

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 Revd. Jim Radcliffe

The Revd. Patrick Simpson

The Ven. Peter Dawson

Licensed Readers

Mr. Chris Bennett

Mr. Roger Bingham

Mr. Gerald Crossley

Dr. Dorothy Williams

Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett

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Heversham

Mr. Tony Hesmondhalgh

Mr. John Sowerby

Miss Joan Anderton

Milnthorpe

Mr. John Ricketts

Dr. John Thorley

Church and Centre Booking Secretary (Milnthorpe)

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Mrs. Jenny Blenkharn

P.C.C. Treasurers

Mr. Mike Robinson

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Miss Joan Anderton

Mr. Jim Robson

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Mrs. Jane Fell

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

The Vicarage, Heversham, Milnthorpe Tel: 63125

My Dear Friends

No doubt most of you bought the Westmorland Gazette on Friday, 16th November. With it came a beautifully produced glossy guide for 'Yuletide 2001 - your complete guide to Christmas shopping, Events and Entertainments.'

No matter what anyone says Christmas and Yuletide are not the same. The former is obviously Christian whereas the latter is not. Apart from the title and very few references in the guide 'Yuletide' is not mentioned though its nature and character are applied to 'Christmas'. Such phrases as 'Christmas is the perfect excuse to dress up' sum up many people's attitude. An advert claiming this is 'where Christmas wishes come true' points in completely the wrong direction. There are some helpful articles concerning toy safety and pets, as well as informative items but for the rest it is all focussed on us.

The bold statement on the centre page (which is repeated in several other places) really sums it all up - 'We've got Christmas all wrapped up!' Why do we wrap up presents? How do we wrap them? Care is taken, the most attractive colours and designs for the paper are chosen and we present a package to someone who doesn't know what is inside until it is opened. It is wrapped up to hide the present. And that is what so much of our activity at this time of year does - it hides, perhaps intentionally, what Christmas is all about. The 'guide' has 70 pages wrapping up and hiding from view what the Christian message is at this time. To save you the task of unwrapping the glossy adverts focussed on things, fun and self the statement about the real present at Christmas can be found on page 25 in the phrase 'I thought about how God sent his Son Jesus'.

Jesus is The Present. He cannot be earned, paid for or deserved. In spite of the fact that we were not good God still gave us this Present - the truth is that it was because we were not good that God gave us Jesus to show us His love and to bring us back to being His children. We can only be His children when we look to Him and not ourselves and when we accept for ourselves what Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at this time, did for us on the Cross.

Don't miss God's Present to us amid the glitter, tinsel and commercialism that surrounds us.

May you know the joy of finding Jesus this Christmastide.

With every blessing.

Yours sincerely,

MILNTHORPE-WITH-HEVERSHAM MOTHER'S UNION

At the November meeting of Milnthorpe-with-Heversham Mothers' Union, the service was led by Dorothy Hornby, and Judy Dyer gave the Bible reading. A letter of thanks had been received from Jenny Sisson, and also from Chris Ashby, last month's speaker. "Young People in Crisis" was the title of a talk given by Bob Potter, who had worked for many years in residential secure units for young people, a difficult but sometimes rewarding career. He was thanked by Dorothy Hornby. The next meeting is on Wednesday December 12th and is the Christmas meeting. Don't forget the Christmas lunch on December 5th and the Christmas Coffee Morning on December 14th. The January meeting is on January 9th and is the A.G.M.

New organisation for Meals on Wheels

From November 24th I will have retired as organiser of Milnthorpe and District Meals on Wheels, after almost 29 years. I would like to say how much I have enjoyed running this worthwhile service to the frail and elderly also in knowing all the many drivers and helpers who have dealt with the meals throughout the years and the recipients themselves and Croftside kitchen staff. I thank everyone for their help and co-operation, sometimes in difficult circumstances. As I write it is National Meals on Wheels week, which celebrates 60 "glorious years" of the service nationwide and you may have viewed our local W.R.V.S. celebration on Border Television featuring my husband and I with our 67 year-old car.

The service began in February 1973 with a meeting at Mallow House (my home then) and has run quietly and efficiently ever since. I will hand over "the reins" at a meeting of W.R.V.S. members and volunteers; I will miss my involvement.

The new organisers are:	Mrs. Ailsa Brooks	Tel: 63964
	Mrs. Sylvia Nam	Tel: 62218
along with		
Rota Organiser	Miss Margaret Todd	Tel: 63709

Mary Davidson

www.heversham.org

As you may know the Heversham & Leasgill community website is now up and running and on-line. Already there is a wide range of content, which is of interest to the local population and has had coverage in the Westmorland Gazette. www.heversham.org is a central place for information on local matters for Heversham & Leasgill and the immediate area. Why not visit today?


**REMEMBER LAST YEAR?
 A PACKED CHURCH, A WARM WELCOME,
 CAROLS & CANDLES
 TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
 COME AND JOIN US FOR A TRULY DELIGHTFUL
 SEASONAL VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE
 ST. THOMAS CHURCH, SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER 6.30 p.m.**



Mulled wine & mince pies will be served following the service

Christmas Bric-a-Brac Stall

Once again Father Christmas will be displaying his wares on morning bric-a-brac stall. The date this year is **Friday December 7th** for the answer to your festive problems - all in aid of the Church Roof Fund.

Christmas on the Green

Weather permitting, all the people of Milnthorpe and district are invited to a festive concert on the village green, at 6 p.m., heralded by the ringing of the church bells at 5.45 p.m. and the lighting of the festive lights. The event is organised by the Primary School Steel Band and will include items from Rigney Bank ballet school, the Beetham handbell ringers and the church choir.

Thanks to the generosity of HSBC Bank of Milnthorpe, FREE roasted chestnuts, mince pies with cream and mulled wine will be available. Come and join in a great community event.
www.milnthorpesteelband.com

Second-Hand Books

Heversham Post Office has kindly offered to "host" a shelf of second-hand books for sale in aid of the Heversham playground appeal. Please "Bring and Buy" as a small contribution to this very large project.
 Drusilla Pickthall

ANGEL TREE - Christmas presents for prisoners' children.
 Thank you to everyone who came to support Angel Tree at the lunch on 20th November. A total of £391.00 was raised which will go to buy gifts.

Apologies

In the November newsletter we stated that the number of children with a parent in prison was 1,000,000. This should have read 100,000.

St. Thomas Parish News - December/January

Will local Christmas card delivery cease? Due to lack of support the local Christmas card delivery will not take place this year unless an organisation will volunteer to do the job, which needs groups to share the workload. Over the past nine years the post has been delivered firstly by the Cubs, Leaders and parents and lastly by the Milnthorpe Steel Band. It would be regrettable if it had to end. CAN YOU HELP? Contact Mark James on 015395 64599.

K Shoes Concert We were fortunate to welcome members of the renowned K Shoes Male Voice Choir to St. Thomas Church for a concert with their conductor Martin Webster, accompanist Colin Tolson and compere Roger Kent. The varied programme included music from "The Magic Flute" Mozart, The Lords Prayer, the Battle Hymn, Pirates of Penzance and many more. Soloists were Brian Lancaster, piano duets by Martin Webster and Colin Tolston. The combined singing of Cwm Rhondda completed a wonderful evening and we do thank Glyn and Lillie Hopkins for arranging this event. Proceeds were for St. Thomas Church Roof Fund.

FIRE! Our November Family Service has been particularly remembered by those present, its theme "Fire" illustrated by Bible readings on "The Burning Bush" and "The Fire at Pentecost". The Ven. Peter Dawson roused us all with his shout of "FIRE" and later referred to the Great Fire of London and the Gunpowder Plot. Flapjack, bonfire toffee and chocolate apples made by the Sunday school teachers were served with coffee and enjoyed by all.

Croftside Christmas Fair Staff of Croftside are holding a Christmas Fair at the home on Saturday 1st December at 2 p.m. Proceeds are for the resident's Amenity Fund. All welcome.

Caring for 27 years. Mrs. Joan Almond, care assistant at Croftside has retired after 27 years of caring for the elderly. She has done much fund raising for the home including the organisation of Whist Drives open to the public. At a retirement party attended by residents and staff she said that she had enjoyed her work and would keep in touch by visiting.

On Remembrance Sunday we were sorry not to have the Kendal Parish Church Boys Brigade Band leading the procession. Due to a serious accident on the M6 traffic had to be diverted and the boys were unable to arrive in time. We missed them!

R.N.L.I. The 34th Annual house-to house collection in aid of the fund organised by Mrs. Isabel Clark raised £2,966.00. Along with other events a total of £3,765 was raised in the Milnthorpe & District area. House to house collections - Burton £374, Heversham £291.68, Sedgwick, Stainton and Hincaster £160, Holme £150.60, Low Park, Farleton and Nook £147.38, Levens £371.26, Beetham, Hale and Carr Bank £330.90, Storth £256.66, Milnthorpe £865. Grateful thanks are expressed to all collectors and to the people who contributed to this magnificent total. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Isabel Clark for all her work throughout the year.

Martha's Book Milnthorpe library was packed to capacity when Mrs. Martha Bates, local historian and lecturer, launched her new book "Snagging Turnips, and Scaling Muck" - a story of the Women's Land Army in Westmorland during two world wars. In it she tells of the Land Girl's lives, particularly of those who lived at their hostel on the playing field during the 2nd World War.

Present at the launching were several ex-land army girls who had married local boys and still live in the village. Amongst a display of memorabilia was a complete Land Army outfit.

The Visually Impaired Group have welcomed two guest speakers. Mrs. Martha Bates, well known local historian, spoke of the beauty of the Lyth Valley renowned for its damsons. She also read some of her own poems. At the same meeting Alf Richardson, a member, told of his army life during the Second World War. On a second occasion County Councillor John Ladell described some of the history of Milnthorpe & district including cockfighting and the annual cattle fair held on the green, still remembered by some residents.

Would you like an allotment? At the annual meeting of the Milnthorpe & District Allotment Association the officers elected were: President T. Wilson, Chairman Lesley Salkeld, Vice Chairman Bill Stables, Secretary Kath Craig, Treasurer Gill Harkin. Retiring secretary Tracey Rankin was thanked for her work over the years. The Chairman reported a rather trying year, probably due to the complaint about the cockerels. However the Diamond Show was a complete success. Thanks were expressed to the Vicar and PCC for allowing St. Thomas Church and Centre to be used as a venue. A donation was arranged to be made for the Church Roof. Allotment rents are £13 (full), £8.50 (half). There are one or two vacancies at present. Membership is £2.50. Patrons £3.00.

HEVERSHAM NEWS

HEVERSHAM PLAYGROUND

The working group have been successful in securing various grants for a new playground. They have had some enjoyable community events to raise funds such as a coffee morning, wine tasting evening and a walk around Levens Hall gardens. The playground is due to re-open in late Spring 2002. Any further donations would be most gratefully received to improve the facilities even more and can be given to any of the following:-

Karen Pickthall, Bradley Farm, Hincaster
Adele Shepherd, Chestnut Cottage, Heversham
Peter Shaw, 25 Dugg Hill, Heversham

Cheques made payable to 'Heversham Parish Council

The Organ and Orchestral Instruments in St. Peter's

Sometimes the question is asked: "Why don't the orchestral instruments and the organ play together? The answer is that, sadly, our splendid and greatly cherished pipe organ is tuned significantly above concert pitch and to tune all the hundreds of pipes in the organ down to concert pitch would take an enormous amount of time - and so be very costly - and also, more importantly, its lovely tone could suffer as a result. Some trumpets can be tuned up easily to the organ's pitch and then down to play with the rest but there are few such orchestral instruments. So it has to be that our "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" are accompanied either by the organ or by the orchestra. R.O.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

The next meetings of WOW are to be on

Monday Dec. 3rd 7.00 p.m. at Rhona Rutter, Eversley, Woodhouse Lane.

Monday Jan 7th 7.00 p.m. at Robin & Mary Orr, Farnaby Dyke, Levens

These meetings are open to everyone who is interested in our parish involvement in the wider world

THANKS

1. To everyone who contributed to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal; St. Peter's, Hincaster and the primary school together raised just over £600.
2. To all those who filled a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child; well over two dozen were given by our parishes. This is a relatively simple way to bring much pleasure to a needy child - spare a thought and a prayer for them on Christmas Day.

BiBi

It was a great privilege and pleasure to have Bibi Nédellec, the Wycliffe Bible translator we support in Benin, W. Africa, to stay with us for a few days in October.

Bibi joined the Music Group in Heversham for Sunday worship and read the Gospel reading. The following evening she showed a video and talked about her ongoing work with the Natenba people in N. Benin, translating the Bible into Nateni.

Please pray for her as she continues her furlough time in Germany and France before returning to Africa at the end of January.

South American Missionary Society

It is now a year since Chris and Elizabeth Bennett had the privilege of visiting Chile and N. Argentina to see SAMS in action - and N. Argentina being linked with Carlisle Diocese is of special interest to us. A full report of their visit appeared in the February newsletter.

Chris writes:

Now, a year on, David Bamford is soon to retire as headteacher of St. Paul's school, Vina del Mar, so do pray for his successor. Bishop Maurice Sinclair also retires at the end of this month and his successor is Greg Venables; please pray for him that he will have vision and understanding for his new job. The financial crisis in Argentina has affected the work of the society which is reporting a shortfall of £180,000 in giving. Should we reconsider the figure we give to the work outside the local church? In Las Condes, Santiago, one of the large churches is La Trinidad where the pastor is the Revd. Alf Cooper. The church has recently been through difficult times, but the Lord has used this to secure growth. There are about seven to eight hundred adults attending Sunday worship and about a hundred at the weekday healing and renewal services; many of the latter are lapsed Catholics and need help in their understanding. Ricardo Navarro was being trained to take over from Alf on his retirement, but sadly has gone off with a lady from the church, leaving his wife and family. Alf writes: "We were all spiritually shell-shocked from the pain and confusion. How could this happen to people who proclaim Christian marriage and family principles? Thank God for the maturity and love of our people and leaders as very few people left the church. We regrouped by naming six assistant lay workers and the church is now running better a year on. With an added leader in the person of the Revd. Juan Luis Navarro we are set for action and new growth." Please pray for the needs mentioned here. "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12, v. 11.

Gift Aid 2002 Heversham

Envelopes for 2002 are now available for collection. If anyone, who has not taken part in this scheme in the past, would like to use this method in the coming year, please ask me for a supply. Any amount (in units of £1) may be put in the envelopes. This need not be a regular amount so please increase your donation whenever you feel able to do so. Contributions may be made by cheque or banker's order if you prefer. Please be aware that banker's orders may need to be renewed if they are for a fixed term.

Thank you for your donations in the past year. I have been able to reclaim tax of 28p for every £1 you gave, which has made a considerable contribution to the funds available for the work of the church. This refund is given for anyone who pays at least an equivalent amount in income tax or Capital Gains tax and has completed a Gift Aid form. If this no longer applies to you, please inform me - Joan Anderton, St. Peter's Heversham.

The Missions to Seafarers

The Coffee Morning held at the Old School on October 2nd raised £240.50.

Thank you to all who came to support this worthwhile charity. And a big thank you also to those who helped during the morning either serving coffee or on the cake stall.
Dorothy & Trevor Williams

Hincaster Carol Service

Please note that this will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday **16th December** in the Mission Room, not 23rd as previously planned.

Visually Impaired

We are planning to produce a version of this newsletter on tape for distribution to the visually impaired in our parishes. If you know of anyone who might like to receive this service please could you give names and addresses to Kathleen Reynolds, 4 Dallam View, Milnthorpe, LA7 7QX. Tel: 015395 63316.

HEVERSHAM EPIPHANY PARTY**Saturday 12th January 2002****At the Athenaeum, Leasgill****6.30 - 9.00 p.m.****"Jacobs Join"****Everyone welcome and children too!****Tickets £3 (include s a glass of wine)**

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

DECEMBER

1st Heversham Gift and Open Day 10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

2nd Advent Sunday
Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
United Family Communion **10.30 a.m.** at Milnthorpe
followed by Jacob's Join Lunch. Our 9th Anniversary.
United Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m. at Heversham

3rd WOW Meeting 7 for 7.30 p.m.

8th Cumbria Advent Praise 6.30 p.m. at Penrith
Preacher: The Bishop of Carlisle

9th Advent 2
Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe
United Family Communion with Confirmation 10 a.m.
at Heversham by the Bishop of Carlisle,
the Rt. Revd. Graham Dow
Praise and Worship 6.30 p.m. at Heversham.

12th Mothers Union Christmas Meeting 2 p.m. at Milnthorpe

13th Holy Communion 11 a.m. at Croftside

14th Milnthorpe Christmas Event 5.30 p.m.

16th Advent 3
Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
Hincaster Carol Service 9 a.m.
Family Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Service of the Word 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

17th Eversley Choral Union Christmas Concert 7.30 p.m. at Milnthorpe
Dallam School Carol Service 7.30 p.m. at Heversham

18th Heversham St. Peter's Primary School Carol Service 2 p.m.

21st Open Air Carol Service 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

23rd Advent 4
Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe
United Family Communion 10 a.m. at Heversham
Milnthorpe Carol Service 6.30 p.m.

24th Christmas Eve
Christingle Service 4.00 p.m. at Milnthorpe
Heversham Carol Service 6.30 p.m.
Holy Communion 11.30 p.m. at Milnthorpe

25th Christmas Day
Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
Family Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Family Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

30th First Sunday of Christmas

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
United Family Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

31st Watchnight Service 11.30 p.m. at Heversham

January 2002

6th The Epiphany

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

12th Epiphany Party

13th Second Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
Parish Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Parish Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe
Service of Prayer for Healing 6.30 p.m. at Heversham

14th Heversham PCC

20th Third Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe
Family Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Service of the Word 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

21st Diocesan Renewal Group 10 a.m. at Penrith

23rd Archdeaconry Parsonage Board 10 a.m. at Heversham

27th Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham
Morning Prayer 9 a.m. at Hincaster
Parish Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Parish Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

28th Heversham St. Peter's Primary School Governors 7.30 p.m.

February

1st Flutes Concert 7.30 p.m. at Milnthorpe

3rd Second Sunday before Lent

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 Heversham