876)
MARY LAMBERT HALL	Bookings	(32144)
COMMUNITY CENTRE	Caretaker and Bookings	(07582 706 353)



Items for the next issue of the magazine can be submitted any time, but before the 1st March please, and send to:

Mike Lamb, 6 Hazelgarth, Allithwaite, LA11 7RS
Home Tel: 015395 32876
Mobile Tel: 077757 36970

You can also place you articles in the letter rack in the vestry, post them or e-mail mikelamb34th@yahoo.com.

Please sign your article and include your telephone number in case of queries.

Thank you,

Mike (Ed)

