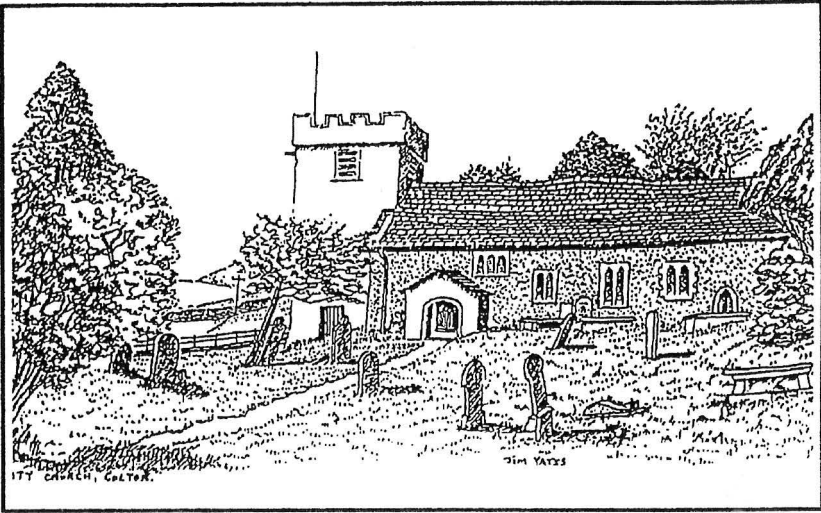




PARISH NEWS

Holy Trinity Church

COLTON

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH COLTON

The Church is part of a United Benefice comprising Holy Trinity, Colton,
St. Luke's, Lowick and St. Mary's the Virgin, Penny Bridge

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PASTORAL LETTER

Sunny Brae
Greenodd
ULVERSTON
LA12 7RG

December 2021

Dear Friends

Why are we here – what is our purpose? Perhaps a silly question, for we exist because most of us were desired, and our birth was hopefully a truly joyful gift to the family. But what can we make of life and what is our future?

Christmas is about Incarnation – the Divine taking human flesh and being born among us. Christ's coming is the answer to the biggest questions of life. *'Why are we here, what happens when I die?'* Add to those questions how we find forgiveness, reconciliation and hope for creation? The list is long, the answer is short.

Christ's coming is all about the Divine who is creative love, earthing His Being in the womb of Mary, becoming One with us, becoming human. He did so to show love, teach love and die for love. Dostoevsky wrote, *'I believe there is no one deeper, lovelier, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus'*.

No intelligent historian doubts the life of Jesus of Nazareth, yet not all accept the claims of Scripture that Jesus is Incarnate Son of God.

The famous Oxford professor and writer, CS Lewis, in his middle years, gave up atheism and came to believe that Jesus was and is the Son of God. He famously wrote:

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

To know Jesus, is to know God, to know God is know who we are, why we are here, and where we are going!

The Church exists to help us know and worship the one true God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We cannot do this in isolation, Christ came to restore our relationship with the Creator God, to be part of His family. Christmas is a family celebration of life and hope. The crib is only the beginning – it foreshadows the Cross. We can find true meaning in Jesus Christ, and we need each other in that quest.

Covid has hit hard, some are still reluctant to meet as a group, but it's important that we are not hobbled by fear. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews writing in the mid first century wrote:

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (10:25).

For each of us, a day is approaching, we need direction. For Christians Jesus is the ‘Way, the Truth, the Life’.

Christina Rossetti said it all succinctly in her carol:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Wishing you a Christmas full of hope and expectancy

David Bickersteth



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Colton: Carol Service Sunday 19 December, 3:00pm

Christmas Day, Holy Communion, 9:30am

Lowick: Holy Communion, Christmas Day, 10:30am

Penny Bridge: Holy Communion, Christmas Eve, 11:00pm



COLTON CHRONICLES

The End: Sadly, very sadly this is the last edition of the Colton Parish News. It is the 250th.edition I have edited over 25 years added to which I will be 95 in December and there is no successor.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the contributors, for without them there would not be a magazine and also, to you, the readers for your tolerance. And not forgetting HSP Milners, the printers, for the superb job and help over so many years especially Managing Director, George Coulter who has always been a present help in trouble.
Donald.



The November PCC was its normal routine ensuring the smooth running of the church, but **importantly** there will be a change in Church Service times. As from the **First of January Service will start at 10:00am repeat 10:00am!!!!**



Remembrance: A Remembrance Ceremony was held on Bouth Village Green on the 11Th. the weather was kind and it was well attended. Thanks are due to those who turned up, those who took part and those who organised. Thank you.



PARISH NEWS

Oxen Park: The Manor pub will be open in December and should be the first week in January, but after that will be closed for kitchen refurbishment.



Cinema Club: The December films are 'Minari' Sunday 5 December & 'Sound of Metal' Tuesday 14 & Sunday 19 December. Followed in January with 'The Mauritanian' Tuesday 4 & Sunday 9 January. 'The Perfect Candidate' Tuesday 18 & Sunday 23 January.

Bookings taken now. Contact Carol E: crimcneill@gmail.com.

Bouth: The residents enjoyed a delightful Pie & Pea lunch courtesy of the Eric Wright Trust where the plans for the Village Hall Development were on show and a detailed explanation of the proposals was given. What was not mentioned is that the hall is 100 years old.



After a long protracted illness, 81year old Mrs. Ruth Buchannon wife of Arthur, Black Beck Farm, died, peacefully. We send our prayers and condolences to Arthur and the family.



RUSLAND HORIZONS

Following a short lull in events while the Rusland Horizons team did some long-term planning, including working on funding applications to support our activities, we are ready to spring back into action and are busy setting up a calendar of events and activities to keep us all active through the winter months! Here's a taster of some of our forthcoming events.

Dry stone walling with Jim Doherty: There are two dates planned, Sunday 31st October and Saturday 20th November. Both events will be held at Abbot Park Farm, above Bandrake Head. Whether you're an experienced waller or would like to try this traditional skill for the first time, this is a great hands-on event led by the very experienced Jim Doherty - full time dry stone waller. Our walls are such a treasured part of our landscape, and there is nothing more satisfying than standing back and admiring a section you have helped to restore.

Hedgerow Planting: We will be helping to plant a completely new line of hedgerow up at Thwaite Head in November. This is exciting for any number of reasons including helping with local biodiversity and providing a new, safe habitat for our native species. It will also be great fun to learn about the different native species chosen to plant, including taking into account climate change challenges and finding out how the hedge will be maintained until it is mature enough for traditional hedge laying.

Polytunnel work Party: Our polytunnel will remain in storage for a short while longer until we are able to establish it at one of two possible earmarked sites. However, so as not to miss the current seasonal

opportunity, we are delighted that Tony Woods, at Abbots Reading, has kindly offered to let us use an existing polytunnel at his farm.

There is some work to be done to get the polytunnel fit for purpose. We therefore will be holding a work party to help with clearing out of the polytunnel, mainly of brambles, before being able to put it to good use for some wildflower cultivation and growing of saplings.

Final work party date is still to be confirmed but we will likely be looking for up to four volunteers to join us towards the end of October. Keep checking our website, social media and newsletter for updates.

The Photo Competition and 2022 Calendar: By the time you read this, the winning photograph will have been announced and those making up the remaining eleven months will also have been chosen from among the 90 entries received. Don't forget to order your calendar (and one for your friends!).

The Rusland Horizons Christmas Bash! Leaving the best until last! The most important date for your diary is the Rusland Horizons Christmas bash! This will be held on Sunday 12 December, and everyone is welcome. Details and activities are still being worked on, but we will share plans once they are finalised. As always, it will be the perfect way to get you and your family feeling festive and start your Christmas celebrations.

For the latest updates and details of these events, and all others, please keep checking our 'What's On' page on our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

For any enquiries including volunteering opportunities to help support the Trust's activities, please contact hello@ruslandhorizonstrust.org

Website - www.ruslandhorizons.org



"The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth. One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth."

Mrs Dorothy Frances Gurney

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Lengthsman, Archie Workman, continues his hard work which mainly involves digging out drains and clearing floods in the autumn/winter months. I am sure he would appreciate a cheery wave if you see him wielding his shovel whilst working in the Parish and this would be better received than the drenching that some drivers think is funny to administer when passing him on the road! Keep up the good work Archie and keep smiling even though you are mostly cold and wet at this time of year!

A presentation on the use (misuse) of local green lanes was given to the Parish Council meeting in October which was most illuminating and Councillors were made aware of how different National Parks view the increased use of off-road vehicles on smaller roads. If you have any views on the subject and wish to learn more, please contact Lake District Green Lanes Alliance on www.ldgla.org

The successful application from the “Greening the Highways” Fund moves onto the next stages and the Parish Council are currently tendering for an organisation or individual to undertake project work on three main sites adjacent to minor roads, footpaths or bridleways in the Parish. The activities will include work such as clearing, wildflower seeding, planting and erecting protective fencing/signage. Please contact Cllrs Abigail Bennett, Bob Henson or Marion Brown if you have any suggestions on where this work might be focussed on.

The Community Plan review is about to start and Councillors are meeting in November to assess progress against the last plan, devised in 2015, and to update it with what is important to people in Colton in 2021 and beyond. The Parish Council would love to hear your views on what should be included and you can obtain a copy of the 2015 version by contacting the Parish Clerk on clerk@coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

The Parish Council hope to see increased numbers of members of the public at Parish Council meetings and greater joint working on environmental and “green” matters. To launch this there was a “Green

Sparks” afternoon, held at Spark Bridge village hall in September. About 50 people from around the Crake and Rusland Valleys came along to share their ideas about how we can encourage sustainability, lower our carbon footprints, protect our environment and care for the natural world.

There were lots of ideas generated on the Ideas Tree and the plan is now to grow a network of people who want to work together locally to tackle the issues of climate change, sustainability and nature recovery. They intend to support local community action such as litter picking, bio-diversity mapping, community swap shops and the orchard project to name but a few ideas!

Green Sparks was started by keen parishioners in Spark Bridge and Bouth and they are keen to work with anyone in the local area who is interested in environmental issues and community-based solutions. If you would like to join the email list, please get in touch on greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com

Last but not least there is still a vacancy on the Parish Council for a Councillor to represent central ward (Bouth and Rusland Valley) so please don't be shy and let us know whether there are any budding councillors out there wishing to get involved via email at clerk@coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7pm in Bouth Village Hall (Chair's Surgery at 6.30), feel free to come along and learn more about your local community!

With best wishes from Julie Hendry, Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for Colton Parish



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

My energy supplier recently went under and the new tariff I've been put on is far more than I used to pay. I've heard energy prices are set to rise further and I'm just not sure I can afford it. What help can I

get or small changes can I make around my house to help save some money this winter?

The cost of energy is very high at the moment and it's causing many people to worry. Normally we would suggest switching to a better deal, but the situation is very difficult at the moment and there aren't a lot of good deals out there. However, there are still other small ways you can keep your bills down.

Little everyday things can help, such as making sure televisions and other electronic devices are switched off and not left on standby; washing clothes on a lower temperature; and only filling the kettle with the water you need.

Turning down your main thermostat by 1 degree can save you around £60 on your energy bill. And by spending one minute less in the shower each day, a family of four could save £75 a year on energy and water bills. The Government's [Simple Energy Advice](#) website has more tips like this.

Another way of cutting costs in the long-run is to invest in good insulation if you can afford to. If you're renting, ask your landlord to do this.

You may be able to get financial support to help insulate your home under the [Energy Company Obligation](#) scheme. Contact your energy supplier for more information. If you're in a household that's not connected to the gas grid you may also be able to receive help under the Home Upgrade Grant scheme through your local authority.

There's some financial support available for paying your energy bills, depending on your situation. For example, if you're a pensioner with a low income or receive Universal Credit or other means-tested benefits, you may be entitled to the Warm Home Discount. This gives you £140 a year to go towards your bills. Check the [Government website](#) to find out if you can claim it.

The Government recently announced a £500m fund to support households this winter so keep a look out for announcements about how this could help you. Remember you can always call South Lakes Citizens Advice on 015394 46464 for free advice about your energy costs and staying warm this winter.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice on any aspect of debt, consumer problems, benefits, housing, employment or any other problems.

South Lakes Citizens Advice, your local charity, is here for you.

How to access:

- *Call 015394 46464 - this is being staffed from 9:30 – 2pm*
- *Adviceline: 0808 2787 984*



CHRISTMAS EVE

We are delighted to announce that there will be 'Carols Round the Tree', Christmas Eve, Bouth Village Green **6:00pm**.



BOUTH WOMENS INSTITUTE

Our latest meeting was a delight, more Gin Night than a meeting as our speakers from the Shed 1 distillery, Ulverston were entertaining and interesting made us relaxed with free samples of their product.

Our Christmas party will be held on **Wednesday, 8 December** but due to the pandemic with a limited number of people.



CHILDREN IN DISTRESS

We Have been asked to remind you to donate 5ps or more to this Charity – Greenodd Village Store. (Caroline Lambert, Torwood, Greenodd)

In Colton Churchyard (1)

The old gravestones lean,
Crusted with lichen;
It's so hard to see the names
But there they are,
So many in a family
That died so young.
Around these tombstones
Bushes of yew and box
Sigh in the soft wind.
I can feel the past
Surge around me from
The hidden, distant years.
Groups walk up the path,
Countrywomen, bonneted and shawled,
Little feet trample the gravel.
Small faces pinched with the cold
Swarm up to the porch,
To shelter and fellowship.
Still in the quiet emptiness
I stand alone
And hear the crunch of boots,
The childish voices,
The rough greetings
Carrying on the breeze.
They were held within their time
To this, their one locality,
Parochial in Trust sense,
Now we are travellers,
Witnesses to everywhere,
Parishioners of the world

Jean Sly

“FAREWELL”

Daw/Pmag 238/Dec2021