

# Church News

## St Mary's Allithwaite

For a change this year the Christingle service was linked with Epiphany and drew a large congregation of adults and children. The new flexibility of the church with its moveable chairs was used to good effect with the congregation arranged in four quarters of an oval facing in to the central table full of christingles surrounding a large candle which symbolised the light of Christ.

The four quarters represented the points of the compass of the world, each quarter having a child to offer the fruits of the earth. A red ribbon running round the front of the congregation was a reminder of the sacrificial love of God through the cross on Calvary. In other words the people themselves became one big christingle, identified with the symbols on the table which were later distributed for everyone to take home.

The funeral of Ian Brandon was held on Friday, 6th January. Ian and his wife Margaret have been regular members of St Mary's since moving to Allithwaite in 1997. Ian had a distinguished career both with the RAF and REME, serving in the Korean war, in Japan, Singapore and other parts of the world. Even in retirement he continued as a flying instructor in the USA.

Members of St Mary's had a major input in the Cartmel Peninsula Team away weekend at Rydal Hall, 20th-22nd January. The theme of 'From Acorns to Mighty Oaks' was led by team consultant Canon Amiel Osmaston. Each part of the programme was concerned with spiritual gardening. On the Saturday Revd. Tim Montgomery from St Thomas' Church, Kendal led the Bible studies. Some took advantage of the free afternoon to walk part of the old coffin trail. Entertainment on that same evening was provided by Colin Milner using a picture quiz and Jenny Leah with her team of puppeteers. Time was spent in encouraging participants to consider how each church and themselves as individuals could contribute to and benefit from the life of the team ministry based on the slogan 'Together Everyone Achieves More'. At the end of the Sunday morning eucharist an acorn was presented to all participants to take away and plant a growing forest!

St Mary's now has a lively website well worth a visit at [www.allithwaitechurch.org.uk](http://www.allithwaitechurch.org.uk).

## St Paul's

January was a busy month at St. Paul's with so many different events. About a dozen members of the congregation braved a wet and stormy night on the 6th January to travel to St. Ann's, Haverthwaite for the team Epiphany service led by the Rev. Canon Peter Calvert, the speaker was the Rev. David Simon. Many thanks to St. Ann's for providing refreshments after the service.

The new Archdeacon of Westmoreland & Furness, the Ven. Penny Driver, was licensed at the Holy Trinity church in Kendal on 10th January and we had the pleasure of welcoming her to St. Paul's the previous Sunday, 8th January at our 11.00 am service.

We were also delighted to welcome the Rev. Joan Jackson who took our Wednesday morning service on the 11th January. Joan has recently retired to Flookburgh with her husband Derek who has also led a few of our Wednesday services.

On Sunday, 15th January, St. Paul's held a family service to celebrate the birthday of Edward Bear, the club for pre-school children and their parents and siblings held at St. Paul's on alternate Tuesday afternoons. It was lovely to see so many children and families gathered together in church and the birthday cake and chocolate teddy bears shared out after the service proved to be very popular.

Friday, 20th January marked the start of the team away weekend at Rydal Hall where church members were able to join together in a shared experience of worship, teaching, rest and relaxation. The leaders for the weekend were Canon Tim Montgomery and Canon Amiel Osmaston and the theme was "Acorns to Mighty Oaks". All who attended agreed that the weekend had been most successful.

At 11.00 am on 29th January, St. Paul's hosted a joint Patronal service for our friends from Lindale followed by lunch at the Parish Hall. Thank you to all those who helped cook and serve the meal.

In February we look forward to Bishop James licensing the Rev. Nick Devenish who has recently been appointed to the post of Team Vicar at Cartmel Priory. The service will be held at The Priory at 6.30 pm on Friday 3rd February.

On Sunday, 19th February another team Taize service will be held at 6.30 pm at the Fell Church. All are very welcome to come and attend this unique form of worship. Finally, on the evening of Wednesday 22nd February, an Ash Wednesday service will be held St. Paul's at 7.30 pm

## Grange Methodist Church

**On January 10th, Bryan Bucknell spoke to the Women's Network at Grange Methodist Church. His title was 'Faith Communities Dean and Alive'. He had been on a retreat and visited some cathedrals which had the ruinous attention of Henry VIII but with faith and determination had survived.**

Stuart Harling captivated his audience at Grange Methodist Open Fellowship meeting when he showed a record of his cycle ride in South Africa. He visited the Kruger National Park was thrilled to see elephants, rhinoceros, egrets and other native species. He described the hard cycle ride in extreme heat and suffered because of the altitude. After this visit, the party moved south to Swaziland, but had to endure two days of heavy rain when the cycles had to be abandoned. At the next meeting when Canon Ellis and his wife Barbara will tell us about a balloon ride over Lake Windermere.

## St Charles

February already – I have hardly had time to break my New Year Resolutions and Easter eggs in shop windows make me think Lent is just around the corner!

An excellent evening's entertainment by Vic Hindle was thoroughly enjoyed by a full house in the Father Magner Room – for an 'old un' he does very well!! And the mulled wine and mince pies were much appreciated.

Wind, rain and frost didn't deter God's people and good congregations throughout Advent and Christmas time helped to lift the spirits. Once again the people were very kind and generous – much appreciated but I think I need a new set of scales – I'm sure mine give false weight readings!!

Two adults were received into the Church at Christmastime, for which we thank God. We pray they will find peace and fulfilment in their decision. A very quiet and well behaved little boy was baptised and the baby's head was duly wet at a very pleasant celebration afterwards.

Keeping the Sabbath holy today would appear to visit to Asda or some other superstore. I wonder what 'Keep Holy the Sabbath Day' means to us Church going Christians today? Last Saturday evening at the Vigil Mass I had a spirit inspired thought – is this a 'convenience mass'? I began to think we had lost the concept of keeping holy the Sabbath Day, the Lord's Day. I wondered – do the Vigil Mass goers see the Sabbath Day as an opportunity for extra prayer and reflection or for something else? Our non Catholic brethren do not have Vigil Services – perhaps we (Catholics) need to rethink the significance of the Vigil Mass – food for thought surely!

'To live is to change and to be perfect is to change often' said Blessed Cardinal John H Newman – do we Catholics at St Charles and St Cuthbert's need to change?

An excellent talk in the Father Magner Room from two of the Cenacolo community got the Men's Group meeting off to a good start. February sees us returning to our usual haunt at the Hampsfell House Hotel – (the buffet to die for!!!).

It will be interesting to see the response to the week of prayer for Christian Unity. I will be totally outrageous and probably be hanged from the Victoria Hall flag pole (if there is one!) by saying we are all quite happy and get on well together and so politely go through the motions. No hurt intended, simply an observation from an ageing Cleric!

I think it is probably time to close.

**God Bless, Fr Parker**

PS Aerobics – a series of strenuous exercises which help convert fats, sugars and starch into aches, pains and cramps.

## St John The Baptist Flookburgh

Thank you all who supported our Epiphany Crib Exhibition it was most successful and will be repeated next year. We celebrate Shrove Tuesday on February 21st in the Church Room at 6.30pm with Pie and Pea Supper and Musical Entertainment £5 per person. Everyone welcome names at back of church please for catering or ring the Vicar on 58751. Queens Jubilee – We are planning a celebration in June watch this column for details.

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