

BINSEY LINK

The magazine that reaches out to everyone in our communities

Charity Number: 1169267

binsey.org.uk

Serving and informing the Mission Community of: Allhallows, Bassenthwaite, Boltons, Embleton, Ireby, Isel, Plumbland, Setmurthy, Torpenhow, Uldale and Wythop

February 2021

GLIMPSES OF HOPE

At the time of writing this, the New Year is only a few weeks old, but it has already brought plenty of bad and difficult news as the effects of the latest lockdown and the pandemic continues to be felt in many significant ways. As usual, in January the weather has been wintry and the grey, cold, damp, foggy days give a general feeling of gloom. After all that happened during 2020, we long for a fresh start to the year.

A few days after Christmas, on a cold, misty morning, Sally and I walked up High Pike (by Caldbeck) from Nether Row and halfway-up we got above the cloud and had magnificent snowy scenery instead. Standing on the summit in sunshine with clear, blue skies, we enjoyed the full effect of the cloud inversion below, and had the feeling of having managed to briefly rise above all the challenges of life.

Of course, we long for the mist and fog of life to lift and clear, so that we can begin to carry on with some of the normal activities of life, and also see one another and spend some time together.

Thankfully, there are signs of genuine hope with the availability of the new vaccines and we pray for an efficient rollout of the vaccination programme to as many people as possible. We also hope that the vaccine will prove effective in reducing the spread of the virus.

During January, Christians continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus as Christmas gives way to the season of Epiphany. A season, which reminds us that in the darkness, frailty and suffering of life, the light of God still shines in the person of Jesus Christ.

At the end of Epiphany, on 2nd February, we celebrate Candlemas, which remembers the occasion when Mary and Joseph, following Jewish tradition, bring their baby son to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they meet Simeon and Anna, who are both very elderly and spend most of their time in the Temple worshipping and praying. Both of them recognise this tiny child as the Light of the World and their lives of faith are blessed by seeing for themselves the promised Messiah, Jesus, the Son of God.

Simeon and Anna were waiting patiently in prayer and hope, in a world where suffering had become a way of life, and now God has sent his Son to deal with this suffering by sharing in it himself. Into the gloom and fog of life, and into their darkness, their frailty, and their suffering, the light of God shines and their lives are transformed by the love of Jesus.

Candles are lit at Candlemas, as a sign of the love of Jesus shining in the darkness of the world and our lives. Yes, there are still dark days ahead, but there is new hope and we look for that beam of light to brighten our dull days and show us clearly the path ahead.

*Stephen*Revd Stephen Banks





Monthly Letter

Weekus Horribilis

Some years ago, The Queen described 1992 as her 'Annus Horribilis' – a horrible year. Now we find ourselves in a third lockdown, it seems we are having the same!

Yet, I've begun to wonder whether it is possible to look for a few glimmers of hope now the year has turned. Certainly, with the promise of a vaccine, there is cause to lift our chins up a little more.

On 24 November 1992, Queen Elizabeth II gave a speech at Guildhall in London to mark the 40th anniversary of her Accession. Then, she referred to recent events as part of an 'annus horribilis'. Why was that so?

Just four days earlier, Windsor Castle had caught fire, suffering extensive damage. This lowered The Queens' year to a greater low, due to two Royal Marriages in ashes [Princess Anne and Prince Andrew], Andrew Morton's explosive 'Diana' book, and finally, the magnificent palace at Windsor, smoking in ruins.

The phrase was borrowed and adapted by The Queen, originating in Latin, 'annus mirabilis' – i.e. 'year of wonders' (or miracles) and was used by John Dryden in the title of his poem *Annus Mirabilis: the year of wonders 1666*. This poem that was published in 1667, and commemorated the English defeat of the Dutch naval fleet, and another fire, the Great Fire of London.

Now, our own families all have their own stories and experiences that are at least a few months - or weeks long - which were perhaps, our 'weekus [septimanas] horribilis' or worse. While things could always be worse, they could also be a lot better if we looked at them from a wider perspective. At least, on Christmas Day, we had a brief amnesty to travel in some areas, and to 'bubble' with loved-ones, if limited in number.

Cast your mind back to a young couple in ancient Israel, running for their new born child's life [from jealous and vicious Herod], having been born in a squalid, animal pen in the basement of a strange house, with a heavily pregnant Mary being dragged to register for a census with Joseph. They were refugees, covered in shame [they're 'not properly married!'], and under the Roman occupation, and missing work – definitely not the picture-postcard image of a [royal] family either. Yet, this is how God chose to send his own Son, Jesus Christ into our broken world. This was an invasion that has brought heaven to earth, and upturns the notion of power to us all, and corrects misleading ideas of who God is.

In the Church year, we are still in the season called 'Epiphany' [ending at Candlemas] - referring to the revelation of Christ to all peoples, and focused on the visit of the Three Wise men or Magi. It is probable that these star gazing Eastern mystics, [the bible doesn't say how many, but there were three gifts], came to see the Christ-Child, led by a conjunction of stars, like we have recently been able to see [i.e. Saturn and Jupiter] around the 21st December for the first time in 800 hundred years, and since 4 March 1226!

It is my hope and prayer that more than just a star or two will come out this New Year and into our lives. In the words of the Queen through her speech to the nation at Christmas: "Let the light of Christmas, the spirit of selflessness, love and above all, hope, guide us in the times ahead."

If we might be tempted to feel lonely, afraid, and worried about our future – take comfort in the fact that Jesus has been here too, and that is the kind of God we are invited to meet and know.

With love and prayers, Revd. Peter.

From the Registers

FUNERALS

The funeral of John Jackson from Bassenthwaite, took place at Carlisle Crematorium, on 16th November 2020.

The funeral of Barbara Harrison, formerly of Baggrow, took place at Holme Cultram Abbey, Abbeytown, on 19th November 2020.

The funeral of Sam Hall from Boltongate, took place at St. James, Ireby, on 1st December 2020.

The funeral of Doreen Eden from Blindcrake, took place at St. Michael & All Angels, Isel, on 16th December 2020.

The funeral of Sarah Crozier from Bassenthwaite, took place at St. John, Bassenthwaite, on 23rd December 2020.

Team Items

CHURCH SERVICES

As this edition of the Binsey Link is being prepared for printing we are in another period of national lockdown and because of the high rates of infection have decided not to have services in church. However, we remain hopeful that by early March we will be able to hold Sunday services again.

Once services resume, then that information will be on the Binsey website – www.binsey.org.uk.

In the meantime, a weekly service is being sent out via email and most Sundays one of the clergy will also record the service at home, and make it available via YouTube and the Binsey Facebook page. If you would like to receive the Sunday service via email, then please let us know. teamrector@binsey.org.uk or teamvicar@binsey.org.uk.

Some of our churches will be open for private individual prayer on certain days and that information can be found in the parish news or by contacting the churchwardens.

Weddings





Congratulations if you have just got engaged and are thinking about getting married in one of the Binsey Mission Community churches.

If you currently live anywhere within the Binsey Mission Community area, then you can get married in our churches. If you live elsewhere, but have a family connection to a church, or want to come and worship regularly in our churches, then we'd love to help you.

We expect to be able to conduct weddings again, once the present lockdown is eased. However, the number of people attending a wedding is restricted to a maximum of 15 people, which includes everyone present, and face-

sks must be worn and social distancing maintained.

sible or book a wedding, please contact our Team Rector, Revd. Stephen Banks on 016973 71541 for a friendly chat. He will be able to talk you through what is possible and what are the current differences.

We would love to welcome you into our church and help you make your life-long commitment to each other before God.

Please note that we are not currently taking any new bookings for St. Bega, Bassenthwaite due to its size, location, and to ensure the safety of all volunteers under the current climate.

St James, Uldale is also not currently available because of major restoration work.

Baptism in the Binsey Team Mission Community

We are really pleased when parents approach us about Baptism (also known as Christening) for their child. It's a very important step, both for parents and the child. Infant Baptism involves parents and godparents making a public commitment about their own Christian faith and the church. They are making a commitment to pray for their child, so that as they grow, with their help, and ours, they may be able to live out in practice the Christian life.

To enable parents to do this we ask that you come and join us in worship at any of our team churches at some point in the two months BEFORE the date of the baptism. After an enquiry is made, a home visit will be arranged to discuss things informally, to see what level of preparation might be appropriate and answer any questions.

We hope to conduct Baptisms after Easter and they are subject to the same restrictions as any church service; face-masks must be worn and due to social distancing and the small size of our buildings, most churches would not be able to have more than 12-15 people in the Baptism party.

For an informal chat about infant baptism, please contact the Team Rector, Revd. Stephen Banks on 016973 71541 or the Team Vicar, Revd. Peter Gilroy on 016973 71430.

Please note that we are not currently taking any new bookings for St. Bega, Bassenthwaite due to its size, location and to ensure the safety of all volunteers under the current climate. St James, Uldale is also not currently available because of major restoration work.



We are here for you

Feel like having a chat?

Sometimes we feel like talking to someone different or anyone at all. That might be especially true at the moment.

The Binsey Pastoral Visiting Team are glad to offer a listening ear.

You are welcome to ring any of us on the list, at any time between 10am and 5pm. Just say 'Hello, I've rung for a chat!'.

If the person you call isn't in, please do ring again later or try someone else on the list.

If you feel like having a chat, about anything at all, we look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Braithwaite 016973 23429 Julia Hedley 017687 76844 Laurie Mansfield 07866 534 316 Gillian Marr 016973 71478 Cathy Rooney 016973 71866 Clare Spedding 017687 75356 Valerie Trafford 017687 76278



Team Item

HELP SUPPORT OUR TWELVE CHURCHES IN BINSEY

For centuries our twelve parish churches have been a spiritual home to generations of villagers. Our inspirational buildings, not only help shape the character of our villages , but are also reminders of the presence of God in our daily lives, supporting people at times of joy and sorrow.

We are very grateful to all who support our work; generously giving their time, their talents, and their money. We hope that the twelve parish churches of Binsey can continue to be very much at the heart of our community life, offering a haven of peace and reflection to all our parishioners.

There are now some challenges for us, as the current restrictions continue to prevent most social events, group meetings and fundraising activities from taking place.

Church services are very restricted in the number of people who can attend due to social distancing guidelines and the relatively small size of most of our buildings.

These regulations have a particular impact upon funerals, weddings, and baptisms, all of which are limited to only a maximum of 30 people, if the building allows. In the case of weddings and baptisms many of these services are being delayed until next year and whilst funerals must go

ahead despite the restrictions, the number of people who can attend them is greatly reduced.

All of this has had a significant impact on the income of each of our churches, and yet most of the running costs and financial commitments remain the same.

The Binsey Team receives no external funding and is entirely reliant on donations. Therefore, if any of you could consider making a financial donation, your gift would be very gratefully received.

Your donation can be made as a one-off gift or you can make a regular monthly donation instead.

If you are able to make a financial contribution, then you can send a cheque (made payable to the 'Binsey Team Ministry') to the Binsey Team Treasurer and his address details are on the back page, (please give details of whether you wish your gift to be used for any specific purpose or a specific church).

Alternatively, you can visit the website, www.binsey.org.uk, and click on the 'donate' button on the home page or 'give' on the churches page, where a direct internet link allows a financial gift to be made to any of our twelve churches using your debit card.

Stephen
Revd. Stephen Banks

Binsey History by Mick Jane

George Moore
Mealsgate.
(150 years ago)
RELIEF OF PARIS.

At the beginning of George Moore's diary for 1871, the following words occur, "My heart is sick at the carnage and death which this war is now causing throughout France. We have not heard from the managers of our Paris house for two months. We do not know whether our people are dead or alive!"

Paris was then besieged by the Germans. The network of iron closed around the city on the 19th September 1870, and the citizens were left, in the words of Bismarck, to "stew in their own gravy." The city had been scantily provided with food, and starvation soon began to be felt. Horseflesh was nearly eaten up. Cats and dogs were scarcely to be had. Rats and mice were eagerly consumed.

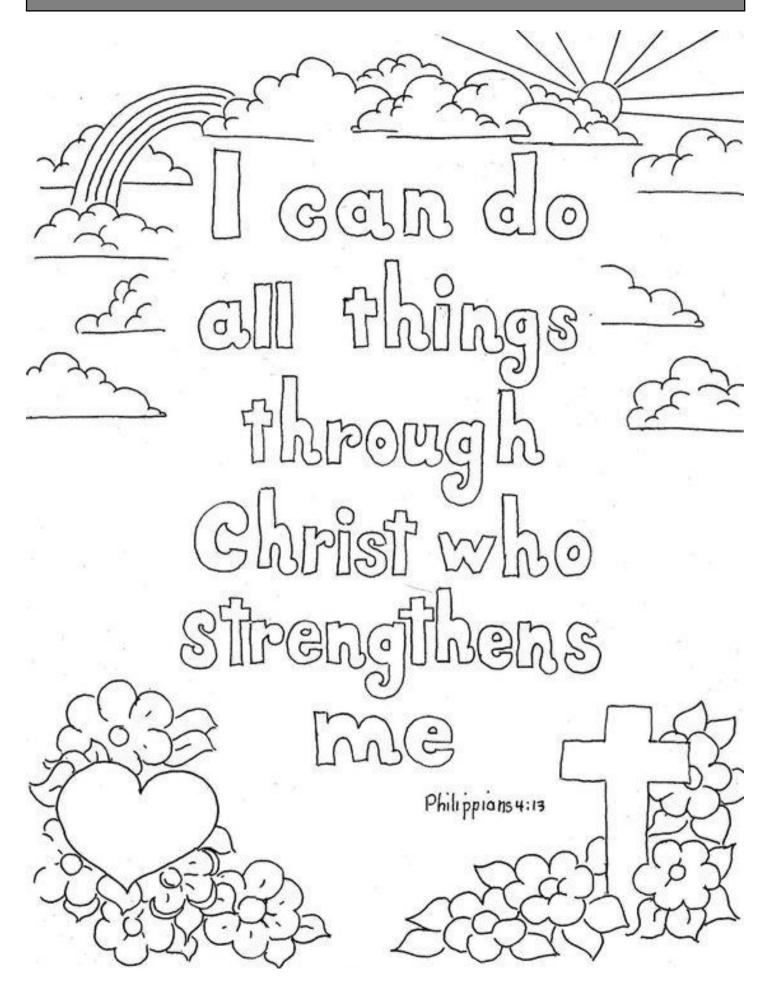
A system of rations was provided by the government. Long queues of starving women were to be seen waiting at the butchers' doors, for their quarter of a pound of meat. Though the frost was biting, the women would wait for a dozen hours, half-clad and unsheltered, on a cold winter's morning. Sometimes they took up their station the night before, to be ready for the first opening of the shop.

In the meantime, a large subscription had been received in London, under the presidency of Alderman Dakin, Lord Mayor. The committee consisted of men of all ranks and denominations. London wept for Paris. A fund of around £120,000 was raised to provide for the immediate wants of the people when the gates were opened. George Moore was one of the active members of the committee. "The French distress," he says, "gives me a great deal of work." "Thank God," he says on the 28 th January, "there is an armistice in France. I fear I shall have to go over to distribute the Mansion-House Fund. If I go, it is as an act of duty." On the 31 st January 1871 he says: "The Lord Mayor and many others made me promise to go over to Paris. I started at a quarter to 8am amidst a very severe frost, with snow upon the ground. May God take care of my darling wife in my absence!"

The party consisted of George Moore and his clerk, Colonel Wortley, and a French lady, who had been separated from her husband during the siege. The commissioners took with them seventy tons of food and £5000 in money. They travelled by Newhaven and Dieppe. All the other routes to Paris were closed until the terms of peace could be arranged.

The above account is taken from my book on the "Siege of Paris". For the full story you can contact me, Mick Jane, at 5, Front Street, Fletchertown or call 016973 71424.

Family Colouring



Around The Parishes

Bassenthwaite

Update on St John Spire and Clock Works.

The contractor for the spire repairs has completed the necessary repointing of the spire itself. The lead gutter between the main body of the church and the spire still needs to be replaced. This will be done when weather conditions allow and may entail replacing the supporting timber work under the lead gutter when this is exposed. The clock has been repaired and tested and is ready to be installed as soon as the other work is complete.

Work to the clock has revealed that the timber supporting the chimes needs replacing. The chimes themselves are in fair order but would need to be removed to repair the timber. This is a major task requiring scaffolding. A faculty and the church authorities permission would be required as would be the case for any alternative replacement to the chimes such as electronic chimes. As to whether such permissions would be forth coming is uncertain. Costs would be considerable, possibly in the region of £30,000.

Following discussions with the relevant church authorities, youn it is thought best to complete the spire and clock work

Seasond then apply for fund and/or grants to meet the costs of rain.

the work to the chimes, if it is decided to go ahead. We would like to say a huge thank you for all the generous donations and help with fundraising which have made the work to the spire and clock possible.

Flowers and Cleaning—St John and St Bega.

No flowers are needed given services are currently on hold. Cleaning will be covered by DCC members. When things look like getting back to normal, those on the rota will be contacted.

St John Churchyard—Please could all Christmas wreaths in St John churchyard be removed by the end of Feb.

The Bassenthwaite Christmas tree group would once again like to say a big thank you to Messers Trafford of Peter House Farm, who once again donated and delivered a tree to the village green. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to put the tree and lights in place, nice to see some young faces. Also, thanks to Brian Fell and his tractor. Seasonal refreshments were enjoyed by all, even in the rain.

Embleton

St Cuthbert

Happy New Year everyone, although the January lockdown feels too much like the old year carrying on. At the time of writing more people have contracted Covid-19 in our area; we send them very best wishes for a speedy recovery. Stay safe everyone.

Huge thanks for your support at our Christmas Market at Wythop Mill, a very successful venture. And much appreciation also to the folks at Scales Farm who encouraged us to set up again on their busy turkey collection days and gave us a Christmas shed in which we could display our Christmas crafts to sell. Friendly chat, good produce and raising funds in good causes - such a positive feeling in tough times!

We are unable to hold church services or pop-up stalls during lock down restrictions, but we are planning to spring into action as soon as we can. If any of you have good suggestions for future events – do tell us. How does a soup and pudding stall sound? Breakfast on the hill? We don't want to lose the community spirit and involvement; it feels too good.

Ragbags; Unwanted clothing, linen, shoes, handbags and belts; all welcome and thank you for keeping the donations coming. Items can be left in the porch at St Cuthbert **OR** in the collection bin at Ling Crest, Wythop Mill. All money raised goes to Dewode.

Any items or comments for the next edition please send to Jean at jeanmaca@aol.com or 01768776184 by 7th Feb.

Embleton & District Village Hall Notice Board.

Happy New Year! Under current restrictions the village hall has been closed and will be reviewed this month, in line with national guidelines. Chris.

Ireby

Parish Church of St James, Ireby

Happy New Year! Thank you for all the support we have received, even when we have not been able to hold services. Candle boxes and any other donations for the Children's Society can be given to the Church Wardens.

On a more sombre note, please can Christmas wreaths etc. be removed from the churchyards by Saturday 13th February, in preparation for Lent.

Isel

Isel and Bridekirk Parishes First Responders 150 Club Draw

December 2020—1st Prize N Prosser, 2nd Prize J Gate, 3rd Prize J Almond, 4th Prize Y Eden.

January 2021—1st Prize Julie Norman, 2nd Prize Lillian Barker, 3rd Prize Liz Denham, 4th Prize Linda Hadley.

The First Responders offer an invaluable service to the parishes of Isel, Bridekirk and Setmurthy; they are trained in life support and give their time freely, bringing their skill and equipment to an emergency in those vital first few minutes. The "150 club" is a main source of income to provide these volunteers with training and equipment. If you would like to join the "150 club", or know someone who would, contact Moira Purvis on telephone 01697320534 or email moirapurvis@hotmail.com.

Plumbland

Plumbland, St Cuthbert

Greetings to all our friends in the community. We hope you have all been able to have a trouble free festive season and are now looking forward in hope for an improving New Year. As you are aware, due to the changing situation, it has been necessary to curtail worshipping in our churches. However, we must not be downhearted, by closing our churches we are complying with the guidelines and, therefore, doing our bit to try and reduce the effect of the virus, something we are all doing in our daily lives.

It is not easy, at times, to resist that hug from a loved one

or a handshake from a friend, yet if we are able to persevere, it will, eventually mean that we are, once again, able to open our Churches and greet all who come to visit us. We are not able to predict how soon that may be, we must hope and pray that it will be sooner rather than later.

Our Rector, Stephen, will of course let us know as soon as possible when that will be. In the meantime, from all of us here in Plumbland

Thinking and praying for you all, that you may remain safe and warm, not just physically, but in the love of God!

Setmurthy

As we write this, we have entered a third lockdown and we have supported the decision to not hold services in the Binsey team at the moment. We sincerely hope as you read this link the infection rate has reduced and we can look forward to meeting for services soon. We will continue to post notices on the church noticeboard and contact you via email and telephone. Please feel free to contact us for information regarding services, our details are on the back of the Binsey Link.

We were very grateful to have two lovely services in December, which were well attended and thank our clergy for making these possible along with the online services they prepare each week.

In November we sent out a stewardship letter to most households in Setmurthy and we were very encouraged by the response. The generosity shown has enabled us to meet our financial obligations for 2020 in full and to look forward in 2021 with a renewed optimism. Thank you to everyone who has contributed financially and also to those who have given their time and expertise to help maintain St Barnabas. Elizabeth & Alex (Church Wardens)

Parish Hall

We have a warm renovated Parish Hall just waiting to be used when it is safe to do so. To book, contact Mrs Edith Wise on 017687 76381.

Torpenhow

Torpenhow DCC would like to thank all those who have supported St. Michael Church in any way during a difficult 2020 and look forward to welcoming you back and your support in 2021. We hope you are keeping safe and well.

Churchyard

In order to keep the Churchyard tidy, please could all Christmas wreaths/flowers be removed from graves by the end of February. Thank you.

contact the Clergy/Churchwardens. Church is open for private prayer and reflection on Saturdays and Sundays. Please continue to observe COVID-19 precautions.

For future Church services please refer to binsey.org.uk or Please be aware over the next few months our contractor will be working on various parts of the churchyard wall, this should not affect access to the churchyard.

Uldale

Progress with building and restoration work at St. James Heritage Consolidation are finishing off all the tasks possible under the previous faculties and will then return the Church to as near normal as they can. However, there is currently no heating and, therefore, no chance of holding services, even if the current restrictions are eased. surfaces. Faculty 3 has now been submitted and we await contact from the DAC in due course. This faculty covers the installation of new electrical wiring, radiators, lighting, levelling the floor in the Nave, installing a toilet in the Vestry and a kitchen area in the Nave, near the main entrance. It is intended to move the font near the pulpit, so that it can more easily be the focus of attention during Baptisms. The Nave will then be carpeted, and the pews

replaced with chairs, thus enabling more versatile seating arrangements. The Chancel will not be altered, save for the removal of the raised platforms beneath the pews. A safety rail will be placed at the entrance, across the top of the bank and the paths will have new, compacted

All this will, of course, take some time and, in the short terms, is reliant on our gaining the permission of the DAC and the Chancellor. Further updates will follow. It is worth remembering that all this is possible because of a most generous bequest from the Whiles family.

Wythop

We were very glad to be able to have Christmas Communion at Wythop, a brief respite in these difficult times.

As you know, it has been decided not to hold services at the moment, as many of our parishioners are reluctant to mix with others during this time of soaring COVID cases in Cumbria. Not to mention the very cold weather, which makes getting to church an icy adventure! Let us hope things will have improved by the time you are reading this,

not least because of the roll out of the vaccine. We will be kept informed about services and in the meanwhile we appreciate the online services and reflections supplied by our clergy.

We are continuing to have the church open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm. If there is a service in church on a Sunday, we will close the church immediately after the service.

Women's Institute News

Bassenthwaite W.I.

Although we have been unable to meet as a group these last months, Bassenthwaite W.I. came together in our own by Margaret Green. Margaret has been our president for "Christmas Virtual Exhibition". Back in October, Ros Downing initiated a Christmas challenge to create a Christmas themed item and send a photo of it for Ros to use her digital skills to produce a virtual exhibition to send to all members.

The range of skills and talents displayed was incredible. They included sewing, knitting, crotchet, quilting, embroidery, felting, baking, flower arranging, b woodwork, origami, poetry writing and of cours digital skills of Ros to put together an amazing v showcase the collective result which came com music and special effects. Those members unal complete the challenge were encouraged to ser photo and a Christmas message so every memb included. Members without internet were loan and Ros also has a paper copy to put in our W.I. Altogether a tremendous achievement, well do everyone and thank you Ros for a fantastic idea delivery of the finished production, it was very appreciated. Members were also given a small (gift, a luxury soap, free from the chemical addit can be detrimental to our skin, so hopefully ma

handwashing a more pleasurable experience. The soaps were presented in a beautiful Christmas bag lovingly made the last 12 years and has recently stood down. Under her kind and caring guidance our W.I. has flourished, and we thank her for all her hard work and for taking responsibility for the W.I. for so long. Our new president is Sue Mendus, a long-standing enthusiastic member, who we look forward to being able to meet in her new role sometime this year.

care to stay safe.



Parish Council Information

Blindcrake

The Blindcrake Parish Council held a meeting on 16th November 2020 remotely via Zoom.

At the meeting the council accepted the minutes of the September 2020 meeting.

A) Broadband.

The council was updated on the current Isel broadband discussions and informed that BT had begun works installing fibre in Sunderland.

B) Blindcrake Village Hall.

The refurbishment works have uncovered further issues with the hall. The Village Hall Committee are attempting to find additional funding to rectify this and advised the council that the contingency funding that the council had agreed would be required.

C) Communications.

The council agreed to adopt the draft privacy notice previously circulated.

D) Clints Quarry.

The formal response from LDPNA to the scoping request had been received. The Chair went through the main points it had raised.

E) Planning Matters.

The council discussed the two applications it had received.

F) Financial Matters.

i) The current financial position was approved. The Clerk stated that in line with the Financial regs a quarterly review of the accounts and bank records had been conducted and they tally.

ii) 21/22 precept – An increase from £7,250 to £7,500 approx. 3% was agreed - this will be the first increase in 3 years and is to rebuild the contingency buffer, to cover insurance premium rises and potential grass cutting cost rises as a new contract will need to be tendered. It was noted that the number of properties in the parish has increased and although the total precept had stayed the same, the charge per household had fallen. **Next meeting:** 18th January 2021.

Embleton and District From the November Meeting

<u>WELCOME</u> to Ms Judith Sanderson of Embleton, who has been co-opted to the Parish Council. We are looking forward to working with her and we hope that she enjoys her time with us.

PROPOSED LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION IN CUMBRIA.

Extracts from the CALC (Cumbria Association of Local Councils) November/December Newsletter:

In early July 2020, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government contacted all Cumbrian local authorities to discuss local government reorganisation.

The deadline for receipt of proposals was Wednesday 9th December 2020, and several proposals were submitted to government by the County Council and the current Borough and District councils. These included:

From Cumbria County Council: 'One Cumbria' proposal for one unitary authority covering the whole of Cumbria.

From Copeland Borough Council and Allerdale Borough

Council: Two unitary authorities splitting into Cumbria East (Eden, South Lakes and Barrow) and Cumbria West (Copeland, Allerdale and Carlisle)

If you are thinking that this all seems a bit sudden, the Parish Council agrees. We explained to Cllr Alan Smith, one of our Allerdale Borough Councillors, that we didn't feel that there had been enough engagement with Parish Councils regarding the movement to Unitary Authority and the potential implications.

It seems that the Government will come back on these suggestions by March 2021 and at some stage there will be a consultation process with Parish and Town Councils. However, it seems that this re-organisation is scheduled to take place in Spring 2021, a move which is seen by Allerdale as acting with unseemly haste.

We will update you with more information as and when it comes our way.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 17 February 2021, at 7pm in a Virtual Meeting Room.

If you have a matter that you would like to raise, please contact our Clerk, Becx Carter on 077866 78283 or email embletonparishclerk@hotmail.com.

Keep in touch with us on facebook.

See what's happening in your area and the wider Christian community. Visit **facebook.com/binseyministry** or search for **Binsey Ministry**.

Parish Council Information continued...

Ireby & Uldale

Summary of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th January 2021.

Matters Discussed included: **Planning** – Applications received: 7/2020/2287 – Ruthwaite Farm - Refurbishment of building comprising damp proofing, replacement stove in lounge and new multi-fuel stove in second lounge, replacement lighting, replacement bathrooms and chimney repair work. Decisions: 7/2020/2222 – Aiverthwaite, Aughertree, Ireby - Amendment to agricultural occupancy condition, condition 2 on planning permission 7/1982/2100 to local occupancy condition – conversion of barn to dwelling. GRANTED.

Grass Cutting Contract: The grass cutting contract is due to be renewed this year. Tenders are to be invited for cutting the areas in Uldale and Ruthwaite. Further information can be obtained from the Clerk.

Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation: The Borough Council has published its Budget Consultation for 2021/22. The consultation is online until 15th January and provides an opportunity to comment on the changes to Council Tax for 2021/22.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd March 2021. Anyone wishing to attend the virtual meeting, please register their interest with the Clerk 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Clerk: Janice Rae, 33 Scholars Green Wigton, CA7 9QW. 016973 42138 / janice.rae220@btinternet.com. www.ireby-uldalepc.org.uk.

School News

Bothel

Happy New Year everyone and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas!

It has been my first week as the new head teacher at St Michael CE Primary in Bothel, and I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome. I already feel part of the Bothel family and look forward to writing many more of these updates in the future, sharing with you all that we have been up to at our wonderful school.

It has been quite a hectic and different start to the school term and not at all what any of us had imagined! With a new lockdown starting and schools closing once again, it means we have not been able to open to our whole school community in the way that we normally do, but have instead opened to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. However, our school continues to be the happy and welcoming place that it always is and staff have been working incredibly hard to provide both for the children in school and the children working hard from home; they have been very busy making sure everyone in school has packs of learning resources and stationery to help them out at home and to make sure everyone has reading books to keep up with their love of reading! The children have all been doing brilliantly with their home learning and have uploaded some fabulous work and the children in school have been working hard in their new bubble, too. They have been enjoying the frosty and snowy weather and we all enjoyed some delicious hot chocolate with marshmallows! I have received some lovely photos and videos of children sledging and creating snowmen and snow angels in between their home learning! They really made me smile! Mrs Polly Page

Ireby

A very happy new year to you all! With all the uncertainty that was hanging over us and the whole country at the start of January, the staff and team at Ireby C of E School have again impressed us all with their ability to rise up to the challenges of this new term. Teachers delivered books, laptops, and work folders to all the children and the term began. The EYFS and KS1 started their topic "Weather and Seasons" with an unexpected, but very welcome visit of some snow and ice last week. Their teacher is also setting them daily challenges with some of the results being shared on our Facebook and Twitter pages. One of these challenges was to create some "weather yoga" poses, which were wonderful to see, and another was to write one of their weekly spelling words in the most imaginative way. The children wrote words using Lego, food, ponies, pasta and cars.

The KS2 children have also made an excellent start to the term. From day one they have been connected, interacting and learning each day via Teams using their school laptops. As always, the children have stepped up to support each other as a team, while we all adjust to this new way of learning together. It looks to be an exciting term of learning about Ancient Egypt...

Continued on the next page...

School News continued...

Ireby school continued...

It is sad not to see all the children and staff in class learning and playing together, and the children are missing the visits from members of the community who add to and enhance their experiences. However, it is guite brilliant to see how the pupils can stay so connected and are able to communicate daily with their teachers. We hope you are all staying safe and well and please do have a look at our Twitter and Facebook pages if you are able to. It will bring a smile to your face!

Plumbland

All the children settled back into school well for the first term and as we were working as 'one school bubble' we were able to open our breakfast club and after school clubs.

Our children enjoyed their educational visit to Whinlatter, where they explored parts of the forest and learnt about the animals living in the forest and their habitats. We had a whole school 'Geography themed morning' focusing on the continents. We took part in flag making, Indian cooking, Antarctic snowflake making, research on Australian animals, making Egyptian mummies and learning about the Amazon rainforest.

Our children have taken part in several 'virtual sports challenges' alongside other schools, including netball and football. We also took part in a 'squat challenge' which we We would like to wish everyone a happy new year. won.

Due to current restrictions we haven't had many visitors in

school, but it has been nice to have weekly visits from Reverend Gilroy and Reverend Banks for weekly worship time. Our Year 5 and 6 children have continued to learn to play the guitar with Colin Hendra from Cumbria Music Service.

Junior children have enjoyed their forest school sessions at Torpenhow. The Autumn term got off to a colourful start with the children trying to find all the colours of the rainbow in their first session back - they successfully created lots of NHS rainbows. They were challenged to construct hand washing stations using sticks, string and watering cans. Some brilliant structures were achieved with lots of problem solving and teamwork along the way. The children painted pictures using paints made from natural ingredients, picked brambles and cooked them on the campfire, learnt about spiders and tackled a giant spiders web challenge.

We all had fun taking part in our concert 'The Christmas Journey' and are looking forward to watching the DVD with our families. Our other Christmas activities included supporting Save the Children Christmas Jumper day, where we raised £53, having Christmas lunch in school and taking part in Christmas craft morning. After a long time apart in the Summer term it was so nice to be together as a whole school again and we look forward with positivity to the Spring Term.

General

Carers Wellbeing Videos

It is vitally important that carers take care of their own health and wellbeing, as well as looking after the person that they care for.

We know that COVID-19 has intensified the stresses that carers deal with every day so we would like to encourage them to take a short break, and learn a new technique to relax and recharge, with one of our Carers Wellbeing Videos.

Jacqui, who created the videos, describes them here: "Like many of us, all my work came to a grinding halt due to Covid-19, but I've been continuing my teaching online and I've also created these short videos in the hope that you'll get some benefit from them during this often stressful time we're living through right now. They combine a variety of disciplines e.g. yoga, mindfulness, Qi Gong, Emotional Freedom Technique, and are designed to help you be more present and to cope with the whirlwind of thoughts we often get caught up in (i.e. possible anxiety about the future, or a bit depressed when we think about

the past). They're all around 15 minutes long, so won't take up too much time if you want to give them a go and give your mind a little holiday for a while. Hope you enjoy..."

The series of 6 videos is available on the West Cumbria Carers website at www.westcumbriacarers.co.uk/mediagallery/wellbeing-videos/ - a great excuse to take a short break from your caring role and carve out some welldeserved YOU time!





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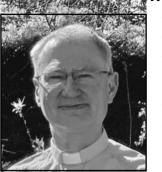
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Copy deadline for the MARCH 2021 issue is 10th February 2021

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