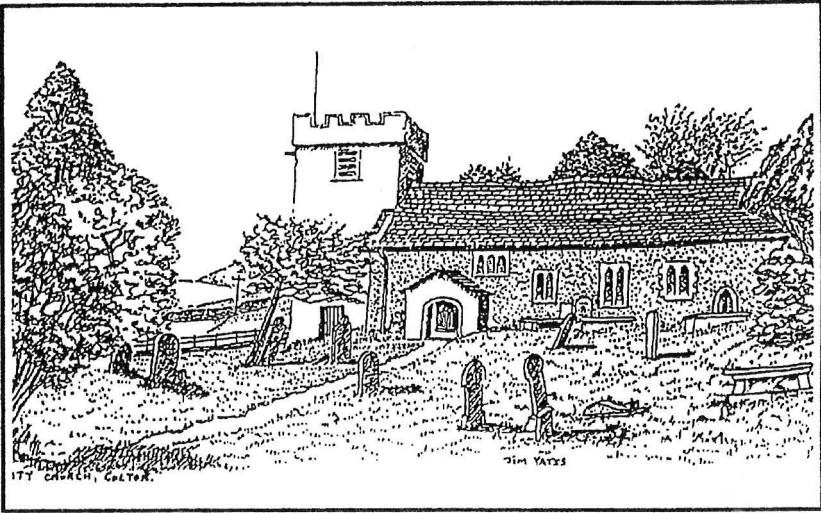




PARISH NEWS

Holy Trinity Church

COLTON

PASTORAL LETTER

The Vicarage
Penny Bridge
ULVERSTON
LA12 7RQ

April 2005

Dear Friends

“AH! SWEET MYSTERY OF LIFE”

a ‘Song of Spring’ from Rev. David Gregg

The best selling postcard in Cumbria was a cartoon showing three climbers roped together in a “chimney”. The top one is hanging upside down bracing his knees against the sloping sides, with just one hand balancing on a precarious rock. The other two are dangling in space below him. The caption says, “Phew! I thought we’d had it that time!” Life is sweet! And especially when springtime comes, with all the glories of renewal around us – sunshine from snow clouds, green buds from dead bark, feathery fledglings from half-starved birds, brilliant blooms from cold brown dirt. It’s good to be alive. But **what** is it all about?

“NAKED APE” or “CROWN OF CREATION”?

It’s all in the “soul”! If we are **really** made in the image of Almighty God, it’s hardly surprising that we find we have a ‘spiritual’ side to our being. We have a hope, and a longing for eternity. My “black country” heroes, Enoch and Eli, are reported to have crossed the churchyard, in their cups, late one Saturday night, tumbled into a freshly dug grave and fallen into a drunken sleep. The rising sun caused Enoch to stir, and he pulled himself to the top of their pit. He looked around, then dropped back in amazement, and shook his pal eagerly. “Eli, Eli – wek up, wek up! It’s the resurrection morn and we’m fust up!” Even in the popular world of folk tales, the hope of eternity is a strong reality.

LIFE FROM THE DEAD

Springtime, in the Church, has come to be the focus for all that lies at the heart of Christian faith – the rising of the Son of Righteousness, the vindication of One who gave Himself up to death as “seed falling into the

ground”, the bursting forth from the bonds of the earth of the One who is the focus of our hope of eternal life and joy. The chick emerging from our Easter eggs, the beauty of the fresh-sprung daffodils and lilies, the glorious emptiness of the cross and the tomb are our symbols of this overwhelming surge of faith and hope. We cannot **have** absolute proof of the testimony of the first witnesses of the risen Lord Jesus – but who needs it? If we give our selves, heart and mind, body and soul, by faith, to the glorious consequences of His resurrection – the joy and peace and love and freedom that His Holy Spirit gives, then we **know** the truth. “Now is Christ risen from the dead, to become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” and “we shall be raised with Him” to the final, great, eternal, unending Springtime.

May this hope and joy be yours **this** Springtime.

Yours sincerely

David Gregg



COLTON CHRONICLES

We do not publish letters as we never get any; information, other than from ‘regulars’ usually arrives on scruffy bits of paper and often or not is illegible. This month however we are pleased to print a passionate plea from a parishioner.

“ATTENTION COLTON CHURCH ENTHUSIASTS

The church at Colton needs your **attendance**. At present, many churches in the Carlisle Diocese are under the threat of closure or part time use, and may be judged on whether people want the church for regular use, not just High days, holidays, Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals.

There are many changes taking place in the Benefice since Colton joined Egton– cum-Newland and Lowick; some of these changes will be popular and some not, an example of which is the Service times. These now are **10.30am. on the first two Sundays & 9.30am. on the second two Sundays**. The Service on the **second Sunday** is a Benefice i.e. **Joint** Communion held at each of the three churches in turn. It is essential to check (see back page of the magazine) where to go and mistakes have been made.

The regular services, communion and family worship are pretty much the same and although 'new' hymns are being introduced they are all singable and let's face it, it is quite a challenge to learn new tunes. It is up to each and everyone of us to support Colton Church.

I love going to church and always have done - just one hour a week or month of quietness, alone with our thoughts and for me this is very helpful always hoping to find something wonderful although it is never easy.

There is a need for a regular reminder of *W.W.J.D.* & *W.W.J.S.* (what would Jesus do ? & what would Jesus say ?) which so often result in having to make some hard and uncomfortable decisions.

Some of us don't mind putting forward alternative ideas and although there are those of us who would like to carry on as we always have; others would prefer change. Whatever we do is up to **YOU but we must support our church if we are to have a church.**

What Jesus taught us is as relevant now as it was 2000 years ago, live a Christian life and do not put too much emphasis on wealth and status."

All of which leads us nicely on to uncomfortable subject of giving. Over the last few years annual Church expenses have risen by about £2000 but giving has **decreased** by £2000 which means an annual deficit of £4000. It is true that Colton is not poor but taking money from our investments means that the return from those investments gets smaller every year. This cannot go on and if we want a Church at Colton then we must pay for it.

Out of the share ie. the amount Colton pays to the Diocese 80% goes to pay for the clergy, their pensions and housing; the remaining 20% goes to education, training and normal administration expenses. The Diocese receives £500,000 from central funds which also pay for the Bishop. We are paying to keep our Vicar, and the church open, not for that lot at Carlisle or at Westminster.

Please think about this and see if there is anyway you can increase your giving.

Christian Aid

An early notification that this year the Christian aid 'Soup and Cheese Lunch' will be held on **Saturday 14 May at Rusland Parish Room.**

Garden Fête

An even earlier notification in that it will be held on **Saturday 16 July**. **Please note** that there will not be a 'Nearly New' stall but any new ideas for money raising at the fête will be welcome.

It is all a bit in the air at the moment but there is to be a celebration as the **26 June** is the **25th. Anniversary of our Vicar's Ordination**. Something has to be done.

CHRISTIAN AID

Change of day ! This year our Christian Aid Lunch will be held on a **Saturday**. The date for you diary is **14 May**. Your Christian Aid Boxes will be collected **in Church on Sunday 15 May**. Please give generously.

Donald/Judy



FLOWER ROTA

3 April Easter Flowers

10 April Easter Flowers

17 April Mrs. Margaret Campbell

14 April Mrs. Margaret Campbell

1 May Mrs. Sally Pirnie



COFFEE ROTA

3 April Mrs. Margaret Sanders and Helpers.



Colton, Rusland & Satterthwaite Mothers Union

Mrs. Watson started the March meeting with the service of Hymns and Prayers provided by Carlisle Diocese for our annual "Wave of Prayer", these included prayers for all our link dioceses of Abakaliki (Nigeria), Mbeere and All Saints Cathedral (Kenya), Zululand, Swaziland and Northern Argentina, along with all our own members in Carlisle Diocese.

Rev'd Doreen Harrison then showed some lovely slides of interesting old Gravestones, and Monuments, during which we were visited by Bishop James of Penrith, who had called in while on his Lent walk through Rusland Valley.

On **Monday 4 April at 2.00pm** we are hosting the Deanery "Lady Day" service at **Colton Church** when other branches from the Windermere Deanery will be joining us.

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13 April** in **Bouth Village Hall**, on at **2.00pm**, when Ron Mein will be talking on the "Work of a County Councilor".

Margaret.



PARISH NEWS

Reading through the drafts, so far, it is all a bit serious and I can hear the criticism now, but it is a Church magazine not 'Private Eye' and it is being composed in Lent.

Sadly the misfortunes of others is all we can bring to you; Sam Dixon from Black Beck caused grievous bodily harm in an unscheduled attempt to blow himself up whilst changing a gaz cylinder, fortunately for Sam, a small one. The intermittent electricity supplies in this area have a lot to answer for.

It was a surprise not to see Hetty and Jim Walker at our Mothering Day Service where, incidentally, the turnout was pathetic. It seems that Hetty had a fall in Asda resulting in a nasty break in her upper arm; she is on the mend but it will be sometime before she is completely recovered. The good news is that Jim, according to Jim, is making a very good house husband, and enjoying it. It will be interesting when Hetty gets better. We wish both the victims a quick and successful recovery

The news of Stan Woods of Bouth who is in Manchester Royal is encouraging in that he is improving but still has a nasty infection. We hope and pray that this improvement will continue. Molly Jackson who has had many years of illness and unhappiness is now being looked after in Dane Garth. We wish her well and are thinking and praying for her.

Sadly we have to tell you of the sudden death of Derek Woods who farmed at Abbots Reading and with wife Carol delivered milk in the parish and beyond for many years. Derek was a quiet man who not only enjoyed life >

but with Carol danced his way through it. This was beautifully reflected in the celebratory service of his life at Colton church which was far too small to accommodate all those who came to pay their respects and support the family. In this their time of grief we offer our condolences and prayers to Carol and all the family and they should know that should they want help it is always at hand in this wonderful parish.

Elizabeth, daughter of Cynthia and Jack Burns appeared on television the other evening and explains why. “The ‘Special Care Baby Unit’ at Furness General is one of the nine units throughout the UK that won the M.U.M. (Maternity Unit Miracles) Award. Hundreds of Special Care Baby Units were in the running so we felt very honoured.

Five of my colleagues and myself went to Birmingham to be presented with the Award at the National Motorcycle Museum where Emma Forbes, Nick Owens and ‘Dev’ of ‘Coro’ presented the award to us. It was a fantastic do – it felt like being at the Oscars!!”

Elizabeth very modestly added that she just happened to be on duty when the BBC cameras were filming at the hospital. Congratulations to everybody involved at FGH.

Some slight grumbles that the ‘International Women’s Day of Prayer’ did not get a mention in the last issue. The reason is simply, a lack of communication; how else, without having it spelt out in words of two syllables, would an old misogynist like me know? Donald with a lot of help from Judy



WOMENS INSTITUTE

Bouth

Our branch responded to the W I ‘Community Challenge’ by deciding to produce, with help from the emergency services, Emergency Cards for the local populace. They will be distributed shortly.

At our March meeting the speaker was Janet Smith who gave a fascinating presentation on the history of the Cavendish family tracing their links with Chatsworth and their present day involvement with Holker Hall.

A reminder to those who are interested, there is a copy of the Right to Roam map on the wall of the Village Hall. How to access the Hall can be >

found on the Village Green notice board. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13 April, 7.15pm, Village Hall** when Mr Taylor will be giving a talk on 'Kendal Mint Cake'. An early reminder that our Christmas meeting this year will be held on **Thursday 15 December**. Thought you just might like to know.

Penny.



Sparkbridge & Lowick WI

Simon Leese demonstrated how to transform a strip of leather in to a beautiful crafted belt at the February meeting. Members were enthralled as he measured, cut, punched, stitched and finally polished, ending up with a harness belt that any horse would be happy to wear. He was warmly thanked by Mrs. Henson.

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 26 April, Lowick School Room at 7.30pm**. We will be welcoming Fred Barnes, who is going to teach us how to "Grow Roses".

Margaret.



SCHOOL NEWS

LEVEN VALLEY SCHOOL

As you read this, we will be about to begin the summer term. Our number of pupils is increasing, and we now have seventy four children on roll. This is a healthy figure for the future of the school, with so many areas suffering from a decline in birth rate.

We are having a coffee morning in the **Coronation Hall on Saturday April 16th at 10.00am**, for PTA funds. You will be most welcome to join us.

Our tiled archway in the entrance hall is to be created in May, and you will be welcome to take part in that as well.

If you want to look at our website to see what we have been doing, the address is www.levenvalley.cumbria.sch.uk , and we constantly update it; our latest items are about our Red Nose Day activities.

Susan.



CARTMEL PRIORY

In February pupils manned a stall in Cartmel Village Hall for 'Youth Action Group of Amnesty International' and the Annual coffee morning for the local amnesty group raised £40 which will help to cover our subscription and go towards 'Stop Violence Against Women' campaign.

The Cumbria cricket development officer has been coming into school to coach pupils from Years 7 & 8; the good news is that Cartmel Cricket Club is to start a Youth team and we are hoping that pupils from Cartmel will be involved.

Staff and pupils spent a weekend in the Isle of man to take part in a series of sports fixtures. They stayed at King William's College and the School Bursar wrote to the school saying that "...your pupils were as polite and well behaved a group as we have had in recent memory. They were a credit to your school" !!

Donald.

Editorial Note: So often these days children at school are described as students, which they are not. They are pupils – why? **Students study, pupils are taught** and many find the difference, to their cost, when they go up to University.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting on Monday 28th February, Mr Paul Rogers, a representative from the Cumbria Association of Parish Councils (CALC), spoke on helping Colton Parish Council to achieve Quality Parish status. The council already fulfils many of the criteria and expects to be fully compliant in the next few months,

To improve our communication we have ordered 7 notice boards to be placed throughout our widespread parish, helped by grants from the LDNPA and SLDC Local Committee. We need more members of the public to attend meetings; to help, we have amended the agenda so that in the unlikely event of you not wanting to stay for the whole meeting, you can have your say at the beginning and then leave!

The notice for the meetings, and the agendas are posted on notice boards a week before meetings. The next 2 meetings are **Monday 18 April at 7.30pm at Rusland Parish Room, and Monday 23 May at 7.30pm at Finsthwaite.** Hope to see you there.

Judith.

DIARY DATES

- 3 April Family Worship – **10.30am.** – Coffee in Hall at end of service.
4 April Deanery Lady Day Service – **Colton, 2.00pm.**
10 April Benefice Communion – **Penny Bridge – 10.30am.**
13 April M U meeting – Bouth Village Hall – **2.00pm.**
Bouth W I – Village Hall – **7.15pm.**
16 April Leven Valley School Coffee Morning – Coronation Hall – **10.00am.>**
17 April Holy Communion – **9.30am.**
18 April Parish Council Meeting – Rusland Parish Room – **7.30pm.**
23 April **St. George, Patron of + England +**
24 April Holy Communion – **9.30am.**
24 April **Mark the Evangelist.**
26 April Sparkbridge & Lowick W I – Lowick Sunday School – **7.30pm.**
1 May **Philip & James, Apostles.**



THANK YOU

Our sincere and grateful thanks are due to Anne and Michael Ross for their generous donation of a ‘nearly new’ fridge for our Church Hall and also to Peter, the helpful delivery man. Please note that the said fridge is **NOT** to be switched off. Switching on & off can severely damage the ‘works’.



More News

We have just heard that Janice Muncaster from Sparkbridge has been very poorly for quite some time and we hope she will soon be feeling better and ready for the lambing season.



To the bottom of the last page and not a verse or quotation in sight; it cannot happen, so perhaps an old well worn biblical one will suffice.

“Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof.”

Ecclesiastes.

