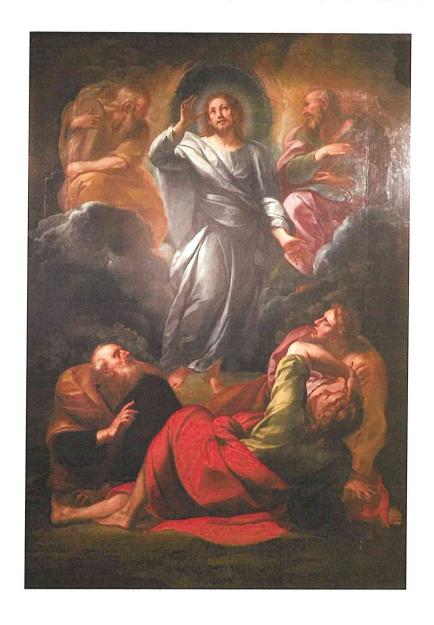
Parish of WHITEHAVEN



October 2022 Price 50p

WHO'S WHO

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St. James' Community Centre

Bookings: M/s Jane Nicolson Tel. 590803 / 07749647534

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Parish Administrator.

Mrs Donna Flitcroft

Tel. 599485

St. Nicholas Centre.

Cafe opening times: Wed, Thur, Friday - times as advertised

Parish Website. www.whitehavenparish.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Clyde turned off the TV news with a sigh. Wars, knife crime, murders: what was the world coming to? On top of the TV was a framed embroidery made by his wife. Clyde read the cross-stitched words, "For God is the king of all the earth." Just how his wife could believe that was beyond him! Couldn't she see the suffering all around her? As far as Clyde was concerned, if there was a God ruling over everything then this God was not doing a very good job!

The Gospel reading set for the Feast of Luke, which is on the 18th of October is Luke 10:1-9. This passage reveals that Jesus' main message was all about God's rule and his belief that God's kingdom was near. So, what exactly did he mean and does this message provide any answers for Clyde?

Jesus was on his way down from Galilee to Jerusalem and on this journey he would pass through many towns and villages. He sent out his followers to proclaim a message to each of these places before he arrived. This message was very simple: "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

'The Kingdom' was an image very familiar to the Jewish people and something they awaited with eager anticipation, believing it to be a time when God would intervene and restore their nation, liberating them from their enemies. However, rather than proclaiming that God would intervene to liberate and restore a physical country, Jesus' message was that God would intervene in individuals' lives, liberating them from their sin and restoring their relationship with God.

The most striking aspect of the message was that this intervention of God was not something far away but very near. The text says: "the kingdom of God has come near" - it is near to those who hear the message and experienced by those who respond to it. So this kingdom is available through Jesus and through the message about him that his followers preached.

Jesus believed that people would be desperate to hear this message of hope: "the harvest was ripe for the picking". So he impressed upon his disciples the urgency of spreading that message (so we have the rather strange directions about not taking purses and bags etc. with them and not being fussy over the food provided by their hosts). Nothing was to get in the way of the proclamation, not even worrying about their possessions or food, and they were told to pray for even more people to take Jesus' message out.

So what exactly does the Kingdom mean for us and people like Clyde? Well, Clyde was right in recognising that the world is not how God intended it to be; it is messed up and in rebellion against its ruler. The Bible teaches that one day this will be put completely right and all will submit to God, The King.

However, Jesus' message is one of more immediate hope: that God's Kingdom is here now in the lives of those who respond to the Church's message about Christ. In Christ, God intervenes, destroying the power sin has over our lives and removing the barriers between ourselves and God so we can communicate directly with our heavenly King through prayer.

Our sins have been forgiven, no matter how bad they are, and we can make a fresh start with hope for the future. We can know the help of God's Spirit to overcome our own weaknesses and struggles with sin. We can know God's help to become the people he intended us to be, not damaged and weighed down by the evils of the world. We can know the peace of trusting that our lives are in the hands of the ruler of the universe and not subject to the whims of cruel fate or random chance. And as we see God's rule in our own life overcoming evil, we can reach out to those who are suffering in this rebellious world and show them something of God's Kingdom.

This is a message of hope, and no wonder Christ believed there was a harvest of people desperate to respond to such good news. Let us pray about how we can let others know that the kingdom is near to them and that, in this dark and often frightening world, a taste of heaven is not far away.

Robert.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - 16TH OCTOBER



In the last edition of our parish magazine we shared the actual costs of the Parish of Whitehaven and the deficit between our income and expenditure - this can still be viewed on our website.

Around this time each year we have a Stewardship Service where we are all invited to renew or begin our financial commitment to the Parish of Whitehaven by completing a response form, whether we are intending to increase or maintain our current giving. Forms will be available at the back of church from Sunday 2nd October.

Once complete, the response forms are to be placed in the box provided at church by Sunday 16th October. All financial information is totally confidential and will only be seen by the Treasurer.

If you would like to give by standing order rather than Free Will Offering envelope or wish to Gift Aid your weekly offering please contact the treasurer Jane Nicolson on 590803.

Thank You.

Alterations to St. James' Whitehaven

Garden of Remembrance

The PCC of The Parish of Whitehaven has been in discussion for some while over how best to maintain the Garden of Remembrance. We came to certain conclusions at our meeting of 26 September 2022, and felt we should do our best to give warning of what will result in a few changes to this area. As it is nearly impossible to contact everyone with a historical connection to the Garden, the following action was agreed:

For at least the next 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays), this notification will appear here and on our public notice boards, in the next two editions of the Parish Magazine, on display in the Garden of Remembrance, and on our website homepage. Could we also urge you (if this is relevant to you) to pass on this information to any persons you feel need to know about our intentions.

The Changes

It is our intention, in the Spring of 2023, to clear the planted areas (NOT GRASSED AREAS) under the memorial plaques of both gardens and lay gravel down, onto which the Memorial Pots will be replaced.

We have sought professional advice for these alterations to the Garden, and will engage a respected professional to carry out the work.

None of the cremated remains will be disturbed during this work. However, those with concerns should talk to the minister Revd Robert Jackson (revrobjackson@live.co.uk; telephone: 01946 696932), or speak to one of the Wardens.

Our sole intention in undertaking this work is to respect the memory of the persons whose remains are interred in the Garden, and in so doing to honour our Saviour.

Revd Robert Jackson,

On behalf of The PCC of Whitehaven.

October 2022 Services

Sunday 2nd October - Harvest.

8:00 Eucharist 10:00 Parish Eucharist

Readings: Revelation 14. 14 -18. John 6 .25-35.

Tuesday 4th - 9:30 - Eucharist (St. James') Thursday 6th - 9:30 - Eucharist (St. Nicholas')

Sunday 9th October - The 17th Sunday after Trinity.

8:00 Eucharist

10:00 Parish Eucharist

Readings: 2 Timothy 2: 8-15. Luke 17: 11-19.

Tuesday 11th - 9:30 - Eucharist (St. James') Thursday 13th - 9:30 - Eucharist (St. Nicholas')

Sunday 16th October - Stewardship Sunday.

8:00 Eucharist

10:00 Parish Eucharist

Readings: 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5. Luke 18: 1-8.

Tuesday 18th - 9:30 - Eucharist (St. James')

Thursday 20th - 9:30 - Eucharist (St. Nicholas')

Sunday 23rd October - The Last Sunday after Trinity.

8:00 Morning Prayer 10:00 Morning Prayer

Readings: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14.

Tuesday 25th - 9:30 - Morning Prayer (St. James')

Thursday 27th - 9:30 - Morning Prayer (St. Nicholas')

Sunday 30th October - All Saints Service.

8:00 Eucharist

10:00 Parish Eucharist

Readings: Ephesians 1: 11-end. Luke 6: 20-31.

AN ORDINAND'S JOURNEY

This is the first in what I anticipate will be a series of articles for our parish magazine, where I will attempt to explain what being an ordinand in the Church of England is like. My purpose is to allow you, my church family, to follow my journey through training to ordination into the diaconate and eventually the priesthood. Perhaps someone might read this who has been feeling God's call to ministry on them but they aren't sure what to do next or that they are not good enough or holy enough to even dare to consider it. Please do allow me to set the record straight on that from the start. No-one is good enough or holy enough, but what we are is obedient to God's call on our lives. Our ministers are not superhuman. They are ordinary men and women who have faithfully answered a calling to do something extraordinary with their lives, often at personal cost. The path to any ministry in God's church whether lay or ordained is not an easy one.



So how did this incredible journey begin for me? I think its not unfair to say that most children when asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?", do not say they want to be a vicar. That is not because it is a job that is unsatisfying or that is not deeply rewarding, it is more to do with the fact that it is a vocational calling and often that calling comes later in life as it did for me. That is not to say that I did not feel God at work in my life as a young man, in fact in my late teen years I was considering the monastic life, but due to circumstances at the time this was not an option. In recent years I have fulfilled that calling when I joined the Franciscan Order as a Tertiary brother and the foundations of prayer that this created have served me well in ministry.

In my day job I work as a planner at Sellafield and I am married to my lovely wife Donna, our parish administrator. We have four children, Matthew, Molly, Isaac and David, our youngest. We have three dogs, two Staffordshire bull terriers and a chihuahua. It makes for a very busy and interesting household. When I first began discerning God's call on my life I have to be honest it blindsided me considerably. I had never thought of being a minister in the church and if I am completely honest, it terrified me. I ignored the call on my life for a while but I could feel God's will scratching away at me like a very gentle but insistent pull. One Sunday in 2017 Bishop James was in church and he was talking about

vocations to our congregation. I was sat up in the choir stalls so he had his back to me while my wife, Donna, was sat at the back of church with David. As Bishop James was talking about how God takes ordinary men and women and forms them for ministry, I looked up and saw that Donna was looking at me. Our eyes locked and she smiled and nodded her head and I knew then that I could ignore God's call no longer. I think at this point it is only right and fair to say that following a call to ministry does not just involve the individual being obedient to God, but their whole family being obedient too and adjusting to what is effectively a new way of life. When Donna and I met she had never imagined being a vicar's wife and having to accommodate the changes that this brings to the demands made on my time, her time and the lives of our children. Although I am the one attending college, studying and training for ministry it really is a team effort and without family support, a lot of prayer and absolute trust in God, I believe it would be incredibly hard to walk this path if not impossible.

I spoke to Robert and explained what was going on and after several conversations and reading several books he lent to me, he felt it would be a good for me to speak to a vocations advisor which I did. The diocese has vocations advisors in every area and I met mine a number of times as we prayerfully tried to discern exactly what God was asking of me. I tried to talk myself out of it many times and it came as a shock when my advisor suggested it would be worthwhile me speaking to the Diocesan Director of Ordinands at church house in Penrith. I recall feeling very nervous as I drove through to Penrith one afternoon in 2017 to meet the Rev'd Canon Peter Clement. My fears were put aside when I met him and found him to be a gracious and gentle man who asked me many searching questions about my faith and my previous life experiences. Peter gave me yet more books to read and asked me to write down the events that had led up to the present situation. We met and talked a number of times until Peter suggested I complete the initial paperwork to begin the lengthy selection process. The selection of candidates for training is very thorough and involves a great deal of soul searching and study to prepare us for the ominously named Bishops Advisory Panel... But I will tell you more about that next month.



There was a good turnout of members for our September meeting which was a Eucharist service conducted by Rev. Margaret Goddard.

Margaret's sermon was based on verses from the Book of Ruth and what she said was thought provoking and encouraging.

It was an enjoyable meeting on a very sunny September afternoon and with the sun shining so warmly it felt strange to be planning our Christmas meal!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 11th at 2pm in St. Nicholas Centre. The speaker will be Margaret Hartley, a retired nurse.

All are welcome to attend.

Sheila Kelly (Branch Secretary)

Dear Parishioners,

As well as being one of the current Church wardens and being a member of PCC, I have been a volunteer at CitizensAdvice Copeland for a number of years. The following article relates to my role at Citizen Advice.

A day hardly goes by when we do not hear or are affected by the current cost of living crisis in households. This may affect us individually, our friends, family or our community. One way of dealing with this crisis for households is basic money advice of trying to increase income, decrease expenditure and help negotiate with debts. In theory this sounds easy, but in practice in normal times it is hard but its more difficult in the current economic climate.

However, I would like to draw your attention to three easy ways this can be done for yourselves, family or friends.

Firstly, consider doing a benefit check for yourselves, family or friends. A number of benefits are available from Department of Work and Pensions dealing with disability, caring, the elderly and those on low income. One way of increasing income is to do a benefit check to see if you are entitled a particular benefit, and if you are receiving benefits to check that you are receiving the correct amount.

The second way is to help reduce expenditure; this can be done with advice on budgeting, switching and obtaining the best deal available such as for energy, insurance, phone and internet providers.

The third way of increasing your income relates to debts. If anyone has a number of debts one way of increasing their income is by reducing their debts payments by receiving debt advice with a view to reduce debt payments or having their debts written off.

Some people may feel confident doing this for themselves or their family, but those who need support or help this can be done by a number of local organization and charities. The obvious one I would you to draw you attention is Copeland Citizen Advice (contact details below) which is the one I most knowledgeable about. They offer free and confidential advice who are also impartial and independent regarding debts and benefits and also advise on other matters such as employment, housing, consumer, legal and family matters.

I hope you find this article useful, and seriously consider the above points.

Contact details

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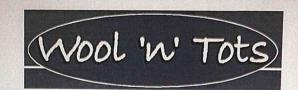
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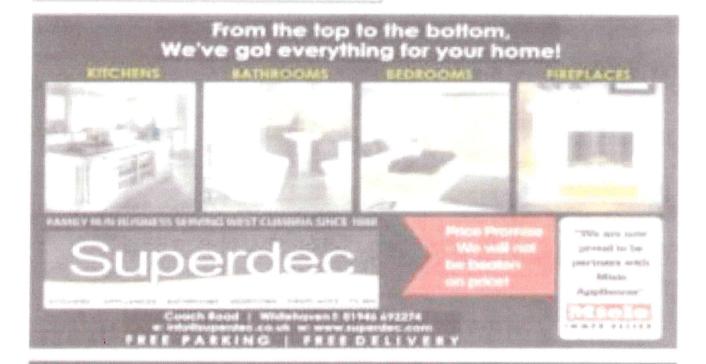
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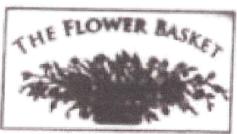




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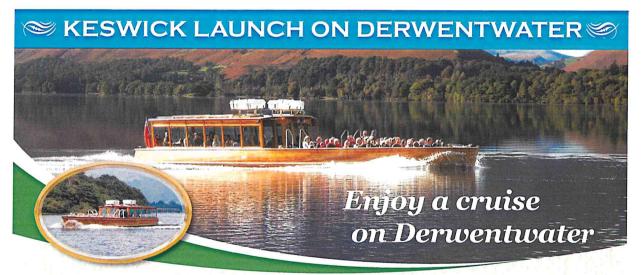
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