



St. Mary's Parish Church
Allithwaite
within
The Cartmel Peninsula Team Ministry



EASTER EDITION – 2019

THIS IS NOT FROM THE VICARAGE LETTER DO YOU TALK TO GOD?

If so, you are in the majority of the UK population! Praying is normal – it's not a strange minority activity.

51 per cent of adults in the UK say they pray (from nationwide research by ComRes for the charity Tearfund, 2018). Many people who say, "I'm not religious", still pray sometimes. More than that, six out of seven people say they believe that prayers can be answered, even if they don't pray themselves.

So what are all these people doing?

'Prayer' just means having a conversation with God. Anyone can do it. It's not difficult, and it's not just for holy or 'religious' people.

How can we talk with God? Because through Jesus we can get to know the Living God, who wants a loving relationship with each one of us.

Spring is the Easter season, and reminds us that after Jesus was murdered on a Roman cross, he conquered death and was raised to new life. It wasn't what we call nowadays a 'near death experience', after which people continue to live an ordinary life and eventually die in the normal way. Jesus really did die, but then he burst through it, destroying the power and fear of death....and appeared in a transformed eternal body.

So now he's alive for ever. And since he's alive, we can relate to him and talk with him. It's as natural and simple as talking with a good friend on the phone.

What do people pray about? The survey shows that 71% pray for their family, 42% pray to thank God, 40% pray about friends or for healing, 37% pray for guidance, 28% pray for themselves, 24% pray for worldwide problems. What do you pray about?

When and where do people pray? One in three people pray in a place of worship, and before going to sleep or on waking. Others combine prayer with daily activities: 20% pray while doing household chores or cooking, 15% pray while travelling, and 12% pray during exercise or other leisure pursuits. When and where do you pray?

What advice does Jesus give us about prayer?

Read Matthew's gospel, chapter 6, verses 1-15. Jesus teaches us in the Lord's prayer what our priority-requests should be, and adds:

Just ask! God knows us and understands our needs before we ask (*Matthew 6, 5-8*) just as a caring parent knows the needs of their own child. But parents like to be asked, and it builds a relationship of love and trust.

Listen to God! All conversations and relationships must be two-way. The Holy Spirit can work in us to help us to pray – so let's ask for help to calm our minds, to listen and discern what God is saying to us.

Keep praying! Thank God and spend time together. Don't give up (*Luke 18, 1-8*). Our prayers may not be answered immediately, but as we look back with hind-sight we can often see that God's timing is wiser than ours.

So may God bless you during this Lent and Easter as you spend time talking together.

Revd. Amiel Osmaston

EDITORS RAMBLINGS—THE LAST POST
THE PARABLE OF THE BUTTERFLY

As a butterfly soared overhead, one caterpillar said to the other, "You'll never get me up in one of those things." Yet for every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and he instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around himself. The chrysalis hardens and you'd think for all the world that the caterpillar is dead.

But one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis begins to writhe, the top cracks open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly glides aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colours to the bright blossoms. Somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination for us. Perhaps because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of resurrection.

On Easter morning the disciples saw Jesus' graveclothes lying on the cold slab still wrapped round and round the corpse. Only the corpse was gone, much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly who has left to soar free. "He is risen as He said," an angel told the incredulous disciples.

Later that day he appeared to the disciples, and then, over the course of the next few weeks, to as many as five hundred people at one time. Even "Doubting Thomas" didn't doubt for long that Jesus was really risen from the dead.

What do we Christians say in the face of death? There are many mysteries. But two things we know for sure. First, death is an enemy. Away with the sentimentality that vainly seeks to disguise death's insult! But second, and more important, Jesus' resurrection from the grave is God's proof to us that death is not the end. The empty tomb and Jesus' Spirit within us testify that Easter morning is God's triumph over death. And ultimately, Jesus promised, God will raise from the dead us who believe in His Son.

Why do Christians gather on Easter morning? To show off their fine clothes or give a ritual tip of the hat to religion? God forbid! Rather we gather to celebrate Jesus' victory over death itself. For since He is our Lord and our Saviour, His victory is our victory. In celebrating His resurrection we celebrate our own assurance of ultimate triumph over death.

Join us this Easter as we celebrate Life! And if you look closely Easter morning, you might even see a butterfly alight on the lilies.

Mike (Ed)

CARTMEL PENINSULAR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk

CPLHS is an active and vibrant society with about 100 members. The Society organises lectures for members between September and May. Visitors of course are very welcome to attend the lectures and pay at the door (£3). Full details of future lectures are contained on the [Events](#) page, and on the [lecture summaries](#) page you will find a synopsis of past lectures. The Society also has occasional meetings to discuss members' ongoing research.

There are also field excursions between June and August for members. In 2017 members were guided around two of the buildings in High Newton and enjoyed a walk in the same area looking for evidence of the Flax industry.

2019 Lecture Programme

7.30pm on 1st Thursday of the month, at Cartmel Village Hall (except May meeting). Free parking on site. Members free; Visitors £3

7 Feb - Richard Sanderson - Backbarrow Ironworks

Backbarrow Ironworks have been described by Historic England as “the best illustration nationally of iron-smelting technology development from the early C18 to the C20”. The site has featured on the Heritage at Risk register for many years, and there have been a number of previous attempts to “save” it without success. Richard will tell us more about what is happening now and plans for the future.

7 March - Michelle Cooper - Fishing Traditions of Morecambe Bay

A oral history project run by Morecambe Bay Partnership as part of Headlands to Headspaces (H2H) is focusing on the small inshore fishing communities especially those at Flookburgh, Morecambe and Sunderland Point. Michelle will give us an insight into what memories have been collected.

4 April - Arnside Archives - Arnside Maritime Heritage

Research is being undertaken on boatbuilding by the Crossfield family of Arnside and The Severn, a 1912 yacht, built by Crossfield returned to Arnside in April 2018. This talk will be about the project.

9 May- Dan Elsworth - Allithwaite Archaeology (at Mary Lambert Hall, Allithwaite)

Dan of Greenlane Archaeology will update us about important and exciting archaeological finds in Allithwaite in the past and more recently.

Summer trips TBA

5 Sept - Alan Cleaver and Lesley Park – The Corpse Roads of Cumbria

Criss-crossing the Cumbrian landscape are many trods, paths, lonnings and other ancient trackways, included among these are several corpse roads. These paths were used until the 18th Century to transport the dead from the remote villages to the 'mother' church for burial. Alan and Lesley have written a book about these tracks.

3 Oct - Peter Roebuck - Cattle Droving through Cumbria 1600-1900

A talk by an Emeritus Professor of History at University of Ulster who now lives in Cumbria. He has researched and published research on Irish and British agrarian history. Peter will talk about large scale, long distance movement of cattle from pasture to market.

7 Nov - AGM

If you have any questions please contact Pat Rowland on 015395 32234 or email patrowlanduk@gmail.com

SOWING AND WEeping

Eagerly I dug the ground
Then scattered the seed all around
The packet told me what to do
The sun was warm, the sky blue Anticipation screamed at me
Fully grown plants I wanted to see
Out of the blue it began to rain
So I went back inside, again
Back to the daily grind
Pulling down the kitchen blind
With all those things to do, day after day
The sky's unremitting grey, I forgot to pray
After many days the sun came out
And I heard a sudden shout
"Darling, what are all these weeds?"
And what I saw brought me to my knees
Where I'd put a row of seeds
Grew something akin to trees
I pulled and cleared until my hands began to bleed
I fought and sought and began to plead
" Lord, what of the seed you've sown
What of the vision you've shown
Where is all the good you've done
What happened to what you've begun
Why all these weeds?
And God answered –

"How else could I get you on your knees?"

I REMEMBER:

I remember standing at the graveside. There was no tombstone - just a newly dug grave in the ground. He'd been helping at Communion when the church was burst into- the people fled, the church was burnt down. he and the minister were murdered. Nothing beside remains except a few burnt bits of paper (I have a photo) - barely recognizably and having once been a Bible. What could the people do? No minister - no church - no Bible. But even in Northern Nigeria they could somehow manage to get a new Bible. They could still meet. 'It's better now - people can hear us and learn why we are praising God for Jesus!'

I remember visiting Kosovo, every building had shell holes, many were completely destroyed. One such belonged to a man who collected and studied books - destroyed. Except one 'Why had that one survived?' he wondered. He read it- a Bible - it offered him purpose and showed him a path for the future.

I remember a girl, only a teenager. I told her parents I'm sorry there is nothing we can do for her ' We'd operated, and she had incurable cancer in her bloated abdomen. 'You may as-well take her home'. But in Thailand the girl has a right to express her desires... next incarnation she might be above her parents! So she demanded to stay, and as the parents could afford it, she did! There 'in her ward, someone gave her a Gideon Bible to read - and as she met the Living Lord in The Living Word, Jesus, became her Saviour. 'Nothing we could do?' but something He could.

I remember how excited my friend was when he was given a Bible at Sunday School. He took it home and showed it to his family. They were also pleased and proud. HE put it away safely. It is still there somewhere. But that was 20 years ago.

He's never really got around to read it. But he still has it.

I remember being given Bible myself. In the front is a message from King George
*"To all serving in my Forces by sea or land, or in the air, and indeed to all my people engaged in the defence of the realm, I commend the reading of this book. For centuries this Bible has been a wholesome and strengthening influence in our national life, and it behoves us in these momentous days to turn with renewed faith to this Divine source of comfort **and** inspiration".*
I didn't receive it till 1945 but it was dated September 15th 1939.

I remember making a promise to read it every day. I haven't always kept that promise, but I have tried to! You see in that book I have found the way of real life, the truth of real life, and the Life itself. I can meet daily with Jesus who is The Way, The Life and The Truth, and The Life' and in Him I can each day discover the purpose and power of real Living!"

So can you!!

IT'S MID NIGHT, AND AT MIDNIGHT THINGS HAPPEN.

It's midnight, and at midnight things happen.

33 years before a baby's first breath had disturbed Bethlehem's sleep... now that baby grown is less than 24 hours from his last.

One of his closest friends had betrayed him.

There is a crowd coming to arrest him.

And his followers who had sworn to defend him are asleep. There are no shepherds on the way, no guiding star above. For all practical purposes, he is alone.

What the angels sang about so joyfully all those years before must now come to pass. He must be the Messiah, redeemer and Saviour, but in a way that not even the angels could have imagined.

He smiles at the irony of it.

To be Prince of Peace has little to do with living a peaceful life.

There has been plenty of bother and misunderstanding and controversy and now finally this.

There is a part of him that wants to run off - off into the darkness.

But he is confident, because he has prayed, that nothing but his death will bring that darkness to an end.

He can see the torches now, slicing through the night in his direction.

He is a torch, as well. about to be consumed for his father's sake, and for the sake of the world.

As the arresting soldiers obey their orders, they have no idea what they are doing and understand even less what God is doing.

For it's midnight, and he is up to something again.

He sent the baby to Bethlehem and now he sends his own Son to a cross, that the soldiers and the world just like them might have their darkness turned to light.

Because it's midnight. And at midnight things happen.

One day ends. And a brand new day is born.



The March meeting featured a talk by Ruth Gibbons entitled "Eating well, feeling great". The members thoroughly enjoyed the very informative and amusing talk which explained the value of the different food groups and also dispelled some of the assumptions about what comprises a healthy diet. She explained which foods belong in which groups and what percentage should, ideally, be part of a well balanced diet.

The next meeting is at 2pm Tuesday 2nd April. New members welcome. Please contact Wendy on 32902 or Carol on 32876

HOW LONG DO YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN?

Is there an imaginary cutoff period when offspring become accountable for their own actions?

Is there some wonderful moment when parents can become detached spectators in the lives of their children and shrug, 'It's their life,' and feel nothing?

When I was in my twenties, I stood in a hospital corridor waiting for doctors to put a few stitches

In my son's head and I asked, 'When do you stop worrying?' The nurse said, 'when they get out of the accident stage' ... my parents just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my thirties, I sat on a little chair in a classroom and heard how one of my children talked incessantly, disrupted the class, and was headed for a career making license plates.

As if to read my mind, a teacher said, 'Don't worry, they all go through this stage and then you can sit back, relax and enjoy them.' My Parents just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my forties, I spent a lifetime waiting for the phone to ring, the car to come home, the front door to open. A friend said, 'They're trying to find themselves. 'Don't worry! In a few years, they'll be adults. 'They'll be off on their own They'll be out of your hair' My Parents just smiled faintly and said nothing.

By the time I was SO, I was sick & tired of being vulnerable. I was still worrying over my children, but there was a new wrinkle... even though they were on their own I continued to anguish over their failures, be tormented by their frustrations and absorbed in their disappointments... and there was nothing I could do about it. My Parents just smiled faintly and said nothing.

My friends said that when my kids got married. I could stop worrying and lead my own life. I wanted to believe that, but I was haunted by my parent's warm smiles and their occasional, 'You look pale. Are you all right '?' Call me the minute you get home'. Are you depressed about something?'

My friends said that when I became a grandparent that I would get to enjoy the happy little voices yelling Grandma! Papa! But now I find that I worry just as much about the little kids as the big ones. How can anyone cope with all this Worry?

Can it be that parents are sentenced to a lifetime of worry? Is concern for one another handed down like a torch to blaze the trail of human frailties and the fears of the unknown? Is concern a curse or is it a virtue that elevates us to the highest form of earthly creation?

Recently, one of my own children became quite irritable, saying to me, 'Where were you? I've been calling for 3 days, and no one answered I was worried.' I smiled a warm smile. The torch had been passed.

GOD FOR ALL – THE BIG DISCUSSION.

I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Cumbria Diocese, headed “God for All – The Big Discussion”. There were two sessions the same, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, held at the Rheged Centre, Penrith. Both very well attended with hundreds of people involved, as well as being live streamed over the internet.

We were welcomed and coordinated by BBC Radio Cumbria’s presenter Richard Corrie. Various people spoke including the Bishop of Carlisle James Newcomb, Methodist District Chairman Richard Teal, President of United Reform Church and Churches Together in Cumbria Sarah Moore. “Fresh Expressions” of being church in the community were also vigorously represented.

There was prayer, worship and much discussion about where Church (the people of God) is today. All Christians coming together uniting in the “good news” message of Jesus, whilst celebrating the diversity of our approach to worship.

Making the most of our resources to enable everyone to hear the Gospel, no matter where our location, or whether we have a dedicated building. This applies not only to the Church of England but to all denominations. Working through Anglican Mission Communities and alongside growing “Churches Together” areas, the aim is to make available “God for All” in accordance with the Great Commission to go out into all the world.

A Big Discussion indeed! Recognising where we are ... and where we would like to be... and how we will achieve the steps in between. What do you think?

Michael Fieldhouse.

HINTS ON PRONUNCIATION - GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

I take it you already know of tough and bough and cough and dough. Others may stumble, but not you. On hiccough, thorough, laugh and through. Well done! And now you wish, perhaps, to learn of less familiar traps.

Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird. And dead - it's said like bed, not bead.
For goodness sake, don't call it deed! Watch out for meat and great and threat.
They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.

A moth is not a moth in mother, Nor both in bother, broth in brother, And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for pear and bear.
And then there's dose and rose and lose Just look them up--and goose and choose. And cork and work and card and ward.
And font and front and word and sword. And do and go, then thwart and cart.
Come, come I've hardly made a start.

A dreadful language? Man alive, I'd mastered it when I was five!

The glass

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

Girlfriend

When our vicar and his wife visited our neighbour, her four-year-old daughter answered the door. "Mum!" she yelled toward the living room. "God's here, and he brought his girlfriend.

Make a date

Meeting with our new enthusiastic young curate, I asked if I could have a church service when I eventually die. "Of course," he said, grabbing his date book. "What day do you want?"

A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

A professor stood before his philosophy class with some items in front of him on the desk.

When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked if the jar was full? They agreed it was. The Prof. then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. He then asked again if the jar was full? The students agreed it was.

Next the Prof. picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up the remaining spaces. He then asked if the jar was full. The answer was a resounding "YES".

The Prof. then produced two glasses of wine from under the table and proceeded to pour them into the jar effectively filling the spaces between the sand. The students laughed. "Now" said the Professor, "I want you to recognise this jar as representing your life. The golf balls are the important things - your family, your health, your children, and your friends - the things that if everything else were lost your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job and your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff."

He continued "If you put sand in the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house and give a dinner party. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. The rest is just sand.

One student raised her hand and asked what the wine represented. The professor smiled and said "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show that no matter how full your life may seem to be, there is always room for a couple of glasses of wine.

ALLITHWAITE FREE MINI LIBRARY

Allithwaite Free Mini Library is now open, located at the gate entrance of St Mary's on Church Road. The facility is open 24 hours and for those dull days has a small solar powered light installed with a non-slip floor for the wet days to.

If you use the facility, don't forget to secure the door on the hook provided marked with yellow and black checked tape. As you would expect we ask users not to smoke for obvious reasons and if there is an issue with the facility contact numbers are listed within the library.

At present there are books of various genres which will be extended when more shelves are installed. There are no rules as such, except please return the books borrowed. There will also be comment forms for users to pass comments which will help us develop the library and if successful in Allithwaite a similar facility could be installed in an accessible site in Cartmel.

Our library keeper will monitor the library every few days to check on the facility and to reshelv any returned books.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who have contributed to the facility in different ways including, Allithwaite & Cartmel WI, The Gateway Group, St. Mary's Church, Chris Naylor, Ashley Newstead and Mr & Mrs France.

Mike (Ed)

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL 2019

A new Electoral Roll is currently being prepared at St Mary's Church. If you are reading this in the church magazine you are more than likely in the parish. In the Church of England every 6 years a new list has to be prepared in each parish of those people who wish to be on the Church Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the church. It contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

To be on the electoral roll a person needs to have been baptised, be at least 16 years old and either:

Living in the parish and a member of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England; or

Not resident in the parish but is a member of the Church of England (or a Church with which the Church of England is in communion) and has regularly attended worship in the parish during the six months prior to enrolment; or

A member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and they are prepared to declare themselves a member of the Church of England, having regularly attended worship during the six months prior to enrolment.

If you wish to apply to be on the Church Electoral Roll please fill in the following form and return it to: St Mary's Church, Allithwaite, % Team Office, Church Hill, Grange-over-Sands, LA11 7BD

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND **APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT
ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

Full name _____

Preferred title (if any) _____

Full address _____

_____ Postcode _____

I declare that (please tick only one box from options A or B)

1A I am baptised, am a lay person, and am aged 16 or over

1B I am baptised, am a lay person, and become 16* on _____

**Those who become 16 in the next twelve months may complete the form and become eligible to be entered on the roll on their sixteenth birthday.*

I declare that (please tick only one box from options A, B or C)

2A I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and am a resident in the parish.

2B I am a member of the Church of England (or a Church in communion with the Church of England) and, not being resident in the parish, I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

2C I am a member in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also declare myself to be a member of the Church of England and I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

I declare that the above answers are true and I apply for inclusion on the church electoral roll of the parish.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

YOUTH TRIP TO LIVERPOOL

On 2nd February, early in the morning, 13 kids and 4 adults met up at Kendal leisure centre and all got into the minibus. We then drove down to Liverpool, with a stop off at Crosby beach to have a walk and see Antony Gormley's Iron Men. Next, we drove down to Anfield, the home of the greatest football team, where we ate lunch, and started our tour of the legendary home of LFC.

In the tour, we got to see the dressing rooms of the players, the different stands, the seat that the manager sits in, and finally gave the players some good luck in their next game by touching the 'This is Anfield' sign! In the afternoon, we checked into the YHA and had a leisurely afternoon eating doughnuts and looking in museums.

In the evening, we went to Chris's old church where we ate tea from a local takeaway, and then one of the members of this church shared his testimony about his adventures being a missionary in Yemen. In the morning, we had an all-you-can-eat cooked breakfast followed by church in the same place we had been the night before. T

he worship was different and then the children went downstairs to do Sunday school. This was really interesting seeing the different ways young people worshipped God. I really enjoyed this trip and am thankful to all of the organisers.

Andrew

EVERYWHERE

Thank you...

You are the hand that picks me up when I stumble,

You are the shoulder to cry on when times are tough.

You are the light that guides me,

You are the gentle breeze that rocks my boat to the shore.

You are the signpost that shows me where to go.

You are in the trees, the water, the sky.

You are in the smiles of everyone I know,

You are everywhere, right behind me, ready to catch me when I fall -

So thank you...

By Sophie Harris

Written in Sunday school as a modern Psalm.



Our school value this term is 'creativity' and our Monday worship has immersed the children in a wide variety of bible stories – all with links to this value.

Each class has been taking part in a wide variety of curriculum learning with links to our value.

Our Eagle Owls class have been utilising photography and computer skills to create an end product reflecting the beauty of nature in our school grounds.

Some of our Eagle Owls class learnt and performed a 'Viking themed' dance at Ulverston Victoria School, which they choreographed with Lucy Everett from Dance Attik. The children's performance was so impressive that we received complimentary phone calls in the office.

Our Allithwaite Toddler Group has been very well attended this term and Mrs Swift's next topic is 'Dinosaurs' so expect lots of roaring & stomping to follow...

Our Barn Owls class have been reading 'Stig of the Dump' and worked in teams to build three shelters from the different eras of the stone age. We compared their creations to those of God.

We have had a very active sporting term so far, with children participating in gymnastics, cross country and dance events. Still to come before Easter is hockey and more cross country.

Allithwaite School Production of Oliver

For one night only - our key stage two children lit up the grand stage of Victoria Hall with their outstanding performance of 'Oliver'. The stage was awash with colour; with professionally printed back drops generously donated, incredible props loaned from many kind contributors and fabulous costumes from Hilary's. The children commented how they felt 'like true actors' and 'transported to another world'.

A vast array of the school community turned up to enjoy the children's hard work, from family members (some from afar) and friends to past pupils and school volunteers. The hall was packed and the atmosphere was electric.

The children gave an incredible performance from start to finish. There were finely polished dances, superb singing and amazing acting as well as moments of humour, several costume changes, serious drama and the inevitable proactive thinking that live stage brings!

The perseverance and determination of our children, parents and staff resulted in a truly wonderful evening for all. We are proud to enjoy these exciting opportunities and lifelong memory making moments with our community and to always do things BIG.

Gillian

THE THIEF ON THE OTHER CROSS: A GOOD FRIDAY MONOLOGUE



I don't belong here. I really don't. Paradise is the last place I expected to end up after all I've done. Let me tell you my story.

I am — I *was* — an armed robber, I guess you'd call it. Me and Jake and the others would live in caves in the Judean hills near the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. We made our living by violence. We wouldn't take on people in the big groups that passed. They travelled together for safety. But a family alone would be an easy mark, as well as anyone fool enough to travel by himself.

Brandishing a strong staff would usually do the trick. Threaten them with a beating and they'd give up without much of a fight. But I've been known to break a few bones in my day, God forgive me. I don't think I actually killed anyone, but then I never stayed around long enough to find out.

The first time I meet Jesus is when I am invited to a party in his honour in Jericho at the home of a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus. I am introduced, we shake hands, and Jesus looks me in the eye for a *long* moment. He can see right into me, who I am, every crime I have ever committed. Then he smiles this big friendly smile. "You know," he says, "there's forgiveness for you in my Kingdom. How about it?"

I drop my eyes, say something non-committal, and shuffle away. The next day I'm in the crowd, hanging on every word he says. Jesus is talking about his Kingdom, comparing it to a mustard seed, calling it the Kingdom of Heaven.

I want so much to go up to him after he has finished and take him up on that forgiveness thing, but I just can't bring myself to do it.

I wish I had. It isn't much later when me and my friend Jake -- the guy on the third cross -- get caught by a Roman patrol. The others run off, but they catch us, beat us silly, drag us into Jerusalem, and throw us in prison. No mercy for the likes of us.

And so it happens that on the same day that they crucify Jesus, they crucify me and Jake -- one of us on his left, the other on his right. This isn't any normal crucifixion. Mobs of people are there just because of Jesus. Self-righteous Pharisees are swaggering and mocking. "If you're some kind of messiah," one sneers, "come on down from that cross. If you're a saviour, save yourself — *if you can!*"

Jake begins cat-calling, too, if you can imagine that. I yell over at him, "You miserable thug, don't you have any fear of God? Can't you see that we're going to die just like he is? Show a little decency! We're getting exactly what we deserve, but he ain't done nothing wrong."

Jake quiets down and the Pharisees lose interest. But I can't get Jericho out of my mind. I can't forget Jesus' eyes, his words, his invitation. And so I call over to him, though it's getting hard to breathe and talking makes it that much harder.

"Jesus!" I say. He turns his head towards me. "Jesus, I was there in Jericho. I met you at a party at Zacchaeus' house. Remember?"

He looks at me for a moment and then nods his head just a little. He *does* remember.

"I never forgot what you said. I wanted to say yes, but just couldn't. And now look at me — look at *us!*"

He is in bad shape — exhausted, in excruciating pain, back oozing, breath laboured. He isn't going to last long. I can see that. But somehow I can see *beyond* all that. He *was* the Messiah, *is* the Messiah, no matter what those priests and Romans and Pharisees have done to him. And when he dies, he will be with God. In a few hours, maybe less, he will be vindicated. He will reign in that Kingdom he told us about.

"Jesus," I call again, quieter now.

He opens his eyes. They are the same eyes, the same piercing, loving, honest eyes.

"Jesus," I say, "when you come into your Kingdom, would you remember me?"

His words are laboured, his lips parched, but I can still hear him pretty well. "Truly, I say to you...." His voice cracks, then is stronger for a moment. "Truly, this very day you will be with me in Paradise."

His eyes droop. He is fading quickly now. But I believe him. *I do!* That's what gets me through those next few hours until they break my legs to kill me. I *do* believe him!

And then I find myself here in heaven, in Paradise. I sure don't deserve to be here, but here I am anyway. I guess that's what a man like me gets when the King himself grants a pardon. Full forgiveness. Pretty amazing, don't you think?

(This story is fictional, of course, though it is based on the account in Luke 23:32-43)

Dr Ralph F. Wilson

GOD in the ARTS

'He gave us eyes to see them' - Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel

'You need hands to hold someone you care for' – that song of 1958 reminds us how hands can convey a wide range of gestures and meanings. Hands to embrace, hands to signal 'Stop,' hands to sound out applause, and hands to show welcome. In the life of the church, we can think of sacraments that mark out the individual Christian with the laying on of hands at confirmation and ordination. We can look at the priest at the eucharist where hands offer the peace, take bread and wine, and bless. In church windows and paintings, we often see the right hand of God emerging from a cloud: a sign that takes us back to the opening chapter of Genesis and God's mighty work of creation.

It is the theme of that incredible ceiling in the Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo: 65 feet above the ground and showing a vast array of 300 figures - sibyls and prophets and scenes from Genesis. On the far wall of the chapel the hand of Jesus is raised in judgement, but at the centre of the ceiling the hand of God reaches out to bring life to the body of Adam. Later, the right hand of God will draw forth Eve from the sleeping form of Adam: the only panel in which God stands on the earth. In this central panel God is like an elemental force soaring through the sky and surrounded by 12 figures. Adam looks up, patient and expectant, meeting the concentrated gaze of God, who reaches out to animate and inspire.

As his patron and ally, Pope Julius II was not at all well at this time, and so Michelangelo worked at breakneck speed to complete the ceiling. This scene took just three weeks in 1511. We look up and ponder the hand of the Creator in heaven, and we give thanks for the creative hand of the artist on earth.

Mike (Ed)

FLOODS

I thought I would write a poem
About what I could not say
Rain streaming down the windows
It is such a horrid day

High on the hill there is no fear
Of muddy torrents smashing down
Destroying much that we hold dear
Oh it's bad down in the town

People buy homes by a stream
It all looks perfecting charming
Torrential rains destroy the dream
The results are so alarming

Meg and Bill at number five
Kate and John at number seven
When they bought their cottages
They thought they were in heaven

It's quite impossible to see a way
To clear all the horrible mess
Though they work both night and day
It's bought them great distress

There's furniture and children's toys
Photo albums, books and clothes
All so much part of their homes
They thought they'd never lose

How valiant the British are?
When faced with much distress
In first in shock they weep or sigh
They clear up all the mess

People living side by side
Have never really spoken
Turn around and help each other
When homes are sadly broken

From trouble comes a friendship
They've never known before
From other just across the way
And those who live next door

Flo Davison

THE ETERNAL NOW

The future hurries through us to the past
and leaves but fading memories.
Art and photography may try to catch
the present tense and hold it fast
but never perfectly.

The present is a precious peep into eternity -
always the dawning of our newest day;
our chance to push back curtains
which obscure heaven's holy light -
all past regrets and failures to the left:
all future vain ambitions to the right.
And for that treasured moment in between
to be wide open to the streaming in of God.

Today is his 'Eternal Now'

I contemplate a painting
which many years ago
God used to tell me of himself.
It hung before me on my bedroom wall
when day come night I scurried on,
exploring rational philosophies
to solve the riddle underlying everything.
Then for a moment at that present time,
(in fact the bedtime of a doleful day)
this painting caught my gaze.
My searching stopped. Love told me
in the silence of its search for me.

That moment, frozen in the art of Dali,
is a moment outside time.
It is the moment when on Calvary
time stops and heaven opens wide.
And all the restless striving of the heart
is satisfied as with the inward eye
we glimpse eternity.

Christ hangs in darkness where his light
beams down on Galilee.
This mighty revelation
breaking through the sky above
that little scene of boats and fishermen,
inspires awe.
It tells me what I do to God
through dark indifference
and what in turn he does for me:
my past forgiven in that light,
my future given hope in him.

Through this picture then I met the one
whose tense is always present as we travel on.
We cannot gaze forever on that scene,
but know for certain that it never fades.
And one day we will know the fullness of
the only one who truly calls himself 'I am'.

David C. Ellis
From his compilation: 'Haunts of Silence' 2008

THOUGHTS

If we can see sunshine through rain
If we see Daffodils it's Spring again
If we can smile through feeling sad
If we can say things aren't too bad
 If we can find joy in giving
Comfort to someone barley living
If we can hold our arms out wide
 To clasp a tortured one inside

Then God is not far away
From our lives each day
He wants us all to know
As through life's journey we go
He is there by our side
Our conscious and our guide

Until the day he calls us home
He will never leave us
We will never be alone
Our lives are for sharing
We must always be caring
One for another
We Have Faith in Him

Flo Davison

YOUR CHURCH LAWN NEEDS YOU!



In these days of genetically modified food, the big question is “Why is there no genetically modified self-cutting grass?”

Until there is, we do need lawn mowers. At the moment there are only a few of us so the lawn doesn't get cut as often as we would like. If we had more volunteers it would mean everyone cutting less! So please do consider joining this exclusive club. Full training will be given, and it takes only an hour which you could do just the once over

the summer.

If you are willing, please let me know in person or on the phone (36789).

Thanks, Steve Bell

ST MARY'S CHURCH ALLITHWAITE SOCIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME

Saturday March 30th 7pm “A taste of Malta”

Mediterranean food and a talk from Doug Marshall regarding his work for CMS in Malta

Friday April 5th Churches Together Lent Lunch 12 – 1.30pm

Sunday May 5th 10.45 Service will include a talk about a water project in Rwanda; followed by Jacob's Join lunch

Friday May 17th Christian Aid Week Coffee Morning - St Mary's 10am

Sunday June 2nd Lunch at the Pheasant - 12pm

Friday June 21st Quiz Night and Fish and Chips

Saturday September 14th Church Walk, depart 10am.

Sunday October 6th Harvest Festival St Mary's 10.45am

Saturday November 16th Curry Night—St Mary's 7pm.

Note these dates in your diary, look out for further details of the event and sign up as appropriate.

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.



*Copy for Next issue by the
1st June 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 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 rector.cartmel@gmail.com
(Tues, Wed and Fri – 015395 35560 – Voicemail otherwise) (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 Linda Brown (35560)
(Tues Wed 10.00 —12.30) cptmoffice@gmail.com
(Fri 9.00 — 13.00)

MAGAZINE EDITOR Vacant

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 June please, and send to the Editor.

You can also place you articles in the letter rack in the vestry.

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

Thank you,