

✚ **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 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

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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,

This month contains one of the most exciting weeks of the whole year - Holy Week - as well as Easter Day itself. A look at the Parish calendar indicates the Christian activity of those days and the many opportunities to join in the preparation for Good Friday and Easter Day. Another look at the four Gospel narratives shows how important those writers saw that last week of Jesus' earthly life and the Resurrection.

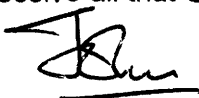
Three months ago we were preparing to celebrate Christmas yet that festival occupies about 2% of the Gospels. Apart from the glimpse of the twelve year old Jesus in the Temple we have to wait until he is 30 years old before anything else happens. Jesus' three year ministry occupies just over 60% of the Gospel space and the remaining 37% is concerned exclusively with the events of Holy Week and the Resurrection. The writers obviously saw that last period as having a significance well above any other. Those last days have a priority which demands the space and also our attention. At Christmas one can celebrate the birth of Jesus and easily leave behind a baby in a crib, but the acclaimed King, the Prophet of Nazareth, the Son of God on the Cross is altogether another matter. Jesus was on the Cross for you and me - our sin demands that we should be there to pay the price. But he 'picked up the bill' and paid it for us. We have the receipted bill - 'paid with love'.

The Cross is where sin met more than its match, where it was utterly defeated and where all sin can be taken to be dealt with. The Cross is where we all have to take our sin, confess it and leave it there. Pride has no place. In fact that, too, must be left at the Cross because it will try to make us think we have to earn that forgiveness and in some way make the payment ourselves. The price has been paid and all can enter newness of life, freed from the darkness and released into light and life if we receive Jesus into our lives, believe in him and accept that what he did for us we could not possibly do for ourselves.

For Jesus there was no resurrection and glory without the suffering of the Cross. Neither can we enjoy his risen life ourselves unless we approach it through the Cross and face up to what it has achieved for each one of us.

May you all be open to receive all that God has for you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', written over a horizontal line.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

The next meetings of WOW are to be on ...

Mon Mar 4th 7pm. at Sylvia Read's home, Honeysuckle Cottage, Beetham.

Mon Apr 8th 7pm. at Ron and Rhona Rutter's home, Ellerslie, Heversham.

Please come along and find out more about parish involvement in the wider world.

SAMS – South American Mission Society

Bishop Maurice Sinclair, the recently retired Bishop of N. Argentina (our Link Diocese) and Primate of the Southern Cone, S. America, and his wife Gill will be staying with Chris and Elizabeth Bennett on **April 11th/12th**. Watch this space for news of an opportunity to meet them and hear more about the work of SAMS.

Sat 11th May 10.00am – 4.30pm SAMS N.West Area Day Conference at St. Peter's School, Bolton. This is an annual event and a very enjoyable, informative day when you can find out more about SAMS and hear Bishop Maurice Sinclair as the keynote speaker and other mission workers for SAMS. Please contact Rhona Rutter for details about booking and transport.

MUSALAHA – last year's Lent Project included Musalaha, an organisation working to bring Jewish and Palestinian Christians together by means of youth activities, prayer meetings, conferences and initiatives to help those suffering grief and trauma because of the ongoing conflict in Israel/Palestine. Because of the escalating violence and movement restrictions within the country, their task is becoming increasingly difficult.

Please pray for the situation, for reconciliation and for encouragement and hope for Musalaha members working for peace in that troubled land.

LENT PROJECT 2002 – The Barnabas Fund

Thank you for your support in prayer for and donations to the Barnabas Fund, working on behalf of Christian minorities suffering persecution in Muslim countries.

Please remember to sign the **petition** in Church to be presented to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in April by **Sunday March 10th** and to hand in your **donation envelopes** by **Easter Sunday March 31st**.

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM THE TELEGRAPH MAGAZINE 2.2 2002 IS PART OF AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PARENTS OF THE MURDERED SCHOOLGIRL VICTORIA CLIMBIE.

In everything that has happened to Berthe and Francis since, their faith in God remains their central support. The hoary old chestnut "how can you believe in a God that would allow such a thing to happen?" is greeted by a wry laugh. "I understand the question", says Berthe. "If you have faith, no matter what happens you leave it in the hands of God. I hope that God will give me the courage and the moral strength to overcome the situation." "Yes, it is very difficult to find words to describe how we have overcome this" says Francis. "It has been a very touching time. We have needed to find ways to assist each other. No one else could have done it better for each of us. And God has helped us find a means to comfort each other."

They are New Testament people. They have no desire to reconcile with Marie Therese (their daughter's murderer), to meet her and ask all those unanswered questions put so quietly by Berthe as we talk: "why did she do it? What did I do to her? What wrong did my daughter do to her? Why did she kill my daughter?" It was agony at the enquiry when she gave evidence but they do not seek vengeance. "She betrayed our trust one hundred per cent," says Francis. "But I do not ever want to sit in front of her because I am scared that I would feel vengeance. And I'll tell you a story. In the time of Moses, people used to say, "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" If you hurt someone that hurt should be returned to you. But during the time of Christ that prophecy changed. His prophecy was 'forgive your enemies'. Vengeance is not the way of humanity. Every human being should be in a tradition where they aim to forgive. Prayer helps you to overcome the anger."

Seventy percent of parents whose children are murdered separate. Francis and Berthe, however appear to have deepened their relationship and have maintained a unity for their remaining children.

Victoria Climbie Family Campaign, PO Box 184, Southall, LONDON UB1 1WR

SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL MAGAZINE

The deadline for submissions for every parish magazine is the third weekend of the month. Please aim to get material either to the vicar or the editor by Monday 18th March. Mrs Pickthall, 1, Woodhouse, Woodhouse, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7LY 015395 62097/ Fax 64692

St. Thomas Parish News - March 2002

Spring is almost here! Snowdrops and aconites were blooming in January - so let us give thanks for the beauty of the earth and look forward to the joy of Easter Day.

Diamonds for ever!

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ball of The Ashes on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary January 31st. Kenneth and Marian came to Cumbria in 1977 and take part in many various activities in all areas.

Young People's Dedication

The February Family Service at St. Thomas Church was led by Dr. Dorothy Williams, and the Vicar gave two talks relating to the theme of "Dedication". After the Bible reading by Sunday Club Leader Steve Alderson, young members Grace Alderson, Kara Drummond, Ellie and Emily Alderson spoke movingly about their personal dedication and hopes. The Sunday Club, which meets at Church each Sunday at 11 a.m. would welcome new members.

Poppy Appeal

The total amount raised by the Milnthorpe & District Poppy Appeal 2001 amounted to £2,798.28. Thanks are due to the collectors and all who donated.

Visually Impaired Group

At the February meeting of the Visually Impaired Group, Leader Marjorie Rockliffe introduced Dave Wills, husband of one of the members. Both had been house parents at an Approved School for boys aged 14 - 16 at Mobberley and Mr. Wills spoke of their work and the many escapades and happenings with which they had to deal.

"Magic" Flutes

The young Sedgwick Flutes were in Concert at St. Thomas Church giving an excellent programme including solo and masse fluting including music by Boyce, Doppler and Sarasate.

Disappointment for Sports

Milnthorpe Sports Association which is seeking to develop the disused courts on the playing field into a synthetic surface multi-use games area, received a major blow to their plans when the news that the Foundation for Sport and the Arts who had pledged £20,000 towards the project, withdrew its offer because it had been unable to satisfy the requirements for security of tenure with Milnthorpe Parish Council.

The Sports Association is now looking at other ways to raise the funding for the development. Because of the length of time the project has been running the committee has decided that a concerted effort will be made over the course of this year.

But if things cannot be finalised by the end of 2002 it will abandon the project and restore the running of the site to the Parish Council. Any enquiries contact secretary Peter Singleton on 015395 61340.

Memorial Hall

Thirteen representatives of various organisations were present at a meeting of the Milnthorpe Memorial Hall Management Committee. It was reported that a letter had been sent to retiring Treasurer Chris Thompson expressing thanks and appreciation for all his meticulous work over the years. A letter of thanks for the donation part of which had been given to the Kendal Parish Church Boys Brigade Band and the remainder to the Poppy Appeal had been received from the Royal British Legion. A request by the Institute and Social Club (who have lease of the hall) for a donation towards certain sound proofing work was granted. The Annual Meeting is on April 22nd at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall.

Christian Aid

Have you any foreign currency left over from holidays?

If you have, then Christian Aid are in a position to reclaim it until May. This can help third world areas of need.

It can be given to:-

Maureen & Gordon Coleclough (Heversham)
Margaret Barrow (Milnthorpe)

Anne Graham-Lotts (AG), the daughter of the US evangelist, Billy Graham, was interviewed on the "Early Show" by Jane Clayson (JC) and here is an abridged version of the interview. Anne was asked why God allowed the events of 11th September to happen?

"I believe God was saddened by this as we are, but for years we have been telling Him to get out of our schools, to get out of our Government and to get out of our lives... being the gentleman that he is, I believe he calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His protection and blessing if we demand he leave us alone?"

I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare complained she didn't want any prayer in our schools and we said Okay. (Ms.O'Hare was murdered soon after her statement). Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school - the Bible that says thou shalt not kill; thou shall not commit adultery; love your neighbour as yourself.

And we said Okay.

Then someone said that we should let our daughters have abortions if they want and they won't have to tell their parents and we said Okay.

Then some wise school board member said that since boys will be boys and they are going to do it anyway, why not give them free condoms so they can have all the fun they desire and not have to tell their parents they got them at school. We said Okay.

And some of our children said that they want just to live with their boy and girl friends and not get married just in case it doesn't work out. Even though it is proven that marriages are less likely to survive if the partners live together first, parents didn't know what to say other than Okay.

Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private as long as we do our jobs and nor does it matter what the President does either as long as the economy is good and we went along with this too.

And then someone said let's have magazines with nude women and call it wholesome, down to earth appreciation of the beauty of the female body. We said Okay.

And then someone went further and published pictures of nude children and went further again by putting them on the internet. We said fine as they are entitled to free speech.

And then the entertainment industry said: Let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence and illicit sex. And we will record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder, suicide and satanic themes. And we said its just entertainment and as it has no adverse affect and as no one takes it seriously anyway, go right ahead.

Now we are asking, why it is that children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates and themselves? Possibly it has something to do with: "We reap what we sow."

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world is going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say but question what the Bible says.

Funny how we can say: "I believe in God" but still follow Satan (who also "believes" in God).

Funny how quick we are to judge, but not to be judged.

Funny how you can send a thousand "jokes" through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages about The Lord people think twice about sending them on. Funny how someone can be fired up for Christ on Sunday but be an invisible Christian the rest of the week.

Are you laughing?

Mike Robinson.

MILNTHORPE WITH HEVERSHAM MOTHERS' UNION

At the February meeting of Milnthorpe - With- Heversham Mothers' Union, the service was led by Dorothy Hornby. In the absence of Gwen Tuer, due to illness, the business was dealt with by Judy Dyer and Dorothy Hornby. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Ivy Semple, a long -standing member who died recently. Members were reminded of the cake stall and raffle at the coffee morning on March 8th. Names were taken for the Deanery Eucharist at Kirby Lonsdale on April 8th at 7.30pm. The speaker was Canon James Clark of Visible Communications, a charity which makes videos in sign language with animations, telling bible stories to deaf children. Members found the story of David and Goliath told in this way very absorbing. He was thanked by Dorothy Hornby.

The next Meeting is on March 13th and is Members Meeting. Brenda Coles will speak on her visit to New Zealand.

Jumble Sale in aid of Children's Village Christmas Party -

JUMBLE SALE SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2002

in

THE ATHENAEUM

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 63082

H. Dootson Deepthwaite 63229

D. Cummins Dugg Hill 62726

Jumble will be sorted between 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sale commencing at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Parish Calendar

Regular Services and Events:

Tuesdays	Prayer Gathering 7.30 a.m. at Heversham Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Heversham Prayer Gathering 1 p.m. at Milnthorpe
Saturdays	Prayer Gathering 7.45 a.m. at Heversham

March

3rd The Third Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Parish Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham

Family Service with Holy Baptism 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

United Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m. at Milnthorpe

4th WOW Meeting 7 for 7.30 p.m. at Sylvia Read's home

6th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

7th Bishop Graham's Lent Walk through the Parishes

10th The 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 and Worship 6.30 p.m. at Heversham

11th Heversham PCC, Vestry and Annual Meetings from 7 p.m.

13th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Kendal Deanery Clergy Chapter 10 a.m. at Kendal

14th Holy Communion 11 a.m. at Croftside

Milnthorpe PCC 7.45 p.m.

17th The Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passion Sunday

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Family Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham

Parish Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

19th Consecration of Canon James Newcome as Bishop of Penrith
in York Minster

20th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

24th Palm Sunday - the Start of Holy Week

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

25th Compline 7 p.m. at Heversham

26th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Heversham

Compline 7 p.m., at Heversham

27th Holy Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Compline 7 p.m. at Heversham

28th Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion 7 p.m. at Milnthorpe

29th Good Friday

Open Air Service 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Readings and Hymns on the Passion 6.30 p.m. at Heversham

31st EASTER DAY

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham and Milnthorpe

Family Communion 9.30 a.m. at Heversham

Family Communion 11 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Holy Communion 1.45 p.m. at Westmorland County Hospital

April

7th The Second Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Milnthorpe

United Family Service 10 a.m. at Heversham

United Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m. at Heversham

11th Visit of Canon Colin Hill (Diocesan Secretary) to the Parishes
Joint meeting of PCCs and congregations with Canon Hill
at 7.30 p.m. in St. Peter's Church

13th Welcome of Bishop James Newcome in the Cathedral at 2 p.m.

14th The Third Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion 8 a.m. at Heversham

United Parish Communion 10 a.m. at Milnthorpe

Preacher: Canon Hill

Praise and Worship 6.30 p.m. at Heversham