

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
SAINT PAUL
GRANGE-OVER-SANDS



June 2021

£1



Normal services at The Parish Church of Saint Paul

Sundays - 11.00 am - Parish Service

Wednesday - 10.00 am - First of month H/C

and at The Fell Church, Grange-over-Sands

9.30 am Second Sunday - Matins (BCP)

9.30 am - Fourth Sunday - Holy Communion (BCP)

Fifth Sunday of the Month

Joint Service with St Paul's at 11.00 am in the Parish Church



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.

Team Rector

Rev'd Dr Jim Bruce (rector.cartmel@gmail.com)

Tel No

07776 821 736

Team Vicars

Rev'd Nick Devenish - The Vicarage, Priest Lane, Cartmel, LA11 6PU

36261

Rev'd Rachel Stavert - The Vicarage, Allithwaite, LA11 7QR

83187

The Revd Rachel Stavert is currently on an extended leave of absence.

Licensed Lay Readers in the Cartmel Peninsula Team Ministry

Steve Bell, Beckside Barn, Beckside, Cartmel, LA11 7SW

36789

Joyce Leach, Stoneleigh, 11 Highfield Road, GOS, LA11 7JA

35297

Jenny Leahy, Studio, Mill House, Lindale, LA11 6LF

35979

Elisabeth Arthurs, 14 Meadowbank Lane, GOS, LA11 6AT

35406

Diane McGuire, Cardrona Road, GOS

07951423789

Chris Mason, 5 Maychells Orchard, Allithwaite, LA11 7PY

32159

Visit our website www.grangepcc.co.uk

www.facebook.com/StPaulsGoS

Dear Friends

I've had a DNA ancestry test. The result: I'm a mongrel (no surprise there!). I'm half Welsh, a third Irish, and then an almost equal mix of Scottish and English. Oh, and some Norwegian too – Norse "Viking" (so beware!).

This month, sadly, Jim will be added to our church's ancestry list of past parish priests. We'll miss his lovely warmth, freshness and clear Gospel messages; and be wondering what our next parish priest will be like? What mix of "spiritual DNA" will he or she have?

Today's Christians everywhere, lay and ordained, are spiritual descendants of those who in times past, often at great cost, witnessed to the faith. For example, in June we remember: Barnabas (11th), John the Baptist (24th), Peter and Paul (29th).

Barnabas was "a good man". Thoughtful, compassionate, generous and caring, he was "full of the Holy Spirit and of faith". John the Baptist was a prophetic character with an uncompromising message: "be prepared for the Lord". People turned to John, but he had the humility to point them away from himself towards the Lord.

Peter was the rock, the key, on whom Jesus relied. But, just like us, he often let his Lord down. Peter was also a reconciler: he held together the traditional views of the earliest leader of the new church in Jerusalem (James, Jesus's brother) and the revolutionary missionary zeal of Paul. Often celebrated jointly, Peter and our patron Paul can be seen in two small windows high up each side of our altar. Paul was a tireless visitor, founding new churches, supporting fledgling ones, and engaging with people who had no allegiance to Christ.

Maybe June's saints are a hint of the "spiritual DNA" we should hope and pray to find in Grange's next parish priest: someone who knows personally the power of God's presence, and who has a prayerful and pastoral heart; someone who will teach and preach challengingly and engagingly, and point us to the Lord; someone who is not just a chaplain to the congregation, but is committed to getting alongside the whole Grange community.

Some task! Whoever comes will of course, like Peter and all of us, make mistakes; but will also be blessed by welcoming and loving Christians at St Paul's and The Fell. Pray then for another good parish priest to come among us; to serve and lead us, through Word and Sacrament, to know Christ better and to make Him better known. One who will hold before us the vision of that ultimate spiritual mix - of being Christ-like in all that we are and do.

We can't alter our ancestors' physical DNA; but we can, priest and people together, change our spiritual genes for the better. As another June saint, Richard of Chichester (16th), prayed long ago to our Lord: "May we know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly". Let us strive to do that – day by day.

With love, prayers and blessings

+Nigel



FROM THE REGISTERS FOR JUNE

*“Born of Water
and the Spirit”*



YEARS MIND

Joan Garnett	25th June 2016
William Clive Barton Banks	17th June 2017
Patricia Shaw	18th June 2018
Alan Conway Jones	20th June 2019
Hilda Boldy	3rd June 2020



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

ST PAUL'S CHURCH DIARY - JUNE 2021

Wednesday 2nd June

10.00 am - Holy Communion - Rev'd Dr James Bruce,

Sunday 6th June - 1st Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am - Holy Communion - The Venerable Penny Driver

Tuesday 8th June - Churches Together in Cumbria - Zoom Gathering & AGM

See Page 22 for more details

Sunday 13th June - 2nd Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am - Morning Prayer - Lay-led - The Fell Church

11.00 am - Holy Communion - Rev'd Dr James Bruce, St Paul's Church

Sunday 20th June - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am - Holy Communion - Archdeacon Vernon Ross, St Paul's, Grange

Sunday 27th June - 4th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am - Holy Communion BCP - Rev'd Brian Williams, The Fell Church

11.00 am - Morning Worship - Lay-led, St Paul's Church

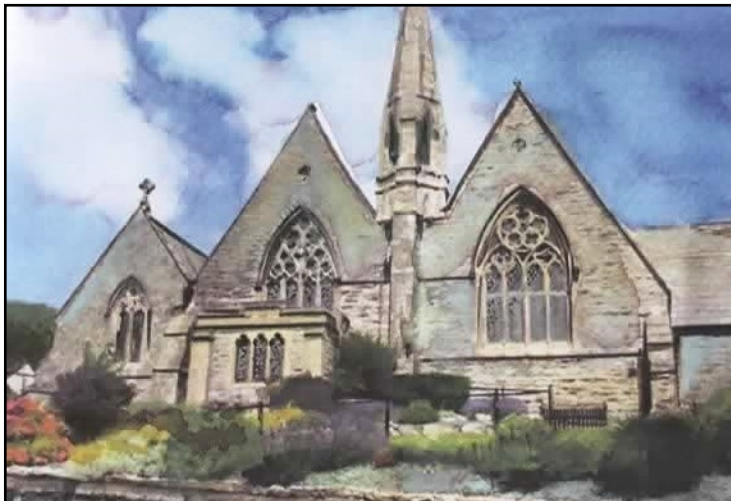
BLISTER PACK COLLECTION

It looks like Tetrapac/Superdrug/Marie Curie have been victims of their own success! They have now suspended the collection of Blister Packs until further notice.

Thank you all for collecting the same - up to date we have collected about 10,000.
A fantastic response.

NEW CARDS NOW AVAILABLE OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH

The St Mary's Hospice shop on Yewbarrow Terrace in Grange is now selling a lovely card of St Paul's Church from an original watercolour by local artist Bob Sutcliffe, priced at 50p. The cards are very reasonably priced for a great local charity. Bob taught himself to paint after a heart attack in 2017. All profits from his cards and commissions are given to charity, and so far he has raised over £40,000. He welcomes commissions of pets, portraits and places.



A few of these cards are now available at the back of church for a small donation.

Scarecrow Challenge

Would anyone like to volunteer to make a scarecrow for the church grounds to help with the Scarecrow Challenge taking place in June?

There are lots of ideas for making the scarecrow on the website: peatsouthlakes.blogspot.com and the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PEATGreening>



See page 14 & 15 for more details

THE VACCINAID CAMPAIGN

In the May issue of the Parish Magazine, an article on page 16 described the VACCINAID campaign launched by UNICEF UK, and supported by the Church of England along with other faith groups, businesses, celebrities and the NHS. In the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, “At the heart of the Christian faith is Christ’s call to love our neighbour: keeping one another safe from this terrible disease is part of living that out”.

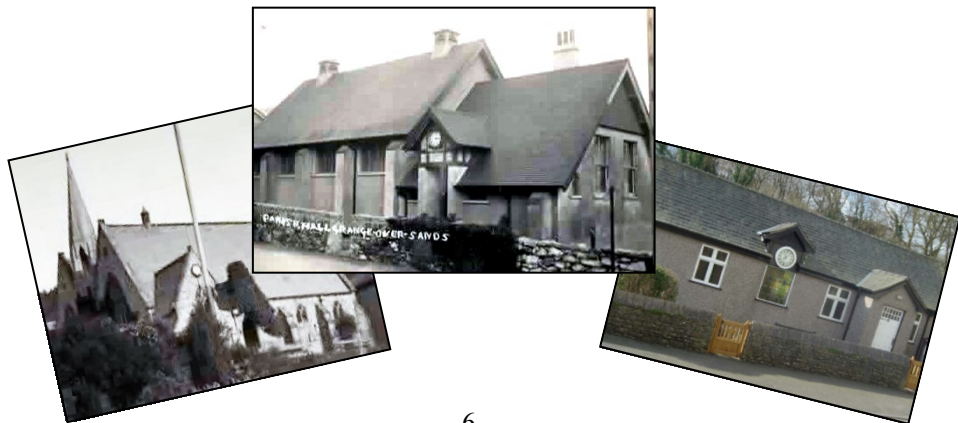


The PCC has agreed that we invite donations to this worthy cause throughout the month of June. Now most of us have received our two ‘jabs’ – delivered to us free of charge and in a very efficient roll-out at the Health Centre here in Grange, supported by many local volunteers who gave freely of their time to marshal and guide us through the process. In gratitude, we hope that people will give generously to support Vaccinaid and help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history, aiming to provide protection for health workers and the most high risk and vulnerable people on our planet.

In the UK, the cost of 1 Pfizer shot is £15; the cost of 1 AstraZeneca shot is £2.17. Envelopes will be available by the display in St Paul’s, and should be handed to Mike Hill, John Millican, or any of the sidespersons on duty on a Sunday morning.

TICKING AGAIN AT THE FELL

We are pleased to announce that the clock on the outside of the Fell Church is ticking again and keeping good time, in spite of its age! Originally on the south-west outside wall of St Paul’s, it was moved to the Parish Hall when the clocktower was built, and finally settled at the Fell. It came from the same clockmakers who supplied the clock for the tower. We are grateful to Trevor who has taken over as its winder and monitor, and to all those who have tended to it over the years.



ANGLICAN SAINTS

EVELYN UNDERHILL (1875-1941)

Evelyn was born in Wolverhampton, the daughter of a barrister, and took her degree in History, Philosophy and Social Science at Kings College for Women in London. Underhill was her family name, which she kept after her marriage to the barrister Hubert Stuart Moore in 1907. She had been brought up as an Anglican, but though she was deeply committed to religious study, she hesitated for some years to make a commitment to a particular form of worship. She published a major book, *Mysticism*, in 1911 which brought her into contact with the Catholic theologian and bible scholar Baron Friedrick von Hugel, who lived in London. Though the book became a classic, it did not represent her mature thought: she was to deepen her knowledge and understanding of the subject later. She was strongly attracted to the Roman Catholic Church, and von Hugel became her spiritual director, but after a long period of scholarly investigation, she returned to the Church of England into which she had been confirmed as a girl. She wrote to the abbot of Downside in 1931, 'I solidly believe in the Catholic status of the Church of England as to Orders and sacraments. It seems to be a respectable suburb of the City of God - but all the same, part of Greater London'.



Evelyn Underhill's thinking was greatly influenced by von Hugel, and also by her study of the works of Teresa of Avila. One of her best known works, *The House of the Soul*, reprinted many times, is a development from Teresa's *The Interior Castle*; she also carried out detailed and scholarly work on a number of mystics: the author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*, Richard Rolle; John Ruysbroeck or Ruusbroec, a 13th century monk in the Low Countries; Jacopo da Todi, a 14th century Franciscan 'Spiritual'; and Boehme. She travelled every year on the Continent either with her husband or with her friend and collaborator Lucy Menzies, visiting religious centres and shrines. Her journals from these tours were edited by Lucy Menzies as *Shrines and City's of France and Italy* (1949). She was also deeply interested in the traditions of the Eastern Orthodox Church, studying Greek Orthodox tradition and becoming a member of the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius.

Evelyn Underhill became a scholar of great distinction on the subjects of mysticism and spirituality, and something more: from about 1925, she was in great demand as a spiritual director and a retreat conductor at a time when women were debarred from taking Orders in the Anglican Church. She taught that the spiritual life and practical life went together, "like bread and butter", and that all worship must start with adoration, which reveals to us the insignificance of the "luggage" of life over which we make most fuss. She was gentle in her handling of other people's religious problems, saying that she 'hated pushing souls about'. She died on 15th June 1941. An obituary in the Times *Literary Supplement* commented that 'she never ceased teaching, and she never ceased learning'.

MORECAMBE BAY PARTNERSHIP

(<https://www.morecambebay.org.uk/>)

A small charity that makes BIG things happen, working hard to bring benefits to the communities, heritage and environment around the Bay.

The **Morecambe Bay Partnership** celebrates and conserves, connects and collaborates. From birds to beach cleans, from cycle ways to the history that shaped us, it works in collaboration with the community and other partners to deliver projects with real impact. The vision is a thriving Bay, rich in landscape, wildlife and culture, which connects and inspires residents and visitors alike.

Their **Sunset Series** presents interesting talks about the Bay, and the latest is entitled '**Crossing the Sands**' on Tuesday, 15th June, at 7-8.30 pm. Discover the extraordinary history of crossing the sands of Morecambe Bay with local historian Dr Bill Shannon as your guide.

Until the coming of the railways, the main way from Lancaster to Ulverston, Millom and beyond, was across the sands of the Bay at low tide, accompanied by a guide. Prior to the Reformation, these men were employed by the monasteries as an act of charity: but afterwards the Duchy of Lancaster took on the role. However, even before the coming of the monasteries, back to the Romans and earlier, people were using the Bay as their highway. Follow in their footsteps.

This is an online event and the link to join will be shared with registered participants 30 minutes before the event starts.

Register with the link below.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/morecambe-bay-sunset-series-crossing-the-sands-tickets-153495273495



A previous talk by Bill Shannon in April told the fascinating story of **‘How Morecambe Bay got its name’** – which took us back to a geographer in Alexandria who had never left the city but used military reports to list the coordinates for a Morikambe on the north west coast of England – but where was it?

Well, there are two Morecambe Bays, ours and one (spelled *Moricambe*) up near the Solway. Both of them ultimately, but indirectly, owe their origin to a name first recorded by an astronomer called Ptolemy, working in Alexandria around 150 AD. He wrote there was a place called *Morikambe eischusis* (a Greek word which seems to mean something like ‘tidal flats’) somewhere on the west coast of Britain. The problem is he gave no detail as to where it was, other than that it lay between Solway and the Ribble.

Scholars from the 16th century tried to locate it – and the most influential of them, William Camden, decided it must be that small bay near Silloth on the Cumbrian coast. However, in 1732 the antiquarian John Horsley published an English translation of Ptolemy, in which he wrote ‘Moricambe estuary must be that in the northern part of Lancashire, into which the rivers from Kendal and Ambleside empty themselves’. At that date our bay didn’t have a name: the sands were just known as Kent and Leven Sand as shown on Hutchinson’s ‘Correct Map of Lancashire’ from 1748. However, the Manchester historian John Whitaker enthusiastically accepted the Lancashire identification in 1771, and a few years later, in 1774, a map appeared, accompanying Father Thomas West’s *Antiquities of Furness*, upon which the name Morecambe Bay appeared for the first time.

The general acceptance of the name for our Bay seems largely to have come about as a result of the popular success of William Yates’ map of 1786, the first map of Lancashire on the scale of one mile to the inch. By 1844, when the Ordnance Survey mapped the area, not only is our bay called Morecambe Bay, but there is also a hotel called Morecambe Hotel about a kilometre or so to the north-east of where the Midland Hotel now stands, in Poulton by the Sands. In 1846, a new railway company was formed, the Morecambe Bay Harbour and Railway Company, and from the 1850s a sea-bathing resort grew up at the railway terminus to which the name Morecambe was given informally at first, but officially adopted in 1889.

Camden had thought the name ‘*Moricambe* in the British tongue signifieth a crooked sea’, while Fr West thought the name came ‘perhaps from two British words, Moreb, a haven, and Cain, White or Beautiful; and so-called from the white rocks on the Cartmel Coast’. Modern scholars think it probably originally meant ‘a curve of the sea’: in other words, all it means is The Bay!

You can watch Bill’s story along with other talks in the Sunset Series - on the MBP [YouTube](#) channel.

TORCH TRUST

The following is an extract from an email sent recently from Matthew Horspool, the Sight Loss Friendly Church Advisor from the charity Torch Trust.

Firstly, we are continuing to run our very successful Zoom training sessions. These last 90 minutes and provide an overview of things you can do in your church to be more **sight loss friendly**, in both an online and face-to-face context. Our next training events will take place on:

Wednesday 26 May, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm & Tuesday 13 July, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm

There is no charge for this training, so please just let me know if you would like to attend either of the sessions and I will add you to the list.

Alternatively, if these times are not convenient or a number of people from your church would like to attend a session, we would be happy to arrange training specifically for your church at a date and time to suit you. Again, this is completely free of charge, so please let me know if you'd be interested in booking a session.

Secondly, we are running half-hour Sight Loss Friendly Church Catch-Up sessions each month, and you would be very welcome to join us.

Tuesday 8 June, 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Thursday 8 July, 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Finally, we are running a number of Taster sessions lasting half-an-hour, where we provide more information about the initiative and answer any questions people might have prior to signing up. The next Tasters will be taking place on:

Thursday 10 June, 11:00 am-11:30 am

Tuesday 29 June, 7:00 pm-7:30 pm

Wednesday 30 June, 2:00 pm-2:30 pm

Tuesday 13 July, 11:00 am-11:30 am

Wednesday 14 July, 2:00 pm-2:30 pm

Thursday 15 July, 7:00 pm-7:30 pm

We'll be adding information about these sessions to our website soon but, for now, if you know anyone who might be interested, please spread the word and ask them to email slfc@torchtrust.org to register.

Matthew Horspool

Sight Loss Friendly Church Advisor

Torch Trust

Torch House, Torch Way,

Market Harborough, Leics. LE16 9HL, UK

Mobile: +44(0)7935 219026; Tel: +44(0)1858 438260

Email: MatthewH@torchtrust.org

Websites: www.torchtrust.org www.sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk



MARRIAGE REGISTERS & CERTIFICATES GO DIGITAL THOUGH NOT PAPERLESS

On 4th May this year, the system for the issuance of marriage certificates, a requirement for churches since 1837, changed to a more modern version, replacing them with a single electronic register. The church will no longer give a legal certificate of marriage.

From that date, clergy no longer have a responsibility for issuing a marriage certificate in church. Instead, they will issue a marriage document which needs to be signed by the two parties to the marriage, their witnesses and the officiant. There may also be included details of the parents (up to four) of each of the parties, thus permitting the recording of the mothers' details and also any step-parents who the contracting parties wish to record. These will also be recorded on the electronic marriage certificate. This marriage document is to be delivered to the local registrar who will, within 21 days, issue a formal marriage certificate which may be purchased by the couple (the couple will no longer be charged by the church for the certificate).

Clergy are being encouraged to continue to “make a moment” of the signing of the marriage document during the service.

The officiating priest still has to make an entry into a separate hardback “Register of Marriage Services” which is to be kept in each church but this may be done separately from, and subsequent to, the marriage ceremony. This is to ensure that there is a continuous record of marriages in each church which may be researched by future generations.

There is still a need for banns to be read in church before the marriage.



The newly married couple will thus have nothing to take with them immediately after their marriage but churches may offer a keepsake celebration card (we shall be looking at this option). Of course, there can be no guarantee that this will satisfy the prurience of a seaside landlady anxious to establish the *bona fides* of a young couple!

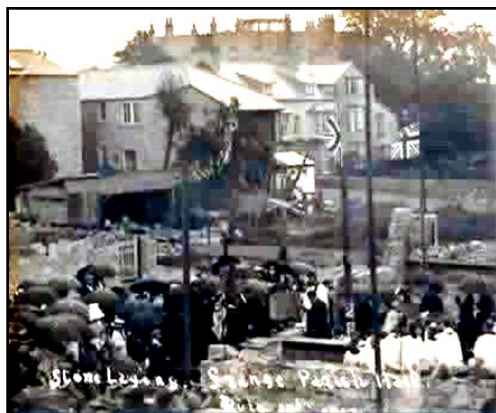
Further information may be obtained from
churchsupporthub.org/marriage-registration-changes

A look at the past

We have received a parcel of old postcards which were collected by Constance Farrar, the wife of the Revd Ivor Granville Farrar, during their time in Grange when he was vicar from 1908 to 1916. Ivor's great nephew had come across them and sent them on. They provide an interesting insight into times in Grange during that period, and we hope that we may exhibit them at a later date in church. It would be good to see if anyone can identify some of the people.



Ivor was the youngest of ten children of Frederic Farrer, who was Dean of Canterbury, a prominent churchman and prolific author, most famous for *Eric, or Little by Little*. Ivor moved to Grange from St George's Church, Millom, and was instituted on the 2nd March 1908. During his time here he saw the preparation of plans for the building of a new church '*to accommodate 600 people to be built on the site of the present church which is overcrowded with 450*' (!!!) In 1911 a united service was held in church to mark the coronation of King George V, followed by a programme of sports in the afternoon and a bonfire on Hampsfell in the evening. The following day there was a dance on the promenade, which ended with fireworks on the pier. In November 1911 a fund was started to raise money to build the parish hall, and two postcards show the foundation stone being laid by Sophia Arkwright – in pouring rain as you can see below. Sophia and her sister Henrietta were great benefactors to Grange – Sophia also provided funds for the building of the Fell Church in memory of her sister.* Ivor also saw the construction and opening of the clocktower, which replaced the clock originally sited on the south-west wall of the church, later transferred to the parish hall, and finally to the Fell Church where it is still ticking! (see page 6) +



Ivor and his wife were obviously a popular couple, and there are many Christmas cards from parishioners, some of which contain interesting information – including the fact that a number of Belgian workmen were lodging in Grange and that a German spy had been arrested here. There are pictures of sports, scouting, theatrical productions in the Victoria Hall, and festivals, and a rather sad picture of a beached porpoise in the bay. A Tom H Darwell of Seaholme, Grange, also produced some wartime cartoons, and there is a postcard of all the subscribers and well-wishers on the retirement of Thomas Rigg, the long-term manager of the Grange Hotel – what a shame that Joan Taylor (his daughter) is not alive to see that one.

Ivor resigned suddenly in October 1916 due to ill health.

+All this information is in the booklet '*Sarah's acorn*' which describes the history of St Paul's from 1853 to 2016. Copies in church £5.

*An interesting account of how they came by their wealth is described in an appendix to the little booklet '*A history of worship in Higher Grange*' which tells the story of the building of the Fell Church – reprinted and copies available (£2.50) in both churches.





The Scarecrows are coming!

June 21st - July 21st

Our Community needs some **FUN** coming out of Lockdown!

Enter our competition to make a scarecrow, win prizes & share the story of greener, more sustainable living.

All details & entry forms are on our website:
peatsouthlakes.blogspot.com

This event is supported by Cumbria County Council & SLDC

To reduce energy use, people right across the Cartmel Peninsula are being asked to undertake some easy challenges that save them money and are more sustainable.

To highlight the challenges with a fun community event, we're holding a **scarecrow festival**, from **June 21st to July 21st** with prizes for the best entries in various categories.

Enter as an individual, a community group, a school, or a group of family or friends! **The entry form is on our website.**

There will be workshops and pop up events where you can get ideas and materials to make a scarecrow. Look for details on our website:
peatsouthlakes.blogspot.com

Scarecrows are a great way of getting the message out wider - and won't they make our area look amazing during the summer months when we have visitors galore - what a great way to share the story of our green actions wider and perhaps entice people from other areas to try it too!



These 8 challenges were chosen by community representatives and will be printed on cards and distributed to the whole community in early July. We're inviting households to pick any 5 challenges to do for one year to save money and energy.

1. Turn off lights when leaving a room
2. Replace bulbs with LEDs
3. Line-dry clothes in summer
4. Boil only the amount of water needed
5. Turn heating thermostat down by 1 degree C
6. Reduce normal shower time by 1 minute (4 people)
7. Wash up using a bowl instead of a running tap
8. Halve your food waste by planning meals and using leftovers

We're looking for scarecrows or installations which highlight the **8 chosen challenges**, or remind people to display their Greening Campaign card when it arrives. **Here are some ideas to get the wheels turning...**

1. Halve your food WASTE by planning meals and using leftovers

A scarecrow writing a shopping list or menu, or carrying a shopping bag, or wearing cooking gear (a chef? Nigella? Mary Berry?)

2. Wash up using a BOWL instead of a running tap

A large washing up bowl of pots with lots of bubbles (made from bubble wrap?)

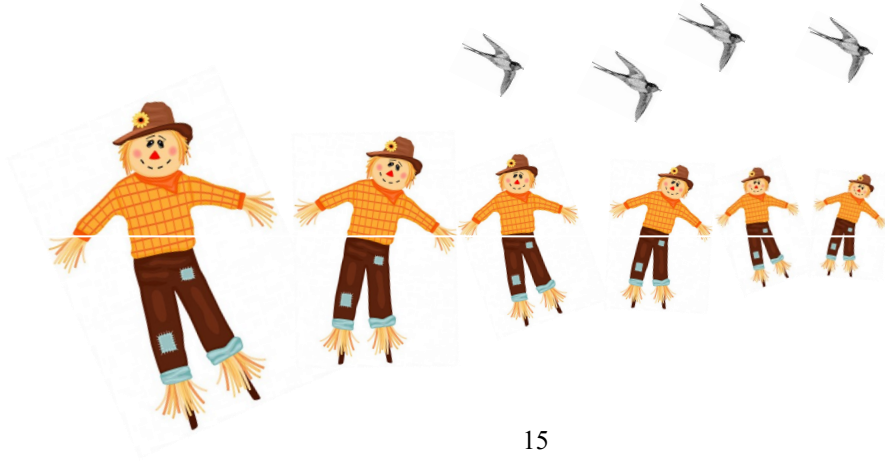
3. LINE-dry clothes in summer

Someone pegging out washing, or just a line of washing next to the sign

4. Turn heating THERMOSTAT down by 1 degree C

Scarecrow wearing warm clothing and a sign saying "Lower your bill without any chill"

Get the idea—for more ideas visit the website.





COULD YOU BE A CHRISTMAS LEADER THIS YEAR?

Every year, Manna House looks to organise a lovely festive holiday for vulnerable adults and those who would be isolated and lonely over Christmas.

Volunteers have proven the best way to support this and Manna House are looking to recruit people to take on the co-ordination and leadership of the Christmas Get Away for 2021. It's never too early to plan for Christmas!

So far Manna House has managed to secure Rook Howe, a beautiful retreat near Broughton-in-Furness which has a 16+ bed capacity. We are looking for 5 volunteers, including 1 or 2 team leaders, to form an organising committee and Get Away team. You would be part of the creative committee who would sort the logistics of transport and venue, meals and festive agenda. You would get to know Manna House clients in the months leading up to the Get Away – September through November. You would be able to support and entertain 11 guests, as well as have a terrific time yourself! The Get Away is currently planned for 24th – 27th December 2021, subject to negotiation.

At this point we are only seeking expressions of interest, so please get in touch if you could see yourself in these roles.

Many thanks, Penny Severn penny@manna-house.org.uk or call 01539 725534.



CHRISTIAN AID - THANK YOU

Gosh! Thank you again.

Our envelope collections for this charity realized £407.80.

The coffee- and tea-lovers put £79.09 into the plastic collecting “tins” which our church doubled to provide a further £158.18.

Gift Aid declarations (£277.10) enable the charity to claim an additional £69.27.

We have thus raised £635.25 for the superb work carried out in needy countries.

A wonderful result from our always generous church congregations.

Thank you one and all.

Mid-week Concerts at St Paul's, Grange

Thursday 10 June at the new time of 11 am marks the opening of the ninth season of mid-week concerts to be held at St Paul's Church in Grange over Sands.

This is the first of three concerts and will be given by Charles Edmondson on the piano and will feature music from six different European countries.

The programme will conclude with a visit to America to hear music by the ever popular Scott Joplin and the great jazz pianist, Dave Brubeck.

Many of the pieces from Europe are miniatures, barely lasting three minutes and will include some well-known pieces alongside less familiar works.

All are welcome to these concerts and admission is free with a retiring collection from which donations will be made to charities.

See Page 23 for more information



If you ever need support, Age UK is here for you.

Our free Advice Line is open 7 days a week, 8am-7pm on 0800 169 65 65. Or, if you're feeling lonely and want a friendly chat, day or night, you can call
The Silver Line on 0800 4 70 80 90.

You can also find out information about coronavirus, lockdown rules and vaccinations on our [website](#).

Age UK provides information and advice on every facet of later life, from helping people find out benefits they are entitled to claim, to discussing options to 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.

Another number to ring - **HELPLINE 030300330003**

SOLO LUNCHES

I'm hoping to start our solo lunches now that Covid restrictions are beginning to ease . The first one will be in August but I'll know more for the July

magazine—so,
watch this space.

Sue



Or... C.C.C.C.C.C.C.

No.14 ST OLAF'S PARISH CHURCH AT WASDALE HEAD

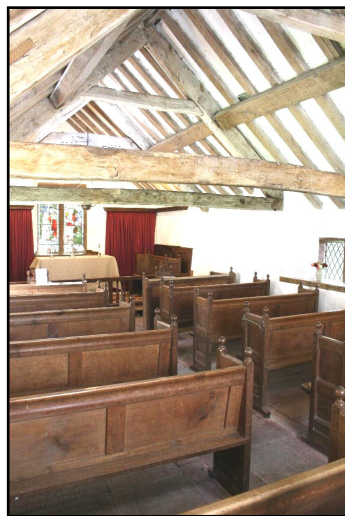


"To the smallest Parish Church in England" – So says the new footpath signpost which I followed for about 100 yards and came across St Olaf's Church. What a gem! Please note that this is acclaimed as the smallest Parish Church and not the smallest church building: many others elsewhere will state that particular case!

The drive along the banks of Wastwater to Wasdale Head is just magnificent. It can be a nightmare on a sunny weekend with cars strewn all over the road as this is the best place to climb the Scafells, but a joy if there are few. Just getting here from Grange takes the best part of a couple of hours! Two car parks are available nearby, one belonging to the National Trust and the other part of the Wasdale Head village green. But no village, only 20 permanent inhabitants reside in this

isolated Lakeland valley!

Evidence suggests that this little church was built in 1550 with some constant remodelling done to the interior over the passing centuries. However, radiocarbon dating techniques tell a story that the roof timbers are over a thousand years old and could have been recycled from a Viking longboat. Ever since those times churches were usually constructed out of wood, and after a period a rebuild was required, but any good timber that could be re-used was an absolute necessity. The roof beams inside the building certainly tell a story and are quite magnificent to view. By sitting in one of the small number of tiny pews and gazing upwards, these ancient pieces of wood are enchanting to look at and certainly add quaint charm to the interior of the building.



Another interesting fact I learned on my visit to St Olaf's was that, prior to 1900, there was no graveyard surrounding the church, and as a result the dead had to be transported over what is known as *"The Burnmoor Coffin Route"*, some five arduous miles across into the Eskdale Valley for burial at St Catherine's Church. (do re-read CCCCCCC no. 6 !). Even today, digging graves is difficult here with very stony ground; only locals who reside in this valley have a right to rest here in peace! I noted that only two families of recent times dominated the headstones in a small "diggable" area of the church yard, *"The Wilsons"* and *"The Naylor's"*.



The latter, of course, await Wasdale Head's most celebrated resident, Joss Naylor MBE (now aged 85 and still mountain trotting!) - a fell running legend who farms with his son at their nearby Wasdale Head sheep farm, which is close by the church.

Once the tiny graveyard had been allocated to St Olaf's, now 120 years ago, a stone wall was erected and

characteristic yew trees were planted around the inside to ensure that the Herdwick sheep do not jump the wall and get in among the graves. The yews are now quite tall and completely surround and protect this lovely place from the onslaught of winter storms and constant winds. This makes for a pleasant deviation from the weather for climbers and walkers passing by from the Scafells and Great Gable; in 2019, St Olaf's recorded 12,500 visitors! One of the most visited churches in the Diocese!

To look at the church today from the outside it is not that attractive, but internally it is very different, as the second photograph shows. With limited space it holds about 40 people for regular worship before the building is crammed full. Electricity was only installed in recent years and up until 1920 there was even a very tiny Church School nearby serving Wasdale Head; the last resident vicar left his living and vicarage in this valley in 1927! The latter is now a guest house!



Whilst sitting down in the pews I became puzzled at why this church was dedicated to St Olaf, who almost a millennium ago was King of Norway and became its Patron Saint. Evidently up until 1977 this church had no saintly connection, so the vicar serving this and the other local churches at the time decided to ask the then Wasdale Head parishioners to whom they should dedicate the building. It was, of course, Viking settlers who first came here and brought with them their "Herdvyck sheep", of which distant ancestors still remain, although now known by their anglicised name of "Herdwicks". How appropriate then to dedicate this place to St Olaf.

On leaving this beautiful place, I observed the Fell and Rock Climbing Club Memorial in a corner of the church yard, and I looked up to Great Gable on a magnificent late April morning and wondered about those pioneers of the mountains in this part of the Lake District. Sadly some fell to their death in past times, and their bodies were brought down here for burial or earlier transportation over the coffin route to St Catherine's.

Below is a photograph of the memorial and that of the view of Great Gable that guards this little church – a view that always looks inviting to those seeking excitement on the fells of Lakeland.

Do visit St Olaf's. It's a very, very spiritual place indeed.

The Fell and Rock Climbing Club Memorial and view of Great Gable from St Olaf's



How wondrous our creation to stand by the memorial at Wasdale Head Church and view this panorama. From here Herdwick sheep populate the valley and have done since Viking settlers arrived!

Colin



An interesting personal story connected with this little church

The ancestors of Penny and Sue were tenant sheep farmers at Wasdale Head Hall from the early 1700s, and their great grandfather, Hartley Wilson, was born there in 1850, the youngest son of 9 children. He was educated at the village school where the master was said to have been an Oxford graduate 'fallen on hard times because of the demon drink'! He left there to seek work in Liverpool, and in 1875 he married Mary Jane Jones from Wrexham. Hartley duly returned home with his new bride to visit his parents. The family story goes that on the Sunday Mary Jane put on her best bib and tucker to go to church (St Olaf's). The bell was ringing when she left the farm, but stopped before she reached the church. On arrival, she discovered that the priest, presumably having no congregation, had left. Not to be done out of her devotions, Mar Jane seized the bell rope and rang the bell until the priest returned and conducted the service just for her!

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Mike



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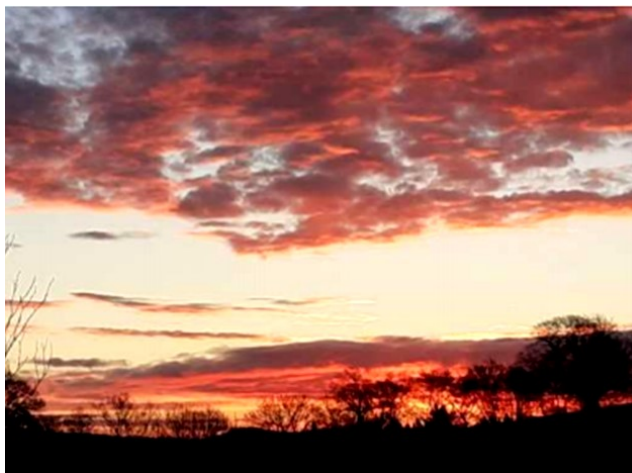


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May	62	165	32	75	37	52	26	82*
June	28	34	185	135	19	91	99	
July	70	69	113	126	33	134	169	
August	124	112	168	86	108	180	188	
September	6	29	118	177	133	177	66	
October	156	60	31	172	131	160	165	
November	97	246	118	189	62	85	114	
December	103	352	65	109	160	155	126	
Annual Totals	<u>1,043</u>	<u>1,453</u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,052</u>	<u>1,433</u>	<u>1,408</u>	<u>553</u>

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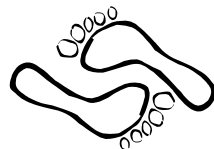
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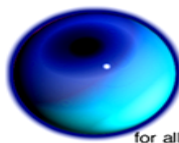


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