

Parish Church of
St. John the Evangelist
Washington Street, Workington



January 2017

Price 50

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Priest in Charge

The Revd Canon Professor Robert Hannaford
The Vicarage Thorncroft Gardens Workington Tel: 01900 61582

The Church Wardens

Mr. D. J. Pearson Tel: 01900 605907 / 07849254190

Mr. N. Glaister Tel: 01900 64639

Officers of the Parochial Church Council

Chairman: Priest in Charge Vice-Chairman: Mrs. P. Evans

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. U. Mitchell – Tel: 01900 871522

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. M. Rose – Tel: 01900 268312

Electoral Roll Officer: Mr. M. Layfield – Tel: 01900 601932

Stewardship (Parochial Giving Scheme)

Chairman: To be confirmed Recorder: Mrs. J. Cowin

Organist: Mr. E. Holmes Sacristan: Mr. W. I. Borthwick

Dementia Enabler: Mrs B Layfield 01900 601932 / 07916323660
brenda@thelayfields.plus.com

Holy Baptisms: Mrs B Layfield 01900 601932 / 07916323660
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Church Website : www.stjohnsworkington.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

Sundays: Eucharist 8.00am

Sung Eucharist 10.00am

Junior Church 10.00am

Holy Baptism 4th Sunday 10.00am

Weekdays: Wednesday: Eucharist 11.00am

The Daily offices and additional celebrations of the Eucharist
according to notice given.

Notice of Banns and Marriage to be given to the Priest in Charge.
The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in Church and the Clergy are able to
take the Eucharist to the sick.

From the Vicarage.....

Given the lead in time for producing our magazine I am writing this piece in the third week of Advent with the imminence of the Christmas season very much in mind. The great themes of Advent – the coming of God, in the nativity of His Son and, in the final return of Christ in glory – draw us into the heart of the deep mystery of God’s love for us. God made us for Himself – and as the great St Augustine put it, we are restless until we find our rest in Him. The whole of the Bible speaks of God’s desire to draw us ever more closely into love and fellowship with Him: the Christmas season unfolds the fulfilment of the divine desire in the incarnation of the Son.

The early part of January sees the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. This Feast is rightly associated particularly with the visit of the Maggi, or Wise Men, to worship the Infant Christ. *Epiphany* is a Greek term which means something like ‘manifestation’ or ‘revelation’. This reminds us that the birth of the saviour is above all the manifestation or revelation in this world of the glory and the truth of God shown to us in the infant of Bethlehem. It is this wonder which drew the Wise Men to travel so far in order to worship at His feet.

Each year at Christmastide and Epiphany I struggle to find words adequate to proclaim the utter wonder of God’s love revealed in the birth of His Son. While reading the Divine Office during Advent I came across this wonderful poem by the 16th Century English Jesuit priest, martyr and poet, St Robert Southwell. St Robert was hung, drawn and quartered by the Elizabethan authorities on the 21st February 1595, ostensibly for treason, but in reality simply for carrying out his mission to administer the sacraments to those Catholics remaining in post-Reformation England (a much greater number than is popularly believed to be so). He is listed as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, and was canonised as such (along with Saint Edmund Campion, Saint Margaret Clitherow, etc) by Pope Paul VI in 1970. His poem bears careful reflection and meditation.

THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Behold the father is his daughter's
son,
The bird that built the nest is
hatched therein,
The old of years an hour hath not
outrun,
Eternal life to live doth now
begin,
The Word is dumb, the mirth of
heaven doth weep,
Might feeble is, and force doth
faintly creep.

O dying souls, behold your living
spring;
O dazzled eyes, behold your sun of
grace;
Dull ears, attend what word this
Word doth bring;
Up, heavy hearts, with joy your joy
embrace.
From death, from dark, from
deafness, from despairs
This life, this light, this Word, this
joy repairs.

Gift better than himself God doth
not know;
Gift better than his God no man
can see.
This gift doth here the giver given
bestow;
Gift to this gift let each receiver
be.
God is my gift, himself he freely
gave me;
God's gift am I, and none but God
shall have me.

Man altered was by sin from man
to beast;
Beast's food is hay, hay is all
mortal flesh.
Now God is flesh and lies in
manger pressed
As hay, the brutest sinner to
refresh.
O happy field wherein that fodder
grew,
Whose taste doth us from beasts to
men renew.

There is so much truth in this. As we begin a new calendar year, I encourage you particularly to reflect on the third verse. Southwell reminds us that in the birth of Jesus God is the giver who gives us the gift of Himself: 'God is my gift, himself he freely gave me'. There is no greater gift than this. To receive this gift fully and completely is to give ourselves wholly and utterly as gift to God. Let this be our prayer and desire as the old year turns into new.

Fr Robert

BAPTISMS

“We welcome them into the Lords Family”

- 27th November Kylan John Mitchell Smith of 49 Gray Street,
 Theo Edward Wilson of 58 Harrington Road
 Max Robert Askey of 2 Abbey Close
- 18th December Max James Norman of 27 Oak Drive, Stainburn

FUNERAL

“Rest eternal, grant unto her, O Lord”

- 8th December Norma Hardy of 18 Ashfield Gardens, aged 79

FABRIC FUND

Loving memories of Helen Yates from Ken, Jill, David & families; Birthday memories of Helen from Pam & Colin Stuart; In loving memory of my parents, William Robinson (15th May 1995) and Jane Robinson (20th December 1996) and also my dear sister, Joyce Scott (13th April 2011) from Olga Hayhoe & family; Treasured memories of Jane Robinson (20th December) from Jimmy Scott & family; In memory of loved ones from Kath Pearson;

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Loving memories of our parents & grandmother from John and Jean Taylor & family; Fond memories of Les & Edith Jones from John and Jean Taylor & family; Loving memories at Christmas of a dear sister & auntie, Marjorie Fee, from Olive & family;

JOURNEY OF LIFE

Let us be contented with what has happened to us and be thankful for all we have been spared.

Let us treasure our joys but not bewail our sorrows.

The glory of light cannot exist without its shadows.

Life is a whole, and good and ill must be accepted together.

Winston Churchill

(Thank you Penny Elias for this quote)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Uniformed Organisations: Monday: Explorer Scouts 7.00pm
Tuesday: Rainbows 4.45pm
Brownies 6.00pm
Thursday: Beavers 5.45pm
Cubs 7.00pm
Scouts 6.45pm
(Ashfield Junior School)

Women's Fellowship: . Tuesday 2.00pm
Women's Group: 2nd Tuesday 7.30pm
Parent and Toddlers: Thursday 9.45am
Junior Church: Sundays 10am during term time

HAPPY RETIREMENT MR BORTHWICK

In my 27 years as Vicar of St John's, Mr B (as I called him) was an absolute godsend. He did the majority of the paperwork (not my strong point !). He dealt with the diocese and many other organisations relating to the fabric and life of the Church. A former Archdeacon said that Mr B's records of Church contents etc were the best in the diocese.

Mr B carried out his duties as Sacristan almost without a blemish. Everything had to be right ! Mr B was faithful in attending most services. He made my life as Vicar so much easier and I am very grateful to him despite all the notes!!

He has devoted his life to St John's we should all be grateful.

My biggest relief is that Mr B didn't retired when I was Vicar !

(John Cook)

WOMENS GROUP

We had a nice night last month – decorating the church tree and having a chat, with refreshments. The next meeting is on **Wednesday 11th January** at

7.00pm. Mr Powell will give a talk and slide show on Old Workington. All welcome!!

(How Michael's Cumberland Diary – 11th December 1959)

St. John's Church Interior is altered

The alterations to St. John's Church first proposed by the Rev. R .S. Greene, became practicable by 1902 and Chancellor Prescott held a Consistory Court in the transept of Carlisle Cathedral.

The vicar applied for a faculty to form a chancel to the east end of the church and to set the holy table as far back into the tower as possible. to close the present main entrance to the church and to utilise the porch as a vestry, to erect a new porch on the north side of the church near the west end and to rebuild the organ.

Permission was also sought to "reseat the church with pews of proper dimensions. 30 pews on each side of the chancel to be raised one step above the body of the church. and these pews to be let and a corresponding number of sittings in the galleries to be made free." The Chancellor said that under the deed. all the seats on the ground floor were to be free. Power was given to charge rents for certain pews, all of which were in the gallery.

Since the incumbents stipend depended largely on these lettings the point was of considerable importance and the Vicar replied that "This matter was purposely brought before the Court as being in the interests of the people. The proposed free seats in the gallery would be as near the entrance as possible."

Amid laughter, the Chancellor said he supposed people liked seats in the gallery especially at evening time; the inference being that at that time the gallery was preferred to the body of the church. The Chancellor granted the faculty as asked, except that part relating to the paid pews.

"From the consecration deed he thought it was clear that the commissioners gave a certain amount of money and that certain sittings were to be set aside for the poor, That was pretty good proof that something was given from the rates and there was no doubt that the intention when this Church was built was that the ground floor should be distinctly reserved for the benefit of the parishioners at large.

Those who were wealthy could select. according to what they had given. seats in the reserved pews, but, the parishioners had a claim. as in all the ancient churches to the floor of the church,"

As we have seen, the work was completed and the Church opened in July 1904. At the same time an anonymous donor supplied the new choir Of 14 men and 24 boys with surplices at a cost of £50.

The organ was also rebuilt. The original organ was presented by John Christian Curwen when the Church was built in 1823 and the faculty for it was granted in 1826.

“In 1854 it had fallen into a state of dilapidation and a bazaar was held that year to raise money for repairs. In the Rev R S Greene's restoration in 1904, the organ was entirely rebuilt, and remodelled by Messrs Heslop of Stoke Newington at the cost of £528 6s. and so changed both inside and in its outside appearance that it was re-consecrated at the opening of the Church in 1904, Wind was provided from a fan propelled by a gas engine.

The late Miss Thompson noted that "a carved wooden screen probably mahogany, about two feet deep hid the organist and organ loft from the congregation. It was probably carved locally because, before the fire at St Michaels church the large square pew belonging to the Curwens (Hall) was surrounded by a similar piece of wood carving, about one foot deep and at the present time (1933) there is a small staircase on the first floor of the Labour Hall, Brow Top of the same type and date. It is not known what became of the St John's carvings – probably carried away with the Ionic columns and dumped on the Cloffocks.

Some interesting details from Miss Thompson's notes record further particulars of the Church up to 1933. The first Communion Plate is unknown although it was used till 1874, when Mrs. Von Essen presented new communion plate in memory of her husband, the Rev. Peter von Essen. Except that about 1870 it was considered by some to be poor and shabby looking, nothing whatever is known about it, where it came from or where it went to. It is not even known whether it was silver or pewter. It could not be traced among the large show of communion plate at the Octo-centenary Exhibition at Carlisle, in 1933, as all the exhibits were accounted for. Canon Curwen, of Workington told Archdeacon Campbell that it was last heard of in the old curiosity shop at Windermere.

The Parish Room was built in 1881, Mr. W. Deighton being the architect. It was designed to seat 400 people and the cost was £580.

The first Vestry was a small room where the Parish Room now stands. It was entered by a door on the North side of the altar; the second was one of the smaller rooms in the newly-built Parish Room of 1881; the third, after the Rev. Greene's restoration in 1904 was in the square foundation of the belfry and entered by a door in the North Gallery entrance: the fourth, after the Rev. J. R. Croft's restoration in 1932. is the small porch which was built in 1904 as the principal entrance to the church.

St. Mary's Church and Mission Room, Westfield was opened by the Bishop of Carlisle on 5th December 1889. The population of Workington had increased from 8,386 in 1871 to 14,356 in 1891 and at the time Of building

was estimated at 25,000. St. Johns Parish had undertaken to raise money for the building and also the staffing and management of the church. The subscriptions amounted to £524 7s 9d and a bazaar was held in April 1891 to clear off the debt. This realised £555 11s 6d and gave a credit balance of £30.

Various gifts to St Mary's Church; Mr Frederick Dickenson, Curwen Street, a carved oak eagle lectern in 1889 and later in October 1897 when he went to live in Cockermouth, the organ from his house in Curwen Street. Rev. J J Thornley, a Silver chalice, Mr Carruthers, a Holy Table and many other gifts . A bazaar was held in 1913 to raise money to build a parsonage house - £30 was raised.

St_ Johns Parsonage house; in 1862 applications for aid were made to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and to the Diocesan Society and a grant promised on condition of a like sum being subscribed locally.

A suitable site had also been granted by E S Curwen, Esq. valued at £390. The total amount of subscriptions from Workington by June 1864 amounted to £275, the Diocesan Society gave £200 and the Commissioners contributed £475 to meet these sums plus a grant of £390 to meet benefaction of a site, total £1340

ROOF APPEAL SPONSORED SLATES

Thank you to the following people who have sponsored slates as part of our roof appeal:-

C Hodgson	M Pine
P Jones	R Hadfield
G Coath	D Martin
K Bennett	C Cowin
N Humes	T Marshalsea
M Cartner	S Marshalsea
G Johnston	A Marshalsea
D K Turnbull	J Marshalsea
L Murray	G Palmer
A P Armstrong	K Pearson
B McGee	I Vaughan
D Tarbit	J Burnyeat
B Pearson	S Ratcliffe
C Phillips	M Cowin

There are still approx 18,000 slates left if you want join in and sponsor a slate

THANK YOU

At the beginning of this year we, as a family, set ourselves a target to raise over £4000 to enable us to sponsor a room, for a year, in Crawford House at Newcastle R.V.I. This is an invaluable facility which enables families with hospitalised children to stay within the hospital grounds.

I am pleased to say we have managed to raise £5808 thanks to the generosity of many people and we are very grateful indeed for the support we received from the members of St. John's Church.

Thank you all Claire Humes

Pauline & Paul Armstrong and family wish to thank everyone for the cards and flowers they received on the sad passing of Alan. God bless you all.

Are you prepared to consider the fulfilling roles of assisting at the Altar during services?

A meeting will be held for all those who assist at the Altar

on

Thursday 19th January 2017 in Church at 7.00pm

Please consider attending if you are interested in learning more about our duties on the altar.

Lecture Tour with A Difference

On New Year's Eve, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. 'What are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?' asked the police officer. 'I'm on my way to a lecture,' answered Roger. 'And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?' enquired the constable sarcastically.

'My wife,' slurred Daniel grimly



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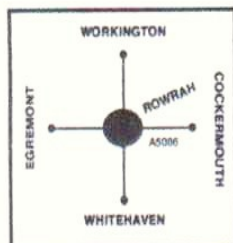
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JANUARY DIARY

- Sun 1st **THE HOLY NAME**
 8.00am Eucharist (Rev. Malcolm Stilwell)
 10.00am Sung Eucharist (Rev. Malcolm Stilwell)
- Wed 4th 11.00am Eucharist
- Fri 6th **EPIPHANY**
-
- Sun 8th **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 8.00am Eucharist
 10.00am Sung Eucharist
- Wed 11th 11.00am Eucharist
 7.00pm Women's Group (see article)
-
- Sun 15th **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
 8.00am Eucharist
 10.00am Sung Eucharist and Baptism
- Mon 16th 1.15pm SPAB Meeting
- Wed 18th 11.00am Eucharist
- Sat 21st 7.00pm Young Harmony
-
- Sun 22nd **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 8.00am Eucharist
 10.00am Sung Eucharist
- Tues 24th 2.00pm Women's Fellowship
- Wed 25th 11.00am Eucharist
-
- Sun 29th **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
 8.00am Eucharist
 10.00am Sung Eucharist

Deadline for February Magazine Articles is Sunday 22nd January

Keith Bennett 01900 63592/07902222825/kb8520@gmail.com