Heart of Eden

January 2021

The News Magazine of the 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.

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.

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

Choices at the Start of 2021

I was in the audience for a BBC Radio programme in December, and the Zoom audience of 400 or so were asked whether we favoured New Year resolutions, or not. I found myself responding 'yay' along with a minority of other voices; an overwhelming majority booed, or called out 'no.' It is hard to stick to promises, very hard. Human nature is, I think most of us would agree, fickle, although we admire greatly those who shed stones in their search for health and a targeted weight.

All too often we take the law into our own hands, deciding that we are the ones able to make the best choices. So, on a clear road within a village, is it OK to go at 34 mph rather than 30mph? Some of us may forget, or take the risk, and sometimes we pay a penalty as a result. Our capacity to put ourselves in the driving seat, quite literally, can often be our own downfall, and affect the lives of others, sadly. Speed Awareness courses build the case for safe driving - we are left with choices.

In the words of a Covenant that many Christians make at the start of a new year, 'I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal' sums up a set of choices each of us can make, employed or laid aside, doing or suffering, full or empty - it is God who determines our circumstances and prospects - we are wise if we acknowledge this.

Are we focused enough to make some principled stands? Are we willing to baulk the trends and stick to the rules, for the sake of others? Are we humble enough to pray, "Lord, I don't really know what the future holds, but I would rather face it with your support, than on my own'?

We do have many freedoms, to honour and care for others, to be peacemakers, to aspire to live lives that really make a difference for our friends and neighbours.

We begin the New Year in Tier 4; are we ready to live our lives for the benefit and safety of all others?

Revd Clive Hicks

Church Registers December

Baptism

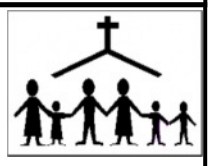
We welcome into the Lord's Family:

19th	Rory Francis Dobson	St. John's Murton cum Hilton

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory:

2nd	Vera Wardle	Long Marton (graveside)
18th	David Hullock	Dufton (followed by cremation)
17th	Robert Julian Taylor	Musgrave (graveside)
19th	Margaret Anne Saul	Asby (followed by burial)



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

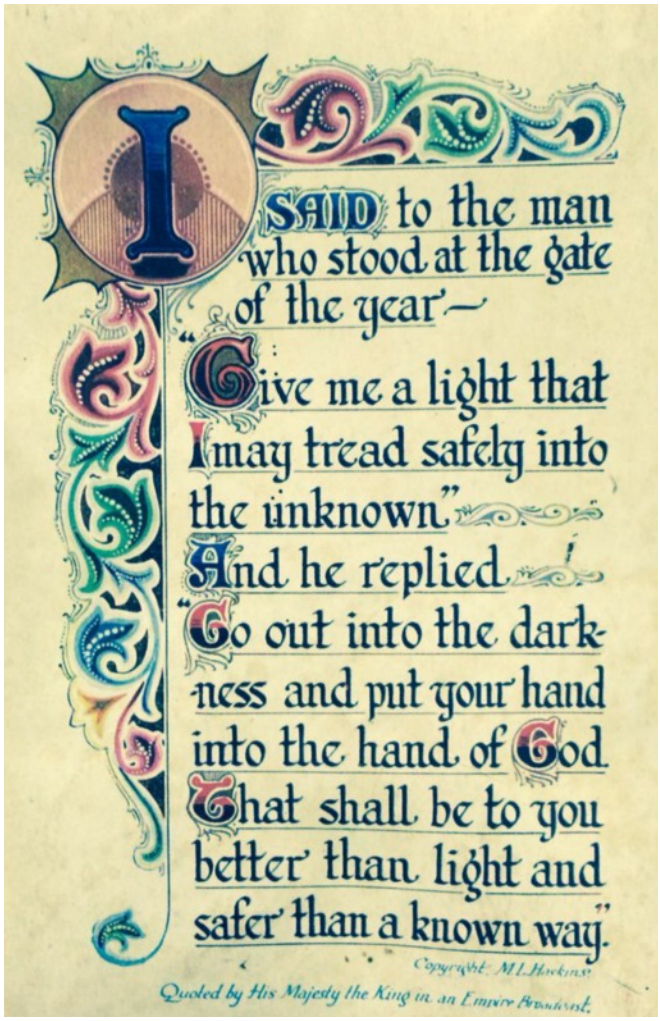
We are not taking small ads, and the existing adverts will be run gratis for the duration

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.



A poem of Minnie Louise Haskins, famously quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas Message, and perhaps relevant now.

Mission Community (on YouTube) - still going strong - see back page.

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

Bishop's Letter

The Bishop of Carlisle has this evening (30th) written to all clergy outlining what new restrictions are to be enforced for churches as the county of Cumbria prepares to move into Tier 4.

This follows the Government's announcement this afternoon that all local authority areas in the county (Eden, Carlisle, South Lakeland, Barrow-in-Furness, Copeland, Allerdale) are to move from Tier 2 to Tier 4.

The move to Tier 4 means:

Communal worship is permitted as 'communal worship' provided that any person attending is alone or part of a group all from the same household or from two linked households, and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.

NB non-household groups of 6 are not permitted. Christmas 'bubbles' not permitted The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.

Outdoor church service

Church service in a public outdoor place that is not a churchyard or other outdoor church premises is not permitted.

Travel to church is permitted, but people are advised not to travel out of an area if it is in Tier 4.

Weddings in church are permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 6 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available. The Government guidance states anyone working is not included and that these should only take place in exceptional circumstances, for example urgent marriages where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover, or due where to undergo debilitating treatment or life-changing surgery. NB No wedding reception permitted.

Funerals in church, churchyard, cemetery or crematorium are permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 30 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.

Baptism (whether during public worship or free-standing)

Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).

Meetings (PCC, APCM etc.) in church or church hall

Physical meetings not permitted.

Homegroups or other meetings taking place in private homes (including Vicarages) are not permitted.

Ministering to the sick and dying is permitted.

Provision of support groups on church premises, which can include mother and toddler groups is permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons (not including children under 5) and it is reasonably necessary for members of the group to be physically present.

But provision of youth services is not permitted.

The rector of Heart of Eden Benefice adds:

We have carefully worked across all our churches to manage the risks we faced since churches were able to re-open last July. Up until quite recently Eden District was a low risk area, but as we know the number of cases has increased significantly in the last few weeks, as it has in other parts of the country. We were not expecting this change. Some of us may be affected directly.

- Clearly we have moved into a more challenging phase, and we may expect more cases and ill health within our communities, and therefore potentially our churches.
- We should remain concerned about the welfare of the most vulnerable members of each of our churches & communities, including those who lead services and open church buildings.
- Personally, I remain on the AERG volunteer group, like other church members, so will make myself available to provide practical support for a few with more urgent needs - perhaps can each of us think who we can support more directly?

St. Lawrence, Appleby

Churchwardens: Jean Hutchison
Jo Ayres (52017)

Secretary: Jo Ayres

St. Peter, Asby

Churchwarden: Mrs. P. Bevan 53433

Secretary: Karen Royle 07966.371044

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

Methodist Church

Rev. Andrew Sterling ☎51244

General Enquiries Linda Taylor (53448)

Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Appleby,

Gartheads Road, Appleby

Fr. Peter Houghton ☎51474

News from the Area

Age UK - Carlisle and Eden

For information just ring Pat Mchugh on 07958936694.

Brownies

If you are interested in joining Brownies

in Appleby, please contact Alison Taylor

(Brown Owl) 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

We have two manual wheelchairs for temporary use of local people. 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

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

News from the TIC

Still open on winter hours: Monday- Thursday 10am-2pm, Friday 10am-3pm, Saturday 10am-2pm.
Closed for public holidays until 4th January - uncertain as to opening thereafter.

Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group

Your native red squirrels need you! Become 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

Tier 4 Restrictions
Because of the surging incidence of Covid-19 cases, in common with most of the country, Cumbria was placed under Tier 4 restrictions from 31 December 2020. The Appleby community will be drastically affected, with a range of businesses forced to close again. The Moot Hall Visitor Centre cannot re-open as planned on 4 January, but Town Council will be available to offer whatever help it can by way of information and advice, including sign-posting to grants. Telephone calls and emails to the TIC and Clerk will be responded to as promptly and fully as possible.

Vaccination
Better news is the availability and planned programme of vaccination against Covid-19. The message from Primary Care Networks is that members of the public will be called when it is their turn. You are asked not to contact your medical practice about vaccination; this will only take up staff timed and potentially delay everyone's treatment

Appleby Heritage Centre
The land and buildings at the Heritage Centre, having been in the hands of the Receivers, are now back in the control of Eden District Council, who share the wish of Appleby Town Council and the wider community to see the site again put to productive use. It is hoped that Appleby Edibles will be able to return to the part of the site they formerly occupied, and that further developments will follow.

Bongate Weir
After proposals to demolish the weir were withdrawn, voluntary work was done in summer on the approaches to the structure to make it safer. Plans for work on the central section have been drawn up, but not yet costed.

563 Bus Service
Following the withdrawal of the Tuesday 574 Kirkby Stephen-Appleby-Penrith bus service via Long Marton, Stagecoach Cumbria proposed changes to its 563 Appleby-Penrith service which would not only give Long Marton and Brampton a daily bus, but also serve Scattergate. Fuller details will be found in the Bus Talk section of this newsletter. The wearing of masks and observance of social distancing is required on buses, the insides of which are cleaned daily.

BUS TALK

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

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.

Please go to www.cumbria.gov.uk/buses for details of all bus service routes and timetables.

Following withdrawal of the 574 Kirkby Stephen to Appleby to Penrith (Tues) service (Cumbria Classic Coaches) at the end of December, there are some changes to bus services serving the Eden Valley - see below

Changes to 563 Appleby to Penrith (Mon - Fri) service (Stagecoach)

From 4th January, the first trip (Mon - Fri) on the 563 service from Appleby towards Penrith and the last trip from Penrith to Appleby will go via Long Marton, and Brampton village will also be served. In response to customer requests, all the trips will now include Scattergate in Appleby. Due to the change to the route on the first trip from Appleby and last trip from Penrith, Crackenthorpe will not be served on these trips; the later journeys from Appleby to Penrith will run via Crackenthorpe and anyone returning there from Penrith can travel via Appleby.

S6 Kirkby Stephen to Brough to Penrith (Tues) service (Western Dales Bus)

(Please note that this service would be suspended during a national 'lockdown' being imposed due to the Covid 19 pandemic).

From Tuesday 5th January, Western Dales Bus will introduce a service (S6) on Tuesdays (only) from Kirkby Stephen to Penrith. To avoid competition with, and abstraction of passengers from, the existing Stagecoach 563 service, and also because the vehicles used have only 16 seats (currently further restricted due to social distancing guidelines), the service will not pick up passengers between (and including) Appleby Sands and Penrith on outward trips to Penrith or drop off passengers in the same section of the route on return trips. There will be three trips a day in each direction, with the first and last also running to/from Sedbergh. As a smaller vehicle will be used, it will be able to get under the Warcop rail bridge and serve the centre of the village (Sandford will not currently be served but this may be possible in the future).

Community Transport

The Community Wheels service into/out of Appleby on Fridays is 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. The Voluntary Social Car Scheme covering Appleby, Bolton, Temple Sowerby and Milburn is operating with a limited number of drivers - if you would like to use this service please contact Valerie Kendal on 017683 53159. For any other essential transport, phone Cumbria County Council on 0333 240 69 65 (option 5) or send email to integrated.transport@cumbria.gov.uk

Appleby Clubs, etc.

Lights...Camera...Appleby!

Remote in Appleby is run by volunteers and is a not-for-profit organisation. Remote Cinema is a scheme funded by the Big Lottery and offered to villages in Eden, by Eden Arts and Cine North. Follow us on our Facebook page: Appleby Remote Cinema Scheme

Sorry - no lights, no camera, no meal before the show this month. Be patient - better times will come!

Picturing the Westmorland Dales.

This autumn children in the Westmorland Dales have been exploring the landscape through land art. We are working with Community arts 'We are Team', land artists 'Stomping Ground' and 6 local primary schools using Land Art creations to celebrate local landmarks and nature. This lovely project has helped connect children with the natural world encouraging them to look closely at materials such as sticks, pine cones, stones, soils, leaves , grass and wool.

They have created collages used natural materials, using them like a paint brush, creating beautiful art pieces. During these sessions children began first by creating individual art pieces which helped to develop their skills and fire the imagination leading to the final group piece. The children chose an image, made a frame and built the image up in layers, like a sketch before fine tuning the outlines of the final piece. Some of the images created by Primary schools include Hardendale Cairn and Smardale Viaduct, Nine standards, a red squirrel, a short-eared owl, Orton Scar monument and a Tebay fell pony. Jon Chappell from M60TV filmed and photographed the sessions which showcases their work and bring the schools together in this unifying joyous project. It highlights the children's connection to their villages and creates a sense of place and a sense of hope for the future.

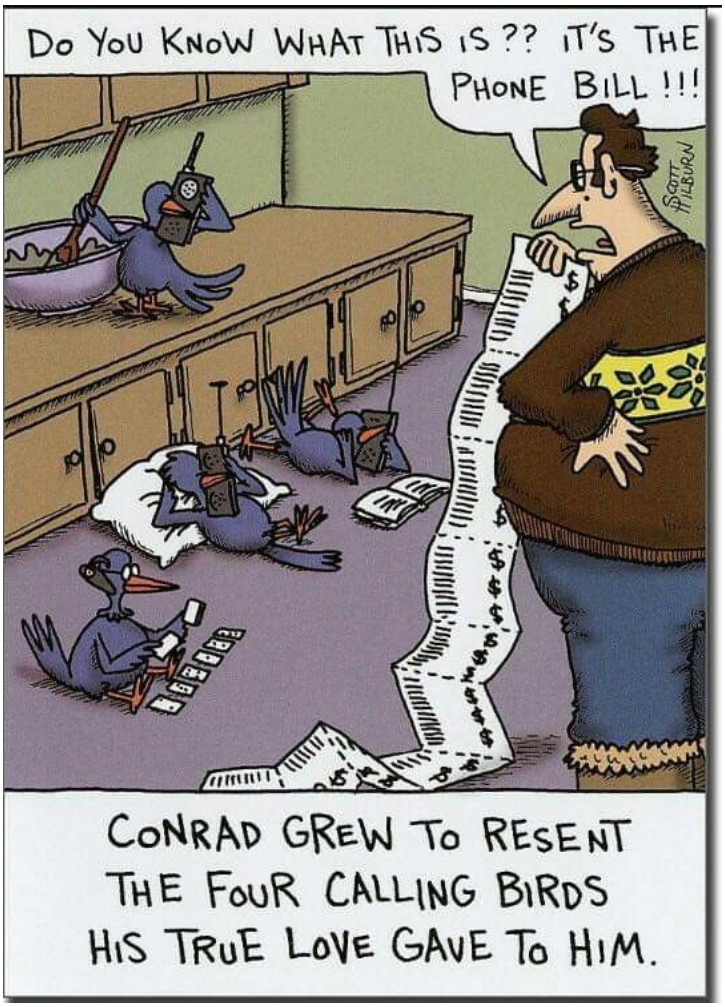
Many thanks to the children and teachers at our fantastic local Primary Schools who enabled this to happen. Orton C of E School, Crosby Ravensworth C of E School, Asby Endowed School, Tebay Primary, Shap CE Primary and Kirkby Stephen Primary School.

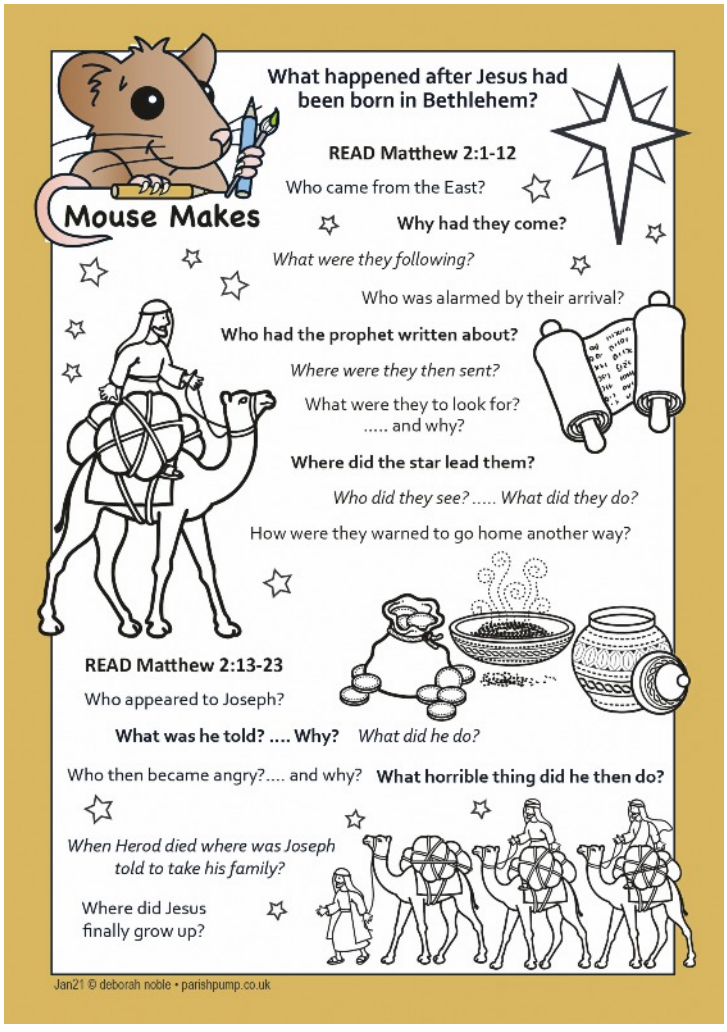
They work so hard to maintain a sense of normality whilst keeping children safe during these difficult times .

Please have a look at this film-'Picturing the Westmorland Dales' is a little bit of joy for a dark night!

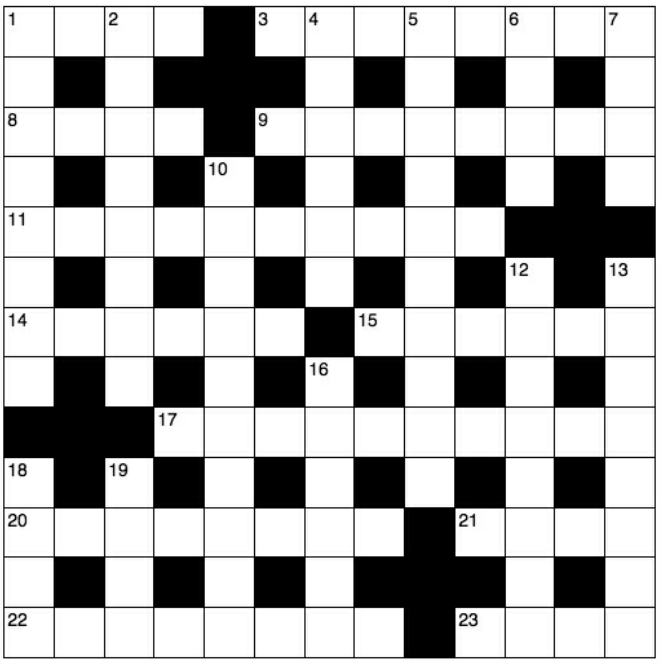
https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/land-art

For further information about the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme please email Nicola Estill : nicola-estill@fld.org.uk





January Crossword



Across

1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
19 Pans (anag.) (4)

Solution p.10

We three kings of Orient are... what?

“A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The way’s deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in *solstitio brumali*, the very dead of winter.”

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Launcelot Andrews, was preaching a magnificent sermon to King James I. Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Launcelot Andrews’ words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem ‘The Journey of the Magi’. What a vivid picture – we can see it all! The camels’ breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold, and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were ‘wise’, or learned men of some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthassar, Melchior, and Caspar (or Gaspar). But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing – anticipating His death.

There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed... straight to Jesus.

Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East - it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the Magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

St Simeon Stylites, one of the weirder saints!

Quite frankly, this hermit was about as weird as they come. But he loved God, and God blessed him, strange though he was. So perhaps Simeon Stylites (390 – 459) should be the patron saint of all REALLY eccentric people.

Simeon was the son of a shepherd on the Syrian border of Cilicia. He joined a monastery near Antioch, where he practised mortifications and penances that nearly killed him. When the abbot dismissed him in disgust as crazy, Simeon moved on to Telanissos (nowadays Dair Sem'an) and spent his first Lent there in a total fast. He was found unconscious on Easter Day. After three years in that monastery he felt life was too easy, and so moved himself to the top of the nearby mountain, where he chained himself to a rock. He began to be talked about, and more and more people came to see him.

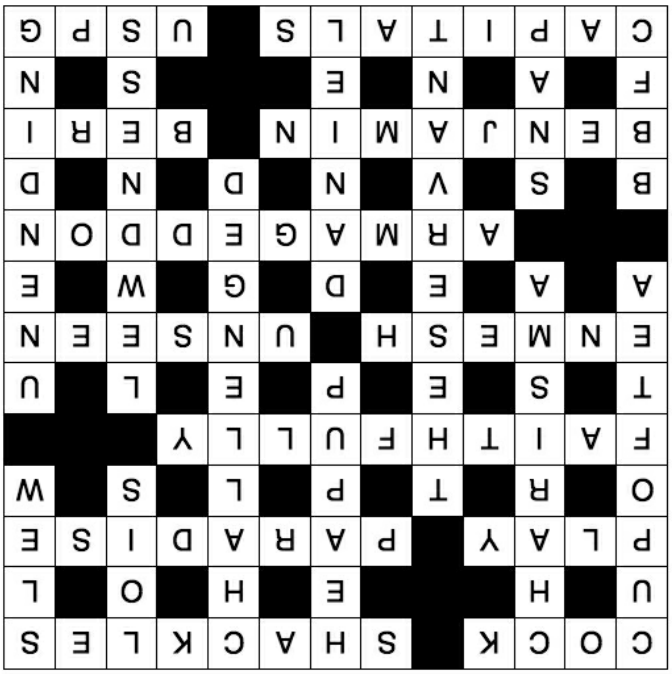
Simeon did not want their company, and so planned his escape: to the top of a pillar. For the next four years he lived on top of a pillar that was nine feet high. More people came by, and so Simeon in desperation added to his pillar, until it grew to be 18 feet high. Still people came to see him, and so three years later, Simeon built himself a real skyscraper – a pillar 33 feet high, from the top of which he enjoyed 10 years of comparative solitude.

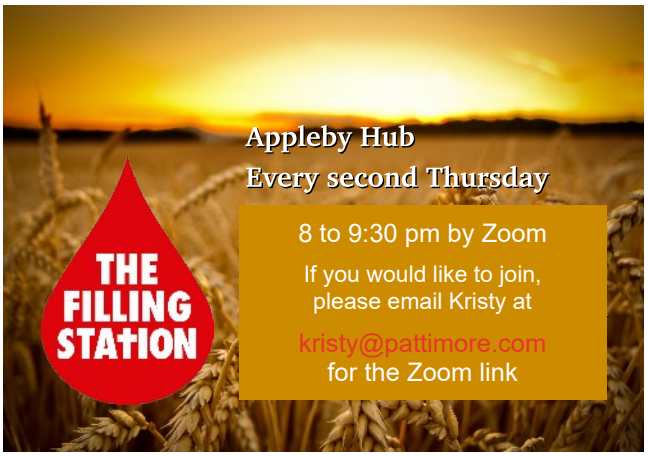
Still people came to see him – both Christians and pagans, and so Simeon decided to somehow build a pillar that was 60 feet high and six feet wide. Here he found peace and quiet, and so here he lived for the last 20 years of his life. People still came to see him, and tried to catch the 'sacred' lice that fell off his body. They enjoyed his twice daily exhortations to everyone below. Even some emperors came by for a look – Theodosius, Leo and Marcian.

A scholar has written of Simeon: "His preaching was practical, kindly, and free from fanaticism. ... In an age of licentiousness and luxury he gave unique and abiding witness to the need for penance and prayer; his way of life provided a spectacle at once challenging, repulsive and awesome."

Simeon finally died and was buried at Antioch. Perhaps he would have enjoyed the chance to take the plinth at Trafalgar Square!

Crossword Solution





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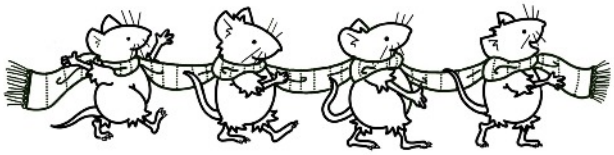
Hosted by the local church, but open to people of all faiths and none. We start and end each session with a 5 - 10 minute meditation and prayer, which we find helps with wellbeing. You are most welcome to join in or to come after the prayer time and leave just before. We look forward to spending time with you.

Contact Kristy Pattimore kristy@pattimore.com

Tel. 07480 935119 for details of how to join the Zoom



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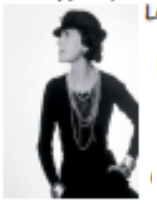

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HC = Holy Communion
EP = Evening Prayer/Evensong
MP = Morning Prayer/Mattins
DIY = Do it Yourself (i.e. lay led)

Church Services January 2021

Church of England	Sunday 3rd Christmas 2/Epiphany	Sunday 10th Baptism of Christ/Epiphany 1	Sunday 17th Epiphany 2	Sunday 24th Epiphany 3	Sunday 31st Epiphany 4
Appleby, St. Lawrence	10:45 HC (+ Covenant Service @ Sands [invitees])	10:45 HC	10:45 HC	10:45 Morning Worship (Service for Christian Unity likely on-line)	**10:45 HC (benefice service)**
	Wednesdays 10:00 HC				
Asby, St. Peter	15:00 Covenant at Methodists	11.00 United – Plough Sunday	15:00 EP	11:00 MP	11.00 United Service
Dufton, St. Cuthbert		15:00 Epiphany Carols		15:00 HC	
Kirkby Thore, St. Michael		10:30 MP		10:30 HC	
Long Marton, SS Margaret & James		15.00 EP		15.00 HC	
Milburn, St. Cuthbert	10:45 HC		10:45 HC		
Murton, St John			15.00 HC		United, see St. Lawrence above
Musgrave, St Theobald		10:00 HC		10.45 Service for Christian Unity – Methodist Chapel	see Appleby
Newbiggin, St Edmond	16.00 HC			16.00 HC	
Ormside, St James	9.15 DIY	09:15 HC	10.00 DIY	15:00 EP	see Asby
Temple Sowerby, St. James			10:45 HC		
Warcop, St. Columba	10:45 HC		10:45 HC	10.45 Service for Christian Unity – Methodist Chapel	see Appleby

Heart of Westmorland YouTube Channel Sunday Service Plan

3 January – Epiphany

Leader: Revd Stewart Fyfe

Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

Remainder to be arranged. Use the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJZlUKFmBD0

Methodist Churches

The Sands, Appleby

each Sunday **10:30am**

Dufton with Knock

each Sunday 10:45am

Methodist Church with Baptists at Great Asby Baptists

Mostly 11:00am, except 3rd - 3pm

Crosby Garrett

6:30pm

Warcop

3rd/10th/17th/24th 10:30 10th & 31st @ 6:30pm

Zoom Connection Service

8th 6:30pm

Church of Our Lady of Appleby
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St. Anne's Hospital (Boroughgate Almshouses)
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