



PARISH NEWS

Holy Trinity Church

COLTON

PASTORAL LETTER

The Vicarage
Penny Bridge
ULVERSTON
LA12 7RQ

December 2004

Dear Friends

Giving and Receiving

Christmas is traditionally a time of giving and receiving presents. But how easy is it?

Talking to someone recently they expressed the idea that it is far easier to give presents than to receive them and I believe this to be true. In the Bible it says in the Acts of the Apostles chapter 20 and verse 35, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

A precedent for giving rather than receiving perhaps but we need to be gracious in our receiving of gifts as well as grateful for those gifts. If we did not do so then we are likely to hurt the giver.

Also in the Bible in Matthew's Gospel Chapter 10 and verse 8 it says, *"Freely you have received, freely give."*

Traditionally we give and receive gifts at Christmas because of Jesus. God gave us a gift of hope in the shape of a baby born about two thousand years ago. We still have that gift of hope and we remember that gift in our giving of presents to each other. For some, Jesus birth may be the excuse, but for others it has a deep and important meaning.

In just a few weeks we will remember another gift of Jesus – his life on the cross that we might have a new life in him. It is a difficult concept to understand but for those who have faith it is a glorious concept and one which can bring hope to many in despair.

We are given those gifts by Jesus, freely – many receive them. This Christmas why not give back a gift to Jesus by celebrating his birth, his life, ultimately his death but above all his love for you. A love far greater than any human love

can express. A variety of services take place this Christmas and there is something for everyone. Service details are in the magazine.

Revival in our Giving

With this magazine comes the sixth and final leaflet on Revival with the theme of giving. A theme which fits in well with the season of Christmas.

This is probably the most difficult subject to approach. But why? Why should we be ashamed to seek sufficient finance to give to people what many admit they want. That is a place of worship in the community to celebrate the gift of a child through thanksgiving services, or baptism; to express love for each other when a couple are brought together by God and then seek to be married; or to give thanks to God for the life of a loved one at a funeral service. A place where the love of God can be warmly felt.

Alongside this we seek the resources to provide for Christian ministry and mission - especially in the community.

The reality is that the Church of England, the Diocese and our parishes in the diocese are being severely stretched financially and many are using up what reserves they have to pay their way year by year. (The leaflet spells it out more clearly).

Giving in this diocese is at one of the lowest levels in the country. Back in 1983 I remember one lady who gave £5.00 from her state pension each week. This was her priority before food, or heating, etc. She gave to God's work first and to the church she wanted to be buried at. We thank God for all gifts but in reality if we are to have so many churches, and just a few clergy, giving will have to increase.

To give an example in Egton-cum-Newland in 1999 the amount paid to the diocese (to cover clergy and housing and a small part of administration) was £10933. Five years on this figure is £18071 – an increase of 65%. On top of this is maintenance, insurance, heating, etc.

If you would like to know more about supporting your local church financially please contact the treasurer, or gift aid contact.

Sincerely Yours

Gary Wemyss

Vicar.

COLTON CHRONICLES

You can tell that Christmas is nigh as apparently everyman and his dog wants a mention in our Parish News, it is on a par with those people who only come to church twice a year. Although, in the true spirit of the festive season, we will do our best to accommodate their wishes we must gently remind everybody that this magazine has a proud record of not having advertisements on its pages.

As long as this editor is in post it will remain that way and although it has a circulation wider than the parish its aim is essentially to reflect the life and times of Colton, its people and its church.

Carrying on the theme of the Vicar's letter, Colton has faired a little better, but still the Share paid to the diocese has increased from £9196 to £12687 i.e. an increase of 38% in the last five years, or to put it another way, what we have to pay this year is equivalent to £450 per person based on average congregation numbers. Added to which is the cost of maintaining and heating(?) the church and hall. You can well understand why occasionally Bonzo does a very graphic impersonation of scrooge.

It is money all the way as Judy reports that, to date, the Christian Aid Boxes have produced £64 and they are not all in. Please bring them to church ASAP and take an empty one home. Judy expresses her thanks to all who have complied and a charming frown for those (e.g. a certain editor) who have not.

And we have not done yet as Zella would like to thank everybody who supported her NSPCC Coffee Morning especially the wonderful helpers. A cheque for £342 has been sent.

Church Decoration

As you all should know the church remains undecorated during Advent i.e. from Sunday 28 November and technically to Christmas Eve but as our Carol Service is to be held on 19 December the **Church will be arrayed in its Christmas finery on Saturday 18 December. Secateurs at the ready at 10.00am.**

Donald.



"If you see a man opening a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife."

Attr. to the Duke of Edinburgh

MOTHERS UNION

Mrs. Watson opened the November meeting with a short prayer service when we joined with our Leven Valley neighbours at Haverthwaite when Mrs. Judith Slater spoke on Hearing Dogs for the deaf. These are specially trained dogs who help those with hearing problems and gives them confidence to do things that we take for granted.

During the refreshments a bring and Buy stall for Leven Valley funds was kept quite busy, and members were reminded of the **Advent service at Grange on Thursday, 2 December – 2.00pm.**

Margaret



PARISH NEWS

It has not been a good month as the hospitals have been doing better business than usual. Birkett Cooper, Cedric, there is only one Cedric, and Alan Lovegrove have been in and out of various wards and Stan Woods has been gravely ill in Manchester Infirmary but is now on the mend. Jeff Sankey ex Bouth House, now at Penny Bridge, is currently having a new joint whilst wife Joan is recovering from a cataract op. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families in their time of need.

But to happier news as we send Many Happy Returns to Jack Burns who had his 87th. birthday on 5 November and May Lambert who had her 80th. birthday on 20 November. Congratulations to them both.

Have you ever wondered what Happy Returns means and does anybody know ?

Welcome to the Chaplin Family who have brought life into the bare fields around Bouth and congratulations to Nicky Driver also from Bouth, on Graduating with a Masters Degree in mathematics. This a degree you have to work for unlike the 'Mickey Mouse' degrees that clutter up some of our so called universities today. We wish her good luck in her future career.

Judy expresses her and our thanks for the very kind offers received for a small fridge for the Church Hall; such kind thoughts are always in the hearts of people around the parish.

Judy/Donald.

WOMENS INSTITUTE

BOUTH

Our Annual meeting was held in November and the usual scramble for the election of officers took place. Clearly the press gang was in good form as Elspeth Cooper was re-elected as President, Sue Smith as Secretary and Debbie Perry as Treasurer. Debbie had no chance as she was on holiday but isn't it good that these traditions continue to be upheld.

The 'Bea Smith' Rose Bowl for the most points gained from the monthly competitions was won by the intrepid Judy Redhead. The Christmas meeting on will be held on **Wednesday 8 December** and the following meeting on **Wednesday 12 January at 7.15pm.** when a representative from 'Hotter Shoes' will be giving a presentation.

Anon.



SPARKBRIDGE & LOWICK

Members and many visitors enjoyed a wonderful evening, when Andrew Lowe defied our gremlin and turned up to speak at the open meeting in October. Andrew showed some lovely slides of Cumbrian Churches, whilst explaining their architecture, age and reasons for them being built. The finishing touch to the evening was the delicious homemade biscuits served with the tea.

We do not have a December meeting, so our last meeting for this year will be the AGM on 23rd November, nominations were taken for committee members, and the same committee was all nominated to return; therefore we will not require a ballot. the **Christmas Dinner to be held at The Royal Oak, on Tuesday 7th December.**

Margaret



Cinema Club

The new screen, speakers and amplifier have arrived so we now have the best mobile cinema in Cumbria. To see and hear how good it is come to ***Shrek*, 4 December – 4.00pm – Colton, *Cold Mountain*, 7 December – 7.30pm. – Rusland, *Toy Story*, 15 January – Rusland.** Sadly the facilities at Oxen Park Reading room are inadequate so the ***Night of the Hunter*** will be shown at **Haverthwaite Church Hall on 4 January.**

To book seats and check times Tel: Carol McNeill 01229 861507.

Carol.

SCHOOL NEWS

CARTMEL PRIORY

The school term ends on Friday 17 December with a service in the Priory, the bad news is the new term starts on Thursday 6 January. On 3 December the school is being presented with the Sports Mark Gold award and for the third time. Congratulations to everybody concerned.

The Rural Academy is holding Science Master Class on 3/4/5 December at Brathay and students from the school will be taking part. On 8 December a music and dancing faith group, 'Hope Now', will be giving a concert for the students.

Anne.



LEVEN VALLEY

Our football teams, boys, girls, young and old, are going from strength to strength, recently being very successful at a tournament for small schools held at Cartmel to the disbelief of both children and trainers.

Miss Airey has given the school a beautiful silver cup which will be used as a trophy at our forthcoming swimming gala.

By the time you read this we shall be getting ready for Christmas and as always the school will be looking lovely for what is my personal favourite time of the year in school. Somehow we all remember something about Christmas when we recall our schooldays and it is time of great pleasure for pupils and staff.

A happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to you all from everyone at Leven Valley School.

Sue.

(Ed. You will find the school events on the next page.)



COLTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is working hard towards obtaining 'Quality Parish Council' status. Certain criteria must be met such as the Clerk having qualifications, having a web site, a dedicated newsletter and others, many of which have already been. The aim is to demonstrate that the Council has the right attributes and ability to take on an enhanced role.

Judith.

E V E N T S

Leven Valley School

Do come to our **Kristindle on Sunday 5 December at 2.30pm.** and also you are cordially invited to our **Christmas Service at St Anne's Church, Haverthwaite on Wednesday 15 December at 9.15am.**

Bouth Village Hall

We shall be holding our **Annual Bingo Evening in the Hall on Thursday 16 December at 7.30pm.** It is a jolly, relaxed and happy occasion with good prizes and an excellent raffle.

Bouth Village Green

Carols round the Green Christmas Tree on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm

Greenodd Village Hall

Are also holding a **Bingo Evening in their Hall on Wednesday 8 December 7.30pm** prompt start.

The Children's Society

Come **Carol Singing** in aid of the Society on **Monday 20 December starting at the Village Bakery, Greenodd at 7.00pm finishing at the Britannia at 8.30pm.** Bring a lantern, carol sheets provided. Contact Jill Briggs Tel: 01229 861 359 for information.

K Shoes Male Voice Choir

Are giving a concert in aid of the **Bendrigg Trust on Friday 10 December in St Mary's Church, Windermere, at 8.00pm.** Tickets £5.50 in advance, £6.50 on the door to include seasonal light refreshments. Ticket from Mrs Lambton Tel: 01229 862 089.

Volunteer Centre, South Lakeland

The centre acts as a focus and catalyst for **new volunteer and community groups** and aims to dismantle barriers to people participating in their local communities. The centre supports and recognises the gift of time by matching volunteers to opportunities. For more information contact Abigail Staveley, Strickland Gate House, Tel: 015395 742 636.

Services at Christmas

Carol Services

December 19th Penny Bridge 4:30pm

December 19th Colton 4:30pm

Christmas Eve

December 24th Penny Bridge 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Activity Service

December 24th Lowick 11:30pm

First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day

December 25th Colton 10:30am

Family Christmas Communion

(Bring along a Christmas Present to show to others)

St Stephen's Day

December 26th Penny Bridge 10:30am

Ecumenical Communion Service

DIARY DATES

- 4 December Cinema Club – Colton Church Hall – 4.00pm.
- 5 December Family Service - **10.30am.** Coffee etc afterwards.
Leven Valley School - Kriskindle – 2.30pm.
- 6 December Cinema Club – Rusland Parish room – 7.30pm.
- 7 December Sparkbridge & Lowick W I – Festive Dinner – Royal Oak.
- 8 December Bouth W I – Christmas Meeting.
Greenodd Village Hall Bingo – 7.30pm.
- 12 December Benefice Communion – **Colton – 10.30am.**
- 15 December Leven Valley School - Christmas Service – St. Anne's,
Haverthwaite 9.15am.
- 16 December Bouth Village Hall – Bingo – 7.30pm.
- 18 December **Decorating the church – 10.00am. >>**
- 19 December **Colton Carol Service – 4.30pm.**
- 20 December Greenodd Carols – 7.00pm – The Village Bakery.
- 21 December *Winter begins – Shortest day!*
- 24 December Carols on the Green – Bouth – 6.30pm.
First Christmas Communion – Lowick – 11.30pm.
- 25 December Christmas Day – Family Communion, Colton – 10.30am.**
- 26 December **St. Stephen** – Ecumenical Communion – Penny Bridge,
10.30am.
- 27 December **John the Apostle.**
- 28 December **The Holy Innocents.**



End Piece

Thanks are due to Lorraine & Terry of the Manor Oxen Park for providing the wonderful supper after the Young Farmers firework display on Wednesday 3 November.

Coffee Rota Colton - 5 December – Sue Dean + Helpers.

December Service Rotas

5th	Second Sunday of Advent		
St Luke	Lowick	9:30am Communion	
Holy Trinity	Colton	10:30am Morning Worship	
St Mary	Penny Bridge	11:00am Morning Worship	
Readings:	First Reading	Isaiah	11: 1-10
	Second Reading	Romans	15: 4-13
	Gospel	Matthew	3: 1-12
Readers:	Colton	A MacIver	J Tarr R Smith
	Lowick	A Naylor	& W Keegan
	Penny Bridge	R Long	J Lancaster C Styles
Sidesmen:	Colton	B Watson	& S King
	Lowick	E Phizacklea	
	Penny Bridge	C Dykes	& E Line
12th	Third Sunday of Advent		
St Luke	Lowick	10:30am Benefice Communion	
Readings:	First Reading	Isaiah	35: 1-10
	Second Reading	James	5: 7-10
	Gospel	Matthew	11: 2-11
Readers:		E Wemyss	D Wroe G Wemyss
Sidesmen:		W Keegan	& C Holden
St Luke	Lowick	3:30pm Christingle Service	
	No service at Colton and Penny Bridge		
19th	Fourth Sunday of Advent		
St Luke	Lowick	9:30am Communion	
Holy Trinity	Colton	4:30pm Carol Service	
St Mary	Penny Bridge	4:30pm Crake Valley Carol Service	
Readings:	First Reading	Isaiah	7:10-16
	Second Reading	Romans	1: 1-7
	Gospel	Matthew	1:18-25
Readers:	Colton	TBA	
	Lowick	G Mitchell	& F Inman
	Penny Bridge	TBA	
Sidesmen:	Colton	M Campbell	S Dean
	Lowick	A Wood	
24th	Christmas Eve		
St Mary	Penny Bridge	4:30pm Christmas Eve Activity Service	
St Luke	Lowick	11:30pm First Communion of Christmas	
25th	Christmas Day		
Holy Trinity	Colton	10:30am Family Communion Service	
26th	St Stephen		
St Mary	Penny Bridge	10:30am Ecumenical & Benefice Communion	
Readings:	First Reading	Acts	7:51-end
	Second Reading	Galatians	2:16b-20
	Gospel	Matthew	23:34-end
Readers:	Penny Bridge	A MacIver	G Jager C Styles
Sidesmen:	Penny Bridge	D Lancaster	& S King
	No service at Colton and Lowick		
Chancel Guild	Penny Bridge	S James	