

✚ **PARISH NEWS** ✚



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

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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

A major season is almost upon us — it starts on 5 March but unlike Christmas it is a commercial non-starter. So don't expect to see posters, adverts or decorations in the shops. Because of the often negative notions about it some shops may not particularly like it! I speak of the season of Lent which can be a most dangerous time of the year. Dangerous on two counts.

The first danger is that we join in some spiritual activity and come face to face with the living God. The result is that our life can never be the same again. This is the hall-mark of a Christian — a changed life — because no one can encounter God and come away unscathed. If anyone joins a home group or attends an act of worship and leaves feeling no different or that they can carry on as before then they have not met the God we see revealed in and by Jesus and who is alive in God's people through the power of the Holy Spirit. No one can meet with God and not be challenged, corrected, instructed and empowered. God is not in the 'there, there it will be all right' business. We have to take up our cross each day to be a disciple of Jesus and that means imitating Jesus and allowing God to do his thing in us, with us and through us. The good a Christian does is therefore not the result of their effort but of the Holy Spirit enabling them to do the Jesus action. That is the first danger — exposure to the living God as shown by and in Jesus.

The second danger is very insidious and one the devil has a hand in. It is that we think we have discharged our duty towards God for the year if we take part in some Lent activity — as though it were an injection which made an annual boost. We must never cease to learn, yet it is alarming that so many have not received any Christian instruction since their mid-teens or even Sunday School. Perhaps we have come to see the weekly sermon as supplying all the teaching we need. The sermon is primarily the proclamation of God's word for us today. It may contain some teaching but that is not its primary purpose. Proclamation speaks of our situation and what God has done about it and what he will do in our lives if we will let him but it needs regular teaching, instruction and learning to back it up and give it foundation. Lent is a good time to start the good habit.

When we look at the two dangers we soon realise that only the second is really a danger. The first is truly a blessing.

Let us this Lent expose ourselves to God's blessings.

Yours sincerely

Children's Village Christmas Party — Jumble Sale

A Jumble Sale will be held in the Athenaeum on
Saturday 15 March 2003

Money raised will be for the Children's Village Christmas Party. 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	Tel: 015395 63082
H Dootson	Depthwaite	Tel: 015395 63229
D Cummins	Dugg Hill	Tel: 015395 62726

Jumble will be sorted between 10.00 am — 12.00 pm with the Jumble Sale commencing at 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm.



Reading Magnifier Bars

For those at St Peter's who find the print too small in the pew Bibles, hymn books and service books, there are now 2 magnifier bars available. Please ask a Church Warden for a magnifying bar when you arrive at church should you wish to borrow one.

For The Audience of One — Mike Pilavachi

A copy will be in St Peters — published by Hodder Christian books.

This book would appear to be aimed at late teens to early twenties, but its content is so valuable reminding us of issues that can easily be forgotten that it is useful for everyone. It firstly reminds us that to worship God is our "defining characteristic", something that must spill over into our lives. Worship goes hand in hand with evangelism and worship of something is something non-Christians and Christians have in common (even those poor misguided Man Utd fans worship).

Worship should take place in all aspects of our lives, and the major point of this is that how we feel about worship is irrelevant. Worship isn't about us, it never has been. As the book so accurately says, worship is for the audience of one.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

The next meetings of WOW are on:

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

Monday 7 April at Sylvia Read's home: Honeysuckle Cottage, Beetham.

Bible Society — Bibles for asylum seekers

It is encouraging to know that the Bible Society is supplying Bibles to asylum seekers in detention centres around England.

Harmondsworth Detention Centre at Heathrow houses up to 550 men, women and children; recently the Society took in over 200 Bibles in a variety of languages. As the box of Bibles was carried into the Chapel, a cheer went up and people rushed forward to receive a copy. These are people who have been through a great deal and are hungry for the word of God; one after another at that service they stood and movingly thanked God for His miracles in their lives.

A young man from Nigeria who became a Christian whilst in detention said, "People crave and strive for Bibles here and God is using them to do a great work in our midst."

Please pray for our government to have wisdom in how to deal with this huge challenge of asylum seekers, and pray that God will bring spiritual freedom to all asylum seekers.

A Coffee Money 2002

When the expenses of providing for the refreshments after the services had been met, there was £154 left over. During the course of the year the following amounts were given to:

- The Bible-a-Month Club, £54.00 which included a £6.00 gift for a Jubilee Bible.
- The Sovereign World Trust, £30.00 for books for pastors.
- Door mat for St Peter's, £33.00.
- Sponsorship for Hope Now Cycle Ride, £20.00.
- Cards and postage for CSW Christmas cards to prisoners, £45.00.

WINDOW ON 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 based in a one roomed shack where many children come to play and learn in safety in one of the township "settlements" in Cape Town, where there is great poverty, unemployment, crime, disease, hunger and hopelessness.

We hope to help by providing the means to buy books, materials, furniture, food and clothing and perhaps to help build a bigger building with proper kitchen and toilet facilities for these children.

Please find out more by reading the information on the **notice boards** in both St Peter and St Thomas' Churches, take home an **envelope** and support this year's Project by your prayer and your giving. Thank you in anticipation of your generous support. *Please return envelopes by Easter Sunday, 20 April.*

SAMS — South American Mission Society

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of SAMS. St Peter's Church has long supported SAMS and with the current economic crisis in many countries in South America and a shortfall in SAMS' income, our regular giving is much appreciated. In spite of these difficulties, many people in South America are becoming Christians by God's work through Mission Partners there.

Bishop David Evans, the SAMS General Secretary, who has visited us on several occasions, is stepping down and a successor is due to be appointed in June. Please pray for wisdom in making that appointment.

On **Saturday 10 May**, the annual **NW Area Day Conference** takes place at St Peter's School, Bolton, 10.30 am — 4.30 pm. This is always an encouraging and informative day with several SAMS personnel speaking about their work in South America. Please contact Rhona Rutter if you are interested in going.

Rob Powell, the SAMS NW Area Secretary, will be coming to speak at a United Service on **Sunday 2 November**.

ST THOMAS PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS — MARCH 2003

by Mary Davidson

Spring will soon be here! Snowdrops have bloomed since mid-January, as well as aconites, and even some daffodils and primroses seen ... “if winter comes, can Spring be far behind? We can then forget, how “bitter cold it was, the owl for all his feathers was a-cold.” (KEATS poem, The Eve of St Agnes). Let us now look forward to the Joyful Eastertide, with thanks for the beauty of the Earth.

Music

A piano Recital given by our own Glyn Hopkins, at St Thomas Church included music by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, and Ravel. It was open to all, and any donations received were towards assistance with the promotions of the forthcoming Milnthorpe and Arnside Music Festival to be held 3 — 5 May.

Congratulations

Milnthorpe and District Meals-on-Wheels Serviced celebrated its 30th Anniversary this month. The Service was started in 1973 with a meeting organised by Mary Davidson at her home. Meals have been delivered 3 times weekly ever since to the elderly and incapacitated, over a local area, by a rota of drivers and helpers. The Service is presently organised by Ailsa Brooks and Sylvia Ham (Mary retired after 29 years) along with 45 drivers and helpers and some reserves. Meals are cooked at Croftside by its kitchen staff, who pack them in special heat retaining boxes. Anyone wishing to assist as driver or helper, please contact Ailsa on 015395 63964 or Sylvia on 015395 62218.

Memorial Hall Management

A good attendance of representatives from village organisations attended a meeting of Milnthorpe Memorial Hall Management Committee, held at the Hall. A letter of thanks was read, with thanks for a donation for the Kendal Parish Church Boys Brigade band, which led the village procession on Remembrance Sunday. Letters requesting donations were read from:

- 1 The After-School Club, towards funding for equipment and storage.
- 2 The Senior Citizens Annual Party (arranged for 15 May).
- 3 Milnthorpe Junior Football Club — training equipment.
- 4 The Milnthorpe Primary School PTA — upgrading library, plus books and shelves.
- 5 St Thomas Church — new Church carpeting and decorating of Church Hall.

Each request was granted a donation. The next meeting and AGM will be held on 7 April at 7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall.

Gift

A total of £361.00 has been donated towards St Thomas Church Carpet fund, in memory of the late John David Davidson, with thanks.

MD

Residents Meeting

Milnthorpe Residents Association will hold a meeting on Tuesday 4 March, 7.30 — 9.00 pm at the Cross Keys Hotel. Important village matters will be discussed along with District Councillor Malcolm Alston, County Councillor Ian Stewart; and Richard Greenwood, Head of Economy and Development, SLDC. All welcome.

Notable Village People

Children of the Nursery department of Milnthorpe Primary School have been learning about the important work done in their own village. This includes meeting various people, including a policeman, postman, coastguard, fireman, doctor, and nurse, who each spoke about their work. The children are also visiting the Fire Station and Library.

New Club

Dallam Sports Association, associated with the Milnthorpe and District Junior Football Club, now have a Wrestling Club, Cumberland and Westmorland style, for ages 9 — 16 years. Held each Thursday 6.45 — 8.00 pm, new members are invited to join. For information, ring David Parsons on 015395 60751.

Older Club (Vintage)

Bowling Time, is almost here, and weather permitting, Milnthorpe Bowling Club's new season commences Saturday 30 March. Before this, 2 boon days will be held at the Green on Sunday 15 March and Sunday 22 March, when hopefully, again weather permitting, work can be done, regarding the green, gutters, and clubhouse. The 2002 season was an eventful one, with many improvements to the Club's facilities: and also success in the various events.

Milnthorpe Bowling Club, established 1888, has survived throughout the years (along with the Cricket and Football Clubs). Many other village groups, have "fallen by the wayside", including:- The Dramatic Society, Milnthorpe Orchestra, Senior Red Cross, Junior Red Cross, Youth Wind Band, Scouts, Cubs, Guides (may be re-started soon) and Youth Club. All remembered by many.

Bowling Club Fixture dates begin in May. New members welcomed.

Mary Davidson

Milnthorpe-with-Heversham Mothers' Union

As the February meeting came in National Marriage Week, a special form of service was used. This was led by Dorothy Hornby, with a Bible reading by Gwent Tuer. One of the members, Judy Dyer, brought along the Heversham set of hand bells, and gave a talk on their origins, and described the different ways of learning to play them. She then persuaded several members to have a try.

The Wave of Prayer service will be held in St Thomas' Church on Wednesday, 5 March following the Lent Communion Service. The Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday, 7 March in St Thomas' Church at 2.00 pm. Please note that the date for the coffee morning has therefore been altered to Friday, 14 March. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 12 March, when the speaker will be Mary Davidson, on "Nursing in the Past".

Milnthorpe MOTHERING SUNDAY

If you were an ordinary working-class girl in 14th Century England — or at any time up to the end of the 19th Century — you would probably be sent, at about the age of 12, to work on a farm or 'in service', doing all the menial jobs for the gentry in the, 'Big House'. A boy, you might well have been apprenticed to a tradesman in the nearest town. In either case, you would live 'on the job' - remember Oliver Twist sleeping among the coffins in the undertaker's workshop? Your employment probably began at the New Year hiring fair and by mid-Lent the long hours and almost seven-day week would be very tiring. Then came the first real day off. On Mothering Sunday you were allowed to go home for the day. You might take the traditional gift of a wheaten cake, or some small thing you had made in your craft workshop, and on the long walk home you could pick a posy of spring flowers in the lanes and hedgerows. Mother would have a respite from cooking and housework and go to Church with the whole family (except the eldest daughter who would stay to get the dinner ready!)

The Church adapted this custom. The cathedrals encouraged the parish churches to send parishioners bearing gifts to the Mother Church of the diocese, and in their sermons clergy emphasised the caring, maternal nature of the Church. Mothering Sunday often (as this year) falls conveniently close to the Feast of the Annunciation when we remember Mary the mother of Jesus, and her willing acceptance of motherhood with all the responsibility, joy and pain that this would entail.

At Milnthorpe on 30 March we celebrate Mothering Sunday with a special service for all the family — not forgetting Dad, Grandpa and Auntie. There will be posies for children to present to their mothers, and coffee, fruit squash and Simnel cake afterwards. And a special Milnthorpe mother, father and big sister will bring their 5 month-old triplets for Baptism, Come and pray for our community of Milnthorpe, give thanks for our homes and families, welcome Katie, Lauren and Bethany into God's family, and make this a real celebration

**Arnside Choral Society are holding a
Coffee Morning
On Saturday 29 March 2003 in St Thomas' Church, Milnthorpe
Cake Stall 10.00 am— 12.00 noon Admission 50p on door.**

Proceeds towards promotion of Arnside and Milnthorpe Music Festival 3— 5 May 2003.

PARISH CALENDAR

Regular Weekday Services

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

For Bell Ringing information call J Thorley 62076

MARCH

<u>2nd Sunday Next before Lent</u>	Holy Communion Family Service Family Communion Holy Communion United Sung Evensong	8.00 am at Milnthorpe 9.30 am at Heversham 11.00 am at Milnthorpe 1.45 pm at Westmorland General Hospital 6.30 pm at Heversham
4th	Holy Communion and also —	10.45 am at Plumtree at Heversham House
<u>5th Ash Wednesday</u>	Holy Communion	7.30 pm at Heversham
6th	Holy Communion	11.00 am at Croftside
<u>9th Lent 1</u>	Holy Communion <u>United Parish Communion</u> Service of Prayer for Healing	8.00 am at Heversham <u>10.00 am at Milnthorpe</u> 6.30 pm at Heversham
12th	Kendal Deanery Clergy Meeting	10.00 am at Levens
<u>16th Lent 2</u>	Holy Communion Family Communion Parish Communion with Holy Baptism	8.00 am at Milnthorpe 9.30 am at Heversham 11.00 am at Milnthorpe
17th	Heversham PCC followed by: Annual Vestry Meeting Annual Parish Church Mtg	7.00 pm 7.30 pm 7.35 pm

<u>23rd</u>	<u>Lent 3</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
<u>30th</u>	<u>Lent 4</u>	<u>Mothering Sunday</u> Holy Communion Mothering Sunday Service Mothering Sunday Service with Holy Baptism	8.00 am at Heversham 9.30 am at Heversham 11.00 am at Milnthorpe
APRIL			
<u>6th</u>	<u>Lent 5</u>	<u>Passion Sunday</u> Holy Communion <u>United Family Service</u>	8.00 am at Milnthorpe <u>10.00 am at Heversham</u>