Heart of Eden

The News Magazine of the Heart of Eden Benefice

St. Lawrence, Appleby and St. John, Murton-cum-Hilton; St. James, Ormside; St. Peter, Great Asby; St. Cuthbert, Dufton; St. Margaret & St. James, Long Marton; St. Cuthbert, Milburn; St. Columba, Warcop & St. Theobald, Musgrave; St. James, Temple Sowerby; St. Michael, Kirkby Thore & St. Edmund Newbiggin.

Also with additional information from

Methodist Churches at The Sands, Appleby, Great Asby, Warcop and Dufton with Knock

The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Appleby

We also bring information from the council, local voluntary organisations, clubs and associations, buses and trains, events at the villages of the Mid-Eden Valley, and we are partly supported by the firms whose advertisements follow the news items.

St. Theobald's, Musgrave

October 2020

Hallowe'en - not just spooky tricks and treats!

Usually around this time of year we find ourselves seeing shops filled with pumpkins, brooms, witches' hats, fancy dress and sweets. This is all to prepare people for the evening of the 31st October where parties, trick or treating and decorating houses with spooky ornaments becomes a norm for many. I have a feeling that this year Halloween is going to look quite different for many.

You may be aware that the Church has a strange relationship with Halloween. The day is not one many Christians would look forward to, particularly as the impression it gives is a glorification of evil and darkness. The aim of a Christian has been to stand for goodness and light and to live in a way that shows it to other people. Yet Halloween has much to owe to the Christian church, with its name derived from All Hallows' eve, which precedes All Saints Day. This is an important day in the life of the church, where those who have gone before in the faith are remembered.

There is a long story which has led us to this point of uncomfortableness with Halloween in the church. Yet we want to encourage coming together in the community, having fun and celebrating, the things that many appreciate about Halloween. This is why many churches do light parties where children can have fun and games, dressing up and celebrating on Halloween.

Whatever your views on Halloween, this year may feel 'darker' for many. The nights are drawing in and as I write social restrictions are increasingly being implemented. This can lead to struggles and strains in many lives and increased isolation from those we know and love. A famous psalm contains the verse:

> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
> I fear no evil;
> for you are with me;
> your rod and your staff—
> they comfort me.

The promise that the God who brings light to the world is with us even in the darkness that surrounds has been a comfort to many people over many centuries, bringing hope in the bleakest of situations. God longs to be with us even in the difficulties of life, and can see us through situations that look scary. As we remember this we also reflect on God becoming human, stepping into the dark situations we often live in and becoming a light to the world.

I pray this month, as the evenings draw in, and the days become colder, we will see a marvellous light to lead us on.

Rev Andrew Sterling

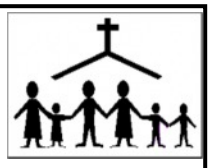
Church Registers (September)

Baptism: we welcome into the Lord's family:

27th	Jake Paul Ruddick	St James's Church Temple Sowerby

Funerals May they rest in peace and rise in glory:

18th	Roy Craddock	Appleby (graveside)
21st	Linda Stewart	K Thore followed by Carlisle Crematorium
21st	William Richardson	Dufton (burial)
24th	Elizabeth Harrison	Beetham Crematorium
25th	Frances Stoodley	Beetham Crematorium



Church of England:

Rector: Rev. Dr. Clive Hicks ☎ 017683 62436

Associate Priest: Revd Peter Boyles ☎ 017683 54161

Retired Priest: Rev. Roger Collinson ☎ 017683.52886

For (C of E) wedding bookings contact Joyce Keetley, Office Manager, email: applebymc@carlislediocese.org.uk

and for baptism bookings contact the Revd Peter Boyles email: peterboyles@hotmail.co.uk

Methodist Minister: Rev. Andrew Sterling: ☎ 017683 51244

Roman Catholic Parish Priest (Our Lady of Appleby)Church Fr. Peter Houghton ☎ 017683 51474

Advertising

We are not taking small ads, and the existing adverts will be run gratis for the duration

Other matter for inclusion (church or village news, etc.) Deadline 25th of the preceding month

We are very grateful for the generous donations made by various groups and individuals towards the running costs of this Newsletter. We would welcome articles (and front cover photographs - the editor gets desperate for something new) relevant to the time of year, book reviews, travel articles, etc. Please send them to the editor (heart-of-eden-editor@hotmail.co.uk)

Newsletter Delivery

As delivery of this newsletter is strictly by the editor's list of email addresses, and as a link from "A Church Near You" (https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12199/), if you or anyone wishes to read it, please get in touch with the editor for a copy, or follow the link.

Heart of Eden Benefice

Each church in the Heart of Eden Benefice that opens will have prepared a risk assessment, so that any attending will feel confident that their health is being taken seriously. Social distancing at 2 metres, the use of hand sanitiser, careful directions and guidance will be at the heart of this. Everyone must wear a face mask. We also support 'Track and Trace' by taking brief contact details (and retaining them for 21 days).

Where risk assessments are in place we can now hold funeral and wedding services, but numbers are restricted depending on the size/layout of each church building. Guidance from the government is being reviewed and updated each month, in line with specific concerns about coronavirus, so there may be further changes during August.

A few of our churches are also opening for short periods for individual prayer and general access - see back page. Details of services will appear on the individual church sites found via this "A Church Near You" web-page.

Visit https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12199/benefice

The contacts given on the respective pages for each church can also advise on baptisms, funerals and weddings. You will also find other information from the churches and Benefice - these are updated each month. We'd welcome your enquiries about anything that is of concern to you.

Of course other churches in the Eden Valley will have different patterns of opening.

Mission Community (on YouTube) - adapted, from Stewart Fyfe, Mission Community Leader

From this week, our YouTube Channel is re-launching with a different format. Consequently last Sunday marked the last full length Sunday service. It featured Clive Hicks and Stewart Fyfe and is still available on our channel (click here to view). We are enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed photographs, music, films, readings and prayers to sustain our worship over lockdown, from Mothering Sunday right through to Autumn. It has been an amazing shared journey of creativity. Thank you. But it doesn't end…

From this week our format changes and we're very excited about the changes. We will continue to provide a weekly act of worship, though simplified in format. It will contain the week's Bible readings, a reflection on the readings and some prayers.

However, the main content will develop over time to include a variety of new material, including:

" Reflections for home/study groups

" Teaching material on various aspects of the faith, of interest to Christians and inquirers

" Spiritual resources on prayer, as well as encountering God through music or art.

" Material for children that can be used at home, in Sunday Schools or school assemblies

" Conversations and talks with local Christians about living the Christian life beyond Sundays

It will take time to develop these fully, but we are very excited about bringing them to you, so please stay tuned and keep subscribing. If there is material you would like to see on the channel, please let us know.

God bless Stewart

St. Lawrence, Appleby

Churchwarden: Jean Hutchison
Secretary: Jo Ayres (52017)

St. Peter, Asby

Churchwarden: Mrs. P. Bevan (53433)Secretary: Karen Royle (07966.371044)

Now open for Sunday services and private prayer, see back page

St. Cuthbert, Dufton

Churchwardens: Mrs. Gillian Bryan (51414)
Mrs. Shelagh Endres (52855)
Secretary: Mrs. Louise Stewart

St. Michael, Kirkby Thore

Churchwardens: Margaret Davidson (017683.61699)
Maeve Moore (017683.62005)
Secretary: Liz Higginbottom (017683.62910)

SS. Margaret & James, Long Marton

Churchwardens: Mrs. Josie Cannon 017683.51386
(Acting) Mr. Lutaf Greenshaw 07802254982

St. Cuthbert, Milburn

Churchwardens: Mrs. E. Godfrey (61007)
Mr. Leigh Harding (0333.014.3944)
Secretary: Christine Braithwaite

St. John, Murton cum Hilton

Churchwarden: Jean Hutchison)
Secretary: Jo Ayres (52017)

St. Edmund, Newbiggin

Churchwardens:
Mrs. M P. Sawrey-Cookson (61574)
Mrs. Marsh (51098)

St. James the Less, Ormside

Churchwardens: Margaret Parry (51043)
Secretary: Richard Parry (51043)

St. James , Temple Sowerby

Churchwardens: Anne Farmer
Angela Cleasby
Secretary: Helen Morgan

St. Theobald, Musgrave

Churchwarden: John Alderson
john.alderson65@gmail.com

St. Columba, Warcop

Churchwarden: Sheila Morbey
sheila.morbey@btinternet.com

OUR SISTER CHURCHES

Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Appleby,
Gartheads Road, Appleby

Fr. Peter Houghton (51474)

Methodist Church

Rev. Andrew Sterling (51244)
General Enquiries Linda Taylor (53448)

News from the Area

Age UK - Carlisle and Eden

For information just ring Pat Mchugh on 07958936694.

Boxes of Hope

This is just to let everyone know that I am pleased to say the Boxes of Hope 2020 campaign is going ahead this year, but I don't think it is going to be possible to have a box packing day like we have done other years at the Sands Methodist Church so I think the best will be if I will pack the boxes at home.

Items suitable for boxes are soap, facecloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, hair brush/comb, notebook, colouring book, pen, (**no pencils or crayons needed this year as I have had a lot donated)** rubber, ruler, pencil sharpener, hat, scarf, mittens or gloves, socks, soft toy, ball, knitted glove puppet, toy car, doll, skipping rope, yoyo etc. Sturdy toys please, as these children are not used to toys and do not have the manual dexterity, sweets (use by date at least March of next year) . **All items should be in new or in good condition and clean**

Donations of money to help with the transportation of the shoe boxes are also welcome.

If you are able to donate items please contact Evelyn Harrison 017683 53081 or Anne Bell 017683 51547 b.annebell@btinternet.com

Brownies

If you are interested in joining Brownies in Appleby, please contact Alison Taylor on 017683 61241 squidgums@hotmail.com

Heart of Westmorland Bereavement Support Group

For more information please contact: Kevin Robinson – 017683 51569 or Revd Sandy Pearl – 01931 714564

Cancer Information and Support in Eden

Regrettably, in view of the Coronavirus/lockdown situation, meetings are currently cancelled, but if anyone needs support and advice, support and advice is available from Rosie on ☎ 017683 52263

Citizens Advice Carlisle & Eden

Citizens Advice Carlisle & Eden needs YOU! The Citizens Advice service is looking for volunteers to train to be advice workers in the Eden area.

Citizens Advice Carlisle and Eden ask volunteers to give a regular one day a week over an extended period of time. We need volunteers to train as Advisers and also as Advice Assistants and Business Support roles. Whilst specific qualifications or experience are not required, to train for the role volunteers need to be good at listening, have a good manner when talking to people, be open minded and non-judgmental and enjoy helping people. It is also necessary to have competent skills in using a computer. All volunteers are given free training appropriate to their role which might include how to assess people's needs, either face-to-face or over the phone, and identify the most appropriate course of action. Volunteer Expenses are paid.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to volunteer-recruitment@ca-ce.org.uk with a daytime telephone number, or visit our website www.ca-ce.org.uk and complete the form or call 03300 563037 to leave your details. Alternatively you can call in to our office at 2 Sandgate, Penrith.

… or if you need to consult your MP…

these are the details:

Christian Hilton / Office of Dr Neil Hudson
MP / Penrith and The Border
01768 484114
or email: Mail: christianb.hilton@parliament.uk
or website: URL: www.neilhudson.org.uk

Eden Carers

Do you care? If so Eden Carers may be able to help you. We are a charity providing free support to unpaid Carers; throughout Eden, who look after a family member, relative, friend or neighbour who could not manage without their help. We support over 850 individuals (170 of whom are young Carers aged 5 to 18 years). We provide statutory carers' assessments: information and signposting; 1 to 1 support; benefit information; newsletters, support groups including after school clubs for Young Carers; social events; training and activities. Contact us on 01768 890280 or enquiries@edencarers.co.uk Let us help you care.

Inner Wheel

Some time ago Jenny Morgan kept a wheelchair owned by Appleby Inner Wheel, which could be borrowed by anyone locally. That hasn't been able to happen for a while but we now have two manual wheelchairs for that purpose. They are kept at my house, 15 Boroughgate, and can be borrowed for a nominal deposit of £10. If the borrower cares to make a donation to Inner Wheel Charities after the loan, that would, of course, be welcomed.

My contact phone number is 017683 53324. Gillian Whiting, Secretary, Appleby Inner Wheel

Meals on Wheels - Volunteers Needed

We are looking for some volunteers to help deliver Meals on Wheels in the town of Appleby one lunchtime each month.
We are a friendly,flexible team who deliver a hot meal and a pudding to clients on Mondays to Fridays.
We will arrange for your DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) forms to be completed, checked and issued and as long as you have a vehicle for deliver you'll be 'good to go'.
Please contact Dot Anderton 52389, or Kath Martin 51031.
Sadly, we are not able to deliver meals presently, but please let us know if you are interested in helping.

Upper Eden Food Bank

We have just this week held a 'socially distanced' AGM. At that meeting, as you can imagine, we explained how we have been kept very busy over the past few months. Not only with the ongoing referrals but more specifically we have been privileged to help many families on a weekly basis in providing lunches for their children. Financial hardships due to Covid have affected many, as not everyone has been able to benefit from the 'furlough' scheme and also having the children at home with no school lunches has proved difficult for some. We do thank everyone who has helped with this, especially Appleby Co-op. We were also grateful to the Booktrust who donated some lovely reading books to give to the children.

We are at the minute grateful to various Harvest donations and so at present our stocks are good and there is nothing we are particularly short of.

Our thanks are extended to everyone who continues to support the food bank.

With the situation as it is, Citizens Advice are now asking that if you know of anyone, or you yourself are now finding you can't afford food, you can call 0808 2082138 for free (open Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm). If needed, they would issue a reference number. This would all be treated in strict confidence of course.

All details can be found on the UEFB website…. upperedenfoodbank.org.uk or by calling 07596 690902

Other UEFB contacts:

website URL: www.ksaandtcircuit.org.uk
Facebook upperedenfoodbank
Email upperedenfoodbank@gmail.com ☎07596 690 902

Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group

Your native red squirrels need you! ecome a member of Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group for £20 a year. If you see a grey, red or sickly red please ring Gary Murphy on 07974788434 Visit our website at www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk to donate If you would like a talk for your club/group we can arrange them. Coffee mornings and other fundraising events would also help. Find us on Facebook.

Town Council

Policing

The Police and Crime Commissioner has announced that in addition to our popular PCSOs, whose work in the community is so much valued, a police officer will again be assigned to Appleby, and the police station will be in more regular use. The message to Appleby Town Council states that 'officers will be more proactive within communities rather than an officer potentially based out of the county being sent in response to crimes.

Flood Mitigation

Recent work on the Sands replaced two drains into the River Eden. A locking device on the drain that runs underneath the road is intended to ensure that in high water conditions water will not back up and discharge on the residential side of the Sands. On the other side of town work to provide a second outlet into the river for the Doomgate Syke culvert, directed beneath Chapel Street and Broad Close, is currently being scoped, with a view to completion in 2021.

The High and Low Crosses

Further research indicates that both crosses - now restored to as close as possible to their original appearance - date from the late 17th Century. A trust set up in Lady Anne Clifford's will paid for them. As well as being an attractive feature, they marked the limits of Appleby's market area. The High Cross was the earlier by a few years, though there may have been a previous structure on the site of the Low Cross. The inscription on the High Cross may be an 18th Century addition; more remains to be discovered.

Public Transport

Particularly during lockdown, passengers and services were depleted. Most of Appleby's rail service is now restored. Timetables have not been printed, but accurate information can be obtained from the Moot Hall. The weekday gap in departures from Carlisle between 1618 and 2013 has now been filled by a bus at 1745 calling at all stations to Kirkby Stephen. As reported in 'Bus News', the 563 and 574 services to Penrith are now on pre-lockdown timetables, but the 506 Appleby-Penrith-Kendal that ran Monday-Friday during term times has been deregistered. This is because Kendal College, which subsidised the bus has awarded the contract to an operator who will run a private hire for students only. Anyone wishing to get to Penrith by public transport before 1030, leave later than 1340, or access Kendal at any time will have to go by rail via Carlisle.

Back to School

On behalf of hundreds of students and their families, the Council congratulates Appleby Primary School and Grammar School, along with other local schools on successfully managing the complexities of re-opening in September with appropriate Covid-19 safety measures in place. The Council also welcomes the new Head Teacher at AGS, Mrs Elaine Sargent, and wishes her a happy and fulfilling time.

Thanks and Good Wishes

Amanda Booth, who filled the roles of finance officer and public hall manager, has left the employment of the Council. The Council thanks her for years of friendly and efficient service and wishes her well for the future.

BUS TALK

From Friends of Eden Valley Public Transport, using information from Cumbria County Council

Please check www.cumbria.gov.uk/buses for details of timetables.

Please note that you must wear a face covering (over nose and mouth) when using public transport, to give extra protection to the driver and other passengers. Bus operators are also implementing other measures including social distancing and enhanced cleaning measures on buses, in line with Government guidance.

563 Appleby to Penrith (Mon - Fri) service

Departures from Appleby at 9.50, 11.25, 14.25

(and departures from Penrith at 9.15,10.50, 13.30)

574 Kirkby Stephen to Appleby to Penrith (Tues) service

Departs Appleby at 10.15

(The departure time from Penrith is 14.30)

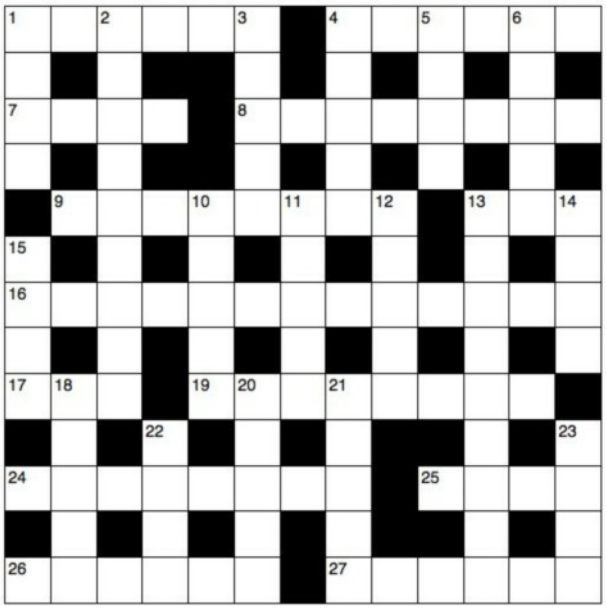
506 Appleby to Kendal via Penrith (Mon - Fri) service

This service which previously operated in Kendal College term time, for College students and the general public, has been withdrawn. (A new service is being provided for Kendal College students only.)

Community Transport

The Community Wheels service into/out of Appleby on Fridays is now operating, including connecting with the 563 bus to Penrith as normal, although capacity on the Community Wheels minibus is limited due to social distancing requirements. To join the Community Wheels scheme or book a journey on the minibus, phone Cumbria County Council on ☎01228 226428. If you need any other essential transport, contact Cumbria County Council on 0333 240 69 65 (option 5) or send an email to integratedtransport@cumbria.gov.uk

October Crossword



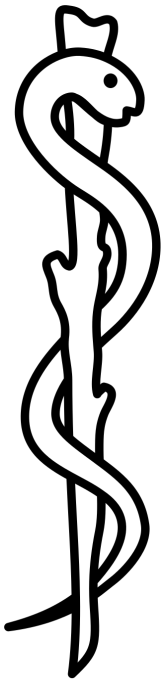
Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
8 See 19 Across
9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had avision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile inBabylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)
5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
22 Bats (anag.) (4)
23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Covid-19/Corona Virus Advice



Colin Cox, Cumbria's Director of Public Health, said:

"The numbers of new cases in Carlisle and Eden were a concern. That's why we are extremelygrateful to everyone who followed our advice and got tested. What we can now see, from thelow number of new cases identified, is that there does not appear to have been widespread

transmission of the virus as a result of the visits to local pubs by people who were infectious. This is good news but we continue to monitor closely. "It is also very clear that the virus is still circulating and being passed between local people in the community, so we must not think that the risk has gone away. Only by continued vigilance and following the basic public health guidance will we prevent the number of people being infected growing again. "For anyone heading for a night out this weekend I'd ask you just to do the basics – social distancing as far as possible, wash your hands regularly and make sure you provide contact details to any venues you visit. If you are getting a taxi we would also advise you to wear a mask."

The key public health messages remain:

- Wash or sanitise hands regularly
- Observe social distancing rules
- Wear face masks or coverings in enclosed public spaces
- If you have symptoms, self-isolate and get tested
- Follow advice to self-isolate if asked

The toll of lockdown on low-income families

Coronavirus has left low-income families struggling with a significant deterioration in living standards and high stress levels. So warns a new report from Child Poverty Action Group and the Church of England.

The report, ***Poverty in the pandemic: The impact of coronavirus on low-income families and children***, is based on a survey of families with children who are eligible for free school meals.

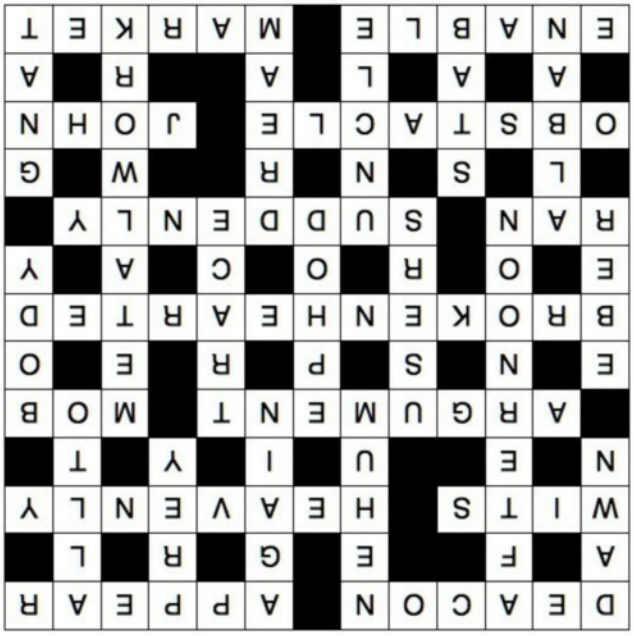
It found around eight in 10 respondents reported being in a worse financial position than before the pandemic, and half were much worse off because their income had fallen while costs have risen.

Nearly nine in 10 respondents reported spending substantially more than before on food, electricity, and other essentials – usually because they have been at home much more. Many families also said that the cost of food had gone up significantly during the early part of lockdown.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on matters relating to children and families, said: "In these unprecedented times, we all need to ask ourselves urgently how we can help our neighbour. It is also imperative that the Government does all that it can to protect families and children."

Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group, said: "Low-income parents have been living under a cloud of anxiety in lockdown - trying to find money for family basics as their costs have been rising. That's taken a very heavy toll."

Crossword Solution



After his induction, Harry met the leaders of the other denominations

… and talking of food, let's not forget Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, scholar, AD 899 (who did not make exceedingly good cakes!)

Can you think of a politician who deserves to be called a saint? If no one currently living politician comes to mind, never mind – there is always King Alfred of Wessex (871-99).

This remarkable and best known of all the Anglo-Saxon rulers may have dozed off and let some cakes burn while a peasant woman was hiding him from the Vikings, but he did so much else which was of lasting good for the Anglo-Saxon people.

It was a desperate time for the Anglo-Saxons – the kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and Mercia had fallen to the Vikings. Only Alfred's province remained free. Through some inspired military maneuvering, Alfred managed to keep them at bay. As a Christian, he became the defender of all Christian Anglo-Saxons against the pagan Vikings. (His son and grandsons went on to conquer the Vikings, and thus ensured the future unity of England.)

Alfred was also a scholar, and admired certain writings which had laid down models of ideal Christian kingship. He tried to put these principles into practise, such as producing a law-code. Alfred believed strongly that anyone in authority should have to study in order to learn how to govern. Not such a bad idea for leaders today!

Alfred was never canonised by the Church, but his translation of Consolation of Philosophy by Boethius is often thought to be a fitting epitaph: *I desired to live worthily as long as I lived, and to leave after my life, to the men who should come after me, the memory of me in good works.*

All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

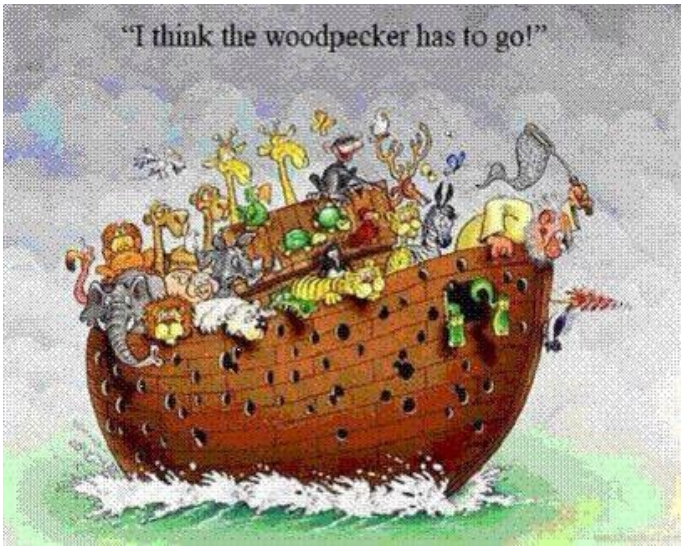
In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

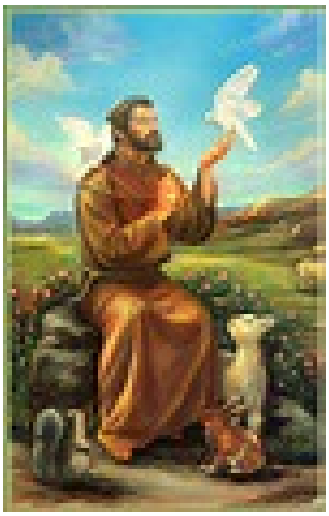
Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



What would Saint Francis have done? See below! … on second thoughts, an ark of cypress wood was probably unsinkable, but don't try this at home

St. Francis - and the Life of Simplicity

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Church-goers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

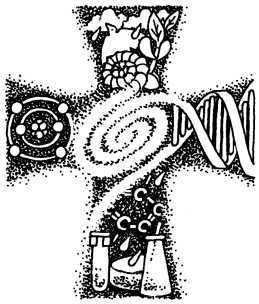


However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix. He renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his home-town, Assisi.

For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart. St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that he came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?



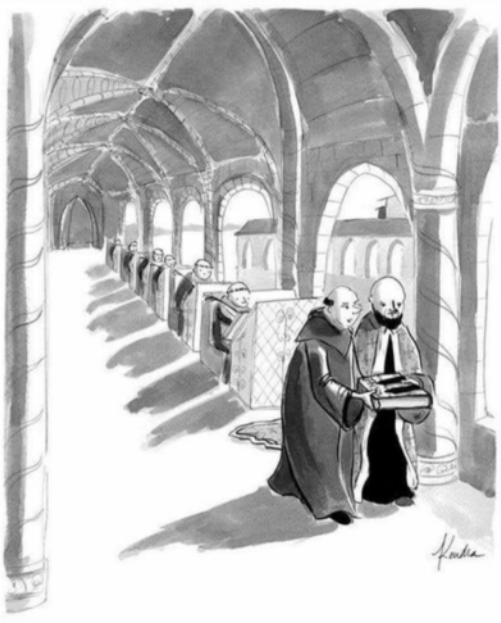
For the Christian, the Bible is God's word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.



"The monks are pretty cheap—the ink is where they get you."

Who authorised the Bible, anyway?

Question: If it was the Church that finally decided which books should be included in the Bible, then isn't the Church the top authority?

Answer: No; the Bible produced the Church, not the Church the Bible. This is the real issue: what caused a book to be accepted within the 'Canon' of Scripture? (Greek: kanon, 'standard' or 'rule').

As far as the Old Testament was concerned:

1. Books that were recognised by Jesus Christ as infallible 'Scripture' could not be broken (Matthew 5:18). In John 10:35 Jesus didn't have to explain what He meant by 'Scripture', though elsewhere He did refer to its different categories (law, prophets, psalms) as pointing to Himself (Luke 24:44; Matthew 24:37). All was to be believed and obeyed.

2. Books that were recognised by God's people because of their impact. God's people will always recognise His voice (John 10:27). Jesus clashed with the Pharisees for adding their traditions to the Scripture; yet all were agreed that the Old Testament Scriptures were God's word.

3. Books that were recognised by the New Testament. It is significant that the New Testament features hundreds of Old Testament allusions. Only two are from the body of books known as the Apocrypha (Jude 9, 14) – seemingly in similar style to Paul's quotation from a Greek poet (Acts 17:28). The Apocryphal books were perceived to be on a lower level.

Next, what determined inclusion in the New Testament Canon?

1. Books that are Christ-centred in their emphasis. It was inconceivable to the early Church that the Gospels, for example, which focused so much upon the life and death of Jesus, could have any lower place than that given to the Old Testament Scriptures.

2. Books that are apostolic in their teaching. It was to the apostles exclusively that Jesus promised guidance 'into all truth' through the Holy Spirit's inspiration (John 16:13). The result of this was the New Testament (1 Corinthians 2:12,13). Significantly, Peter brackets Paul's writings with what he calls 'the other scriptures' (2 Peter 3:15,16).

3. Books that are faith-building in their effect, and thus, to be read in the congregations (John 20:30,31; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16; 1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 1:3). When the Christian scriptures take hold of the thinking of masses of people, they have the effect of 'stabilising society, without sterilising it' (historian T. R. Glover).

The books of the Old Testament were becoming largely accepted by AD 70; those of the New Testament by the end of the second century. The drawing of a line around them discouraged forgers and religious peddlers.

So no one really 'put' the books into the Bible; they put themselves in, because of their innate quality. No council by itself could have conferred authority upon the books; this, they possessed already. It is an authority that is inherent, not imposed. If art lovers say of a Renoir painting, 'This is a genuine Renoir', their acclaim in no way invests the painting with authority; it was already authentic. It is the same with the Scriptures; we can only recognise them as such…. and live by them.

Understanding the Bible

As we acknowledge Bible Sunday this month, it's a good opportunity to ask the question: ***why should I read the Bible?***

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!

(A little mnemonic:
How many books in the old testament? 3 letters in old, 9 letters in testament. 39!
How many books in the new testament? 3 letters in new, 9 letters in testament. 3 x 9 = 27!
… I suppose you also have to remember that the old is bigger than the new, or it doesn't work Ed.)

This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men')* and presents itself as a ***manual for life***, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: *'the Spirit will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

However, the Bible could also be described as a ***love letter*** from God, as He uses it to deepen our relationship with him. As Jesus said: *'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me'* (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better.

At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words ***'the most precious thing this world affords'.*** Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?

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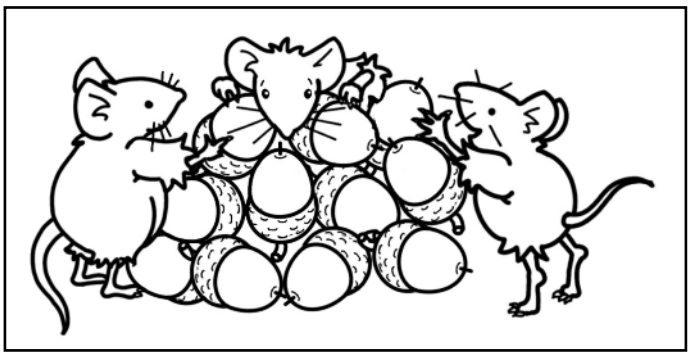

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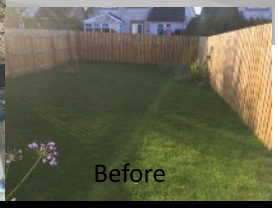

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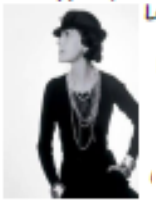

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Church Services October 2020

Heart of Westmorland YouTube Channel Sunday Service Plan

4th Trinity 17
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Isaiah 5.1-7; Psalm 80.9-17; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-46

11th Trinity 18
Leader: Rev'd Stephen Radford
Isaiah 25.1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14

18th Trinity 19
Leader: Rev'd Peter Boyles
Isaiah 45.1-7; Psalm 96.1-13; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22

25th Bible Sunday
Leader: Clive Hicks
Nehemiah 8.1-6, 8-12; Psalm 119.9-16; Colossians 3.12-17; Matthew 24.30-35

Appleby, St. Lawrence

Sunday 4th Trinity 17	10:45	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th Trinity 18	10:45	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th Trinity 19	10:45	Holy Communion
Sunday 25thTrinity 20	10:45	Holy Communion, followed by APCM
Wednesdays	10.30	General Opening

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Dufton with Knock

each Sunday 10:45am

Methodist Church with Baptists at Great Asby

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Crosby Garrett

18th & 25th 6:30pm (4th HF at PC US)

Warcop

4th & 18th 10:30 (4th HC)

25th 6:30pm (11th HF at PC US)

Zoom Connection Service

11th 6:30pm

Gt. Asby, St. Peter
Sunday 4th Trinity 17 18:30 Holy Communion
Sunday 11th Trinity 18 11:00 United Service
Sunday 18th Trinity 19 18:30 Evening Prayer
Sunday 25th Trinity 20 11:00 Morning Prayer
Wednesdays 14.00 Individual Prayer

Dufton, St. Cuthbert
Sunday 11th Trinity 18 15:00pm Compline
Sunday 25th Trinity 20 15:00pm Holy Communion

Kirkby Thore, St. Michael
Sunday 11th Trinity 18 10:30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 25th Trinity 20 10:30am Holy Communion
Wednesdays 2 - 4pm Individual Prayer + Compline at 4pm

Long Marton
Sunday 4th Trinity 17 3:00pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 18th Trinity 19 3:00pm Holy Communion, followed by APCM

Milburn, St. Cuthbert
Sunday 4th Trinity 17 10:45am Holy Communion
Sunday 18th Trinity 19 10:45am Holy Communion

Murton, St John
Sunday 11th Trinity 18 **4**:00pm Harvest Festival
Sunday 25th 11:30am APCM (at St. Lawrence)

Musgrave, St Theobald
Sunday 11th Trinity 18 10:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 25th Trinity 20 10:00am Holy Communion
Fridays 10 - noon Individual Prayer

Newbiggin, St Edmond
Closed until further notice

Ormside, St James
Sunday 11th Trinity 18 09:15am Holy Communion
Sunday 25th Trinity 20 15:00pm Informal Service, followed by APCM

Temple Sowerby, St. James
Sunday 20th 10:30am Morning Prayer, Harvest Festival and APCM

Warcop, St. Columba
Sunday 11th Trinity 18 10:45am Holy Communion
Sunday 25th Trinity 20 10:45am Holy Communion
Wednesdays 2 - 4pm Individual Prayer

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