

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
SAINT PAUL
GRANGE-OVER-SANDS



December 2023

£1



Normal services at The Parish Church of Saint Paul

Sundays - 11.00 am - Parish Service

Wednesdays - 10.00 am - Holy Communion

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

United Service *within the Benefice*

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.

Tel No

Team Rector - Vacant

Rev'd Nick Devenish - The Vicarage, Priest Lane, Cartmel, LA11 6PU 015395 36261

**Rev'd Jane Maycock - The Rectory, Longlands Rd, Bowness, LA23 3AS
015394 43063**

***Associate Priest* (miller3637@btinternet.com)**

Rev'd Annette Miller - Airton, Eden Park Road, GOS, LA11 6BW 015395 33840

Licensed Lay Readers in the Cartmel Peninsula Team Ministry

Steve Bell, Becksides Barn, Becksides, Cartmel, LA11 7SW 015395 36789

Jenny Leahy, Studio, Mill House, Lindale, LA11 6LF 015395 35979

Visit our website www.grangeecc.co.uk

Dear Friends,

With the turning of the clocks back an hour at the end of October the nights have got darker and the end of the year is fast approaching.

Christmas is almost upon us. It seems to me that the Christmas shopping rush began way back in August when the first Christmas cards appeared in shops. Now the rush is with us in full swing. The shops are full of the bright shiny adverts, cards, decorations, Christmas trees, fairy lights, presents to choose from for giving to family and friends, and much more.

It's not just the shops that have Christmas preparations to the fore. In many schools teachers and children are busy practising their Nativity plays and carols for the annual Christmas Service. Last year Grange Primary School held their service in St Paul's Church. It was a wonderfully joyful service and I'm sure that this year's will be just as good.

I don't need to tell you that the depiction of the birth of Jesus in the traditional Nativity play and most other representations of the occasion bear little resemblance to the reality surrounding the birth of Jesus: the disturbing reality of a homeless family, who make the difficult decision to become political refugees, driven out by a corrupt and tyrannical regime.

What most representations of the Nativity story seek to do is lead us into an understanding of the light and hope that Jesus brings into the world.

As Christians we are entering the Church's season of Advent. A time of preparation for the coming of the Christ child once more. Amid all the preparations we are making to celebrate the festive season with family and friends we need to make time to prepare ourselves spiritually. Advent helps us to be aware of our human needs and look forward to the joy of celebrating Christ coming into the world. It's a time when we can reflect on our need for the light of Christ and the presence of God in our world.

Darkness and light is a theme in Advent. We can all recognise that the world we live in is less than perfect. We can recognise human failing, in ourselves, in our communities, in our nation and in our world. All of us have been shocked by recent conflicts, giving us concerns for our nation and our world.

Jesus was born into a nation which was ruled by Herod who was capable of appalling acts. Jesus was born in the darkness of the night on possibly the longest night of the year. Jesus' birth brings light into the darkness of our lives and of our world, bringing hope for everyone.

The prophet Isaiah announces:

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.' (Isaiah 9, 2)

(see over)

All of the imagery we see depicting the birth of Jesus leads us to see that his coming into the world as an event that will be truly life-giving.

In a world where there is so much that shocks us the birth of Jesus assures us that God is with us - Emmanuel - in all the situations we and the whole of creation encounter. We who know this unshakeable truth are called to reflect the light of the Christ child wherever we are, bringing signs of hope and joy into a troubled world.

Wishing you a blessed Advent, a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Annette

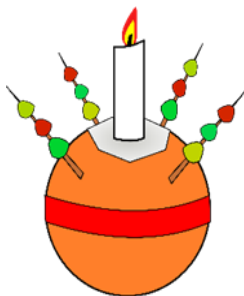
CALL FOR ADVENT CANDLE TO REMAIN UNLIT FOR PEACE

To remember all those who have died in the Israel/Palestine conflict, Methodist churches across the country are being called upon to leave their second Advent candle unlit this year. The call not to light the candle, which represents peace, on the second Sunday in Advent (10th December) and on subsequent Sundays follows the news that celebrations to mark Christmas in the Holy Land will be subdued this year. In Bethlehem throughout Advent and Christmas the lights that normally adorn the birth place of Jesus will remain unlit in memory of those who have been killed in the current conflict.



The Worship Committee felt that it would be good to support our Methodist friends, and stand alongside all who are suffering in the Holy Land and all who mourn this Christmas. Therefore, this year, the second candle on our Advent wreath will remain unlit throughout Advent and Christmas.

On Christmas Day churches are invited to take a photo of their Advent Ring with the second candle unlit and send it to office@mlojerusalem.org.



WILL YOU HELP?

Each year we have a Christingle service on Christmas Eve. The money collected from this service, together with collections from the Primary School and the parish in Advent, is sent to the Children's Society, which works with any children suffering from neglect or abuse, or any other emotional trauma needing specialist support. By making a donation we are helping children across the country hold on to hope. If you are not able to be with us for the Christingle service, please will you consider taking home one of the Candle collection boxes (at the back of church) to fill with your loose change, and bring it back at Christmas?

Many thanks, Penny D

FROM THE REGISTERS - DECEMBER 2023

YEAR'S MIND

Geoffrey Baguley	12/12/2018
Barry Turner	4/12/2020
Alan Matthews	16/12/2020
Victoria Holt	30/12/2020
Barbara Wainwright	7/12/2022
Leonard Geoffrey Hill	4/12/2022
Peter Black	21/12/2022



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN DECEMBER 2023

Friday, 1st	7.30 pm - A Christmas Flower Demo, Methodist Church
Saturday, 2nd	10 am - Advent Quiet Morning, Methodist Church
Sunday, 3rd	3.30 pm - Advent Carol Service, Boarbank, Allithwaite
Tuesday, 5th	2.15 pm - Augmented Choir Rehearsal, St Paul's 7 pm - Cartmel Peninsula Churches Together, St Charles
Wednesday, 6th	12 noon-4 pm - Christmas Tree set-up 2.30 pm - Cuppa and Cake, St Paul's. All welcome
Thursday, 7th	10 am - Christmas Tree set-up 2.30 pm - Advent Meditations with Ven Penny Driver 7 pm - CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL RECEPTION (see p24)
Friday, 8th	10 am-4 pm - Christmas Tree Festival - open every day till 29th
Sunday, 10th	1 pm - Solo lunch at Woodlands Hotel, Meathop
Wednesday, 13th	12 noon - Haverthwaite Christmas Lunch 2.30 pm - Augmented Choir Rehearsal, St Paul's 7 pm - Standing Committee Meeting, Fell Church
Thursday, 14th	4-5.30 pm - Advent Meditations with Ven Penny Driver
Sunday, 17th	4 pm - Festival of Lessons and Carols, St Paul's
Tuesday, 9th	9 am - Primary School end-of-term Christmas service
Thursday, 21st	4-5.30 pm - Advent Meditations with Ven Penny Driver
Sunday, 24th	6.30 pm - Christingle service with the Christmas story (see p24)
Sunday, 31st	11 am - 'There's a Star in the East' - a united service of carol and

FOR OUR SOLO DINERS

Our last lunch of the year will be on Sunday, 10th December, when we will be going to the Woodlands Hotel. The list is at the back of Church for you to sign, and specify your choice from the menu.

CIVIC REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2023



Once again St Paul's was decked out with poppies in time for the Remembrance weekend. The Civic Service on the afternoon of the 12th December was well attended, in spite of the atrocious weather.

The service was led by the Venerable Penny Driver and the Rt Rev'd Nigel McCulloch, with contributions from clergy from the Methodist, United Reformed and Roman Catholic Churches. The official guests included Mrs Suzie Bagot as Deputy Lieutenant representing His Majesty the King, Roger Handley as Town Mayor, Tim Farron MP, Peter Endsor from the new Furness and Westmorland Council, and Judith Parrington representing the Royal British Legion. The RBL standard was carried by Martin Wright and the Union Flag by Malcolm Logan. Flags and banners were presented at the altar by local Cubs, Guides and Brownies, and the local Primary School, who also provided a choir to sing 'Let there be peace on earth'. Lessons were read by a teacher and the Chair of Governors from the School and the newly appointed Manager of the Victoria Hall, and the Mayor read out the names of the 52 local men who had lost their lives in the two World Wars. 27 wreaths were blessed at the altar, presented by members of the various local organisations in the community. Perhaps the most poignant wreath was the one laid by Paulina from Ukraine (shown in the photograph with Bishop Nigel).

For the first time there was no parade down to the war memorial, but perhaps that was just as well bearing in mind the appalling weather conditions. The congregation made their way down to the Ornamental Gardens where Flookburgh Silver Band were waiting, and a short ceremony included the Last Post and two minutes' silence before the laying of the wreaths.



SERVICES AT ST PAUL'S & THE FELL CHURCH DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER - 1ST OF ADVENT

11 am - St Paul's Church, Grange

Holy Communion - Rev'd Annette Miller

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER

10 am - St Paul's Church, Grange

Holy Communion – Rev'd Canon John Dixon, Rural Dean

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER - 2ND OF ADVENT

9.30 am – The Fell Church, Grange - Matins - Lay-led

11 am – St Paul's Church, Grange

Holy Communion - The Venerable Penny Driver

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

10 am – St Paul's Church, Grange

Holy Communion – Rev'd Annette Miller

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER - 3RD OF ADVENT

11 am – St Paul's Church, Grange - Morning Worship - Lay-led

4 pm - St Paul's Church, Grange

A Festival of Lessons and Carols by Candlelight - Rev'd Annette Miller

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

10 am - Joint Service at the Methodist Church, Grange

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER - 4TH OF ADVENT

9.30 am – The Fell Church, Grange

Holy Communion – The Rev'd Annette Miller

11 am - St Paul's Church, Grange

Holy Communion - Rev'd Annette Miller

6.30 pm - St Paul's Church, Grange

Christingle service - The Venerable Penny Driver



MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am – St Paul's Church, Grange

Holy Communion - The Venerable Penny Driver

WEDNESDAY 27TH DECEMBER

No service

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS 1
11 am - St Paul's Church Grange-over-Sands
United Service—Lay-led
'There's a Star in the East'

HOLY COMMUNION

This message from the Rev'd Jane Maycock appeared in a recent mailing for Allithwaite, and I thought it might be helpful to relay it for St Paul's and the Fell Churches. P



“The PCC agreed this week that we should return to the practice of receiving wine at Communion from the chalice, as we did before March 2020.

Over the last almost three years we have gone from receiving in this way to not sharing bread and wine at all, then to having the bread only, then to the president at Communion dipping the bread into the wine. We have done what was necessary, but at this stage it is good to be reminded of why the Church of England chooses to use the chalice or ‘common cup’.

The Church of England’s guidance states: “Drinking from a common cup is a strong symbol of unity, and of a Christian’s belonging to, and responsibility towards, others and, not least, Christ. Before the crucifixion, Christ prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want’ (Matthew 26, 39b). The cup from which the communicant drinks is not their own, but Christ’s cup of self-sacrificial love.”

Please be assured that, if you feel uncomfortable about receiving from the chalice, it is absolutely fine to receive bread only. The Church is very clear that to receive communion in one ‘kind’ is still to receive the fullness of the sacrament - it is not spiritually ‘second best’ to receive the bread only.”



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The reception for the 10th anniversary of our Christmas Tree Festival on Thursday, 7th December, at 7 pm should be a splendid affair. Opened by our MP Tim Farron, we shall be

entertained by the Bay Community Singers and by pupils from our Primary School.. It will be an evening of Christmas music and carols, lights and candles - open to all.

This year the theme for the Festival is ‘*The beauty of the earth*’ and 34 trees have been entered by different organisations and societies across the local community.

St Paul’s will be open each day from the 8th until the 29th December, apart from Christmas and Boxing Days. Entry is free, coffee/tea is available, and all donations will be shared between St Mary’s Hospice and Bay Search and Rescue..

We are very grateful to Harry Barker of Stribers Farm, who kindly donated the church tree.

BURNESIDE BRASS BAND

It was a pleasure to welcome Burneside Brass Band on Sunday, 26th December, as part of their 30th anniversary year celebrations; they had decided to add in a few extra concerts and this included Grange-over-Sands, where they say they always get a warm welcome (they feature in the Summer concerts at the Bandstand).



The Band gave a wonderful concert with a varied programme: the James Bond theme, a piece by Shostakovich, the Pink Panther theme, Delilah by Tom Jones, plus solos by the baritone, flugelhorn horn and tenor horn, to name but a few.

After the interval when refreshments were served, we heard some traditional Christmas carols ending with a Christmas finale written by an earlier conductor of the Band.

The concert was well supported with an audience of 70 who enjoyed a fantastic brass band concert. We look forward to welcoming them back next year – Advent Sunday, 1st December, is already in the diary. What a talented group of musicians!



PRAYER

Give me eyes that see the needs of those around me.

Give me ears that hear the meaning behind the words.

Give me hands that reach out to make a difference.

Give me a heart that beats in tune with yours rather than with the clock on the wall...

And even in the midst of all my busyness, may I truly be about your business.

Amen



MESSAGES FROM OUR FRIENDS FROM AWAY THIS CHRISTMAS

CHRISTINE HARRISON (our former Churchwarden) WRITES FROM SCOTLAND ...

Time is rushing towards Christmas. This last year has been strange in many ways, being a year of 'firsts' since Gordon died in November 2022, and little seems the same.

It has been almost 6 years now since we moved up to Scotland. Having the family close was so supportive during the last years of Gordon's illness and since then as well, although I still miss Grange and friends, but hopefully I will get down again after the Winter.

The family are all well. Adam bought a new house earlier in the year and I see him every week with lots more lunches out which we both enjoy. He is settled now as an HGV driver. We are planning a holiday together in 2024.

Simon continues to work weekdays in London which has been a year of changing travel as the strikes have continued. Denise (daughter-in-law) still comes for dinner every Wednesday after work, with Bethany and Nathan when they are free. Bethany started her first architect's job at the end of November so that is a relief after 6 years at university (Master of Architecture). She needs to work for 2 more years before taking the final qualification. Nathan goes into Glasgow University twice a week, but so much still on line! He was injured playing rugby so had an operation to straighten his knee and is having the second bigger operation on 18th December and won't play rugby for 8 months. I say no more about what I think!

I went away to Majorca with Simon and Denise in September which I found strange without Gordon, but it was lovely to be so well cared for by them.

My apologies this year for not sending cards by post; I want to further support our 'good causes' in church instead. We have a permanent box for the local food bank, and we are collecting warm clothes at the moment for the local homeless and needy. We also collect new toys and gifts from September onwards for the Glasgow Children's Charity, a Christian charity which we support all year. It owns 5 caravans at the seaside for families, and £50 enables a family to have a week's holiday. It also provides weekends for young people working together and lots more wonderful activities for vulnerable people.

So, please be sure I am still thinking of you all! And feel free to do the same.

My best wishes to you and your family for Christmas and the New Year.

Christine xx

AND FROM EMMA BENNIE IN NORTHUMBERLAND ...

Emma and her mother were members of the Fell congregation and Emma served on our Worship Committee before she moved away after she married. It is interesting to see that she is continuing to prepare the Fell Church rota!

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you are all keeping well.

Please find attached the rota for January to March 2024.

I can't believe that another year has nearly passed already. I remember when I started working 40 years ago and the older members of staff warned me that as you get older time seems to go much more quickly. How right they were.

I finished my lay worship leader training and then we had a service of celebration in Newcastle Cathedral with our Bishop. That was a lovely afternoon.

Our new vicar has settled in, I think it has helped that he used to live in Wooler, in the same house when he was the vicar of Kirknewton and Chatton. He is a very quiet, softly spoken man but all-knowing and with a very dry sense of humour. Sadly he is only with us for 2 years before retirement, and then we think there will be a large upheaval and the benefice will join with another with one vicar for 9 parishes. I am sorry that there is no vicar on your horizon yet.

We have had a very wet year and my vegetables haven't done very well. I did enter several items of baking into Alwinton show and won 2nd prize for my quiche. I entered a carrot cake made from a home-grown carrot but because I didn't decorate it with fondant carrots it didn't win a prize!!

We are raising funds to have our organ repaired. The asbestos has been removed, which is a relief; it was contained in the sound box, I believe, but we need about £35,000 to get the organ back into working order.

With love

EMMA



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Another successful Christmas Fair this year, with many thanks to our stall-holders, café staff, and to all who helped in any way, not least our ‘customers’.

Bric - a - brac	£66.00
Cakes	£297.00
Books	£67.00
Hats, scarves, bags, jewellery	£198.00
Cafe	£217.00
Tombola	£58.00
Raffle	£446.00
Donations	£41.00
Total	£1390.00



WALK WITH SARAH



Our little walking group had a special outing with Sarah - apologies from Dorothy Hornung and Carol Ford. Sarah visited Grange after dropping off Poppy and Millie at school on a Monday morning and thankfully it stopped raining!

We had a nice walk up to the Hospice catching up on news and then a lovely coffee at Hazelmere Café where we bumped into a few parishioners.

The family are happily settling into their new life in Carlisle and the girls are adapting to boarding during part of the week at Windermere School. Jonathan is very busy working in his new role as Dean of Carlisle Cathedral with Sarah supporting and getting settled into their new home. Their new home is Grade 1 listed (no secondary glazing!) and the priority at the moment is curtains plus heating!

We look forward to another walk together with more parishioners and arranging a trip to Carlisle and Rose Castle - watch this space.

Judith

HOW I CAME TO GRANGE – NO. 16

I was born in Banstead, Surrey, the eldest child of my parents, followed by three brothers. Then the Second World War came. We were aware of the war with the blackout and rationing, etc, and at one point we all slept downstairs in our lounge. But we continued with Brownies and Guides, and school, of course.

This all changed when, in 1944, the Nazis sent pilot-less planes, called doodlebugs, to bomb London, and we were in the flight path. It was decided that my brother and I, aged 11 and 9, should go with my school to a safer place. This was in July. My parents didn't know where we were going for security reasons. We went up to London and then were put on a train to Barrow. The next day we were taken to Allithwaite where we were met by the people with whom we were going to stay for the next few months.

I was happy in my new home, and made a life-long friend, Mary, though when the children went back to school they didn't include me. I slipped through the net apparently! They realised some time later and I was taken to Walney, where I lived and attended Barrow Grammar School. We went home for Christmas.

Soon the war was over and my sister was born. Life continued. I taught in the Sunday School from the age of 13 and left school at 17. I worked in the office of Heinemanns, the publishers, for two years and then went to college in Salisbury to train as a teacher. I had my first post at All Saints School in South Wimbledon where I stayed for three years. It was a poor area, nothing like the other end of Wimbledon, but I was happy there.

Marriage to Michael came next and the birth of the first of my three daughters, Catherine. Alison was born in Essex and Caroline in Surrey. We came up for holidays in Cumbria, and then we moved up to Allithwaite. I got a post teaching in Allithwaite Primary School and my husband started a garden centre. The girls were 16, 14 and 9 and went to local schools. Sadly, Michael had cancer and died in 1979, and I later moved to Lindale. By then Catherine and Alison had left home to pursue their careers, teaching and nursing; Caroline was at university. Then I met and married Henry, and I was introduced to the world of Friesian cattle. I went to live in Beetham where we had seven years together before Henry died.

I came back to Grange! I lived in Kents Bank for over 26 years and have recently moved into Hampsfell Grange. I've been around the area for a long time and I have always found the people friendly and helpful. I was in hospital last Christmas and your prayers sustained me during a worrying period. I am happy to stay in Grange. I have given up apologising for being southerner! I've been up here longer than I was in the south.

Now I have six grandchildren and recently added two great grandsons to the family. Family is very important to me, and I'm proud to be a member of St Paul's church family too.

Mollie Bell

ECO CHURCH

At our lay-led service in November we were fortunate to have Pam Martin come and speak about Eco Church – what it means in caring for God’s earth in different areas of our life and work. Pam is a Licensed Lay Minister at St John’s, Levens, and was instrumental in St John’s being the first church in the country to receive a gold award, the highest level in the Eco Church platform.

Below is the commitment that members of the congregation were asked to make, and at the end of the service bookmarks were given out with the words of the commitment and the story of the starfish to remind us that we can all make a difference, no matter how small.

Eco Church is on the agenda for the next meeting of our PCC, when hopefully we will decide to register St Paul’s and form a small group to discuss the way forward. The first step is to complete a survey taking us through five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

The answers we provide will collect points towards an Eco Church Award – the more we do, the more points we get towards a bronze, silver or gold award!

THE ACT OF ECO-COMMITMENT

Lord God,

I pledge myself to your service in caring for your creation, that your kingdom may grow from the seed of hope into a tree of righteousness and justice for the world, and that creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE STARFISH STORY

An elderly man had the habit of walking along the beach in the early morning.

One day after a storm he saw what appeared to be a figure dancing along the water’s edge ahead of him. As he got closer, he saw that it was a young woman – but she wasn’t dancing, she was picking up starfish and throwing them gently back into the sea. “Young lady, what are you doing?” he asked.

“The sun is up, the tide is going out and the starfish will die unless I throw them back into the sea.”

“But young lady, do you not realise that there are miles of beach and starfish all along it. You can’t possibly make a difference.”

She listened politely but then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it gently out beyond the breaking waves.

“Well, it made a difference to that one.”



THE MAN CALLED JESUS

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays, like Christmas. His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.



One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a Christmas Eve service in the farm community in which they lived. She asked him to come, but he refused. "That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out of the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. Then another thump. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It is warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would go inside. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and did not seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them and they moved further away. He went into the house and came back out with some bread, broke it up, and made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on. Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe.

"Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?" He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them", he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock. He then released it. His goose flew straight into the barn -- and one by one the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!" Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese -- blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas, he realized.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood what Christmas was all about, why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished like the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer:

"Thank You Jesus for coming in human form to show me the way out of the storm!"

Author unknown



NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE



THE WAY - CHRISTMAS 2023

Get ready for the Christmas 2023 edition of *The Way*, the digital newspaper for the Church in Cumbria. It will be published on the 8th December with links available on the diocesan and God for All social media channels, websites and via the eNews.

The latest edition includes a particular focus on what church communities are doing across the county in support of affordable housing schemes. We hear from deputy churchwarden Abbi Lawson about her time on *The Great British Bake Off*, and meet curate Jackie Oakes whose call to ordination was sparked by becoming a foundation governor at her local primary school.

PHISHING SCAMS ON MESSENGER

A number of churches, as well as The Diocese of Carlisle account, have been targeted by scams, posing as Facebook and asking users to verify their login details by clicking on links. The messages threaten closure of your Page should you not comply. The scam messages vary in content – recent examples include accusations that the Page has breached community guidelines, or that it has impinged on intellectual property - but all ask you to follow a link and input information about your account – this is the tell-tale sign that they are scam messages. You should never follow links or share information about your Page.

WOMEN OF PASSION (*The women of the New Testament tell their stories*)

By Margaret Ives

Introduction

The meditations in the book "Women of Passion" are arranged in a sequence designed to follow the pattern of the Christian year. We are joining it at the end of Ordinary Time and at the start of Advent.

Ordinary Time 10 - Euodia and Syntyche

Euodia and Syntyche, I appeal to you both: agree together in the Lord (Philippians 4:2)

It would be a mistake to think that Paul directed his message solely towards the rich well-to-do members of the business communities in the towns he visited. People like Lydia and the tent-makers Priscilla and Aquila certainly helped him in many ways, but Paul's mission was to preach the gospel of Christ to anyone, regardless of rank or status, who would listen and believe. In his Epistles, written to encourage and support the churches he has founded, he makes it very clear. Anyone can be a Christian - Jew or Gentile, slave or free, rich or poor, man or woman - provided that there is acceptance of Christ as Lord and a firm desire to live according to his instructions and example.

In a world where people could be excluded from certain religions on grounds of nationality, gender, or social status - or, in the case of male converts to Judaism, had to undergo painful circumcision - this was indeed revolutionary. Paul is often portrayed as a misogynist, but, as we have already seen, there were a number of women among his earliest disciples. In addition to Lydia at Philippi, and Priscilla and her husband who accompany him to Ephesus and later return to Rome, he mentions Phoebe (Romans 16: 1), Mary and Julia (Romans 16: 6 & 14) and Nympha (Colossians 4: 15). Phoebe he describes as 'a fellow-Christian who is a minister in the church at Cenchreae', a town near Corinth, and he exhorts the Roman community to 'give her, in the fellowship of the Lord, a welcome worthy of God's people' and to support her in any way they are able 'for she has herself been a good friend to many, including myself' (Romans 16: 2). Nympha, too, seems to have extended the hospitality of her house to provide a meeting place for prayer and worship.

Paul's strictures in his letter to Timothy about the way in which women should dress and their duty to submit to their menfolk probably arise from his concern that Christians should not indulge in scandalous behaviour. Thus he condemns elaborate hair-styles and expensive cloths 'adorned with gold or pearls' (1 Timothy 2: 9) but praises 'good deeds, as befits a woman who claims to be religious' (1 Timothy 2: 10). At a time when Paul himself is regarded as a lunatic for preaching the gospel of Resurrection - 'Paul, you are raving; too much study is driving you mad' (Acts 26: 24) - a woman preaching openly in the streets could easily have been dismissed as hysterical and her motives seriously questioned.

Those who have embraced the new religion must also adopt a new way of life. In all his Epistles, Paul first thanks God that his own teaching has met with success in that others have turned to Christ. He then goes on to expound the doctrines still further, explaining the significance of Christ's coming into the world, his crucifixion and Resurrection.

After this there is always a passage on the Christian way of life, the new morality and value system to which Christians must adhere if they are worthy of their calling.

The two women mentioned in the Letter to the Philippians have been very good workers in the service of the gospel. Paul says they ‘shared his struggles’ (Philippians 4: 3). Nevertheless, there is some disagreement between them, and it is threatening to disrupt the whole community.

Paul constantly tells us that we should never forget to pray at all times and on all occasions and in all matters. Writing to Eudia and Syntyche and their fellow-workers he says ‘in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving’ (Philippians 4: 6) and he urges the Christians at Colossae, another town in Greece, to do the same. ‘Persevere in prayer, with minds alert and with thankful hearts’ (Colossians 4: 2). We do not know whether Euodia and Syntyche took his advice and resolved their differences. We can only hope that they did so and that we, should we ever find ourselves in a similar situation, remember these wise words.

A retired clergyman once talked about a dispute that had arisen in his parish. Like many disputes, it was about the use to which parish funds should be put, and it had become very acrimonious, splitting the congregation into two opposing factions. In one of their meetings tempers and accusations were rife, the clergyman stopped the meeting and moved it into the church for silent prayer, and then sent them home to meet in a week’s time. The next week when they met the atmosphere was completely changed; they apologized to each other and agreed to work towards a peaceful solution.

Paul reminds us that Christians must put others first and self last, ‘be humble, gentle and patient, putting up with one another’s failings in the spirit of love’ (Ephesians 4: 2).

The world is a place to be transformed by, with and through the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is our guarantee that we can all achieve something, if only we remain true to our task. In a world where there seems to be so much conflict and violence, where nations seek to destroy each other, where families are torn apart, where so many people are still denied justice or are abused in all sorts of ways, it can appear that the gospel of Christ and Paul’s teachings, which are based upon it, have long been forgotten or rejected. This, however, would be to deny the power of Christ at work in the world. If only we could trust in this, what could we achieve?

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Help us, Lord, to search our consciences.

Are we in dispute with any fellow-Christians in our parish?

Are we jealous of someone else’s achievements or successes?

Are we harbouring bitter or unkind thoughts about anyone?

Are we picking quarrels or engaging in unfair and unwanted criticism?

If so, how can we best begin to put things right?

Enable us, Lord, to appreciate the efforts of others, in the service of Christ. Take from us all jealousy and envy, touchiness and pride, so that nothing in the conduct of our affairs can bring discredit to your cause and teachings. **Amen**

HOLLY (*ILEX AQUIFOLIUM*)

It is an old custom to put a sprig of holly on top of the Christmas pudding. Many of the ingredients of the pudding remind us that Bethlehem is in a Mediterranean country. The raisins, sultanas, currants and peel come from warmer lands than ours. To mix such fruits with the homely products of our own country is to realise that Jesus was born into his own country, and yet his birth is for the whole world. Sweet chestnuts are cousins of holly. As you enjoy them roasted from your fire, or fill your turkey with chestnut stuffing, or add them to your sprouts, remember they too grow best in other lands.



The carol says: ‘The holly hears a blossom as white as the lily flower’. Sometimes people say Christmas is for the children. It is, as long as you remember that we are all children. Mary gave birth to Jesus in obedience to God. There is a sense in which the mother of Jesus is the mother of us all. Through her travail she enabled us by God’s grace to be born again ourselves, and become children of God.

Holly leaves and berries shine. St John said; ‘The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it’ (John 1, 5).

A partridge in a pear tree, in another well-known carol, is rhyming slang for the Latin phrase *parturit in aperto*, which means she gave birth in the open, ie out in the stable.

Jesus was born into the world – not just for human beings even, but for all creation. Jesus nestled in the hay, which represents inanimate creation and the complexity of all the manifold relationships of humanity and the created order. By tradition, the ox and the ass were there in the stable with the holy family. The star shining over Bethlehem lights up the characters in the Nativity. The holy family prompts our prayers for human families everywhere: the innkeeper for service industries; the shepherds for people at work; the wise men for rulers and authorities; and finally the ox and ass and hay for the rest of creation.

The holly is evergreen. Christmas opens for us the possibility of eternal life. This little baby Jesus is destined to suffer. The carol continues: ‘The holly bears a berry as red as any blood and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good’. We know that it is so often only death, especially the death of an innocent victim, which brings us face to face with the stark reality of pain and evil. Jesus will grow up to wear a crown of thorns and die on the tree of the cross to save the world.



A Gospel of Wild Flowers by Anthony Footitt,
beautifully illustrated by Pat Albeck
ISBN 13:978-0-7153-2572-8

OUR ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CARD



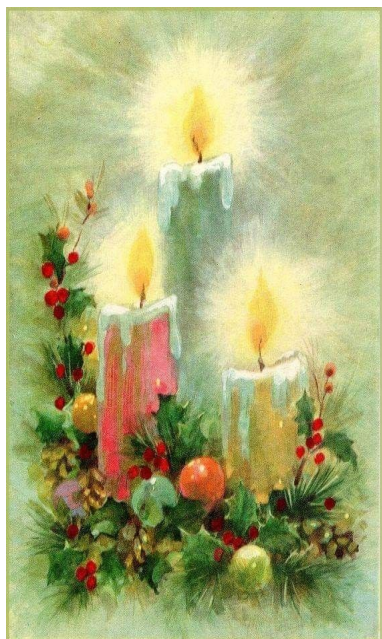
Penny and I are supporting WaterAid once again this year with our alternative Christmas card, and we invite you to join us. The devastating floods in Pakistan earlier this year left 8 million people suffering from broken water pipes, toilets and taps, and stagnant water, causing serious health problems. The appeal raised £220,000 which enabled WaterAid to –

- deliver water to more than 43,799 people,
- supply 8,740 menstrual kits, including soap
- construct temporary toilets and hand-washing facilities.

WaterAid was founded in 1981 and, together with local and global partners, has provided 28.5 million people with clean water and 29 million people with decent toilets. There are still **771 million without clean water** near to their homes. and **1.7 billion without a toilet!!**

Please add your greeting card to all your friends at St Paul's and the Fell to our tree, this year on the display board. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation there are envelopes available which can be handed to either Penny or myself or to John Millican.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas
Sue



Dust if you must

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter,
Bake a cake or plant a seed,
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,
Music to hear and books to read,
Friends to cherish and a life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go – and go you must –
You, yourself, will make more dust!

CHRISTMAS FOODBANK COLLECTION

There was a fantastic response for our Christmas collection for the people of Barrow, Ulverston and Millom – those families struggling financially, particularly at this time of year. A very warm thanks to all who so generously donated. It took two men to load up the van, before going on to St Anne's at Haverthwaite to collect even more!



Need a lift? Contact the Voluntary Driver Service

Co-ordinator Jan Maynard 01539742500 or 07825340226.

Requests should be made before Thursday morning for the following week. The cost is 45p per mile.

However, be warned! They cannot guarantee a driver as there is a shortage of volunteers.



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 47080 90.**

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 03030030003**

Website: www.ageuk.org.uk/campaigns Twitter: [@ageukcampaigns](https://twitter.com/ageukcampaigns)

Sunday Services around the Benefice

December 2023	ALLITHWAITE	FLOOKEBURGH	GRANGE-OVER-SANDS	GRANGE FELL	FINSTHWAITE	HAVERTHWAITE	STAVELEY IN CARTMEL	FIELD BROUGHTON & LINDALE
Sunday 3 rd December Advent Sunday	10.00 am Holy Communion Canon Aniel Osmaston	10.00 am Holy Communion Canon Jane Maycock	11.00 am Holy Communion Rev'd Annette Miller		6 pm Advent Carol Service Lay-led	11.00 am Morning Worship Tony Jeffries	11.00 am Holy Communion Fr John	9.30 am Holy Communion Rev'd Annette Miller
Sunday 10 th December Advent 2	10.00 am Service of the Word Steve Bell	10.45 am Holy Communion Canon Jane Maycock	11.00 am Holy Communion The Venerable Penny Driver	9.30 am Mattins Lay-led	9.30 am Holy Communion Rev'd Annette Miller	11.00 am Holy Communion Rev'd Annette Miller	Saturday 9 th 4.00 pm Carol Service Rossall Choir	9.30 am Morning Worship Lay-led
Sunday 17 th December Advent 3	6.00 pm Candle-lit Carol Service Canon Jane Maycock	4.00 pm Carol Service Canon Jane Maycock	11.00 am Morning Worship Lay-led 4.00 pm Carol Service Rev'd Annette Miller		6.00 pm 9 Lessons & Carols Lay-led	11.00 am Holy Communion The Archdeacon Vernon Ross	11.00 am Holy Communion Fr John	4.00 pm Blessing of the Crib & Christingle Lay-led
Sunday 24 th December Advent 4	4.00 pm Crib Service Steve & Jean Bell	3.00 pm Christingle 9.30 pm Christmas Communion Canon Jane Maycock	11 am Holy Communion Rev'd Annette Miller 6.30 pm Christingle The Venerable Penny Driver	9.30 am Holy Communion Rev'd Annette Miller	9.30 pm Christmas Communion Canon Aniel Osmaston	3.00 pm Crib Service David Birchall	9.30 pm Christmas Communion Rev'd Annette Miller	5.30 am 9 Lessons & Carols Lay-led
Monday 25 th December Christmas Day	10.00 am Christmas Day Communion Canon Jane Maycock		10.00 am Holy Communion The Venerable Penny Driver			10.00 am Joint Holy Communion Rev'd Annette Miller		9.30 am Holy Communion Rev'd George Wilson
Sunday 31 st December Christmas 1		10.00 am Joint Service of the Word Jenny Leahy	11.00 am United Service Morning Worship "There's a Star in the East"					

Wednesday Clergy Rota - December 2023 - 10 am - Holy Communion	
6th December	Holy Communion - Rev'd Canon John Dixon
13th December	Holy Communion - Rev'd Annette Miller
20th December	Holy Communion service at Methodist Church
27th December	NO SERVICE



St Paul's Church,
Grange over Sands



Join us for a Christingle Service
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Christmas Eve

6.30pm

(approx 45 mins)

All welcome, especially the young at heart



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**10th Anniversary Christmas
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Opening Reception

Thursday 7th December 7 pm



To be opened by Tim Farron MP
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pupils from Grange Primary School
an evening of Christmas Music & Carols
Lights & Candles
to "kick-start" the Christmas season with
seasonal drinks & nibbles.

St Paul's Church will be open daily from
Friday 8th December – Friday 29th December
10am - 4pm

Closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day
and for any Services

Entry by voluntary contribution
Proceeds to chosen charities.



**GRANGE OVER SANDS MONTHLY
RAINFALL (MM) - ANDREW LITTLE**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	141	98	142	73	107	186	58	174
February	125	91	69	99	263	139	171	42
March	107	162	60	182	75	134	48	173
April	72	15	98	39	12	12	40	84
May	32	75	37	52	26	101	68	34
June	185	135	19	91	99	30	79	87
July	113	126	33	134	169	70	80	226
August	168	86	108	180	188	63	78	143
September	118	177	133	177	66	62	112	189
October	31	172	131	160	165	304	158	114*
November	118	189	62	85	114	71	177	
December	65	109	160	155	126	153	162	
Annual								
Totals	1,275	1,435	1,052	1,433	1,408	1,325	1,231	

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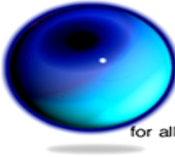
2024 CHURCH CAR PARKING PERMITS

Application forms for 2024
Car Parking Permits are
now available at the
back of Church.

Prices are once again frozen at
£45 for one car, and
£65 for two cars.

PLEASE NOTE

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Please leave in Gill's tray
opposite the office.
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ADVERTISERS**

Remember,

no storm lasts forever.

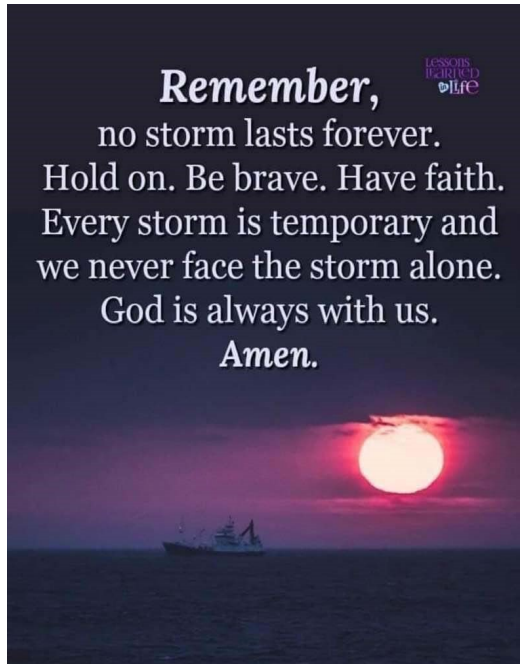
Hold on. Be brave. Have faith.

Every storm is temporary and
we never face the storm alone.

God is always with us.

Amen.

LESSONS
FORCED
BY
LIFE



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Churchwarden

Brian McCann brian_johnmccann@hotmail.com 34902

Deanery Synod

Brian McCann brian_johnmccann@hotmail.com 34902

Mike Hill m.hill811@btinternet.com 33511

Treasurer

John Millican johnmillican1980@btinternet.com 32561

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Judith Mitchell j.a.mitchell356@gmail.com 35664

Fell Church

Please contact the Churchwarden

Parochial Church Council Secretary

Rosemary Hoyle rosemary-hoyle@sky.com 58108

Team Office / Parish Administrator

Linda Brown 35560

Tue, Wed & Thur - 10.00 am-12.30 pm Fri - 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

E-mail - stpaulschurchgrange@gmail.com or cptmoffice@gmail.com

Address, Team Office, St Paul's Church, Church Hill, Grange over Sands LA11 6BD

Magazine Co-ordinator

Penny Ward pennyward01@gmail.com 33243

Children's Society Local Secretary

Judith Mitchell j.a.mitchell356@gmail.com 35664

Bible Reading Fellowship Representative

Jose Baguley 35162

Stewardship Secretary

Chris Brown cjmbrown6@hotmail.com 015393 24015

Magazine Editor

Team Office 35560

e-mail - stpaulschurchgrange@gmail.com

Missions Secretary

Rosemary Hoyle rosemary-hoyle@sky.com 58108

Flowers

Kath Bush 32601

Audrey Gorman (peterandaudrey2@btinternet.com) 35209