

✚ **PARISH NEWS** ✚



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

Vicar

The Revd Canon John Hancock

Assistant Curate (NSM)

The Revd Ron Rutter

Assistant Clergy

The Ven Peter Dawson

Licensed Readers

Mr Chris Bennett

Mr Roger Bingham

Dr Dorothy Williams

Mrs Elizabeth Bennett

Reader Emeritus

Mr Gerald Crossley

Church Wardens

Heversham

Mr Tony Hesmondhalgh

Mr John Sowerby

Miss Joan Anderton

Milnthorpe

Mr John Ricketts

Dr John Thorley

Church and Centre Booking Secretary (Milnthorpe)

Prof G Gregory

PCC Secretaries

Sir Christopher Audland

Mrs Linda Baverstock

Mr Mike Robinson

PCC Treasurers

Mr Jim Robson

Miss Joan Anderton

Covenant Secretaries

Mr Jim Robson

Mrs Jane Fell

Electoral Roll Officers

Mrs Mary Davidson

Organists

Mr Arthur Dewhurst

Mr Glyn Hopkins

Mr Robin Orr

Newsletter Co-ordinators

Mr Alan Wynne

Mrs Mary Wills

Parish Visitor Co-ordinators

Mrs Audrey Wynne

Ven Peter Dawson

Bell Captains

Mr George Handley (63571)

Dr John Thorley (62076)

The Vicarage, Heversham, Milnthorpe Tel: 63125.

My Dear Friends

My letter is uncharacteristically short this month because I felt that Robin Orr's article should be given the first space in our Newsletter. Robin goes to Ukraine frequently with Hope Now Ministries, which we as churches support, and they proclaim in action and word the love of Jesus. Though Robin's visit took place just before Christmas the message is timeless, so please read on!

May the message Robin gives be a blessing to you.

Yours sincerely

Doing what I have been doing this past week in Ukraine cannot really be counted as "work": I have been doing the things that I most enjoy —teaching English and Music to pupils who want to learn, with the extra dimension — amazing, this, considering where I was — of being encouraged to share my Christian faith. It has been, if I am honest, a very enjoyable week! And I return with a heart overflowing with thankfulness that I was given this opportunity. I return feeling as though I've enjoyed a fantastic holiday!

Not that it has been a rest-cure, mind you: teaching every lesson in the day, starting at 8.30 am, with teachers always there to talk or ask questions in the breaks. Also, at their request, an extra lesson at the end of one day for a group of English teachers themselves!

My specific brief was to introduce the pupils to English Christmas Carols so I usually started by making the point that, just as, when a volcano erupts, we can glimpse vividly something of the tremendous fire that is always raging in the depths of our planet, so, in the occasional event in history, we can glimpse especially clearly the love of God our heavenly Father. His love for us, each one of us, never wavers for a moment, but we may not always be aware of it; we cannot always see it or feel it. Christmas was just such an event — a "spiritual volcano"! - and the birth of Jesus Christ ("the reason for the season") was so amazing and wonderful that, during the past 2000 years, men have been inspired to paint and carve, to build beautiful buildings and to write poetry and music to honour the event.

Of the many hundreds of Carols that there are it wasn't possible to do more than 3 or 4 with each class but favourites were "Silent Night" (the chance there to explain 'Saviour' and 'Redemption') and the traditional "The Holly and the Ivy" (the chance there to consider Jesus' passion and sufferings). With the older groups we often gave time to Christina Rossetti's beautiful "In the bleak midwinter"; the last line — 'Give my heart' - spurred me to quote Revelation 3, 20 ("I stand at the door and knock ... ") and to tell them of Holman Hunt's famous picture. With all age-groups — 7-17 was the range — we ended with the traditional "We wish you a merry Christmas"; this one invariably got an especially rousing rendering, especially from the Teachers' group!

Good tidings we bring". What are 'tidings'? News. The astonishing, astounding news that "God so loved the world that he gave his Son ... "(John 3, 16). **HALLELUJAH!**"

Robin Orr

**Heversham Village Party and Dance
for Children's Party Committee**

Saturday 15 February 2003 at 8.00 pm

The Heversham Christmas Party Committee has organised a village party to raise funds for the annual Children's Christmas Party. It will take the form of a disco and 'Jacob's Join' supper; where those coming volunteer to bring either a main course or pudding dish.

We hope to see as many people as possible, and it's a great way to get together and meet. Please contact Helen Dootson or Angela Tyson for tickets — price £4.00 per person.

Helen Dootson: 015395 63229, Angela Tyson: 015395 62125.

A PANCAKE PARTY

An invitation to join us at the newly renovated Old School, Heversham on Shrove Tuesday — 4 March 2003 for coffee and pancakes.

Call in any time between 9.00 — 11.30 am.

All Welcome

No admission charge — donations received for coffee and pancakes will go to The Old School Project.

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The above event launches a monthly event to "Call in for Coffee" at the Old School for the village. Watch Parish boards for next date.

GARDENS OPEN WEEKEND

Saturday 28 June AND Sunday 29 June

Heversham and Beetham gardens open.

We would be very grateful for any plants and cakes to sell during the weekend. Please contact Anne Robinson (015395 63191) if you would like any more information.

Levens Choir

Concert at 7.30 pm on 9 February 2003 at St George's Church, Kendal
Bach, Bliss and Britten.

Tickets from Specsavers, Kendal or on the door £7.00
Students/Children free.

WINDOW OF THE WORLD

The next meetings of WOW are on:

Monday, 3 February at 7.00 pm - Pat Radcliffe, Sunny Vale, Heversham

Monday, 3 March at 7.00 pm - Ron and Rhona Rutter, Ellerslie, Woodhouse Lane.

Please come along and support the worldwide church.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Six of us met in November to write Christmas cards to Christians imprisoned for their faith. We wrote about 120 cards to prisoners in Peru, Egypt, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia and India. As many will have seen on the television news, the Englishman, Ian Stillman, to whom we have sent cards for several years when he was in prison in India, was released in December — that was wonderful news!

A recent visit to Ukraine and Israel

In December 2002 I spent 11 days in Odessa, Ukraine, before taking a sailing from Odessa to Haifa, Israel. The purpose of my visit was to bring support and encouragement to the team members of the Ebenezer Emergency Fund, who work from a base in the city assisting the Jewish people in Ukraine return to their homeland by ship.

The weather was distinctly chilly, reaching — 14 °C. The electricity supply couldn't be totally relied upon and the hot water was available 6 evenings out of 7, from 9.00 — 11.00 pm. Food was adequate and hot soup very welcome — mashed potato and a chicken leg was often a main dish — we wondered what happened to the rest of the chicken!!

One of our volunteers had had a fall the day before I arrived and she spent 3 days in hospital before flying home to England for further surgery on a broken foot. This gave insight into the poor hospital conditions and the desperation of the doctors for equipment and medicines.

It was a huge privilege to participate in the sailing: I observed that amongst the 160 Jewish immigrants there was a blind man, 2 pregnant women, the elderly and infirm, and young parents with their children ... God's word was being fulfilled:

Jeremiah 31: 8-10. 'Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them for the ends of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and the one who labours with child, together; a great throng shall return there ... For He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.'

Joan Thomas

WINDOWS OF THE WORLD cont ...

Lent Project 2003 — The ILITHA Project

This year's Lent Project is in support of **Hope Africa**, a Christian charity working under the patronage of the **Anglican Diocese of Cape Town**. **ILITHA** —meaning "light" - is a project in one of the township "settlements" in Cape Town where there is great poverty and deprivation, unemployment, crime, disease, hunger and hopelessness.

The project provides a schoolroom/childcare centre in a small, rickety, one-room shack among rows and rows of others in the vast township. Ninety under sixes come in "shifts" every day to sing, play and learn in safety.

However there is a great need for materials such as books, toys, crayons, paints, puzzles, chairs and tables, food, milk, blankets and clothing for the winter. With more financial resources, there is hope that materials could be provided to build a proper building, possibly with a kitchen and toilet facilities which are much needed.

Please look at the **notice boards** in both St Peter and St Thomas' churches for more information and look out for the **envelopes** to collect money in during Lent. Your prayer support, as well as financial support, will be very much appreciated. Thank you in anticipation of your generous support.

MILNTHORPE NOTICES

Milnthorpe: St Thomas' Cleaning Rota

Recently a few people have had to retire after many years of faithful service. Therefore we are hoping others will come forward to help with this essential work of cleaning the nave and chancel of the Church. No previous experience necessary as training will be given! Teams of 3 are formed to clean fortnightly so volunteers may only be required to participate once every couple of months. If anyone can help, please would she — or he — contact Brenda Gregory on 015395 64082.

Milnthorpe Village Carol Service

We are already making plans for the next of these popular candle-lit services which will be on **Christmas Eve 2003**. A little later in the year we hope to form a community choir to sing on this occasion involving all 3 local churches and any others who would like to join in.

Mothering Sunday at St Thomas'

This will be the first of several special services to be held throughout the year which are for all the people of Milnthorpe and not just for the regular congregation. So do please note the day, 30 March, and more details will be given in next month's Parish News.

United Service at Heversham on 26 February — Transport

Milnthorpe parishioners who would like a lift to St Peter's are invited to sign the list on the notice board by the hatch — or to telephone Linda Baverstock on 015395 63271 (evenings).

Milnthorpe Christmas Day Lunch, 2002

I trust that you had a very happy Christmas, just as so many of the expressions in the cards you received hoped you would. Many people did not, of course, but the 20 of us who met together in Milnthorpe Methodist Church Hall had a wonderful meal, and good company as we celebrated the tail end of this Jubilee Year. Thank you for your support and love shown to others in your giving towards this time together, and a special thank you to those helpers who gave up their own day to be with us.

Joy Bell

Friday Coffee Mornings, Milnthorpe Methodist Church

Can we please take this opportunity to thank you for your support over 2002, and let you know that we shall be commencing once again on **Friday, 29 February 2003, 9.30 am to 12.00 noon**. Always some bric-a-brac, and a selection of good quality clothes, as well as drinks and biscuits available.

Enquiries: Caroline Gaskins, 01524 781990.

Heversham St Peter's Handbell Ringers

Both Junior and Senior teams had an enjoyable and successful festive season ringing Carols and Christmas music at several venues in the area. We collected £30.00 for charity and this year will again be donating it to The Children's Society. The Juniors, together with the Primary School Recorder group, rang at Heversham House, at Plumtree and at the Primary School Carol Service. They also rang before the Village Carol Service at St Peter's on Christmas Eve. The Senior team rang at Plumtree, Heversham House, Croftside in Milnthorpe, Elmsfield at Holme and at the Punch Bowl, Crosthwaite to entertain the members of the Agricultural Discussion Group at their Christmas Meeting.

The Junior team has 6 young ringers ranging in age from 8 to 10 years. They are Douglas Parsons, James Hyman, Sophie Fishwick, Katie Medcalf, Claire McCrorie and Jonathan Hyman. The members of the Senior team are Jean and George Handley, Audrey Wynne, Gail Morgan, Eileen Brooks and ourselves.

We should like to thank all those who contributed so generously and, as always, we should like to thank both teams for their loyalty and for the fun they have given us over the past year. Special thanks to Audrey Wynne for all her support in helping with the Junior team.

Doreen Baines and Judy Dyer

Westmorland General Hospital Communion

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with the Sunday afternoon service of Holy Communion that is provided for the sick by volunteers from Churches in the Kendal Deanery.

This takes about 2 hours of Sunday afternoon on 3 Sundays in the year, not a very large commitment in terms of time. However, in terms of caring for our neighbour, it may be the most important thing we do in the week. The service is much valued by those who attend. They are always surprised to hear that all the helpers are volunteers.

We find that those who help with the service also gain from it. We see people who are much worse off than we are, and can be grateful for our good fortune.

Please contact me on 015395 61207 if you think you can help.

Dorothy Williams

Women's World Day of Prayer

This service will be held in St Thomas' Church, Milnthorpe on Friday 7 March at 2.00 pm. Do come if you are free on that day.

Dorothy Williams

Missions to Seafarers, Lent Appeal

As always, Lent boxes for this charity will be available at the back of the church in the last week of February.

When we stop for a moment and look at how many things we use or eat that are brought from abroad by ships then we see the debt we owe to the men who sail those ships. On many ships the conditions are worse than they were in Nelson's time. Often the only trained men on board are the engineer and the first officer. The rest of the seamen are untrained, are badly paid and are forced to work much longer hours than their Union allows. The ship owners often cut their food. It is the Mission to Seafarers that tries to help by getting better working conditions for them. Where the ships are impounded in port because of unpaid dues the sailors are left without food, water or heating. The Missions to Seafarers helps and feeds them.

Please give generously to this charity because it is our only way of helping those sailors who work in appalling conditions in order to bring our necessities, and our luxuries.

Dorothy and Trevor Williams

ST THOMAS PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS by Mary Davidson. FEBRUARY 2003

Memories of 2002

Christmas has come and gone, once again, and we are left with many memories, especially of our lovely Church Service. Particularly we remember the Tenth Anniversary of the joining of St Thomas Church with St Peter's Heversham — celebrated with a United Service at St Thomas Church, followed by a Jacob's Join lunch. Candlelit paths, and lighted lanterns, welcomed all attending the Community Carol Service, conducted by the Vicar, with Sermon by the Rev William Seville, Minister of Milnthorpe Methodist Church. Another memorable event was the Christingle Service, the Church packed with parents and children who made a poignant scene, whilst encircling the aisles with their lighted Christingle. Lastly, but by no means least, the Concert given by members of the Eversley Choral Union, was appreciated by all present.

Personal Delivery

Fundraisers of Milnthorpe Family Centre worked hard delivering local Christmas post in Milnthorpe and surrounding areas, with proceeds of over £300 towards Joey's Day Care, and After School Club. A further £300 was raised at a December Fair held at the Church Centre.

Christmas on the Green

A spectacular evening, "Christmas on the Green", welcomed hundreds of people, commencing with Church bells ringing, and a lantern procession wending its way from the Methodist Church to the green. Entertainment was given, by Milnthorpe Steel Band, Beetham Handbell Ringers, Rigney Bank Ballet School, and an Astral Circus fire-eating performer on twelve foot stilts. Father Christmas was present with a present for every child. Gazebos with seating, had been erected; and during the evening 600 hot mince pies were served, along with coffee, hot chocolate, cold drinks, and 5 gallons of mulled wine. Alternative lighting on the green was fixed and donated by Bill Moore of Morecambe.

Many thanks are expressed to Organiser Mark James of Forbouys, along with Geoffrey Gregory, Pat Barnes, Jennifer Bateman, Veronica Sanoham, Sarah Sanoham, and Carol James for such a never-to-be forgotten evening, which concluded with a Blessing by the Venerable Peter Dawson and a later firework display.

Croftside

Staff of Croftside organised a Christmas Fair, with proceeds of £650 towards the Residents Amenity Fund.

Autumn Fair

An Autumn Fair held at Hartland House raised over £500 for the Residents Amenity Fund.

Residents Meeting

A meeting of the Milnthorpe Residents Association was held at the Cross Keys Hotel, with District Councillor Malcolm Alston, County Councillor Ian Stewart, and Head Teacher of Dallam School in attendance, along with 2 representatives of the local Police Force. Among topics discussed, was the access to Dallam School, with particular reference to the congestion in Haverflatts Lane, and also the possibility of access elsewhere. The second topic was residents parking in the village, where it was reported that a survey of residents indicated local support for residents parking in the Harmony Hill and Firs Road areas.

Thanks to Sarah

Our thanks are expressed to Sarah Eccleston, chorister at St Thomas Church for the past 19 years, who joined the choir at 7 years of age, and since her marriage 6 years ago, travelled from her home at Heysham each week to continue in the choir. Now Sarah, mother of 4-year old Amy, wishes Amy to attend Sunday School in her own Parish, and later, hopefully, to be accepted as pupil at the Church School in September. So, she has reluctantly left our Choir. **THANK YOU SARAH — WE MISS YOU!**

Mothers' Union AGM

"Empowering and Enabling" is the theme for Carlisle Diocese Mothers' Union for this year. The new year of Milnthorpe-with-Heversham Mothers' Union began with a Service held at St Thomas Church Centre, led by Dr Dorothy Williams.

The annual meeting followed, with all committee members being re-elected en-bloc during the year, members will form a rota to lead each meeting. Gladys Ashworth gave notice as Treasurer, but agreed to continue for one year to assist the new Treasurer.

Thanks were expressed by Gwen Tuer for all her reliable work, and Audrey Wynne was appointed as Treasurer. The Secretary's report was read by Gwen, in the absence of secretary Dorothy Hornby.

A Coffee morning is arranged for 7 March.

The next Mothers' Union meeting is on 12 February when member Judy Dyer will speak on "Hand bells".

Heartfelt Thanks

I sincerely thank everyone, for the many lovely cards, letters and messages of sympathy, received following the death of my dear husband John David Davidson. Each one is greatly appreciated.

Mary Davidson

PARISH CALENDAR

Regular Weekday Services

Tuesdays:	Holy Communion	10.00 am at Heversham
	Informal Prayer Gathering	1.00 pm at Milnthorpe
Saturdays:	Informal Prayer Gathering	7.45 am at Heversham

For Bell Ringing information call J Thorley 62076

FEBRUARY

<u>2nd</u>	<u>Fifth before Lent</u>	Holy Communion Family Service Family Communion United Sung Evensong	8.00 am at Milnthorpe 9.30 am at Heversham 11.00 am at Milnthorpe 6.30 pm at Milnthorpe
3rd		WOW Meeting	7.00 for 7.30 pm at Pat Radcliffe's home
4th		Holy Communion and also —	10.45 am at Plumtree 10.45 am at Heversham House
<u>9th</u>	<u>Fourth before Lent</u>	Holy Communion Parish Communion Parish Communion Praise and Worship	8.00 am at Heversham 9.30 am at Heversham 11.00 am at Milnthorpe 6.30 pm at Heversham
11th		Holy Communion	11.00 am at Croftside
13th		Home Communions	2.30 pm and 3.30 pm
<u>16th</u>	<u>Third before Lent</u>	Holy Communion United Family Communion with Holy Baptism	8.00 am at Milnthorpe 10.00 am at Heversham
<u>23rd</u>	<u>Second before Lent</u>	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Parish Communion Parish Communion	8.00 am at Heversham 9.00 am at Hincaster 9.30 am at Heversham 11.00 am at Milnthorpe
26th		Milnthorpe PCC	7.30 pm (PCC members please note change of day and time)

MARCH

<u>2nd</u>	<u>Next before Lent</u>	Holy Communion	8.00 am at Milnthorpe
		Family Service	9.30 am at Heversham
		Family Communion	11.00 am at Milnthorpe
		United Sung Evensong	6.30 pm at Heversham