

✚ **PARISH NEWS** ✚



Ministry Team for St. Peter's and St. Thomas' Churches

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Assistant Curate (NSM)

The Revd. Ron Rutter

Assistant Clergy

The Revd. Jim Radcliffe

The Revd. Patrick Simpson

The Ven. Peter Dawson

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Mr. Roger Bingham

Mr. Gerald Crossley

Dr. Dorothy Williams

with Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett (Reader in Training)

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Mrs. Jane Fell

Mrs. Mary Davidson

Organists

Mr. Arthur Dewhurst

Mr. Glyn Hopkins

Newsletter Co-ordinators

Mr. Alan Wynne

Mrs. Mary Wills

The Vicarage, Heversham, Milnthorpe. Tel: 63125

My Dear Friends,

I would like to think again this month about Lent which started on the last day of February. It is a truly God-given time which is given to us on trust to use positively. As one person put it: 'It is lent by God and we must give an account of how we have used it when we hand it back.'

Just imagine what would happen if the millions of Christians throughout the world used this time as a time lent by God, with all that that involves. Changes in society would take place because changes would take place in the lives of the individuals who make up the Church of Jesus. The most fundamental change would be in seeing the need to repent - to turn round and back to God. This repentance is not a matter of us thinking it would be a 'good thing' but of knowing God as he is and seeing ourselves in some way as God sees us. Then there is only one thing we can do - repent - because we see how far short we fall.

Repentance is not just saying 'sorry' but a desolation when we know how much we have grieved God. Then we are in the place to receive forgiveness and to receive all the blessings God has for us. Now God can use us, and because he has begun a work of renewal in us he can use us to take renewal to our communities.

The vision of Ezekiel (Chapter 37) in the valley of dry bones is relevant. Response to God's word through Ezekiel brought the disintegrated together just as repentance and accepting God's gifts brings us together, but life only came after the breath of God, the Holy Spirit revived and renewed them.

Repentance and acceptance of Jesus are vital but they are not the whole picture. God wants to lead us on to revival and renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit. Many have stopped short of renewal, which is God's work in us, thinking that there is no more. God has got so much more for us, far more than any of us have received or imagined.

Let us pray that God will, during this Lent, lead us to repentance and an acceptance of all he has done for us in Jesus, and that we will willingly open ourselves up to the renewing 'breath of God'. We may look 'all together' but if there is no Holy Spirit there is no life. And if our Christian walk is dull then we should know what is missing. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus for his ministry during those 40 days. He will do the same for us this Lent - if we will let him.

We can 'play at' Church and being Christians in our own strength but we can only 'be' Church and Christian when the revitalising, renewing and reviving Spirit of God breathes life into our dry bones.

May this Lent be a life-changing experience for us all.

With every blessing.

Yours sincerely,

During **Lent 2001** the Groups in both Parishes will be studying the Parables of Jesus, though the study will follow a different pattern in each parish.

Each group is open to members of both parishes and they are free to join whichever group they wish. The groups are:

Tuesdays	7.30 p.m. at Ron & Rhona's home
Wednesdays	9.30 a.m. at Joan Atkinson's home
	7.30 p.m. in St. Thomas' Church Centre
Thursdays	7.30 p.m. at Robin & Mary 's home.

These gatherings will be published on the weekly notice sheet and any alterations to venues printed in bold type.

Mothering Sunday in Milnthorpe

Do come again to St. Thomas' on Sunday 25 March at 11.00 a.m.

Following the Millennium Carol Service, the next Village Community Event at the Church will be on Mothering Sunday.

It would be lovely to have the Church full once again for this family festival and those who were baptised, confirmed or married here are particularly welcome.

No candles or snow this time, but hopefully a sunlit church full of early spring flowers. Daffodils will be presented not only to mothers but to all ladies present in the congregation.

Trees for the Cemetery

It is now possible to extend the Memorial Planting scheme to those whose loved ones had a service of cremation rather than a burial, and to those who had any connection with Milnthorpe but may not be buried here.

All those contributing to the planting will be invited to a special service of dedication of the trees, and the name of those commemorated will be inscribed in a memorial book. It is now estimated that contributions of £25 will be appropriate. further details from the Vicar or from Linda Baverstock (015395 63271 evenings).

Milnthorpe-with-Heversham M.U.

As the February meeting of Milnthorpe-with-Heversham M.U. fell on Valentine's Day and in National Marriage Week, the theme for the service was Love. This was led by Dorothy Hornby; Mary Davidson gave the Bible reading. The Women's World Day of Prayer will be held at the Catholic Church on Friday, March 2nd. The Lady Day service will be on Monday, March 26th at St. Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale. Gwen Tuer asked members for ideas for a Deanery event to celebrate 125 years of Mothers Union. Several visitors came along to see slides of Heversham and Leasgill - "Then and Now" - shown and spoken about by Mac Sisson. Gwen Tuer thanked him for a very interesting afternoon. The next meeting is on March 14th, when the speaker will be the Rev. Jim Radcliffe on "Change and a New Life"

HEVERSHAM CHILDRENS' JUMBLE SALE 10 MARCH 2001

A Jumble Sale will be held in the Athenaeum on Saturday 10 March 2001 to raise money for the Children's Village Christmas Party. This is usually the sole fundraising event of the year so the more successful we can make it the better.

All help will be much appreciated whether by donating jumble, helping on the day or supporting the event.

Collection points for the jumble are as follows:-

J. Stannard	Woodhouse Lane	Telephone No. 63082
H. Dootson	Depthwaite	Telephone No. 63229
D. Cummins	Dugg Hill	Telephone No. 62726

Jumble will be sorted between 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.,
with the Jumble Sale commencing at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

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Poppy Appeal

The recent Poppy Appeal by the Milnthorpe and District British Legion raised a total of £2,544.34 to date: comprising Storth & Sandside - £179.12: Beetham and Hale - £705.78: Heversham & Leasgill - £519.01: Milnthorpe & Square collection - £1,140.43: There is more money still to come in. Thanks are expressed to all who collected and those who donated.

Party Time

Members of St. Thomas' Children's Sunday Club enjoyed fun, games and food at a party held at the Church Centre organised by Leaders Julie and Steve Alderson, Val Fishwick and Eryl Ricketts and assisted by young members Kara Drummond and Grace Alderson. The Club meets each Sunday morning at St. Thomas Church 11 a.m. All children welcome.

Family Service

During the February Family Service six babies/children were baptised. The Revd. Canon John Hancock welcomed all the candidates, their parents and God parents.

Meal out for Evergreens

Thirty-eight members of the Evergreen Club enjoyed a three course meal at The Cross Keys Hotel followed by a varied entertainment of music, songs and humorous dialogue. Mr. Vic Gray, president expressed thanks to the committee for their work and wished good luck and good health to all throughout the year 2001. The Evergreen Club meets each Friday at 2 p.m. in the Church Centre and would welcome new members.

Stories & Music

At their February meeting members of the Visually Impaired Group welcomed Bernard Tagliavini of the Persula Foundation. A well known story teller, Mr. Tagliavini's repertoire included three popular stories, also light opera songs of the early 20th Century. He accompanied himself on the guitar.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Milnthorpe & District Meals on Wheels celebrates its 28th Anniversary this month. This valuable service began with a meeting of volunteers at my home (then Mallow House) and has been running quietly and efficiently ever since, with two of the original members still continuing. Drivers and helpers are from Heversham, Levens, Beetham, Sandside, Burton and Milnthorpe, and deliver meals to these areas (except Burton) three times weekly on a rota which works out once a month per couple.

Recipients look forward to receiving these 2-course meals and also to seeing the deliverers. Thanks are expressed to all who continue with this work and also to the two new volunteers who replied to my plea in last month's newsletter.

Originally meals were supplied and cooked at Milnthorpe Primary School, followed by frozen foods cooked by members at the old Milnthorpe Cookery Room (now the Library), then at a separate area at Croftside and finally at Croftside by its own kitchen staff.

THANK YOU ALL

Mary Davidson (Organiser).

THE ATHENAEUM, LEASGILL

In order to clear up any misunderstanding, the Management Committee of the Athenaeum wish it to be known that there is now no ban on any sort of event at the Athenaeum.

The Committee are actively looking into ways of mitigating the occasional excessive noise which is generated at a few events. It is regretted that any misunderstanding may have arisen. The complainants have voluntarily agreed that some community-based events (such as the New Year's Eve dance) may take place without any restriction as to noise.

The Athenaeum Management Committee is endeavouring to work out a solution acceptable to the whole community.

J.L. Askew.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

The next meetings of WOW will be at 7.0 p.m. on Monday 5 March at the Vicarage; on Monday 2 April at Edward and Joan Thomas, Almond Bank Cottage, Arnside.

South American Evening

On 23 March at 7.00 p.m. there is to be a South American Evening in the Old School with a meal and slides.

Lent Project

The giving for the Lent project this year will be shared between two Jewish - Arab Christian organisations, the House of Victory on the slopes of Mount Carmel and Musalaha in Jerusalem.

Musalaha - What is it?

Musalaha is a ministry of reconciliation which encourages Messianic Jews and Palestinian Christians to come together to pray; to tackle theological issues together; to show concern for one another's welfare; it also holds conferences and publishes books in Hebrew and Arabic on Christian topics.

Why did it start It was founded in 1990 by Dr. Salim Munayer who worked at Bethlehem Bible College and was also a Pastor in Jerusalem and who saw the great need for reconciliation.

Why should we support it? The driving force of Musalaha is to obey Jesus' uncompromising command to love one another (John 15, 17) - a far from easy task for Jews and Arabs; reconciliation requires a blend of humility, courage and prayer. A Messianic Jewish pastor said recently, "We must move out of the realm of who is right and who is wrong, out of political talk and right down to the area of compassion." Such work needs all the help and support we can give.

House of Victory

What is it? The House of Victory provides a home for thirty drug and alcohol addicts, both Jew and Arab, at Stella Carmel; hundreds can give witness to the healing that comes through faith in Jesus. The worship centre attracts hundreds of people every week and many Jews and Arabs are coming to the knowledge of a loving, forgiving heavenly Father.

Why did it start? In 1998 David and Karen Davis, Americans who had worked among the dropouts and addicts of New York, visited Israel; seeing the drug abuse and alcoholism they knew that God was calling them to work there. They returned the following year and began to work among the addicts, but it was not until after the war with Iraq ended in 1991 that they were able to open a permanent home - the House of Victory.

Why should we support it? The work depends entirely upon the voluntary giving of Christians around the world; according to Paul (Romans 15.27) we should be part of such work, one that is bringing reconciliation and hope to the desperate and lonely, among Jews and Arabs in the sad and divided land of Israel

More detailed information about these projects may be found on the notice boards in both churches

CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP FELLOWSHIP

How many readers are aware that we have a CFF group in Grange? Membership is open to committed Christians of any age who are on their own and who would appreciate meeting like-minded people in a friendly atmosphere.

Meetings are held in the lounge of the Netherwood Hotel on fortnightly Saturday evenings, and cover various activities including speakers, discussions, music and games. The main theme is, of course, Christianity, so there are prayers and a Bible reading always. It is very informal.

If perhaps you are feeling lonely or a bit left out of things, then a pleasant evening in a comfortable place may be just right for you along with other benefits that membership of CFF can offer. Why not come along and find out if this is for you? A lift may be able to be arranged if necessary.

Ring Keith & Anne Waller (015395 34670) or Joy Bell (015395 62985)

SALE OF BRIC A BRAC & USEFUL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

SATURDAY 31st MARCH 2001

Joan Crockett's daughters are holding a table top sale of some of her more practical possessions in her memory with the proceeds going half and half to St. Peter's Church and the School.

They will be holding it at her old home, Yew Tree House, Heversham on Saturday 31st March between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Do turn up - they promise a varied collection of goods to all those villagers in search of extra household vases, ladders etc. etc.etc.!



SERENADE

Music for voices, organ & piano

FRIDAY 23rd MARCH 7.30 p.m.
ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Irene Kitt - Soprano
Janet Hoyle - Contralto
Brian Healey - Tenor
Hugh Stalker - Organ/Piano
Glyn Hopkins - Piano

Parish Calendar

Regular Weekly Services and Events.

Tuesdays Prayer Gathering at Heversham 7.30 a.m.
 Holy Communion at Heversham 10.00 a.m.
 Informal Prayer at Milnthorpe 1.00 p.m.

Saturdays Prayer Meeting at Heversham 7.45 a.m.

For Bell Ringing information call J. Thorley 62076

MARCH

1st Milnthorpe PCC 7.45 p.m

4th Lent 1
 Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe
 Family Service 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
 Family Service 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe
 Holy Communion 1.45 p.m. at Westmorland General Hospital
 United Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m. at Heversham

5th WOW Meeting 7 for 7.30 p.m. at the Vicarage - all welcome

7th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe
 Diocesan Consultants 10 a.m. at Rydal Hall

March contd.

11th Lent 2

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
Parish Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Parish Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe
Praise & Worship 6.30 p.m. at Heversham

12th Heversham PCC 7 p.m., Vestry Meeting 7.30 p.m.
Annual Church Meeting 7.35 p.m. (all welcome to all 3 meetings)

14th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe
Archdeaconry Parsonages Board 10 a.m.

18th Lent 3

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe
Parish Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Parish Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

19th Diocesan Renewal Group 10 a.m. at Penrith

21st Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

23rd Holy Communion 12.30 p.m. at Carlisle Cathedral - the Dean has
invited members of our congregations to attend the service.
Concert 7.30 p.m. at Milnthorpe (see posters for details)

25th Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
Morning Prayer 9 a.m. at Hincaster
Mothering Sunday Family Service 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Mothering Sunday Family Service 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

28th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

APRIL

1st Lent 5 - Passion Sunday

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe
Family Service 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Family Service 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe
United Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m. at Milnthorpe

4th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Kendal Deanery Clergy Chapter 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Kendal
5th N.I.S.C.U. Support meeting 7.30 p.m. in the Old School,
Heversham

8th Palm Sunday

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
Parish Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Parish Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe
United Service of Prayer for Healing 6.30 p.m. at Heversham
Speaker - Mr. Malcolm Lake.