



PARISH NEWS

Holy Trinity Church

COLTON

PASTORAL LETTER

Woodside Cottage
Colton
ULVERSTON
LA12 8HE

February 2014

Dear Friends

Most of us have had to write “difficult” letters in the past – when we just didn’t know what to write but knew we had to write something. This is just such a letter for me; because at the end of this month we are going to have to say “Goodbye” to Gary and Elizabeth and it has fallen to me to write this farewell letter for the Magazine.

Some of you have known Gary for a very long time, since he was licensed and inducted to the benefice of St Mary the Virgin in Penny Bridge and St Luke’s at Lowick on All Saints Day, November 1st 1990. Others of us only got to know him in the winter of 2001/2 when he took on the additional work of Holy Trinity in Colton.

All the time that he has been our priest he has worked quietly to give pastoral support to so many people, all of whom will miss his gentle, kind and thoughtful help in times of trouble as well as joy. I am sure that he would have difficulty counting up the number of couples who came to him for marriage and who subsequently brought their little children to him to be baptised, Sadly he will have buried some of their grandparents and parents too, always showing his attentive compassion to the bereaved families and helping them to express their feelings in a personal and unique funeral service.

Speaking for myself, the one thing that I am going to miss is his mastery of Liturgy! Gary can write a service for any occasion and I have reason to be very thankful to him for that, I have also learned a lot at his knee and hope that he will still be at the end of the phone if I need advice! (Please?)

Of course, having said our “goodbyes”, we shall be left facing an interregnum which can be a very difficult time for any benefice. As I see it we have two alternatives, the first is to weaken in our commitment to worship and service to the church because we no longer have someone at

the helm, or we can re-group and strengthen ourselves as a worshipping community that will be in good heart when someone is finally appointed to be our new priest, which might take quite a while.

In the meantime let me commend to you two passages from scripture that we might find helpful. The first is from the first chapter of a letter written by Jesus' brother James.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

The second is to be found in the Old Testament and is what God said to Joshua when Joshua found himself "in charge" after the death of Moses.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

So, dear friends, I hope that you will join me on **February 23rd** in the church at **Penny Bridge**, to say a formal Farewell to Gary and Elizabeth as Gary starts a new journey as a retiree. It goes without saying, really, that he will be sorely missed.

With best wishes from your sister-in-Christ

Joanna



FLOWER ROTA

25 January	Mrs. Margaret Sanders
2 February	Mrs. Margaret Sanders
8 February	Mrs Charlotte Sharphouse
15 February	Mrs Charlotte Sharphouse
22 February	Mrs. Pauline Parkin
2 March	Mrs. Pauline Parkin
9 March	LENT – No Flowers



Note: The Flower ladies of Colton Church are struggling and desperately need reinforcements. It is not all that onerous and we only need a couple of volunteers who would be prepared to do the Altar Flowers **once** a year. Please contact Susan Smith **T:** 0129 861 370.

COLTON CHRONICLES

Epiphany has come and gone and Lent approaches fast [*Wednesday 5 March*] so welcome to a new magazine year with the hope that the errors and omissions will be kept to a minimum: a reminder that the Parish News cannot exist without your help in coming forth with information otherwise it is left to this editor to 'guess' and you all know the results.

* 2014 started with a hiccup as the reader for the first reading for the first service of the year failed to turn up at the Lectern – the culprit – none other than the compiler of the Rota, one Donald Wroe, whose mind, apparently, was elsewhere. Sack cloth & ashes, again!

Joanna has, in her Pastoral Letter, paid a fine, fitting and wonderful tribute to Gary & Elizabeth, but as editor of this rag feel that I must add my two pennyworth. Over the last ten years Gary has been a present help in trouble, time and time again: his only 'failure' is that his valiant attempts to keep me on the straight & narrow have been less than successful. His sense of humour has always relieved my tension and on putting the phone down I am always smiling. Thank you kind sir!!

Judy writes "So we the parishioners will need to help a Christian presence alive in the parish requiring a lot of enthusiasm to make us believe that keeping the Church going is worthwhile. If anyone has been meaning to get up and go to church and hasn't then perhaps now may be the time to make the effort. It is an opportunity to have a quiet hour of contemplation, experience different thoughts and enjoy hymns and the organ playing."

Ed. Note: On Sunday 24 November 2013 the congregation consisted of five people. If that continues then Colton Church is doomed.

On Sunday 12 January the church was much fuller for a wonderful service when Hannah Milburn, who was in good voice, was baptised. The Millburn's are relatives of the Milburn family of Stock Farm, Bethcar. *Donald*

PARISH NEWS

Baby Tabatha is the first child to be born in Bouth for many a years but apparently not the first in this century; if this innocent error has caused any offence we are sorry. On a more positive note, considering the numerous acerbic comments that have been made on this issue, it is clear that the magazine is read.

For twenty years the lights on the Bouth Village Green Christmas Tree have shone bright and clear through Advent to Twelfth Night but of late the light has had trouble shining through the darkness until it was realised that electrical connexions need protecting from the elements. All then went well. Thank you.

It was a pleasant surprise to get a call from Alistair McIver enquiring how things were in the parish; both he and Pam are well although they have suffered more than we have with the weather. Your good wishes were passed on to them.

A communal Christmas card was received in the parish which, regrettably, has not been given much publicity. It came from Wendy Smith & her family expressing their good wishes, sending their love and saying how much they missed us all.

We have received what only can be described as a rant in defence of motorcyclists' use of our local woods, probably provoked by the idiotic action by those unknown of placing a tree, at neck height, across Dick's Road. We may not like the intrusion of motor vehicles disturbing our peace but that cannot excuse what can only be described as a criminal act.

Oxen Park Dog Club: The dog club has started again – **Tuesdays 5-6pm at Oxen Park Village Hall** (£2), spaces available. All dogs and owners of all ages welcome. Just come.

Donald.



BOUTH WOMENS INSTITUTE

Our January meeting was 'Open' meaning that the male of species in the village was under strict instructions to attend, but as the illustrated talk was about 'Windermere & Steam, given by Bill Kitchen, there were murmurs of appreciation as steam is not without its enthusiasts in Bouth. It was

fascinating to see how this great piece of water supported populations, livelihoods and landscapes over the centuries with steam accelerating the growth of tourism.

The amazing thing was the number of boats that had sunk, some several times, and been resurrected and restored. We were left wonder what else was at the bottom of the water but left under no illusions that it certainly wasn't a Sunderland Flying Boat. Sadly there was no news as to when the Steam Museum will reopen.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 12 February.7:15pm Bouth Village Hall** when Geraldine Braithwaite will give a talk on 'Brook Hospital for Animals. Looking ahead our **Spring Walk & Tea** will take place on **Saturday 3 May**.



COLTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Highways: Your Chairman and Clerk attended a Highways 'Meet and greet' event at the Barrow depot in December. We received an update on the status of County Highways from the new Area Engineer, Nick Raymond, and we also met with our 'Better Highways' Area team. Highways is still undergoing major restructuring, suffering resource cuts and under-staffing, pending recruitment. It was fully acknowledged that during this time, work had been very reactive, mainly responding to hotline reports, as opposed to maintenance schedules or the list of issues drawn up by Parish Councils. We (and others) expressed our strong concern about the false economy of not clearing drains or cutting back verges, resulting in costly damage to the road surface. We were reassured that once the structures and staff were in place, we would see a return to more Area Team visits and maintenance work.

Lengthsman: Meanwhile, our Lengthsman, Archie Workman continues to do great works on Colton's drains and verges. Contact the Clerk if you would like him to visit your patch. If you are able to check your local roadside drains and simply clear off the leaves with your boot, that can be a great help, and is immensely satisfying to see the water gurgle away (*OK – perhaps your Clerk should get out more!*). Archie has produced a 2014

'Lengthsman's Calendar!' - take a look at the website for some of the images from it – it includes the 'Rusland Slug'!

Broadband: Mike Postle continues to work hard on our behalves to try to ensure that Colton gets the best possible outcome from the 'Connecting Cumbria' project. We have been told that 70% of Colton's properties should get super-fast broadband sometime in 2015. The remaining properties are promised speeds of somewhere between 2mb/s and 24mb/s. There are ways in which the Parish Council may be able to help enable more properties to be connected to super-fast broadband. Watch this space and see Mike's blog at: postleorg.coffeecup.com/stream/

Our next meeting is on **Monday 17 February, 7.30pm in Finsthwaite Village Hall**

Mandy Lane (Clerk), T: 01229 861408, E: coltonpc@btinternet.com W: www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk



SCHOOL NEWS

Cartmel Priory

We have been short of news of late from Cartmel and have only recently discovered that this is because Head Teacher, Dr. Paul Williams, has been far from well and off school for some months. Thankfully is back to good health and we pray he stays that way.

News: 'Young Enterprise':

A group of 13 pupils at Cartmel Priory School have set up and are running their own business as part of the Young Enterprise Scheme. The students are all company directors of "Quirky" with two students taking on the roles of Managing Director and Administration and Finance Director.

Having attended a workshop in Barrow, the students had to devise their own business plan that included the development and sale their own products. The products they produced include CD clocks, Animation kits and Loyalty cards. These are available in school, but have also been sold to the public at the Young Enterprise Trade Fair in the Westmorland Shopping Centre.

The pupils did an amazing job at the Trade Fair selling over £200 of goods, and despite being in competition with 6th former pupils; they performed so well they were awarded the prize for the most innovative product. Our thanks go to Grange Rotary Club for their support of this scheme.
Dr Paul.



Leven Valley:

I always think it is a slightly difficult article to write in the January edition. It spans the end of one term and the beginning of another and Christmas seems so far away. However the term ended at Leven Valley with two wonderful Christmas productions: 'The Landlord's Cat' by Class One; the Guitar Group and Scrooge by Class Two. It also included a performance by the Guitar Group.

It was lovely to see children playing with such confidence and enthusiasm. Altogether it was a superb evening (and afternoon) with brilliant performances well supported by the PTA, parents, governors and friends.

As promised I am pleased to report that the Children in Need appeal had been well supported by the school. Everyone turned up in spotty-themed clothing, bringing cakes and some money to participate in games. Over £180 was raised for BBC Children in Need - one of our highest fundraising totals ever!

The New Year has begun with a great first couple of days with the children eager & raring to go! Topics being covered this term are 'Incredible Egyptians & Terrific Toys'. In addition there was great excitement when the new minibus arrived! Everyone is looking forward to getting out and about in it.
Sue Sanderson.



OXEN PARK CINEMA CLUB

Since all the media attention the Carthouse has been packed out so do remember to book! We are showing '*Rust & Bone*' **Tuesday 4 February 7:30pm. Carthouse** and on **Saturday 15 February**, '*Beasts of the Southern Wild*' a Supper Special.

Or next children's film will be shown at **Leven Valley School, Thursday 13 February. 3:45pm.**

Carol.



LEVEN VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP

The Group which supports St. Mary's Hospice is holding a gig on **Saturday 1 March, 7:30pm to 12 midnight, Greenodd Village Hall** when we are proud to present the band

RUSTY BULLETS

Music to suit all ages and all for **£7.50** which includes a Pie & Pea Supper and there is a licensed Bar! Tickets are limited – from: D Crabtree **T:** 015395 30132, S Chadwick 015395 31685 & M Wilson 015695 31779. *Dot.*



WINDERMERE REFLECTIONS

Windermere Reflections whose objective is to clean up the lake and adjoining watercourses has produced a film to encourage users of the lake to think 'Green'. It is called 'Greener Boating' and can be seen on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRWC-R57028>

If you would like a copy of the Greener Boater handbook contact Debbie **T:** 015394 34401 or email: debbie.binch@windermere-reflections.org.uk

There is also a campaign to ensure that unacceptable wastes are not discharged into lakes or watercourses especially phosphates, fats, food waste, oil & grease etc.

Debbie.



Legislation: How sad it is that in the 21st. Century that there should be a problem with slavery and that the government has needed to introduce a *Modern Slavery Bill* and have appointed an Anti-Slavery Commissioner. In the words of William Wilberforce in a speech to the House of Commons “You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know.”

On a lighter note slavery is how this editor feels on the 15th. of every month when starting to put the Parish News together. Talking of which, a *Defamation Act* has recently received approval meaning that writers can more easily castigate others without fear of legal retribution.

DIARY DATES

*** SERVICE TIMES: See the Rota***

- 2 February **‘Presentation of Christ to the Temple’ - Candlemas.**
Morning Worship – 9:30am.
- 4 February Cinema Club, Carthouse – 7:30pm.
Oxen Park Dog Club – Oxen Park Village Hall – 5:00pm.
- 9 February **Holy Communion – 9:30am.**
- 11 February Oxen Park Dog Club – Oxen Park Village Hall – 5:00pm.
- 12 February Bouth W I Village Hall – 7:15pm.
- 14 February St. Valentines. [There were three martyrs with this name]
- 15 February Cinema Club, Carthouse – 7:30pm. Supper Special.
- 16 February **Holy Communion – 9:30am.**
- 17 February Colton Parish Council Meeting – Finsthwaite Village Hall – 7:30pm.
- 18 February Oxen Park Dog Club – Oxen Park Village Hall – 5:00pm.
- 23 February **Farewell Service for the Revd. Canon Gary Wemyss & Elizabeth.**
Penny Bridge – 10:30am. See next page – The Rota.
- 25 February Oxen Park Dog Club – Oxen Park Village Hall – 5:00pm
- 1 March Leven Valley Support Group Gig – ‘Rusty Bullets’ – Greenodd Village Hall
7:30pm. to 12 midnight. Includes Supper of ‘Pie & Peas’
- 5 March **Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent.**



SOMETIMES

Sometimes things don’t go, after all,
From bad to worse. Some years, muscadel
Faces down frost: green thrives; the crops don’t fail,
Sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

Sometimes our best efforts do not go
Amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to,
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
That seemed hard frozen: may it happen to you.

Sheenagh Pugh.

