

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

A
NEWSLETTER
FROM THE ANGLICAN
CHURCHES OF
LANERCOST WITH WALTON,
GILSLAND AND
NETHER DENTON

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Dear parishioners and friends,

It seems strange to think that this is the last time I will be writing a Christmas letter to you all. With all the turmoil going on in the world around us it is in many minds to wonder where is God in all of this!

Advent is the time of year when we are invited to look forward in hope and expectation to the remembrance of Jesus' first coming as a babe at Bethlehem, but also to prepare for the time when he returns in glory to herald the coming of God's Kingdom throughout the earth.

Jesus came to earth at Christmas. God in human form, born in a stable, came to live among his beloved children. He came to conquer sin and death, to be the light of the world; one with us, encountering us in our very human being.

He still does that today, 2000 years later. He is still here beside us, walking with us in all the bad situations we see around us. Suffering alongside those who suffer, caring alongside all who care.

The joy of Christmas is that he still longs to be welcomed into our lives and bring us peace and joy, love and forgiveness.

How are your preparations for Christmas coming along? By now I expect many of you will have the Christmas cards written (and posted?), the decorations out of their boxes, the presents wrapped and the food planned – if not already bought in.

But how about the other side of your preparations – the 'spiritual' side? As Christmas draws nearer I hope you will find time amongst the rush and bustle to watch and wait, and to experience the peace, the joy and the wonder that are God's gift to all of us at this wonderful season of the year.

There are lots of services to choose from in the run up to Christmas. School carol concerts, Carol-services, Christingle services, and the traditional Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

All are welcome. He is the God for all.

I hope you will make time to join us for one (or more) of these over this joyous season.

With my best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas to you all,

Revd Angela

**Benefice of Lanercost with Walton, Gilsland & Nether Denton
Services in December 2024 and January 2025**

DECEMBER

Lanercost: 11am

1st Morning Worship
8th Morning Worship
15th Holy Communion
22nd 6.30pm Carols and Readings
24th 4.30pm Crib Service and Carols
8.00pm 1st Eucharist of Christmas
25th No service
29th 10.30am Mission Communion Holy Communion at St Martin's Church, Brampton

Walton: 11am

1st Holy Communion (C of E)
8th No service
15th No service
22nd Holy Communion
24th 2.30pm Carol Service
25th No service
29th 10.30am Mission Communion Holy Communion at St Martin's Church, Brampton

Gilsland: 9.30am

1st No service
8th Holy Communion
15th No service
23rd Mon – 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
24th No service
25th No service
29th 10.30am Mission Communion Holy Communion at St Martin's Church, Brampton

Nether Denton: 9.30am

1st Holy Communion
8th No service
15th 2pm Carol Service
22nd No service
24th No service
25th 9.30am Family Holy Communion
29th 10.30am Mission Communion Holy Communion at St Martin's Church, Brampton

January

Lanercost: 11am

5th Holy Communion
12th Morning Worship
19th Holy Communion
26th 10am Benefice Covenant Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Walton (no service at Lanercost)

Walton: 11am

5th No service
12th Morning Worship
19th No service
26th 10am Benefice Covenant Service of Holy Communion

Gilsland: 9.30am

5th No service
12th Holy Communion
19th No service
26th 10am Benefice Covenant Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Walton (no service at Gilsland)

Nether Denton: 9:30am

5th Holy Communion
12th No service
19th Morning Worship
26th 10am Benefice Covenant Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Walton (no service at Nether Denton)

*10am every Wednesday (not Christmas Day):
a short service of Holy Communion is held at Lanercost Priory*

Vicar: Revd Angela Hughes (016977 2478)
ahughes@webleicester.co.uk

Meet our new Archdeacon



The Ven Ruth Newton was officially installed as Archdeacon of Carlisle during the service on Sunday (8 September). It means a return to her birth county with Ruth having been raised in Carlisle and – following ordination in 2002 – serving the parishes of Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby and Sebergham.

Latterly she served as a Vicar near Ripon and is married to Andrew with whom she has two grown up daughters, Victoria, 25, and Ellen, 21.

Ruth takes responsibility for the Deaneries of Carlisle, Brampton, Penrith and Appleby and will also have responsibility as Archdeacon around safeguarding as well as the Diocese's Christian retreat and conference centre, Rydal Hall.

At her installation Ruth said,

“I hope my new role is not too much about buildings, buildings, and buildings but rather a role which enables and supports others in mission and is primarily about the people and God. I confess that there are many reasons why I applied for this role, not least because I wanted to come home. Since we arrived on the first of August, and standing in this cathedral where I was ordained as both a Deacon and a Priest (longer ago than I care to remember) I do feel that I have come home.”

“I did mean what I said in the press release [announcing her appointment]. It wasn't a mere soundbite that my faith story is bound up with

the faith stories of so many of the churches which I am now called to serve. Christian presence, Christian mission in this place matters to me not only because it should, and not only because it's what God's asked me to be, but because it's where I'm from.”

Growing up, Ruth worshipped at St Elisabeth's Harraby, then St James Carlisle before her family moved to Dalston and she joined St Michael's where she became head chorister. She was also the youngest churchwarden in the country – aged 26 - when serving at St Giles Great Orton.

After training for ordination at St John's Nottingham and serving her curacy in Cumbria she was appointed Vicar of Hutton Cranswick with Skerne Bewick and Watton in the Diocese of

York in 2006, also serving as Assistant warden of Readers and as Rural Dean. Five years later she became Priest in Charge of Kirlington, Burneston, Wath and Pickhill in the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds. From 2015 she served as Canon Evangelist at Ripon Cathedral.

Since 2017, Ruth served as a Priest in the parishes of Sharow, Copt Hewick, and Marton Le Moor in the Diocese of Leeds. For the last two years she has also held the role of Mission and Evangelism Tutor at St Hild Theological College Mirfield. She has also been a General Synod member – the Church of England's national assembly.

She is also a passionate advocate for rural ministry and environmental matters and sat as a National Rural Affairs Group Church of England representative on the Arthur Rank Centre's trustee board. At Leeds Diocese she has acted as an Environmental Working Group Training and Theology Advisor and co-created and co-developed a new lay ministry pathway, the “Eco-Mission Enabler”. Ruth also runs an environmental blog site “Greening the lectionary”



Reflections on the Camino de Santiago



They say that the Camino never leaves you. I am sure that the memory of my second venture along one of these Pilgrim routes is indelibly etched not only into my memory but also into what forms and informs my life hereafter.

In early September, I set out to walk the Caminho Português from Porto to Santiago de Compostela. It had been planned that one of my sons would join me on the route and that a friend and his brother, faster walkers than I, setting off after me, would catch me up at some point. So it was. James flew to Santiago, caught a bus to Vigo and walked to Baiona, where we met and from where we shared the rest of the journey. Nigel and Tim set out from Porto five days after me, caught us up and forged ahead. We met up, sharing food, fellowship and lodgings. They reached Santiago a day ahead of James and me, and we met up there. Wonderful moments of fellowship and bonding.

More than this, however, were moments and instances of what I came to think of as the true essence of Pilgrimage: offers of food to share, with no thought that these should be repaid; exam-

ples of true altruism, the lesson that the essence of Pilgrimage is humility, gratitude for what there is, for what there is is what you get; there is no more and things cannot be otherwise than they are. I am humbly grateful for everything that I received, for the friendship of people not known and whom I shall not see again, the unstinting, unquestioning filial love and the resourcefulness of my son James, the friendship and *joie de vivre* of Nigel and his brother Tim.

All this was followed by a cruel turn of fate. On my way back to Porto for my flight home, I dislocated a hip, which led to my spending four days in a hospital in Porto. The dislocation was reverted, I was well cared-for, but I spent those four days feeling partly like an invalid, not allowed to do anything for myself, entirely dependent on the skill and care of nursing staff, partly like a hostage, helpless in the characterless surroundings of a hospital in a city I did not know in a country whose language I did not speak, not knowing what was to happen to me, how and when, while heaven and earth were being moved to get me back home. This eventually happened and I am lost in admiration for the persistence, dedication and generosity of spirit of my wife, Gillian and for those who carried out the operation.

None of that will leave me. The ordeal, which is not too strong a word, has taught me a lesson about the spirit of community that I shall never forget. What makes us who we are is not what we get but what we give, and I hope that this will influence the way I live what is left of my life.

David Bamford

From the Registers

Lanercost

Burial of Ashes

27 th Sept – Hubert James Matthews & Joanna Mary Matthews

With sadness we record that Frank Joseph Balme late of Nether Denton Parish died on 7th October 2024

Groups for young people
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during term time

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homework

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Each time there is some spiritual food for thought

For more info contact: Ruth Hutchinson, Green Door Centre,
 Main street, Brampton, CA8 1RS. Office: 016977 42123 

The Way Forward for Brampton Deanery

At a meeting at St. Paul's Church, Holme Eden on the evening of Tuesday 22nd October, an enlarged Deanery Synod, including one representative of every church, met to discuss and vote on six proposals formulated by the Mission Community steering group aimed at moving forward the initiative to establish a single Mission Community within the area covered by the deanery. The proposals were:

- 1 One Mission Community:** *There should be one Mission Community across the entire deanery area.*
- 2 Local groupings:** *The Mission Community should be structured into **local groupings** centred on Longtown, Brampton, and the Eden churches.*
- 3 Staffing:** *That the Synod are supportive of the stated pattern of deployment.*
- 4. Steering Group:** *That the Steering Group should remain in existence for a period as we flesh out the details of what has been agreed by Synod and work to bring the Mission Community to fruition.*
- 5. Synod:** *That we move towards an ecumenical Synod encompassing the partner denominations operating across the deanery area.*
- 6. Additional areas to be explored:** *That we recognise the need for further work to flesh out the form of our Mission Community*

(information from Deanery Secretary David Bamford),

All six proposals were accepted by a substantial majority and these will form the basis of the way forward for our benefice.

Rev. Tricia has furnished the magazine with the plans of how this should look in the future. I hope you will find this helpful and reassuring.

Structure of the new Mission Community

Staffing

One Mission Community Leader for the Deanery – likely to also hold the post of Rural Dean. They will have a small pastoral charge, in order to be available to support all the Benefices. We are currently hoping to have this post holder **living at Lanercost**

Three Rivers Area (*which includes Lanercost*):
One Team Rector
Holme Eden, Wetheral and ultimately Scotby

when the current incumbent leaves the post,
One Team Rector

Esk group with Rockcliffe and Blackford : One Team Rector

Border Methodist Church: One full time post with Chapels in Brampton, Gilsland, Wetheral and Longtown

One Network Youth Church Worker, for the whole Deanery (*cost is paid by central Diocesan funds*)

Bewcastle and related parishes currently have a priest for 2 days a week. The future of where these parishes sit will be discussed should the current priest leave. There is also a URC Church: with a minister giving some of their time to this congregation (*there are 4 Ministers who together cover all churches in Cumbria*)

How it will work

All Team Rector/Priest in Charge posts will be based/housed in the areas where they have specific pastoral charge.

Included in their Job Description will be a requirement to give approximately 1 day to the deanery each week. This will be to use their particular gifts and skills to support other churches e.g developing Messy Church, Fresh Expressions, Anna Chaplaincy/Dementia cafes, lay training etc.

All post holders will agree to be collaborative and put this as a high priority, meeting regularly with colleagues – (this may well replace clergy chapter meetings) - to become more focussed and strategic, looking at ministry together across the Deanery.

Growing the Church

There is to be a big emphasis put on discerning gifts in laity and helping those gifts to grow through training – primarily local but also through Diocesan initiatives.

The Mission Community Leader will be responsible for ensuring training is sourced and delivered, and in encouraging latent gifts and skills, working closely with Incumbents to establish needs.

The Mission Community Leader will also be responsible for making sure all the necessary policies are in place, ensuring that there is no need for duplication in the parishes, hence freeing resources for mission

In their role as Rural Dean they will have a Dean-

ery wide understanding of pressures and needs and be available to give support across the Deanery.

Practicalities

We will need to look in the future to see if we should employ an Administrator for the whole Deanery.

Amongst other benefits: This post will be able to help all churches with APCM paperwork and returns: Support the Deanery Secretaries: Support all the parishes in PR and marketing

To develop a Deanery website where all the Benefices will be featured with Administrator being responsible for updating in line with requests from parishes. We already have a website about to be launched for the Three Rivers, and this could be developed for the Deanery.

To apply to the Charity Commission to set up a CIO (Charitable incorporated organisation). This will enable the Deanery to have a central payments system – relieving treasurers of occasional office fee processing etc, and to take on leases for NYC if required, and to engage in charitable activity for the Deanery

In the fullness of time, and if wanted this CIO could employ people for the Deanery e.g youth workers, admin etc

Teams of Laity will be formally authorised after training who will be able to lead worship and deliver approved homilies. This will be for their own churches but people will be able to work more widely across the Deanery if wished

Teams of Laity will be formally authorised after being trained in Pastoral Visiting, again for their own parishes but able to support across the Deanery e.g some may be more skilled in visiting the bereaved and have a gift and love for this.

We also hope to have Laity skilled in helping with faculty applications who can give advice and help others

More needs and opportunities will become obvious as the Mission Community develops.

The Vision for our Mission Community is to really become the Church as a body as envisaged in Romans and Corinthians; with all our different parts supporting and helping each other, in order that each part flourishes and that together we grow.

Rev. P A Rogers

Christingle– a present from the Moravians

It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle.



On 20th December, 1747, John de Wattleville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Then he explained to the children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Wattleville, "has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness".

He then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon and ended his service with a little prayer: *"Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become"*.

The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that.... The years came and went, and as the Moravians began to travel beyond Germany, so they took the custom with them.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word 'Christingle' comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

The symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today we use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth and red ribbon, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.



Autumn One and Two has been a period of welcoming back, settling in, and getting to know our new starters. As well as our Reception cohort, since September we have been lucky enough to welcome two new starters into our Nursery, with two more two-year-olds due to start in the New Year. So far, we have had a stimulating and engaging term packed full of extra-curricular activities and exciting learning topics.

In September, we took part in Breakfast Week and linked this to our work in PHSE and Science, thinking about keeping our bodies healthy and exploring a range of less familiar foods. Everyone enjoyed trying all the delicious breakfasts and discussing which foods were their favourites. To end the month, Oak class went on an out of school visit to Eden Rock Indoor Climbing Centre, where they all showed great resilience and courage as they tried something new and developed new physical skills. This was followed by a local history walk around Carlisle city centre, following a picture trail and looking at the different buildings and their uses over time to link with our History curriculum work. We then visited Warwick Bridge corn mill and had a fascinating tour of the mill and learned about the milling process from grain to loaf. We were able to refer to our learning about the history of agriculture and the growing stages of plants in Science.

Acorn and Sapling Classes went on an out of school visit to Brampton to look at the range of buildings and their uses and they combined this with a visit to one of Brampton's newest businesses, Ice Cream Bar Moo's and the library.

At the start of October we hosted our Harvest Community Lunch followed by our Harvest Festival Celebration. The delicious two course meal was well attended by families of the school and many from our wider community. It was wonderful to see so many there to share the special event with us.

During October, Oak Class took part in a football tournament hosted by William Howard School, alongside many other primary schools from the Brampton Cluster. We made a hybrid team with Gilsland CE Primary School. They followed this up by attending Gilsland School for another Football Match in November, allowing them to further form friendships and continue to develop their sports skills.

The whole school took part in RE week in Mid-October, when we learned about Christianity around the world, focusing on Romania. We were visited by Rachel from NISCU, Reverend Edward and Father Andre during the week, which culminated in a joint celebration with other LISH schools at Lanercost Priory, where the children presented their learning and fantastic artwork.

We are ensuring our pupils can access a wide range of physical exercise, which supports both their physical and mental wellbeing. As well as a weekly P.E club that runs free of charge for all pupils, there have been a wide range of extra-curricular sports activities so far this term.



Oak Class have been able to attend a horse care and horse-riding session at Lads Lodge, as well an annual Cross Country event at Talkin Tarn, plus Lacrosse at William Howard School for Year 5 and 6 children.

Staff and children attended the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church, Walton. Staff and children presented readings, prayers, and musical accompaniment. It was a very special ceremony, and pupils represented our school beautifully. This was followed by us observing a two-minute silence on the 11th at school, which was marked by the two oldest children ringing the school bell.

Sapling Class recently joined Gilsland CE Primary School for a trip to Susan's Farm, where they were able to collaborate with other learners as part of our PSQM journey and consolidate some DT skills by making cheese scones to bring back to school. The scones were fantastic, and everyone had a brilliant day out at Susan's Farm where they had the opportunity to collect eggs, feed sheep and look after the geese!



The whole school were able to take part in a workshop led by SCARF, which focussed on both the mental and physical health of children and how to make healthy choices. Children enjoyed meeting Harold the Giraffe and learning all about how he keeps himself healthy.

Oak Class were invited to attend a STEM Lego workshop hosted by Gilsland CE Primary School. This was an excellent opportunity to collaborate with another school, provided a valuable transition opportunity for pupils and helped the children to develop their skills and knowledge in STEM subjects in a fun and engaging way.

The run up to Christmas is here and we are beginning to think about of exciting Christmas events. PTFA are kindly providing a Pizza and Film night for all pupils in early December. This will be great opportunity for children to enjoy a special treat together out of school hours. We are also looking forward to starting rehearsals for our Christmas Performance and can't wait to practise lots of new songs.

Children will also enjoy our annual school Christmas Party, where we all celebrate the joy of Christmas together, sharing a special Christmas buffet, games and dancing. We have also been reliably informed that a very special guest is going to come all the way from the North Pole to deliver some early Christmas presents too!

Children will be heading to Walton on December 17th for Carol Singing around the village from 2pm. Do keep a look out for us, and perhaps even join us for some songs if you can! On December 18th we will be hosting our final Community Lunch of 2024, with our fantastic Christmas Lunch. This will be from 12noon and is open to all. If you would like to come along, please get in touch with the school office. It is sure to be a full house so get booked in as soon as possible!

On the final Thursday of term, Reception to Year 6 pupils will be heading off to Keswick to Theatre by the Lake to watch a performance of The Jungle Book. This is a wonderful end of term treat and we are all very excited for it.

After such a busy term, we will all be ready for a peaceful and restful Christmas Holiday. We hope, when the time comes, that all our pupils, their families and all of you from the wider community have a truly blessed Christmastime and a very happy New Year.



The man who married Mary

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance. After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. Twelve years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, and find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55)

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord's teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as 'Father', knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of His father's re-



sponsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God's will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God's call to us and please Him in all that we do.

By Lester Amann



Welcome

Welcome, Jesus baby
To a world that is waiting,
Welcome, Jesus baby
To a world needing joy,

Thank you for the presents
That you bring us on your birth day,
Peace, love and hope
Wrapped in one baby boy.

By Daphne Kitching

Christmas Around the Christian World

For nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace.



Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25th December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7th January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

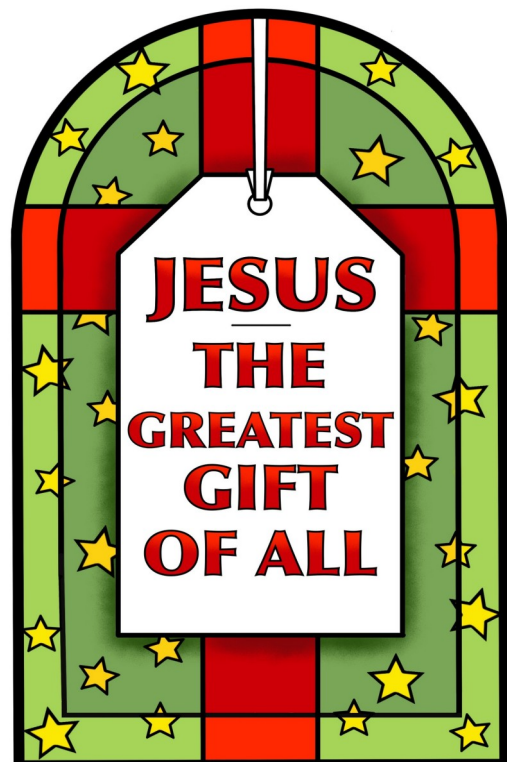
On 6th January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus

God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.

Orthodox Christians use this day to recall the baptism of Jesus as a grown man. The significance of Jesus being baptised was that He identified Himself with human beings in all their need. They mark the day by praying for God's blessing on rivers, wells and water sources.

Christmas has never been just an escapist festival for Christians. Those who treat it seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God. And two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.

This is from: https://christianity.org.uk/christmas-throughout-the-christian-world/#.W9LI_xNKhsM





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from Tim Coombe
timothycoombe@damhead.me

Café Scientifique Brampton

Meetings take place *simultaneously live* at Brampton Community Centre and via Zoom **on the last Thursday of the month**. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start (ends approx. 9.30pm) **Cost:** £4.00 (plus 0.35p booking fee) or £5 on the door. (includes a glass of wine and nibbles)

For more information and tickets visit <https://www.bramptoncc.org.uk/regular-activities/cafesci/>

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A letter from Revd. Tricia

The sentiment on many Christmas cards, is that this is the Season of Peace and Goodwill to all. And wouldn't it be great if it really happened?

But why limit these things to Christmas? Why can't we practise goodwill and be the bringers of peace all year round? If you think keeping this up for 365 days is not possible with everyone, why not start with family and friends and those around you in the community. The impact if we all did it, would be enormous, and would stretch far beyond our small communities, especially if others adopted this as well.

The idea can seem daunting, particularly if we know we are not the same person on the inside as we are portraying on the outside. The actions then will be hard to keep up! The question then to ask ourselves is, are our actions driven from a heart of faith, and a loving God, or simply driven by how others react to us or our external circumstances?

A famous quotation says, "Christmas is not a date, it is a state of mind" - I like that, it looks beyond our reaction to circumstances and what is happening to us, and instead becomes a positive act of the will.

For me it's about accepting the gift of love that God gives us in Christ. In a way that changes us. A love that can change us from the inside out so that our actions truly reflect the love of God in us, back to others. A gift that is for every day of the year.

If you haven't thought about the gifts you will be giving on Christmas Day can I recommend this by Oren Arnold – 'Christmas Gift Suggestions'

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

The great news is that you don't have to wait until December 25th to give them!. You can begin today.

I wish you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Tricia

Lees Hill WI

In November we celebrated our WI's 102nd birthday by going out for lunch at Skitby.

Sadly our speakers for October were unable to come at short notice so we had a chatty get together which was much enjoyed. Instead Judith and Steve Yeates will be coming to talk to us in December. They are friends of Carlisle Turkish Baths and will show pictures and tell us about the progress with the baths. Last year we decided to meet in the afternoons during the winter months and the first of these will be in December, so we will meet from 1.30 - 4.00 on 11th – a week earlier than our usual date.

The details for January have yet to be arranged, but the date will be 15th and we will meet from 1.30 – 4.00

We normally meet on the third Wednesday of the month at Walton and Lees Hill School at 7.30pm. We welcome visitors at our meetings and new members are also very welcome. Please contact Rose Riches, 07821 653583; roseand-dick04@talktalk.net for more information.

'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled'

Something to reflect upon from Elaine Nightingale, Lanercost Mothers' Union:

'When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and the princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among people,

To make music in the heart'.

H Thurman, African American theologian and civil rights leader.

Lanercost Church of England Primary School: A Fun-Filled Term!

Lanercost Church of England Primary School has had a vibrant and action-packed term, filled with exciting learning experiences, outdoor adventures, and strong community connections. We were thrilled to welcome our new Nursery and Reception children, who have settled in beautifully and brought fresh energy and enthusiasm to our school family.

A highlight for many was Woodland Schools, where the children explored nature, identified trees, and learned fire-building skills, fostering teamwork and outdoor confidence. Class 4 also enjoyed a special Parent Lunch, where families came together to share a delicious meal and celebrate the children's learning. In maths, Class 1 focused on subitising—learning to quickly recognise quantities without counting—through interactive and shared learning experiences that made math fun and engaging.

RE Week was another memorable occasion, with the whole school welcoming the NISCU puppets for a collective worship on "Jesus is the Light of the World." During the week, the children also learned about harvest celebrations from around the globe, gaining a greater understanding of how different cultures give thanks for food.

Sporting activities have kept the children active and engaged this term, with football matches against other schools in the cluster, as well as an introduction to lacrosse. Year 5 and 6 children took part in the Bikeability program, learning valuable road safety skills. Class 4 also had their own lacrosse sessions, developing new skills and teamwork.

The school also participated in Walk to School Week, encouraging children to walk from the Priory to school and promoting healthy habits and environmental awareness.

Local art teacher Abby has led creative art sessions across the school, inspiring the children to explore different artistic techniques. Our community lunches have continued to bring the children and local residents together, fostering a strong sense of connection.

This term has been full of joy, curiosity, and memorable moments, and we look forward to more exciting adventures in the months ahead.

147. Worthy as the Lamb

Worthy as you are.

No recognition of achievement or status;
Possessions or lack of them.

Loved as you are, even unto death.

Worthy as you are.

No doing, seeming friendless;
Despised by sections of humanity.

Loved as you are, even unto death.

Worthy as you are.

Criticised for being unlike the crowd;
On the 'wrong' side of the political divide.

Loved as you are, even unto death.

Worthy as you are.

Penniless, rejected, disabled;
Sounds like someone?

Loved as you are, even unto death.

Worthy as you are.

A loner, alone, no home;
Sacrificed for a greater good.

Loved as you are, even unto death.

Worthy as you are, whatever you are.

Lamb, Human, Lion; Leaf, Insect, Stone.
Our souls are eternal, the reality of all.

Loved as you are, becoming Love itself.

Bob Morley, March 2024



Update from Gilsland C E Primary School

Gilsland School hosted a bake sale on Friday 15th November for Children in Need- we raised £68.50! Thank you to anyone who donated cakes in support. We have already begun practicing for our Christmas Production this year- 'Communitativity!' We have written our own this year, based on our lovely village. Tickets will be on sale at the end of November.

We had a very special visit from Bishop Bob of Carlisle two weeks ago. He welcomed lots of questions from the children, brought in special clothes and his crook, and we sang for him.



Early Years and KS1 went on a lovely trip to Susan's Farm, where the children learnt about different animals and their young, fed the sheep and made cheese scones with local ingredients.

For our second Messy (Moral, Social, Spiritual,



Cultural) morning, we learnt about our Christian Value 'Thankfulness'.

We wrote poems, created thankfulness trees and designed thank you cards to send to people in our lives that we're thankful for.

We are looking forward to Walton and Lee's Hill joining us this week for a KS2 Lego workshop, making robots from Lego! We are also being joined by Lanercost, Whitfield and Walton and Lee's Hill for a football tournament this week (weather depending!).

We still have many things coming up this year, including:

- Talkin Tarn Cross Country

- Diwali Messy Morning

- Trip to the Hindu Temple in Newcastle

- Seeing 'A Christmas Carol' at the Northern Stage

- Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December
- EY/KS1 Christmas trip to Walby in collaboration with Whitfield

- Community Christmas Dinner Day with a special visit from the donkeys!

- Our legendary Christmas show

- KS2 Residential to York

We are excited to host a **Community Christmas Dinner** on **Thursday 12th December**, including a visit from the lovely donkeys at Wyeknot Donkeys. This will be £6 per person, open to any members of the community and family members. Please contact the school to let us know if you'd like a place.

016977 47302

admin@gilsland.cumbria.sch.uk



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Vicar	Rev'd Angela Hughes	016977 2478	ahughes@webleicester.co.uk
Reader with Permission to Officiate	David Bamford	01697 508157	
Local Lay Ministers with permission to officiate	Sheila Goodliffe Jo Grundy	016977 41211 01228525284	sheilafg@btinternet.com
Retired Clergy	Rev'd Malcolm Riches	016977 42761	
Mission Community Leader	Rev. Canon Tricia Rogers	07702 389918	revtriciar@aol.com
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	Barbara Riches	13 Edmondson Cl, Brampton CA8 1GH	016977 42761
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Lanercost with Walton

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