

✚ **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 Revd. Jim Radcliffe

The Ven. Peter Dawson

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Mr. Roger Bingham

Mr. Gerald Crossley

Dr. Dorothy Williams

Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett

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

P.C.C. Secretaries

Sir Christopher Audland

Mrs. Jenny Blenkharn

P.C.C. Treasurers

Mr. Mike Robinson

Mr. Jim Robson

Covenant Secretaries

Miss Joan Anderton

Mr. Jim Robson

Electoral Roll Officers

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

“Let us go to the other side of the lake”. Does that conjure up a fine sunny day’s trip on one of our lakes with the mountains in the background? It is a scene not far removed from the one when the words were originally spoken. The lake was Galilee and the departure point for the pleasant evening sail was Capernaum.

Is that how we see our faith? A pleasant cruise on the waters of life with nothing disturbing, demanding or dangerous? If so it is a caricature of the Faith, because Jesus who gave the cruise invitation also said ‘take up your cross’. Nor is the Faith a pill to swallow to deaden the world’s pressures and help us to survive until the next dose. Faith in Jesus is the means whereby we triumph over all the world can throw at us. That faith can often start as a glorious cruise at Jesus’ invitation but it is not long before the devil starts to rock the boat.

Let’s go back to Jesus’ invitation (St. Mark 4: 35-41). The disciples accepted and off they sailed. Suddenly, as it can on Galilee, a storm blew up, the waves came over into the boat. Hardened fishermen were afraid. They woke Jesus who calmed the storm and then said to the disciples ‘Where is your faith?’ What an odd question! What has faith to do with being frightened of a storm? But what was Jesus’ invitation? ‘Let us go to the other side of the lake’. Their lack of faith was not believing Jesus. He had said ‘That is where we are going’. He did not promise a smooth crossing only the ultimate destination.

So often we do not trust Jesus’ promise. He has said that his followers will be where he is (St. John 4:3), that he, and only he, is the Way (St. John 14:6) and that he is sending us as his witnesses as the Father sent him (St. John 20:21). We should therefore be more surprised if the Christian life were plain sailing. We can triumph over storms only when we trust Jesus’ promise and keep our eyes fixed on him and not on the wind and waves of this world’s obstacles. Fix your eyes upon Jesus!

May the Lord bless you all.

Yours sincerely,

MILNTHORPE-WITH-HEVERSHAM MOTHER'S UNION

The Annual meeting of Milnthorpe-with-Heversham Mothers' Union was held on January 9th. The service was led by Gwen Tuer. The secretary, Dorothy Hornby, gave a report on the year's events, and a satisfactory financial statement was presented by the treasurer, Gladys Ashworth. The programme for the coming year was read by Gwen Tuer, and members were reminded that subscriptions are now due. The next meeting is on Wednesday, February 12th, when the speaker will be Tricia Rogers of Visible Communications.

Second-hand Books- Fundraising for Heversham Playground

Do you enjoy a good read? Neville Shute to Maeve Binchy: George Best to Denis Healey: Irish cookery to a Walking Guide to the Lune Valley. All available in the post office - come and browse. All proceeds to the Playground Fund.

And, if you're having a clear out, bring old books (in good condition) to the Post Office and help playground funds.

Drusilla Pickthall, Helen Rimmer.

Friday Coffee Mornings at St. Thomas

The year 2001 has been a good year for the Church's Friday Coffee Mornings.

Earnings on the sales of coffee, tea, cakes and scones have made a contribution of

£2,784.00

to Church funds. In addition to this the Bric-a-brac stall has brought in a further

£2,450.22

to the Church Roof Fund. Both these totals are believed to be records. Well done everybody - helpers, cake providers, scone providers, bric-a-brac providers and our very welcome patrons. A sincere thanks to all of you.

Brenda Gregory

Meals on Wheels

I want to thank all the 50 drivers and helpers of Milnthorpe & District Meals on Wheels who gave me such a wonderful "send-off" at my retirement meeting held at Croftside (by kind invitation of Neighbourhood Care Manager Janet Boardley). Thanks to the staff for serving coffee and to all for the flowers, gift and card (signed by all).

My sincere thanks to you all, especially Ailsa and Sylvia and best wishes for continuation of the service.

Mary Davidson



Monday 3rd June - A date for your diaries

Plans are being made to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in Milnthorpe with a village street party. The event will be held on the Green and, dependent on the support offered, entertainment will include the Steel Bands, a bouncy castle and hopefully much more. Watch out for further information. Contact Mark James (Forbuoys) or Geoff Gregory (015395 64082) with suggestions, ideas and offers of help.

ELECTORAL ROLL Every six years we are required to revise the Roll completely.

The revision happens this year and it has to take place before our Annual Church Meetings which means 11th March for Heversham and 18th April for Milnthorpe.

It is necessary for each person to make a fresh application if they wish to remain on the Electoral Roll. This can be done in one of two ways: **either** by signing personally the general form in Church **or** by completing an individual application form which will be available in Church. The notices giving the timings for the various stages of the process will be displayed on the respective Church Notice Boards. At the end of the process we should have a Roll of those who are actively involved in the life and work of each Church.

MILNTHORPE ART EXHIBITION - SECRETARY REQUIRED

Into 2002 we are seeking a Secretary to join a group of enthusiastic people from the Milnthorpe Men's Forum who organise this outstandingly successful Art Exhibition, which has come to be regarded as one of the finest within South Lakeland of which part-proceeds significantly contribute annually to the Church Restoration Fund.

We wish to attract someone who is genuinely interested and would consider this position for several years, ideally they should have their own computer and printing facilities. It requires only a few hours per week during February - August.

It is appropriate to express our sincere thanks to the retiring Secretary, Dorothy Crosby-McCann for all her energetic work and commitment over the past years, which has directly contributed to the exhibition's success we have today.

Anyone interested please contact:
Peter Townsend, Exhibition Chairman Tel: 015395 62980.

Milnthorpe Christmas Day Lunch

Once again twenty-one of us had a great time and a lovely meal at the Methodist Church Hall. I should like to thank all the helpers who made it such a success and without whom it could not have taken place - Gladys, Celia, Julie, Joy, Fiona, Eric, Elizabeth, Peter and Caroline. To give up time on such a special day is really something, but is really worthwhile. Thank you for making my day such a good one too.

Joy Bell

St. Thomas Parish News - February 2002

Happy 2002

Christmas has come and gone...leaving us with wonderful memories, especially of our community Carol Service with the welcoming candlelit paths and beautifully decorated church and cheering mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. It was good to have so many different people from the community and churches reading the lessons and poems. Thanks to Linda Baverstock and all who organised the evening and contributed in anyway. Especial thanks to the choir and Glyn Hopkins .

Christingle

The Christingle Service, arranged by Val Robson, secretary of the local branch of The Children's Society. produced a church packed with children and parents. The gifts of money from the congregation were presented to Val for the Society. Children, some accompanied by parents, made a poignant procession around the aisles with lighted Christingles to the accompaniment of carols.

Eversley Concert

Members of the Eversley Choral Union delighted all present with their programme of Christmas music. The conductor was Stephen Carlston, the organist Ann Bond and soloist Hannah Kelly.

Festival on the Green

Milnthorpe green was packed with people from far and wide for an outdoor evening Christmas Festive Concert. Several gazebos had been erected in case of rain - but it was fine!! St. Thomas' Church bells rang out, the trees were lit and music was provided by Milnthorpe Steel Band. This was followed by a display from Rigney Bank Ballet School. Beetham Handbell Ringers played carols and the community singing was led by St. Thomas' Choir with music by the Vicar. Roast chestnuts, mince pies, hot Vimto and mulled wine were served. Thanks go to the Milnthorpe branch of HSBC and others for their generosity. A superb firework display concluded the event. This was the inaugural concert and was organised by Mark James of Forbuoys, Milnthorpe Steel Band and assisted by others. Thank you Mark and all involved for this memorable evening - Is it possible to look forward to another? We do hope so.

Local Posting

This year members and staff of the Milnthorpe Family Centre delivered the local Christmas cards - the first card was posted by Mrs. R. Tryon-Wilson. The Centre has agreed to take over delivery in 2002.

Brownies Good Turn

The 1st Milnthorpe Brownies with their leaders visited Croftside to sing Carols for the elderly. Their presence and young voices were much appreciated.

Carol Service for Croftside

Croftside residents enjoyed a Carol Service led by the Rev. Canon John Hancock. Christmas readings were given by two members of St. Thomas' Church. Coffee and mince pies were served to all.

Croftside's Fair

A Christmas Fair held at Croftside and organised by the staff raised £960 for their Amenity Funds.

School Fair

A Christmas Fair at the Primary School organised by the P.T.A. raised £400 for funds. A separate stall in aid of B.B.C's Blue Peter Fund raised £100.

School Play

A play Babouska by pupils of the Primary School included visiting children in different countries and concluded with the Nativity by the reception class. The Steel Band provided music.

A Coffee Morning held at St. Thomas' Church Centre in aid of disabled children and their parents from South Lakeland raised £385.

Come Bowling

Milnthorpe Bowling Club commences its new season on March 24th and would like to welcome new members of all ages to this outdoor healthy and not too strenuous sport!

A pre-season meeting to organise the start of the new season is to be held on Monday 18 February at 7.30 p.m. in The Bulls Head. All existing and prospective members are welcome to attend.

Details from: Secretary Mr. Jarrold on 63467
Treasurer Mr. Stables on 63215 or
Chairman Mr. Holmes on 01539 726108

The Visually Impaired Group welcomed three new members to their Christmas meeting held at Hartland House where they enjoyed mince pies, shortcake and coffee served by the staff. Malcolm Pilling of Morecambe read stories for Christmas and New Year. Leader Marjorie Rockliffe thanked Hartland House staff for their hospitality. For its January meeting the group enjoyed a lunch held in the Church Centre.

Celebration

To celebrate the ninth anniversary of the coming together of St. Thomas' and St. Peter's Churches a joint Family Service of Holy Communion was held at St. Thomas' Church and followed by a Jacob's Join lunch upstairs in the Church Centre.

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 £40 for charity and this year will be donating it to The Children's Society. The Juniors, together with the Primary School Recorder group rang at Heversham House, Plumtree and 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, Croftside and at the Heaves Hotel to entertain the members of Holme Historical Society at their Christmas Dinner.

The Junior team has 6 young ringers ranging in age from 7 to 10 years. They are Joanna Swinbank, Douglas Parsons, James Hyman, Ben Hamer, Laura Hamer and Sophie Fishwick. The members of the Senior team are Jean and George Handley, Audrey Wynne, Gail Morgan and Eileen Brooks.

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.

Doreen Baines and Judy Dyer.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

The next meetings of WOW are to be on

Monday Feb 4th 7.00 p.m. at Chris & Elizabeth Bennett, Bridge House, Woodhouse.

Monday Mar 4th 7.00 p.m. at Sylvia Read, Honeysuckle Cottage, Parsonage Fold, Beetham. These meetings are open to everyone who is interested in our parish involvement in the wider world.

Lent Project 2002 - The Barnabas Fund

This year during Lent we hope to support the work of the **Barnabas Fund**. The Barnabas Fund works on behalf of Christian minorities suffering persecution in Muslim countries throughout the world, about which little is reported in the media, trying to make people more aware of the situation.

There are hundreds of cases of such persecution:-

Pakistan - most of the 3 million Christians there are very poor, suffer discrimination in education, employment and legal matters, live under threat of the "blasphemy law" or are violently forced to convert to Islam.

Indonesia (The Moluccas) - Christians are frequently massacred.

Nigeria - churches and houses of Christian pastors have been burned down.

Saudi Arabia - Christians are denied a place to worship publicly and are often imprisoned for worshipping in their own homes or for owning a Bible. Baroness Cox, President of Christian Solidarity Worldwide, wrote in the Times:- "The National Islamic Front' regime is responsible for the deaths of over 2 million people and 200-250 million Christians are suffering at the hands of repressive regimes".

The Barnabas Fund has produced a **petition** to be presented to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in April which will include Muslim representatives. It calls for the same rights and freedoms to be given to Christian minorities in Muslim countries as those enjoyed by Muslim minorities in the west.

What can YOU do??? Please...

Read the information from the Barnabas Fund on the notice boards in both Churches

Pray for those being persecuted

Sign the petition available in both Churches as soon as possible

Give a donation in the envelopes available in Let in both Churches.

Angel Tree/Prison Fellowship

Thank you to all those who supported the Angel Tree project this Christmas. Just to jog your memories we were raising money to buy gifts for the children of men in our two local prisons, Lancaster Castle and Lancaster Farms. The lunch in November and donations from various churches and individuals, meant that we were able to send presents to over 100 children and still have some money over for next year. It also meant we can help other groups in the country whose funds are low. Some gifts were delivered personally and it was a wonderful opportunity to show God's love at work in the world. I have had permission to print the following letter:-
Anne Robinson

26.12.01

Dear Fellowship

I am writing on behalf of all the men here at Lancaster castle and their families, we would all like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the lovely Christmas Presents our children received. We would all like to tell you "Thank You Very Much" and we are also "Very grateful" for all the love and kindness your fellowship has shown us at this time of year.

May God bless you all Always and we wish you all a very happy New Year.

With love and thanks from

Billy Ian and all the men here at Lancaster Castle!

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The Historic Churches Preservation Trust

I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that we have recently been voted the following award by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust towards our roof repairs. **A grant of £6,000.00 from the HCPT General Fund.**

Although this grant by no means marks the completion of our fund raising for the Church roof it is a significant advance and a very encouraging gesture by the Trust. As the work of this Trust is not very well known, I thought that a short explanation of its work would be appropriate. The Historic Churches Preservation Trust, a registered charity, was set up in 1953 to assist in the repair of churches and chapels of all denominations in England and Wales, and it does this by awarding grants and interest-free loans to parishes that apply to it for help. In recent years the Trust has been receiving nearly 1000 applications each year from hard-pressed parishes, and has made awards of about £1,000,000 to approximately 300 churches each year.

The Trust is rare in that it is a grant-making charity that is itself very dependent on donations. Hence, if it is to provide a reasonable level of assistance to applicant churches, it needs to raise a considerable amount of money each year from voluntary donations. The Trustees are keen to help parishes as much as possible, and are only limited by the availability of funds. To put the situation into perspective, recent average repair bills faced by parishes were about £55,000, but the average award by the Trust was only £2,500. The Trust would dearly wish to do more to help but cannot do so without more funds.

Fund-raising by the Trust is less than easy - particularly as most people are not aware that the responsibility for maintaining a church rests squarely on the Parish - and some Parishes, often with beautiful yet irreplaceable Medieval churches, have very few people living in them.

If you are interested in the work of the Trust and would like to help it in its unending task, why not contact the Secretary, HCPT. FREEPOST, Fulham Palace, London, SW6 6BR (0171 736 3054), and become a 'Friend' of the Trust, and thus play your part in saving our wonderful heritage of parish churches.

G. Gregory (abstracted from the HCPT's publicity document)

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

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
Hospital Service 1.45 p.m. at WGH
United Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m. at Heversham

10th Sunday next before Lent
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

11th Deanery Synod 7.30 p.m.

13th Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion 7.30 p.m. at Milnthorpe

14th Holy Communion 11 a.m. at Croftside

17th First Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe
Family Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham
Service of the Word 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

24th Second Sunday of Lent
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

March

3rd Third Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Family Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham

Family Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

United Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m. at Milnthorpe

10th Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham

Family Service 9.30 a.m. at Heversham

Family Service 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Praise & Worship 6.30 p.m. at Heversham