

WELCOME to the thirteenth issue of *Across the Parish*, the magazine of St Cuthbert's Church, Seascale. It covers the three months of November, December and January, so it includes the Church Festivals of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Some of the events for these festivals have not yet been finalised, so watch out for publicity posters and flyers for the latest information.

On Sunday 11 November there will be commemorations nationally for the centenary of the Armistice of 1918, which brought to an end the four years of World War One. Details of local events are on pp 8-9.

Pattern of Services

Sunday services at Seascale at 10.00am alternate between Anglican and Methodist worship, as do the United Evening Services at 6.30pm. The fourth UES of the month will be United Holy Communion. In November Sunday services will be in the

Methodist Church, except for the United Remembrance Service on 11 November which is at St Cuthbert's Church at 9.30am.

On Wednesday mornings there is an Anglican Communion at St Cuthbert's Church.

Sunday services at St Peter's, Drigg are at 11.00am. On the fourth Sunday of each month there is a Family Service.

Sunday morning services at St Mary's, Gosforth are at 10.00am. On the first Sunday of the month there is a team family service; on the other Sundays there is Holy Communion.

For more details of services see the monthly lists available in the churches or go the churches' websites:

St Cuthbert's, Seascale:

<http://www.seascalestcuthberts.org.uk/>

St Peter's, Drigg

<http://www.eskdalebenefice.org.uk/monthlylist/docdisplay.html>

St Mary's, Gosforth

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12451/>



A Meditation for Advent

“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

As we enter once again the Advent and Christmas Seasons it is always good to re-visit the challenge to try and discover more time and space for prayerful reflection on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. To this end, for Advent, I have written the following meditation to help us focus our thoughts in the busy weeks of preparation. Then, when it all seems over for another year The Church of England has produced a 14 day reflection for the Twelve Days of Christmas; ‘#Follow The Star’, which I encourage you to access to take the joy and the hope of Christmas into the New Year and beyond.

Advent Meditation

We have made Advent a time of frenetic activity, bright lights, comings and goings, all played out to the background of smooth 'seasonal music'. A very different Advent to what God calls us to experience.

For God says: "Be still and know that I am God."

We reply: "Yes Father, we know that it is such a good idea, but just a minute we must do and then if we have time we might come and be still in your presence. But you do understand the predicament that we find ourselves in year after year"

For as the days shorten, the job list lengthens.
The pressures increase daily.

New demands from so many people, family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, even strangers, relentlessly coming in waves.
All jostling for priority, for my time, for me.

For as darkness falls and evening comes, our activity increases.
Re-doubling our efforts to achieve more and more.

Making every effort to visit family and friends.
To party, to socialise, to be seen and to enjoy.
To meet expectations, of others and of myself.

"Be still and know that I am God."

As the daylight fades and the darkness creeps in we need to have the courage to stop our busyness to be still and feel the presence of God.

To linger in the half light in order to sense the coming light of Christ breaking into our darkest moments, illuminating our greatest joys. To ponder in the silence at the wonder of God

becoming man for us, silently entering into a hostile world almost unnoticed.

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” Isaiah 9:2

Let us pray that this Advent we might be a people who are prepared to move away from the busyness of the ‘commercial Christmas and embrace the stillness and silence, to encounter the light steadfastly burning in the darkness of this world. To meet afresh the Christ Child who entered into this busy and noisy world to bring us all hope, peace and salvation, so that we might be able to meaningfully respond to the invitation of God, His Father and our Father:

“Be still and know that I am God.”

As Advent opens the way to Christmas itself let us be prepared to hold onto the steady pace we might have managed to establish and continue to immerse our hearts and minds in the wonder of the Christ Child, Holy God entering His world, that struggles to find peace and contentment.

By continuing on the journey into Epiphany accompanying the wise men as they ‘Follow the Star’ and beyond.

I hope and pray that you will be able to find time this Advent to prepare spiritually for the Christmas celebrations, and that with your family and friends it might be a joyful and blessed time.

Prayerful good wishes for this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season,

Lesley Riley

NB: To find out more details about #Follow The Star, a journey you can share with family and friends of all ages, go to www.churchofengland.org/Christmas

The St Cuthbert's Team

Vicar: Reverend John Riley tel: 25499

Assistant Priest: Reverend Lesley Riley tel: 25499

Parish Associate: Reverend Jonathan Falkner tel: 21852

Lay Reader: Dorothy Chatterley tel: 28379

Lay Reader: Sheila Falkner tel: 21852

Lay Reader: Brian Pateman tel: 28131

Lay Worship Leader: Jim Geering tel: 27380

Pastoral Outreach Minister: Peter Holburt tel: 21584

Organist: Dorothy Chatterley tel: 28379

Church Wardens: Jim Geering tel: 27380

and Joyce Roberts tel: 28655

PCC Treasurer: Tom Jones tel: 2893

PCC Secretary, Messy Church contact, Safeguarding Officer:

Mary Waterhouse tel: 27641



St Cuthbert's Community Space

The new Community Space in St Cuthbert's is proving to be a great success. Many visitors from outside the area over the past two and a half months since it has been open have congratulated us on the fact that we have a kitchenette, and particularly, toilets. There have been lots of comments on the lines of, "I wish we had this in our church!" and "How did you manage it?" to which we reply, "It took several years of hard work planning, fundraising and organising, and it has all been worth it!". Sometimes we add, "We're starting again, so we can have new chairs, a new roof

and new heating”. We are now able to host our own events in the new space, and also to hire it out to other groups.

Charges for hiring

Non- Commercial Hire Charges £20 per session

Commercial Hire Charges £40 per session (where the hirer is obtaining financial gain from the activity)

At present applications for bookings can be made to Tom Jones, PCC Treasurer, tel: 28938, email: tom.h.jones@btinternet.com



“Seating and Heating” Walk for the roof and chairs

On Saturday 6 October a sponsored walk was organised to raise funding for new chairs and a new roof for St Cuthbert’s. The walk started and ended at St Cuthbert’s Church and went as far as the Westlakes Hotel, a distance of five miles in all, walking safely along the new Viking Way. Some walkers took advantage of the half-way option, walking to the hotel but having a lift back. In all over £400 was raised, which with much of it gift-aided will provide even more.

Spud and Sweets Lunch

A lunch of baked potatoes and puddings, on the basis of “as much as you can eat”, took place on Friday 2 November at the Methodist Hall. The proceeds, over £230, go towards the further improvements at St Cuthbert’s Church.

St Cuthbert’s Christmas Fair 2018

The traditional St Cuthbert’s Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 1 December starting at 11.00am. It will be held in St Cuthbert’s Church.

Lest We Forget – 100 years since the end of World War One.

This year our Remembrance Day services will have a greater significance than usual. We remember those who lost their lives, or whose lives were changed forever one hundred years ago. Sometimes there is a tendency for the rite to have celebratory overtones, to concentrate on the victory rather than the losses.

This of all years we should try to avoid that, after all, it was supposed to be the war to end all wars wasn't it. But, of course, it didn't.

Next year will be the eightieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. That was not the end of war either and I don't think that there has been a time that the world was really at peace.

It seems with the combative attitudes and aggressive language from politicians of all persuasions and in all countries, that we may be unlikely to see true peace in our lifetimes, and probably not in those of our children and grandchildren either.

As Christians this should be a cause for concern. But what can we do to make the world a more peaceful place? There seems to be little that we can do as individuals. In democratic systems we can use our votes to send a message to those in government.

We can suggest that they *turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it* –1 Peter 3 v 11.

Perhaps all we can do is to live as Christ and pray for peace across the world.

In the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer;

“Peace means giving oneself completely to God's commandment. Wanting no security, but in faith and obedience laying the destiny of the nations in the hand of almighty God. Not

trying to direct it for selfish purposes. Battles are won not with weapons, but with God. They are won when the way leads to the cross.”

Brian Pateman



Ringling Remembers - Armistice Centenary - Sunday 11 November 2018

To commemorate the 1400 bell ringers who died in the First World War, in 2017 the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, together with the Big Ideas Company and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, launched a campaign to recruit 1400 new bell ringers, Ringing Remembers.

As well as ensuring that as many as possible of the churches which have ringable bells are able to join in the commemorative ringing on 11 November, the campaign hopes to encourage new ringers to become part of this ancient tradition.

Ringing Remembers is encouraging church bells to be rung at 12.30pm on 11 November, but given that local circumstances will vary, as some communities may not support this, or ringers may have to travel from one church to another, ringing at any time in the afternoon or evening is also a possibility.

The ringers at St Paul's, Irton, expect to ring their bells at 12.30pm and we hope that St Cuthbert's two bells will also be rung as part of the commemoration.

Helen Pateman



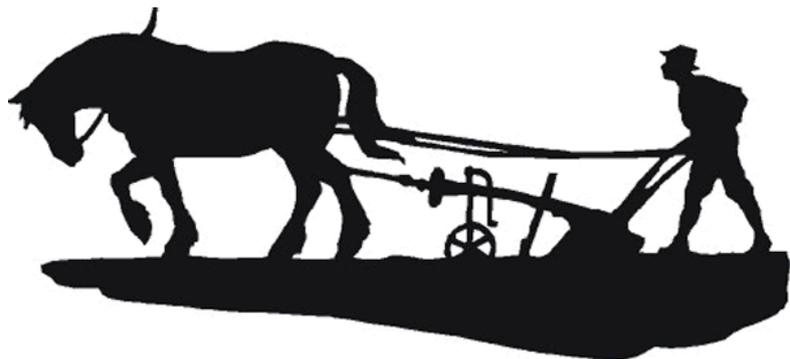
Lest We Forget Centenary of World War One

St. Mary's Church Gosforth

Sunday 11 November at 3 pm

Service in Church followed by
parade to the War Memorial

Return to St. Mary's Rooms for
refreshments



Word Search

The answer to last issue's word search.

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| L | | O | | | S | | S | | E | |
| | O | E | L | D | N | A | C | | | |
| K | N | O | I | T | C | E | L | L | O | C |
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This time we have a seasonal theme to our word search. Can you find 13 words associated with Christmas?

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| E | U | O | G | H | C | F | R | F | S | R | D | B | A |
| G | V | L | R | L | X | I | X | S | I | R | L | M | H |
| N | S | L | H | D | O | Q | I | S | E | V | K | P | O |
| A | M | Y | U | H | L | A | T | H | K | Z | Y | W | Y |
| L | I | X | C | W | H | I | P | W | S | G | R | O | N |
| E | S | Z | K | A | N | E | G | U | Q | X | K | Q | A |
| Z | T | P | B | G | H | N | O | E | L | D | V | X | H |
| E | L | M | L | S | A | I | U | L | E | L | L | A | P |
| E | E | E | Q | B | E | T | H | L | E | H | E | M | I |
| S | T | C | Y | U | W | L | H | A | R | J | E | N | P |
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The answer will be on the website in December.

Mission Community – a new challenge?

Although I'm writing this at the end of October, looking towards winter, we will soon be looking forward to the New Year. A time to think about new starts and new challenges.

One of the challenges we can look forward to in the New Year is the official launch of the South Calder Mission Community.

It seems to be a long time since we held the first meetings to discuss what the Mission Community should be and how it might work. Since then it seems to have stalled as far as most people are concerned. you might be forgiven for thinking that it has gone away!

Although it seems to have a low profile, the South Calder Mission Community is still developing. Every Monday morning Mission Community Prayers are held in one of our churches. This gives us a chance to meet and pray for our churches, our mission and our communities. Although mostly attended by members of the ministry team others do join us. It doesn't matter if there are only a few people, it is a sign that prayer and mission are alive in our communities, and not just on a Sunday.

From a Seascale perspective, we are sharing buildings and Methodists and Anglicans are joining together in worship as well as in all those other things we do to show a Christian presence in the village. Things are happening then, but where will this journey take us? What will the South Calder Mission Community look like?

The short answer is that we don't know yet but whatever it is, it must be what we want it to be. There are other Mission Communities already in existence, but they will be different from

ours. There is no “one size fits all” template for a viable Mission Community.

If you think about it there can't be. It is all about placing our faith in our communities and as all communities are different that one size model can never work. This is one of

The type of Mission Community which would work in a large town is not going to work for us here in a huge area with many tiny communities and a few larger ones, each with their own character. The majority of our churches are Anglican and their traditions vary, so even they will not always fit easily together.

Human nature is essentially suspicious. We have a tendency – often justified by experience – to ask; “If they want us to do this, what is in it for them?” rather than asking ourselves what benefits there might be for us.

It is a long time since Mission Communities began to be developed so it might be timely to remind ourselves that this is not just an Anglican initiative but also involves the other protestant denominations within Cumbria.

In our Mission Community this means the Church of England and the Methodist Church. We don't have representatives of the other member denominations (United Reform Church and Salvation Army). This in itself tends to give a difference between the North and South of the Mission Community.

As we look to the future of our Mission Community we need to know what people think it should do for us – for all of us, not just church goers. After all it is supposed to be about our mission to be the presence of the Gospel in our wider communities.

Brian Pateman

The Mission Community Prayer;

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the life of your Church in this place,
and in all the churches
of the Mission Community;
for all who have served and
worshipped you in years gone by,
for all who make up your family in these Churches today,
for the faith we have in common
and for the people and traditions
which make each Church unique.

By your Spirit,
guide and equip us,
that together we may find new ways
to reach out to our local community,
to show your love to our neighbours,
and to encourage them to follow
the Lord Jesus in their lives.

Father we offer ourselves to your service,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
and in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.



WHY A MISSION COMMUNITY?

I wonder if you remember those adverts. for Ronseal, assuring us that 'it does exactly what it says on the tin'? Similarly, a Mission Community is a community of people and churches formed to be better at mission. Let's take that a bit at a time.

Any Christian congregation or fellowship is supposed to be a community.

(Community = 'as one', 'having things in common')

Jesus prayed that his followers would be united, so that the world might believe. (John 17: 21) So a worshipping congregation, a house group, a youth fellowship, a branch of the Mothers' Union, are all about building community, sharing together in growing in faith, caring for one another, supporting one another day by day as they try to live out their faith in the home, at work or in social settings. You could say that community, or building community, is part of the DNA of the Church.

What about mission? Jesus sent his followers out into the world to bring good news of God's love, and to call people to become followers of Jesus themselves, and he still sends out his followers today.

(Mission = 'sending')

It's a big word, which includes many of the activities of a church in its relationship with the wider world: showing God's love to people in need or in distress; influencing for good the way society works, locally and nationally; offering the hope of forgiveness and a new beginning to those who will turn back to God; and encouraging and nurturing those who do take steps towards faith. So mission, too, is part of the DNA of the Church.

In many parts of the country (not just in Cumbria) Mission Communities are being formed to help local churches be more effective in their mission. As individual congregations we do not have all the skills, gifts, resources, workers, leadership and learning opportunities, needed to do the things God is calling us to do.

But by working in partnership, in community, with other churches in our neighbourhood, we should find together that that we have all we need to fulfil our God-given task. To be a Mission Community, which does 'exactly what it says on the tin'.

Jonathan Falkner



One World Week 2018

The following is from the website for One World Week:
<https://www.oneworldweek.org/>

One World Week - Working together for a just, peaceful and sustainable world

Each year, thousands of people take part in One World Week events across the country.

The week always includes United Nations day (24th October) although events can and do happen all year round.

Events are organised by volunteers with the common purpose:

To share understanding about some of the global issues that affect us all and to recognise we can all make a difference

The CTiS&D One World Week gathering was held on 16 October at St Cuthbert's Church. Our speaker was the Reverend Philip Dorling, Convenor for the Carlisle Zululand Diocesan Link Agreement who spent three years in Vryheid, Zululand before

taking up his present position of Vicar of the Inglewood Group of Churches, based at High Hesket, in January 2013.

The link between the Diocese of Carlisle and the Diocese of Zululand dates back to 1977 and arose from strong and long-lasting co-operation between the Mothers' Union members of the two dioceses which began in 1926. Since 1977 the dioceses have worked together on a range of initiatives, projects and outreach works. There have been regular clergy visits in both directions which have often coincided with significant events in the life of each Diocese. In recent years exchange visits by senior clergy have served to strengthen and deepen the partnership.

Reverend Dorling gave a fascinating and informal presentation about the time he and his family spent in Vryheid (Afrikaans: translates into English as Freedom) the importance of God to the South Africans, how services are conducted there, the constant threat of violence in a country still striving to establish a stable democracy and how this experience has impacted on his own faith, his priorities, and his view of life in a rural Cumbrian benefice since returning. We watched video clips, some with music, examined Zulu artifacts and engaged in spiritual exercises and lively question and answer sessions. Reverend Dorling's wife Jacquie and the family's Jack Russell terrier Wilmot (born and brought up in Zululand) also took part.

Coming back from Zululand where church congregations are enormous to a rural Cumbrian area where they can be miniscule needed a great cultural adjustment; Reverend Dorling told us that he finds he now values our village communities and congregations precisely because of their scale, and the tight links and close support that this generates.

Helen Pateman

Depressed or lonely? Would talking about it help? Try the West Cumbria Depression Support Group!

This group has been meeting for over 6 years. We come under the 'Mind' banner now, and we have contact with Mind in West Cumbria and with the national body too.

Who comes along to the meetings? It varies from time to time. Some come only when they're feeling low. Others who have battled with depression on and off over a long time are regulars, who come for the friendship, to listen and support the others, as well as finding support themselves, and sharing how we cope, and how we can try to keep well.

It's good to find some others who understand the feelings and the physical effects of depression and related conditions, and the frustrations of trying to find the right treatment, whether it will be medication, talking treatments, or a mixture.

You may be surprised to know that we don't spend the evening being miserable together. We are serious when we need to be, but we laugh together too. After we've had our refreshments at the end of the evening, we often finish with hugs – but only after we've made sure that people want to be hugged, of course!

At this time of the year feelings of isolation and loneliness can feel worse in the run up to Christmas. It feels like everyone else is looking forward to Christmas and having a great time. There's a lot of advertising and talk about Christmas Shopping being such fun, and there are so many events happening, raising money for charities, and the many local organisations having their Christmas 'Do'. People seem to be so busy, chasing their tails – except you – and it can be difficult to break out of these feelings, or break in on what's going on.

We had a meeting recently looking at 'Five ways to well-being', suggesting ways that we can help to feel better, and to connect to others, to feel less isolated and alone. They include trying to keep physically active, to take notice of the world around us, to keep learning, and to give to others in small ways, such as thanking others, and smiling more.

I have some simple leaflets left if you would like one, or you could pick one up from our stand at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Cuthbert's Community Area in December (14th – 16th). There will be an assortment of other Mind leaflets too.

Better still, why don't you come along and meet us? We meet twice a month. There is an informal gathering at Mawsons' Ice Cream Parlour at Seascale from 10.30am – 12 noon, on the first Tuesday in the month, and an evening meeting at Bradbury House, Gosforth in the old Day Centre room, from 7.30 – 9 pm on the third Tuesday. If you want more details, you can ring me on 019467 21852, or email falcon626@btinternet.com.

Sheila Falkner



Christmas Tree Festival 2018

The festival will be held in St Cuthbert's Church from Friday 14 until Sunday 16 December. The theme this year will be Nursery Rhymes or Children's Songs.

Anyone who would like to help at the event please contact Allison (21935) or Glenda (28404). Watch out for posters soon!
for more information contact Mags (21023) or Mary (27641).

From the Parish Registers (September – January)

Baptism

22 September

Jaxon Joe Brown

Baptism First Anniversary

14 October

Emilie Catherine Ellen Sparshott

26 November

Nelly Rose Woodburn

Baptism Second Anniversary

3 January

Seth Thomas Eastwood

31 January

Madeleine Page Sim

Baptism Third Anniversary

3 October

Poppy Olivia Wood

15 November

Isla May Mawson

Baptism Fourth Anniversary

16 November

Rhylee Edward Donaldson

Mylie Skye Moore

May they grow in the faith into which they have been baptised.

Funerals

19 October

Edna May Holburt

Service of Thanksgiving followed by Committal at Distinguon Hall Crematorium

22 October

Laurina (Lou) Ann Massey

Service of Thanksgiving followed by Committal at Distinguon Hall Crematorium

We give thanks for their lives and commend them to God. May the souls of the faithful rest in peace and rise in glory



**Services
for
Advent and
Christmas
in
Seascale, Gosforth
and Drigg**



Sunday 2 December.

6.30 pm Choral Evensong for Advent.
The Amethyst Green Singers. St Paul's Irton

Sunday 9 December.

4.00 pm United Christingle Service at St. Mary's Gosforth

Friday 14 December

6.30pm Nether Wasdale Carol Service at St Michael and All Angels
Nether Wasdale

Sunday 16 December.

3.00 pm Seascale Carol Service at St. Cuthbert's Seascale

6.30pm Gosforth Carol Service at St Mary's Gosforth

Friday 21 December

6.30pm Drigg Carol Service

Monday 24 December Christmas Eve.

4.00 pm Crib Service at St Cuthberts Seascale.

4.00 pm Crib Service at St. Mary's Gosforth

11.30 pm Midnight Communion at St. Cuthbert's Seascale

11.30 pm Midnight Communion at St. Mary's Gosforth

Tuesday 25 December Christmas Day.

8.00am Holy Communion at St Olaf's Wasdale Head

9.00am Christmas Mass at St Joseph's Seascale

9.30am Holy Communion at St Michael and All Angels
Nether Wasdale

10.00 am United Morning Service at St Cuthbert's Seascale

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mary's Gosforth