

Parish Life

The Magazine of Holy Trinity Parish Church Kendal

December 2017 & January 2018



40p

Parish Directory

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From The Vicarage ...

Dear Friends,

‘Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by ...’

There have been few reactions to my magazine letters like that to my confession some years ago that I don’t like *Away in a Manger!* I’m glad that so many people do like it and, of course, we will probably have it at almost all our carol services this year.

However, I want to return to carols again this year. The quotation above is from that wonderful carol, *Once in Royal David’s City*, which starts the annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. But is this line true? I don’t mean in the sense of, “did it happen?” Rather, I mean, is it a proper depiction of the nativity at all? Victorian carols have given us a rather magical picture of Mary and Joseph, refused entry by the heartless innkeepers of Bethlehem, bedding down in a solitary stable with only oxen and donkeys for company. The Son of God born as an outcast in the most squalid of conditions.

Have you ever wondered, though, how it got to this position? What sort of expectant father was Joseph, that he should forget to make proper provision for his pregnant wife? And what sort of community was Bethlehem that they should put a woman in labour in a cattle shed, a draughty stable with an open door?

Good questions. The real picture, though, is very different and much more interesting.

A number of things do not ring true about our modern western nativity scene. Joseph would never have placed his wife in such a position. Arriving in Bethlehem, from where his family came, Joseph would never have been turned away. He would only have had to establish the remotest link with someone in the village and he would have been welcomed into the house. Certainly, coming from the line and family of King David, he would have been ushered in,

“for the sake of David”. It would have been a source of great dishonour to have turned this little family away at the door. It simply wouldn’t have happened.

The source of our problem comes from the translation of the word ‘inn’. The word used in the gospels does not mean ‘inn’, in the sense of a hotel or hired room, but rather means a guest room. All houses would have had an area for visiting family. It is this area that was either already occupied by other visiting relatives who had arrived earlier, or was simply too small to give birth in.

Houses in Palestine were what we might call today, ‘open plan’! This is why Jesus talks about a lamp giving light to the whole house. The occupants even shared their space at one end with livestock. This provided protection for the animals and heat for the humans. The area for the animals was slightly lower than the floor of the rest of the house and there were indents in the raised part of the floor for their food. These were the mangers.

Mary and Joseph were ushered in by their family, brought into the family space and, when Mary gave birth, her child was placed in the nearest and warmest place. That is, the straw-filled manger within the family home. The son of God was born into a normal peasant family and given warmth and love in their home.

Of course, it’s difficult to overcome all the magical images that we have been brought up with but, far from the solitary stable away from the warmth and companionship of the village, Jesus was born into a family. It was here that the shepherds, those genuine outcasts, came to see him after God chose them as the first outsiders to hear of the wonderful birth of the saviour.

We often compare Jesus’ simple birth with that of a royal house or hall, that somehow Jesus’ birth is more normal as a result. Yet our current picture still makes his birth strange and other worldly. It is still distant from most human experience. The reality is that this baby was welcomed into a family. A poor and simple one, yes, but not a strange one. The Son of God was born into a family much like any one of us. He was, indeed, not born into the palace one might expect for the King of Kings, but instead God ‘exalted the

humble and meek' Mary and Joseph. The love of God for humanity was such that he chose to be born into one of their families.

Whilst this is quite a different picture, the question remains as to whether we are willing to welcome him in, just as his family did all those years ago in Bethlehem.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Rob

PS. Kenneth E Bailey's book, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*, is an excellent, scholarly and very readable book which explains much of the culture and context of Jesus' life and teaching.

Services in December

Please note that there will be no Evensong on 3 December or on Christmas Eve. This is because we will be holding our annual Christingle Service at 4pm on 3 December, and our Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

Both of these services are wonderful events to come to, and to invite your friends and family along to. As well as these services, our Advent Procession at 6pm on 3 December, and Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm on 17 December are also very special and meaningful events.

Moving Mountains

Moving Mountains is an opportunity for us as churches working together across Cumbria to unite in locally organised mission,

outreach and evangelism. From 8 to 11 March 2018 we will be joined by teams led by Methodist District Chairs, URC Moderators, Bishops (drawn together by Archbishop Sentamu from the Northern Province) and Salvation Army District Commanders. There will be about 30–35 such teams visiting the county composed of a mix of lay people, youth



workers, ordinands and clergy.

A number of events have been planned by Kendal churches, with lots to come along to and bring friends to. We will be advertising these events when they are finalised.

Please pray for Moving Mountains and look out for more information after Christmas.

Prayer Morning

We are hosting a morning workshop with Canon Cameron Butland, Diocesan Spirituality Adviser, on Saturday, 3 February 2018, entitled, 'Why Pray?'. The morning, held in the vestry, starts at 10am, and finishes at 12:30pm. Cameron says, "I am looking forward to being with you all in Kendal Parish church. The morning workshop is for all those who wish to know more about praying. There will be some brief talks, opportunities to experience some 'tasters' of different forms of prayer and to reflect upon our own prayer life. The morning is not meant for 'experts' but is an open time for everyone to explore prayer in their own way. The morning will include information about resources which are available locally and online." For more information, please contact either Dick Forsyth or Rob Saner-Haigh.

Thank you, David

After six years, David Brown is stepping down as typesetter for the magazine. Although each edition of the magazine is edited by a different person, it is always David who takes the articles and sets them out ready for printing. Thank you, David, for all your hard work over the past years.

Magazine editor

David's departure means that it is even more important to find someone who can edit and produce the magazine. This was highlighted earlier this year. The magazine is an important source of news and connection for many people, especially those who can no longer attend regularly. It is vital that we find someone very soon to do this important work. Please can you help? If so, please contact Rob as soon as possible.

Christmas Greetings from the Churchwardens

The Churchwardens wish to record their thanks to everyone who has helped in any way with the running of the Parish Church and with its life and witness during the past year.

They extend best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all readers of the magazine. May the peace that the angels proclaimed, and the joy that the shepherds shared, be yours at this time.

Dave A, David D, Sarah J and David R

Carol Singing In Residential Homes

It has been tradition to arrange carol singing in many of the residential homes to which we minister in the lead up to Christmas. This has always been much appreciated by both staff and residents, many of whom are suffering from the effects of dementia but are still able to recognise the familiarity of carols and therefore join in the singing. Limited space in some of these homes makes it difficult to organise but we have arranged carol singing at the following ones on the dates and times shown:

Heron Hill	– Tuesday, 19 December at 11am
Stonecross	– Wednesday, 13 December at 11am
Summerhill	– Monday, 18 December at 11:15am
Riverside	– Wednesday, 20 December at 11am

It would be lovely to have a good number of singers at each of these homes to share in this important and valued outreach to our community.

If you would like to join us please add your name to the sign up sheet which is on the Wardens' Table. If you have any queries please speak to Ashley or Mary.

Clergy Surgery and seeing Clergy

It sometimes isn't easy to catch one of the clergy on Sundays, and sometimes people worry that a particular question or issue doesn't merit a special visit or appointment. Every Tuesday morning (except August),

there is a 'Clergy Surgery' in the Church Office. Please do drop in if there is anything you would like to talk about.

We are also keen to know when you or someone else needs a visit or would like to talk. Whilst the Clergy Surgery is a regular slot in the church diary, we are always happy to visit or to arrange a time to meet. Please do be in touch if you would like this.

Prayer Ministry

Each week, after both the 9:30am Parish Communion and 11:00am Gathering services, prayers for wholeness and healing are offered by a dedicated team from the church. If you would like prayer for anything, please do find them after the service. After the 9:30am service they are in the Parr Chapel, and after 11:00am they are in the Bellingham Chapel.

The prayers are for healing and wholeness, so they do not necessarily have to be for a health issue. They can be for anything that is worrying you or weighing on you. You do not have to tell the team the issue you want to pray for, as they will be happy to simply pray with you if that is what you wish. You can also pray for someone else.

One of the most important things which a church community can offer is prayer, and all are welcome to ask for it.

Well Done and Thank You!

The total so far from the efforts of so many people together with donations totalled £4925.50. This, together with the results of the Summer Gala, resulted in a grand total of £5700 raised during 2017. This does not include other valuable efforts, so Well Done and a Big Thank you to all those who have been involved.

David D.

6th Annual Charities Christmas Tree Fest

at Kendal Parish Church
Come and support your
local charities and
organisations



Opening times:

Fridays, 8 & 15 December	— 3:30–5:30pm
Friday, 22 December	— 1:00–5:30pm
Saturdays, 9, 16 & 23 December	— 11:00am–4:00pm
Sunday, 17 December	— 2:00–4:00pm

Entry £1, children free

homemade refreshments available during the Fest

Concerts

Saturday, 9 December — The Young'uns ('Best Group' at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Award in 2015 & 2016)

Sunday, 10 December — Kendal Choral Society

Saturday, 16 December — Burneside & Sedbergh Youth Brass Bands

60 Years

Change is necessary in life, but most of us are resistant to change. When the English Prayer Book was first used at the time of the Reformation, there were riots in the West Country!

Three years before I was born, a revised prayer book was put before parliament. It was rejected by Parliament. I believe it was due to the fact that many of the changes in the Communion service had come from the Catholic wing of the Church of England. It is known as the 1928 Prayer Book. The Bishops gave permission for its use although technically it was illegal. Small changes were introduced into the Communion service, but the main changes were the new marriage and funeral services. People recognised the need for change. This was the version I was brought up with and used as a young vicar.

Over the years there was a great deal of liturgical scholarship and people of all denominations were coming to a common mind. They were looking at the pattern of worship in the early years of the church long before the controversies of the Reformation. In the 1960s there was a series of experimental services – known as Series 1, Series 2 and Series 3. I once joked to a friend that I was taking out an insurance against Series 4!

In the early 1980s The Alternative Service Book was introduced. Strangely enough it didn't seem to work and they went back to the drawing board. In 2000 Common Worship was published. Michael Perham was a leading liturgical scholar and I heard him give a talk on Common Worship. He said that it deliberately reflected the wide variety of worship in the Church of England.

In it you will find the Prayer Book Communion Service, and Morning and Evening Prayer. There is the Revised Communion Service which we use at 9:30 and there is provision for a more informal service which we use at The Gathering. I particularly like the translation of the Psalms.

Chaplains in the armed forces in the First World War

realised how out of touch the church was for many of the soldiers. From this sort of pastoral situation change comes. We need to reach out to people where they are. Cathedrals have always put on special services for visiting organisations. Parish Churches have also done the same. Our Dementia Service is part of a long and worthy tradition.

This is not to deny the beauty of the old or to prevent its use. I love taking the Prayer Book services but the revised Communion goes back to an earlier structure and I am happy with that. I also enjoy special services which meet the needs of people.

So I have lived through all this and have survived to tell the tale!

Michael Thistlewood

Natland Young at Heart Social Group for older residents will next meet on Monday, 11 December at Natland Village Hall at 1:45pm when they will be



making Christmas table decorations. If you would like to go along for an afternoon of tea, chat and good company please get in touch. In January they will be meeting on 8 January when they will be having a talk on how to prevent falls and how to stay safe and steady in our homes when we are out and about.

NEW Over 50s Walking Rugby! No running, no tackling just walking!

Walking Rugby is a simplified version of Rugby, suitable for all abilities and genders, for ex Rugby players and those interested in Rugby without any experience! Come along to our taster sessions at Kendal Rugby Club, Shap Road on Wednesday, 10, 17, 24 & 31 January, 2–3pm. If it proves to be popular, we hope to make it a weekly session. £2.50 per session, which will also include a hot drink in the lounge bar afterwards.

Over 50s Walking Netball. New fortnightly sessions starting on Tuesday, 23 January at Kendal Leisure Centre

3:30pm–4:30pm. Walking Netball is a slower version of the game; it is netball, but at a walking pace. The game has been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. Have fun, make new friends and keep fit for only £2! To register your interest call Age UK on 01539 728118.

Gentle Exercise Class at the Gateway Centre on Gillinggate every Thursday at 10:30am. It is a fun class, predominantly chair based lasting for about 45 mins followed by tea and chat. Come and give it a go! The last class before Christmas will be on 21 December and will restart on 4 January.

Enjoy playing football? Try our **Walking Football Group** for the over 60s at Kendal Leisure Centre, which meets fortnightly on Tuesdays 3:30–4:30pm (5 and 19 December and 16 and 30 January). Ring Age UK for more information. Have fun, make new friends and keep fit for only £2!

... and much more!

To find out about any of the above or any other services which Age UK South Lakeland can offer older people, or if you would like to volunteer for us, please call us on 01539 728118.

Advent Course: Welcoming Christ the Stranger ...

on Wednesdays throughout Advent at Church House, Penrith.

Join us across the county as we celebrate Advent and reflect on the central role hospitality plays in our shared life; how hospitality underpins our mission, our ministry to one another and the way we build community. Our celebrations and reflections unfold over the course of four sessions. There will be worship, bite-size talks on the theme by Karl Möller and the opportunity to discuss, share, apply and explore the material with each other. You can either come along to the sessions in Penrith or download the materials from our website that will enable you to run the course in your own faith communities.

Sunday Services — December 2017

Sunday, 3 December – First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (BCP)
11:00am The Gathering, with Communion
4:00pm Christingle
6:00pm Advent Service “Darkness to Light”

Sunday, 10 December – Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (CW)
11:00am The Gathering
1:00pm Holy Baptism
2:00pm Kentdale Scouts Carol Service
4:00pm Said Evening Prayer (BCP)

Sunday, 17 December – Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (CW)
11:00am The Gathering, with Communion
4:00pm Evensong (BCP)
6:00pm Festival of the Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 24 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)

- 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (CW)
11:00am The Gathering
4:00pm Crib Service
11:15pm Midnight Communion (CW)

Monday 25 December – Christmas Day

- 9:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10:30am Parish Communion (CW)

Sunday Services – Dec 2017 / Jan 2018

Sunday, 31 December – First Sunday of Christmas

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (CW)
11:00am The Gathering
4:00pm Evensong (BCP)

Sunday, 7 January – Epiphany

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Choral Communion (BCP)
11:00am The Gathering, with Communion
1:00pm Holy Baptism
2:00pm Holy Baptism
4:00pm Said Evening Prayer (BCP)
6:00pm Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday, 14 January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (CW)
11:00am The Gathering
4:00pm Evensong (BCP)

Sunday, 21 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (CW)
11:00am The Gathering, with Communion
1:00pm Holy Baptism
2:00pm Holy Baptism
4:00pm Evensong (BCP)

Sunday, 28 January – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (CW)
11:00am The Gathering
4:00pm Evensong (BCP)

From The Registers

Baptisms

5 November Spencer Roe
19 November Willow Helen Major.

Wedding Blessing

21 October George Needham and Holly Johnson.

Funerals

31 October Mark Lambert
1 November Sylvia Gardner
2 November Doreen Ferguson.

Book of Remembrance

The following names have been inscribed in the Book of Remembrance:

- Sarah Agnes Cummings (16 October)
- Mervyn John Dixon (20 February)
- Mick Greenwood (16 December)
- Norman James Hunter (13 December)
- Ann Roddis (23 April).

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Worship

Holy Communion (BCP)		8:00am
Parish Communion		9:30am
(Common Worship, except BCP on most first Sundays)		
The Gathering		11:00am
(with Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)		
Evensong		4:00pm
Mid Week		
Morning Prayer	Tuesday, Thursday	9:00am
Morning Prayer	Wednesday	10:00am
Meditation	Tuesday	10:00am
Holy Communion (BCP)	Thursday	10:30am
Kendal Tea Service (Dementia Friendly)		
	3rd Thursday	2:30pm
(Saints' Days and Holy Days as announced)		

