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Dear Friends,

When we think of Christmas, perhaps the pictures that come into our minds are images of holly wreaths or candles. If we think at all about the true story of Christmas, how have we pictured the birth of Jesus? Do we think of it as good tidings of great joy, brought to Mary by an angel, told to shepherds on a cold hillside and bringing travellers from distant lands to worship in a stable?

For a moment, think again of the story from the point of view of Mary's mother. Her daughter in trouble, about to give birth in poor lodgings far from home - a story of scandal and disappointment! A very different perspective on the familiar story we know so well.

Perhaps this Christmas, we, like Mary's mother, can look at a world 'turned upside down'; one in which our conventional views are challenged and we are invited to respond. When we've drawn the curtains and seemed almost, in doing so, to have shut out the world, might God be asking us to reflect and see how we can turn our bit of the world upside down?

Christmas **is** a wonderful season for celebration, when our senses are assaulted by colour, sounds, smells, tastes and textures. Maybe as we take time to stop in the evening after the hectic rush of the day, we could:

- * Thank God for the sounds we have heard and take a few minutes of our spare time to telephone somebody who might need us to listen to them.
- * As we're wrapping our presents, consider someone else, to whom an unexpected gift would make them feel special and valued.
- * As we bake, cook and stock our cupboards with all those mouth-watering extras, share a few to fill a gap in someone else's stomach.
- * As we remember the many conversations we have each day, take time to 'mend a fence' as we contact, or visit, the colleague, friend or member of the family we have been trying to avoid.
- * As we've spent time cleaning and tidying our homes ready for our Christmas guests, just stop and ask ourselves, "Is my home ready to receive Jesus this Christmas?"

Jesus led us, as His followers, to be people of vision, people who would make a difference in the world around us. People who, with His Spirit living in them, would continue what he started.....

To turn the world upside down!

Wishing you every blessing this Christmas and throughout the coming year!

Yours very sincerely,

Rev'd Sue Wilson

ST PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to **build confidence in Jesus Christ**
in the **heart of the community** through **prayer,**
worship and learning, in joy and practical service
to the wider world.



If any local residents require advice or support Age UK are there to provide information and advice that covers every facet of later life, from helping people find out the benefits they are entitled to claim, to discussing options that help make later life at home more manageable. Our aim is to be the first port of call – the first place that people turn to when they have an age-related need.

HELPLINE 03030030003 for any advice and practical support.

If you are interested in being a volunteer - for info on volunteering 01539728118

www.agesouthlakeland.org.uk

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 3.00 PM

Anyone who would like to join the choir for the Advent Carol Service at **Boarbank Hall** is welcome to come to the rehearsal which will take place at **2pm on 1st December in the Chapel** at Boarbank Hall. We are very grateful once again to Adrian Self from the Priory, who will be organising the music and conducting the choir, and he will be pleased to have people from other churches joining in. There is no need to register beforehand - just turn up ready to sing!

'NATIVITY ON THE MOVE'

This will take place in Grange on **Saturday 21st December.**

Meet at the United Reformed Church at 2pm.

ACTORS, NARRATORS and STEWARDS are needed to make it happen! Actors do not need to remember words, only act as the narrators read the story. Narrators speak the script in pairs or threes, with microphones. Ideally they need to be available to come to a practice on **Monday 16th December at 7.30pm at St Charles' Church, Grange** (venue tbc). Stewards are needed to direct the procession through Grange traffic! It is important that anyone taking on this role comes to a 'walk-through' meeting on **Saturday 14th December at 2pm at the URC hall** to make sure the route is familiar to everyone. **Please let me know** if you are able to help in any way *Rev Sue Nicol, Joint Chair of Churches Together. Tel. 01539531044*

Email: suenicol50@gmail.com

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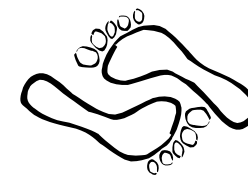
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GRANGE OVER SANDS MONTHLY RAINFALL (MM) - ANDREW LITTLE

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	122	78	163	154	141	98	142	73
February	62	45	115	76	125	91	69	99
March	4	55	61	110	107	162	60	182
April	78	40	58	46	72	15	98	39
May	98	55	62	165	32	75	37	52
June	208	68	28	34	185	135	19	91
July	142	164	70	69	113	126	33	134
August	125	152	124	112	168	86	108	180
September	216	98	6	29	118	177	133	177
October	136	173	156	60	31	172	131	160
November	165	118	97	246	118	189	62	85*
December	194	131	103	352	65	109	160	
Annual total	1,570	1,177	1,043	1,453	1,275	1,435	1,052	1,273

SINGING FOR MEMORY

Aims to strengthen memory and language through singing in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Run by Grange Soroptimists.

Do you or someone you know have mild to moderate dementia, memory or speech problems? Come and join us at Allithwaite, Community Centre.

Thursdays 10.30 am—12 noon - including time for refreshments

Dates for the 2019 Winter sessions are as follows:

December - 5th & 19th

January - 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Ring Janice - 58001 or Isabel - 36378 to book or for further information



COFFEE CLUB

3rd Tuesday each month at **Abbot Hall**.
10 am for 10.20 am, with a speaker and friendly chat.

Everybody welcome.

Enquiries to Keith Buckler:

Tel: 015395 30359

EASYFUNDING

Don't forget when ordering goods or booking rail tickets or holidays on line to use **EASYFUNDRAISING**.

Amazon, Marks and Spencer, Travelodge, Argos, Next, there are so many High Street stores that will give us a donation. If you are interested in helping church in this way just click on **EASY-FUNDRAISING** and name St Paul's Grange as your chosen charity.

NOTICE

Please be aware that photographs may be taken at events and services, and a selection will be published on our web site. If you have any strong objections to being included, please have a word with the Churchwardens

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

In the next few months the bank is adopting an electronic system for clearing cheques and the **ONLY** wording that will be accepted for payment will be "PCC of St Paul's Grange". If you want your cheque to go for a specific fund please attach a note to that effect but do not write it on the cheque.

CO-WORKERS FOR MOTHER TERESA

4th Monday each month in St Charles'
Father Magner Room, Grange
7.15 pm - 8.30 pm

PEWS

If anyone finds our pews uncomfortable, there is now a basket of cushions in front of the pews opposite the lectern, either for sitting on or for using as a back support. Please help yourself if you have need of them - we would appreciate any feedback

TOILET TWINNING - Many thanks to all who donated to the Daisy chicken poo bingo. I'm delighted to say we have now raised £65, which will enable us to twin one of our Church toilets with people living in poor communities so they have clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education. The lucky winner received a pack of eco friendly toilet paper!!

SOLO LUNCH - We should have met for a lunch in December but unfortunately Church life has proved it difficult to arrange so we have deferred it to Sunday, Jan 12th. Put the date in your diary. We look forward to seeing you then and wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Sue Fleetwood

CHURCH DIARY DECEMBER 2019

FIRST OF ADVENT

Sunday	1 st	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Lay-led Matins (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist - St Paul's Grange
		3.00 pm	Advent Service at Boarbank Hall, Allithwaite
Monday	2 nd	12.15 pm	Lunchtime Club, Grange Primary School
Wednesday	4 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion - St Paul's, Grange
		12 noon - 4.00 pm	Setting up of Trees for Christmas Tree Festival
Thursday	5 th	10.00 - 4.00 pm	Setting up of Trees for Christmas Tree Festival
		7.00 pm	Official Opening of Christmas Tree Festival by Peter Endors, Mayor of Grange, with refreshments & music
Friday	6 th	10.00 am	Christmas Tree Festival officially opens

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL OPEN DAILY FROM 10.00 AM TO 4.00 PM THROUGHOUT DECEMBER



SECOND OF ADVENT

Sunday	8 th	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist with Laying on of Hands, St Paul's
Monday	9 th	12.15 pm	Lunchtime Club, Grange Primary School
Wednesday	11 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion - St Paul's, Grange
		7.00 pm	Standing Committee Meeting, St Paul's Church, Grange
Saturday	14 th	11.00 am	Celebratory Concert by Charles Edmondson, St Paul's
		2.00 pm	"Nativity on the move" - Stewards' practice, URC hall

THIRD OF ADVENT

Sunday	15 th	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Matins (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist - St Paul's, Grange
		3.00 pm	Flutes and Co Concert, St Paul's, Grange
Monday	16 th	7.30 pm	Nativity Narrators' practice, St Charles' RC, Grange
Tuesday	17 th	2.00 pm	Christian Meditation at Boarbank Hall
		2.30 pm	Home Communicants Christmas service & tea
Wednesday	18 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion - St Paul's, Grange
		4.00 pm	Choir Rehearsals, St Paul's, Grange
Friday	20 th	9.30 am	Grange Primary School Christmas Service
		1.30 pm	Preparation of Christingles, St Paul's Church, Grange
		4.00 pm	Choir Rehearsals, St Paul's, Grange
Saturday	21 st	2.00 pm	"Nativity on the Move", Grange, starts at URC Kents Bank



FOURTH OF ADVENT

Sunday	22 nd	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist - St Paul's, Grange
		4.00 pm	Carol Service - St Paul's, Grange



Friday - 20th December

9.00 am - Grange Church of England Primary School End of Term
Christmas Service
St Paul's, Grange over Sands



Saturday - 21st December

2.00 pm - Nativity on the Move - A Street Nativity
Beginning at URC Hall

Sunday - 22nd December

9.30 am - Holy Communion (BCP)
The Fell Church - Grange over Sands
11.00 am - Parish Communion (CW)
St Paul's - Grange over Sands



4.00 pm - Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
by candlelight (please bring a torch)

CHRISTMAS EVE (Tuesday 24th December)

6.30 pm - Christingle & Blessing of the Crib
St Paul's - Grange over Sands

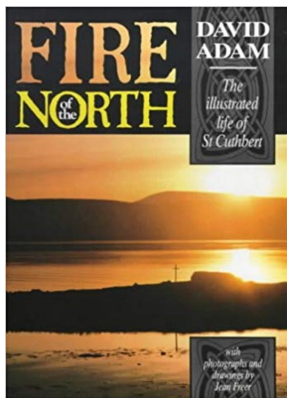


11.30 pm - Midnight Communion
St Paul's - Grange over Sands

CHRISTMAS DAY (Wednesday 25th December)

10.00 am - Parish Communion
St Paul's Grange over Sands





Fire of the North - By David Adam

St Cuthbert is a central figure in Celtic Christianity whose influence is still felt throughout the country. David Adam tells his story, drawing out the qualities which make him so important today.

Each chapter contains a new, specially - composed prayer by David Adam so that we can all experience for ourselves the direct force of Celtic Spirituality. This part of our heritage is seen vividly in Cuthbert, with his ready sense of God's presence and eager response to nature.

Fire of the North is beautifully illustrated with striking photography by Jean Freer showing the dramatic landscapes which form the backdrop to Cuthbert's life. Line drawings of Celtic symbols and pictures make this special book ideal for anyone interested in Celtic Britain.

David Adam was the Vicar of Lindisfarne and the author of six highly successful books of Celtic spirituality, including *The Edge of Glory* and *Power Lines*.

Christmas Blessings

This comes with the assurance of the Church's prayers for you and for those whom you love this Christmas, as we hear once again the message of the angels and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

The gift of love
The gift of peace
The gift of happiness



**May all these be yours this Christmas
and throughout the New Year**

You know that behind our modern celebration of Christmas is a remarkable ancient story. This Christmas, at our services, we will be sharing this story afresh.

We would love to celebrate with you.

Please do join us at one, or all of our services.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday	24th	6.30 pm	Christingle Service – St Paul's, Grange
		11.30 pm	Midnight Communion Service—St Paul's



CHRISTMAS DAY - Christmas Tree Festival Closed Today

Wednesday	25th	10.00 am	Christmas Day - Holy Communion – St Paul's, Grange
BOXING DAY - Christmas Tree Festival Closed Today			
Friday	27th	Last Day of Christmas Tree Festival, St Paul's, Grange	
Saturday	28th	10 am – 4 pm	Christmas Tree Festival, all trees to be taken down today

FIRST OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday	29th	11.00 am	United Service at St Peter's, Finsthwaite
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CHURCH DIARY JANUARY 2020

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Wednesday	1st	10.00 am	Holy Communion – St Paul's, Grange
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EPIPHANY

Sunday	5th	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist - St Paul's, Grange
Wednesday	8th	10.00 am	Holy Communion – St Paul's, Grange

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Sunday	12th	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist - St Paul's, Grange
			Solo Lunch, venue to be arranged
Monday	13th	12.15 pm	Lunchtime Club, Grange Primary School
Wednesday	15th	10.00 am	Holy Communion – St Paul's, Grange
Saturday	18th		Team Mission Meeting – time & venue to be confirmed



SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Sunday	19th	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Matins (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist - St Paul's, Grange
Monday	20th	12.15 pm	Lunchtime Club, Grange Primary School
Tuesday	21st	2.00 pm	Christian Meditation at Boarbank Hall
Wednesday	22nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion – St Paul's, Grange
Thursday	23rd	7.30 pm	Team Council Meeting at St Mary's, Staveley



THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Sunday	26th	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Lay-led Matins (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist - St Paul's, Grange

Monday	27 th	12.15 pm	Lunchtime Club, Grange Primary School
Wednesday	29 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion – St Paul's, Grange
Thursday	30 th	4.00 pm	Communications Meeting – The Boulders

CHURCH DIARY FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Sunday	2 nd	8.00 am	Team Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's, Allithwaite
		9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Fell Church, Grange
		11.00 am	Parish Eucharist - St Paul's, Grange
Monday	3 rd	12.15 pm	Lunchtime Club, Grange Primary School
Wednesday	5 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion – St Paul's, Grange

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES - DECEMBER

4th December 2016 William Michael Robinson

YEARS MIND

December

George Edward Norman Bargh (Revd)	2015
Edward Norman Binnie	2015
Stephen Lee Coucher	2015
Geoffrey Fell	2015
Kenneth Margerison	2015
Margaret (Peggy) Ethel Shepherd	2015
John Morrison	2017
Margaret Mary Newman	2017
Hilda Wynn	2017
Geoffrey Baguley	2018

January

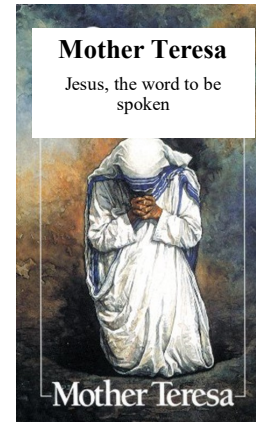
William John Hale	2015
Nora Mason	2015
Victor Leslie Clark	2016
Donald Cyril Shepherd	2016
David Saville Read	2017
Yvonne Irena Bayber	2017
Joyce Lucy Hartley	2017
Alma Ann Townley	2017
Clifford Hartley	2018
John Morrison	2018
Mary Jackson	2019
Bessie Shepherd	2019

*"Born of Water
and the Spirit"*

*"In sure and certain hope of
the resurrection to
eternal life through our Lord
Jesus Christ"*

*"God is love and
those who live in
love, live in God"*

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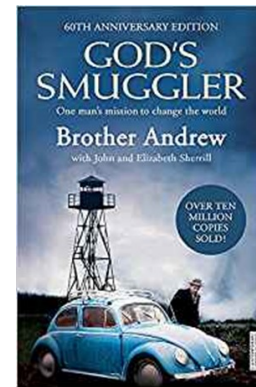
Mother Teresa - Jesus, the word to be spoken

"Our holy faith is nothing but a Gospel of love, revealing to us God's love for man and claiming in return man's love for God."

In this gentle book of day by day meditations we can trace the pattern of the year with Mother Teresa. Her words are both practical and profound. They bring healing, wisdom, and, above all, a message of love that reaches out to enfold all God's children.

Let the words and example of Mother Teresa of Calcutta lead you each day into a closer relationship with God.

Brother Andrew - God's Smuggler



With over ten million copies sold, *God's Smuggler* has thrilled and inspired readers for more than forty years. It tells the true story of how a young Dutchman risked his life to bring faith and hope to believers behind the Iron Curtain.

Now updated with new material from interviews with Brother Andrew, he tells of his adventures as his ministry took him to the Middle East, Africa, China, Israel, Pakistan and other places of great danger and extraordinary opportunities.

With new relevance, and at such a poignant time for persecuted Christians, this book is set to inspire a whole new generation of readers.



Julian of Norwich - Penguin Classics

One of the first woman authors, Julian of Norwich produced in *Revelations of Divine Love* a remarkable work of revelatory insight, that stands alongside *The Cloud of Unknowing* and *Piers Plowman* as a classic of Medieval religious literature. This Penguin Classics edition is translated from Middle English by Elizabeth Spearing, with an introduction and notes by A.C. Spearing.

After fervently praying for a greater understanding of Christ's passion, Julian of Norwich, a fourteenth-century anchorite and mystic, experienced a series of divine revelations. Through these 'showings', Christ's sufferings were revealed to her with extraordinary intensity, but she also received assurance of God's unwavering love for man and his infinite capacity for forgiveness. Written in a vigorous English vernacular, the *Revelations* are one of the most original works of medieval mysticism and have had a lasting influence on Christian thought.

GO GREEN

"The earth is a fine place and worth fighting for" – Ernest Hemingway

It takes 21 days to form a habit, and many of us have daily habits that are slowly destroying the environment. Taking small steps to change daily habits can significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

Grange Soroptimists have produced a calendar for 2020, giving the reasons why we should GO GREENER. Each month focuses on a different topic, eg 'Recycle and Refill', 'Avoid Plastic', 'Save Energy', etc, and includes a relevant quotation and a published fact, together with a list of simple actions that we can all take to reduce our impact on the environment of our planet.

It also includes actions for children, inviting them to follow the chameleon, a small lizard famous for changing its colour, so would be an ideal educational addition for a Christmas stocking.

Attractively produced on 100% recycled paper, the calendar is now on sale for £5.50 (ring 33243 to order). Together let's change the world, one green footstep at a time.



DON'T SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS THIS YEAR

If you are thinking of sending individual Christmas cards to your friends at church (whom you see once or twice each week), why not think about contributing to St Paul's alternative card. In 2007, Sue and Penny introduced the idea of a display board containing all our greetings, and inviting donations towards WaterAid. Since then £4,856 has been raised for this worthy cause to provide clean water to many communities throughout the world who cannot count on a commodity which we regard as absolutely basic.

WaterAid is an international non-governmental organisation, focused on water, sanitation and hygiene. It was set up in 1981 as a response to the UN International Drinking Water decade and continues its health-bringing work throughout the developing world. It aims to bring clean water for ALL by 2030.

The display is in the baptistery, with cards available for you to write your own message - or you can bring your own card - and put it on one of the two trees, and there are envelopes for your donation, gift-aided if possible.

So if you would like to join us, please do so and bring Christmas spirit and a vital element to many who need this precious resource.

This year we are also selling Christmas bottles containing lights instead of the spirit which has already been imbibed! Proceeds again to WaterAid.

REMEMBRANCE 2019

The Civic Remembrance Service again took place in the parish church of St. Paul with a painstakingly crafted liturgy created by Bishop Nigel. The Queen's Deputy Lieutenant, former GP Dr. Jane Irwin, represented Her Majesty, and the Mayor of Grange-over-Sands, Peter Endor, was also present, as were representatives and many members of a wide variety of uniformed organizations and of our communities.



The Order of Service was marked by specially created designs by pupils of Grange Church of England School – George Evans and Victoria Pennock – and we are grateful to them for their work. A number of other memorable designs was submitted and the judges (helped by the Wednesday Communion attenders at our church) had difficulty in selecting two which stood out.

The D-Day landings, the liberation of Europe and the horrors of the concentration and extermination camps that came to light during that campaign were marked by the readings and prayers. The Grange Junior School choir rendered a touching anthem and members of other denominations and parts of our communities contributed with the appropriate readings.

On a bright, dry afternoon, after the traditional march down the hill behind Flookburgh Brass Band, the Rev'd. Sue Wilson continued the service at the War Memorial with two minutes of silence, the laying of wreaths and the singing of two hymns. We are grateful to her and to Bishop Nigel for making the afternoon so poignant, relative and meaningful.

At 11.00 a.m. the following day (11th November) two minutes of silence were observed at the War Memorial with Sue again leading the prayers. There was a good turn-out from members of the public and the various Grange and district churches. It is good to see that our gratitude to those (both military and civil) who gave their lives in conflict for our country and the cause of freedom continues to be remembered in this way.

WE SHALL NOT FORGET THEM

A GRACE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Before the Christmas dinner

As all are seated at the table, the youngest people present lights a candle, and says:
We place this candle on our table to show that Jesus is welcome in our home as we celebrate his birth.

Then Mum, Dad, Granny or Grandpa says:

In the name of the father, son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Heavenly Father, bless the food we share and fill our hearts with love, peace and joy, this Christmas and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A LEGACY POLICY

A lasting gift to your church

Making a will is not something that we like to think about or do. Yet we are encouraged to do so in order to ensure that the finances and goods that we leave behind us will go to those people and organizations that we choose to benefit from them. As a Christian and a member of our local church, many of us have been giving regularly to the mission and ministry of the parish. We are stewards of everything that we own, not just our income, and gifts in wills are a natural part of Christian giving.

Sometimes parish life can feel like an endless cycle of raising money to pay the bills and maintain our buildings. A gift in your will is different. The PCC has written a Legacy Policy confirming that, however small or large, they will use your gift to make a real difference in the parish.

The full policy will appear in the February magazine but we want to reassure individuals and executors that St. Paul's will make the most appropriate use of your gift in the light of current projects and needs and in the areas of your interests in the life of the church. We strongly advise that you consult with a solicitor when drawing up your will but you may like to consider the following wording:

I give ____% of my residuary estate OR I give the sum of £____ (pounds only) free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of The Church of St. Paul Grange-over-Sands with Lindale for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the PCC shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees.

The PCC will then apply this sum to a particular project in your area of interest in the church's work. If you seek more guidance, please talk to Rev'd Sue Wilson or one of the churchwardens in strictest confidence.

CHRISTINGLE PREPARATIONS

Arrangements are well in hand for this year's Christingle celebration. Margaret Caseley and Helen have assembled some 150 cardboard "candles" which will go to Grange School for the children to make collections for The Children's Society and the work that it carries out with under-privileged and needy children.

The Christingles themselves will be assembled in St. Paul's on Friday, 20th December, at 1.30 p.m. when help will be appreciated to put sweets onto sticks, wrap oranges with ribbon and so on. If you can help in this very sociable gathering, please let Helen know or just come along: the more, the merrier and the job soon gets done.

Don't forget the service itself on Christmas Eve at 6.30 p.m. when the church will be warm and well decorated for the touching service, the collecting of the candles and the distribution of the Christingles themselves to our excited children – and their parents and grandparents. It is always a gathering full of expectation and chatter as we await Jesus's birth.

WW11 MOCK EVACUATION

In October I was asked if I would like to take part in the Leven Valley school evacuee project for Class 2 & 3 to be a host family. The children were learning what it was to be a child in the war years and to be evacuated away from your home. Identification cards were produced, gas masks were made and name cards created as the children and teachers dressed in 1940s style and they were evacuated from Haverthwaite Railway station to Lakeside. (Ironically Mollie Bell had written about being evacuated to Allithwaite in the November magazine.)

My 1940s outfit was duly put together with a borrowed crocodile handbag and fox fur courtesy of Penny Ward and wig borrowed from Jane Thedham – I certainly looked like a version of Mrs Pike from Dad's Army!

The children had been waved off by parents and grandparents at Haverthwaite and arrived at Lakeside where they lined up to be chosen by their host families; some found this quite an anxious time. Everyone then gathered in the Lakeside Hotel to read letters from home, play games, write a postcard and have lunch.

I talked to my new family - 2 young girls - and we talked about looking after chickens, rabbits and how we had had to dig up the garden to grow vegetables for the war effort and to support ourselves. My 1940s life was based on my parents, as my father had been in a reserved occupation in WW2 in Barrow and worked as an air raid warden whilst my mother had been involved in various committees.

It was a memorable mock evacuation and a great learning experience for everyone and a big thankyou to the staff and children of Leven Valley school for inviting me to join them.

Judith Mitchell



CASTLE HOWARD AND A CHRISTMAS MASQUERADE

A visit to York for a couple of days to celebrate a Very Special Occasion with family was enhanced by two very special events.

The first was a visit to the superb stately house of Castle Howard, built over 300 years ago and one of England's finest private residences, coinciding this year with A Christmas Masquerade running until 5th January. The house had been closed for two full weeks to permit the decorations under the creative direction of Lady Charlotte Lloyd Webber. These took the form of a journey through the grand state rooms and galleries, past open fires, candle light and live music, celebrating the house's theatrical roots and the influence of the Italian Baroque on the architecture and interiors. The theme was the preparation for a grand masked ball inspired by the Venetian Carnival to be held in the Long Gallery spectacularly dressed as the Grand Canal. Among the sumptuous decorations and awe-inspiring costumes, a troupe of travelling players was seen to be preparing festive entertainments for the guests. These ebullient and well known characters – Harlequin, Colombine, Pierrot, the Zanni Clown – were richly dressed and surrounded by the “props” of their professions. The costumiers' gallery was a feast of dresses, cloth, robes and *accoutrements*. Bedrooms and sitting rooms sparkled with Christmas trees and festive decorations. In the Grand Hall, a 30-foot high Christmas tree was decorated with 3000 baubles whilst a pianist played on the grand piano in front of a log fire. Music sweetened the ear softly throughout and lights flickered, whilst in the Long Gallery the gold bridges, the models and the silvery rippling canal elbowed to one side priceless furnishings and the house's classical painting masterpieces of 17th century royalty.

Outside, the normal catering and retail outlets had been augmented with Gift Shops and Christmas emporia offering gifts and presents very much in keeping with the decorations and models within. It was really a day of extravagance, supreme creational brilliance and a true festival of seasonal joy.

From there, a short ride back to York and a quiet pause for tea and reflection were followed by Choral Evensong in York Minster as darkness gathered. The minster's renovations continue but the carved choir stalls of the main altar area, the soaring carvings and ceilings plus the unaccompanied rendering of the psalm restored a sense of peace to the inner soul, and we went back to our hotel calmed and refreshed. In total, a wonderful day.



OUR WORSHIP

At our recent Worship Committee meeting, we spent some time discussing the future of our services at St Paul's. Everything is running along very smoothly at present – our numbers are actually increasing – and we are extremely grateful to our retired clergy, primarily Sue Wilson and Derek Jackson, for helping us to maintain the status quo. However, it is very obvious that we cannot continue to rely on their goodwill – nor should we be doing. It is also evident that it is unlikely that we are going to have a resident clergy person in the near future, nor indeed in future years when numbers of people coming forward to be ordained are declining.

We are therefore proposing to the Parochial Church Council that we have a Morning Praise Service every other month on the 3rd Sunday, starting in March. We already have a suitable form of service devised by our Rector, Jim Bruce, which is non-Eucharistic, and it would be organised by members of the Worship Committee. This will relieve us of the need to find a clergy person, and moreover it will be an opportunity for us to ‘grow’ our own lay leaders – and we have several folk in our congregation who are more than capable of leading us in worship.

I hope that you will see this as a positive way forward in our current situation, and will support us in this new initiative for St Paul's.

HOUSE BLESSING 2020

The blessing of homes around the Epiphany (celebrated this year on Sunday January 3rd) enjoys a long history. It is an old custom to chalk an inscription on the front of your home. This coming year the inscription will look like this:

20+C+M+B+20

The numerals stand for the new year 2020. There are three Crosses and the initials C M B of the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: in English, ‘**May Christ bless this house.**’ As you place the sticker on your front door say a prayer together with those who live in the house.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Leader: Peace be to this house and all who dwell here.

Heavenly Father, you revealed Jesus, your Son, to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live here with your good gifts.
Fill us with the light of Christ so that we may ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



BANKING CHANGES

Our bankers, Lloyds, are insistent that we must open a new current account, giving up the one that we have been using since the last century and which apparently cannot be modified to match the needs of today's world. Whilst it has the advantage that our Treasurer can check our balance on-line whenever is required, it brings certain drawbacks.

One of these is that Lloyds will make charges (currently, our banking is free) and these are made on each cash deposit (a charge of 1% of the amount) and on each cheque in and out (65p. per item). There is also a monthly charge of £6.50. It is calculated that these could cost us some £500 for a full year if we continue as we are. The good news is that the charges will not be made for 18 months so we have a chance to consider our position.

Whilst we are reviewing matters, and before our present account is closed as Lloyds are pressing us to do, it WILL be necessary for all current Standing Order payments which are made by our members for their Stewardship donations to be switched to our new account. Many of us can do this on-line and it is a very simple task. The sort code is 30 90 89, and the account number is 4857 9968. The name can be given as St. Paul's Grange and this will work.

However, if you are not able to make the change on-line, you will need to submit a letter to your bank and we can provide you with a template which cancels your current mandate and asks the bank to start a new payment at the time and date of your choice, and on the particular day of each week or month, or interval, as you would prefer. Please contact one of the wardens or John Peat if you need assistance and we shall be pleased to help.

Those of our friends who do not pay by Standing Order may wish to use this method in the future. It avoids the need to have cash in the house, to remember to put it into the weekly envelope and to bring it along to the Sunday or other service. It also means that we do not have to open and record the amount in each envelope every week, count the cash and then walk with it to the Post Office where we now pay it into our account. In the future, we shall not be charged for the privilege of doing this – a Standing Order credit is free for us. Again, we ask you to look at the advantages of this way of paying to the church.

A further advantage is that it is easy to increase the monthly or weekly payment from time to time in line with inflation. It is significant and depressing that many people do not increase their giving as our costs go up and as their state or other pension increases. The annual giving in our parish has not kept up with inflation over the last 10 years or so, although all our costs have risen significantly and we find that we are increasingly dependent on donations or legacies to maintain our buildings and our regular expenditure on services, insurance, salaries etc.



28, Hebron Court, 35 Hill Lane,
SOUTHAMPTON SO15 5WE

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Greetings to you all and a Happy Christmas when it comes! We're writing this after having Penny and Sue with us in late October – it's been a great time and we've been catching up with news of you all, constant chatting and a great deal of laughter. It's done us both a power of good, and we are really grateful for their visit. We are always thrilled to see our friends from The North!

We are settling well, though getting used to city life after so many years away has taken some adjusting. Southampton is a much more prosperous city, with thriving docks and two huge Universities, than it was when we first moved here in 1982. The traffic is horrendous compared to Cumbria and Somerset, but there is a real buzz and optimism around.

Life is challenging for Jill; she can't move at all without mechanical aids, and not being able to cook and run the household is a real frustration. Ian has been on a steep learning curve in the kitchen, but as yet hasn't poisoned anyone! The flat is really convenient for Jill in her wheelchair, and the "home team" of carers who get her up each morning are all unfailingly helpful and cheerful. Otherwise we are independent. We're making new friends with some of our neighbours, but our real delight is in picking up old friendships from our former parishes in Hampshire, and catching up with what has happened over the intervening years. We get out for short journeys with the aid of our adapted Fiat car, in which Jill rides in her wheelchair.

It is really good to be nearer half the family; Simon, Leanne and their two boys Joshua and Harry are thirty minutes away, so we see them much more often than we did in Somerset. Philip, Helen and the twins Sam and Thomas are in Bristol, but get over when they can. The family gave us fantastic practical support this year with the move back in March, and continue to do so with ongoing financial backing; we are so lucky to have such a super family.

We've joined the congregation at Christchurch, Freemantle, nearby, where there is no priest at present – and Ian is just beginning to help by taking a few services. It is wonderful to be welcomed into a warm Christian congregation – small in number but very multi-cultural. We sing the St. Thomas setting of the Communion – as we did in Grange!

We continue to be immensely grateful for the years we spent amongst you, we pray for you all with the challenges the Churches face on the Peninsula, and hope that 2020 may bring a positive resolution to the Team Ministry which has so much potential.

May the Lord guide and strengthen you all on the path ahead.

With our love and warmest good wishes,

Ian and Jill



DANEMANN UPRIGHT PIANO

Readers may be interested in the following email sent to PCC members in October:

“We have received advice of the availability of a 1930 Danemann upright piano whose owners wish to donate it to a church prior to their packing and moving out of the area during the week beginning 4th November. No payment is expected. In view of the state of our Bechstein grand piano (see Charles’s email of 6th August), Charles inspected the piano and reports as follows:

The piano is in good condition and the casing is attractive. It comes with a matching stool and has casters but its moveability was not checked as it was standing on carpet. Its action is good, it looks attractive and Charles describes it as “absolutely adequate.” We would have to pay to bring it to St. Paul’s and then it would need tuning (it has just been tuned but this would be disturbed by the move so it would need doing again). Charles believes that it could stand in the church under the north organ pipes, where the music cupboard now stands and where it would not be affected by the radiator close to the Lady Chapel which has not been a good thing for the Bechstein over the years.

You will see that the Bechstein is believed to be a totally non-viable white elephant. The tuners will not spend time on it and the cracked frame “is a death knell.” A Bechstein dealer in Cambridge would only take it from us if we purchased an expensive new instrument or an electronic organ; a piano dealer in Morecambe has expressed no interest at all but would be prepared to take it away when they are passing through or near Grange. Without tuning and new strings, it will become totally unplayable and it has but 3 possible futures – (i) leave to rot, (ii) smash and dispose of via The Tip or pay someone to take it away or (iii) store somewhere and pay rental *ad infinitum*. Its musicality has deteriorated – and will deteriorate further – and the casework is scratched and marked.

How has it come into this state? Moving it for concerts is not thought to have been a significant factor but rather the changes in temperature from mid-winter to mid-summer, the effect of the radiators coming on and off during the winters, and the changes in humidity etc. What happens if we do nothing? It sits there deteriorating and getting in the way.

What will the new one cost us? Transport from Low Newton (2 men with a van) – say £150. Tuning - £50. New casters or other aid to mobility – say, £200.

Result: A decent piano which will serve well for future concerts, accompaniments etc. at rock-bottom cost.

Views are requested. If we want it, we have to move now.”

Result: The PCC voted to bring in the Danemann and remove the Bechstein.

This may also be a good time to review your regular giving and check just when you increased the amount. Inflation has averaged 2% or thereabouts for many years and this has a serious effect on everyone’s finances including the church’s. Those who receive the State pension have enjoyed the “triple lock” which the government introduced several years ago whereby this pension increases annually for the elderly by 2.5% or by the Consumer Price Index or average earnings whichever is the highest. So we elderly have done extremely well from this – but has it been passed on to the church? Please take a look at your own situation and see what you should do.

If you have any questions or worries, please have a chat in confidence with the wardens and we’ll try to help you.

Meanwhile, we are looking at other banks who offer free Treasurer’s accounts for charities, clubs and societies (Santander seems to be the favourite) but opening an account with a new bank is a long and tedious process and we need to be sure that we are doing the right thing. More on this topic later.

Mike Hill

FINANCIAL FRAUD INCREASES

The finance industry prevented £820 million of unauthorised fraud in the first half of 2019, up to 14% on the previous year, according to the latest figures from UK Finance. This is equivalent to £2 in every £3 of attempted unauthorised fraud being stopped, or £4.5 million of fraud being prevented each day. But criminals still managed to steal a total of £1.2 billion last year.

Many people may already know the do’s and don’ts of financial fraud and scams – that no-one should ever contact them out of the blue to ask for their PIN or full password, or ever make them feel pressured into moving money to another account. The trouble is, in the heat of the moment, it’s easy to forget this. After all, trusting people on their word is something everyone tends to do instinctively. But, remember that criminals are expert at impersonating people, organisations and the police. Your bank or police will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account.

The advice is:

STOP Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE Could it be fake? It’s OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT Contact your bank immediately if you think you’ve fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

(Extract from *Mature Times*, Issue no. 325, October 2019)

THE ORGAN - JUST ABOUT THERE



At the time of writing (late-November), the work on the organ refurbishment is just about complete and we look forward to enjoying its music and tone for many more years. Many people have contributed most generously to the work and we are grateful to everyone who has donated financially or with their advice to the entire process which began in 2017. It may be useful to record why we took these steps.

The organ had not been seriously touched since 1953 and was showing distinct signs of wear, with keys not playing, strange noises emanating from the innards and with the movement of stops and keys, and our organists (including Charles (Director of Music), John Falkingham and others) were concerned about not being able to play it at all; alternatively it may have just given up the ghost completely at some stage and left us with nothing.

During the re-ordering process in 2016, we asked the diocese for a faculty to remove the organ completely with a view to replacing it with an electronic instrument and using the space that would be released for storage, as a vestry or as a small meeting room. The diocese requested a review of the organ by the British Institute of Organ Studies and by the diocesan Organ Adviser, John Scott. Both reports which resulted praised the organ and recommended that it be retained – for a future generation to restore and treasure even if the current generation was not inclined to do so. So we could have “moth-balled” the organ and left it *in situ* whilst finding room elsewhere for an electronic version which would have cost in the region of £30-40,000. Could we have sold the existing instrument? This was doubtful in the state it was in – and who would buy it? There was a move to sell it overseas – but again what price would have been realised for an instrument needing extensive overhaul? And would the diocese and those who recommended its remaining here have changed their view and allowed it to move on?

Quotations were requested for its renovation, bearing in mind that this work would attract relief from VAT (which the purchase of a new instrument would not) and may also receive a grant from a party interested in maintaining England’s musical and organ heritage. We also looked at the price of a suitable new electronic instrument which would give us an expensive project which would receive no grant or subsidy. Two of the quotations that we received from reputable organ restorers were extremely high, but a third was significantly more attractive. The overall project, if we could obtain an outside five-figure grant, would be considerably cheaper, we would take advantage of the concession on VAT and we would not be blocking up space in our main nave with an electronic instrument and speaker such as we have seen during much of the current year. Furthermore, the current instrument would not just sit there for a number of years gathering dust.

We approached the PCC with a project involving the raising of significant funds from our congregation and other friends and applying for a grant from The Pilling Trust.

The PCC agreed and undertook to underwrite the project which, if all went well, would cost the church in the region of £20-22,000. Inevitably, costs have risen as we discovered various other works which needed to be carried out as the work proceeded. Significant amongst these were the repairs to the room ceiling where the plaster had dried, deteriorated and fallen off. The Blower Room was in a similar condition with dust and grit, as well as various bits and pieces from various ornaments and decorations stored within, being sucked in to the organ pipes and distorting the sound. Pipes were found to be bent or broken, and so on.

We obtained our £10,000 grant, our congregation and others rallied round, we collected closer to £27,000 rather than the £20K anticipated and we have a well restored instrument, with a 10-year warranty, at a cost which is much less than purchasing a new one. Additionally, we have maintained part of our local and regional heritage and have something of which we can be proud.

We recognize that there are many who would have preferred us to “watch and wait”, conserved our energy and cash, and moved only when things literally fell apart; there are others who would have preferred to spend more on an electronic instrument which would have occupied space in the nave, and put the present organ into permanent storage. Others contemplated a future without organists, dependent solely on CDs and computer-enhanced sound, and maybe a pianist on Sunday mornings. However, we have taken a route which is felt by many to be fully justified, financially sound and which meets the hopes and expectations of many both in Grange-over-Sands and elsewhere. To those who supported us, we say a heartfelt “Thank you.”

Flutes & Co Christmas Concert

St Paul’s Church, Grange-over-Sands
Sunday 15th December at 3.00 pm

Directed by Sue Nicholls

