**Across the Parish**

 **The newsletter for**

 **St Cuthbert’s Church**

 **Seascale**

 **December 2021**



This issue of *Across the Parish* for December 2021 is available by email to all of you on the current mailing list. It is also available on our website, A Church Near You. If you would like to receive it by email and I don’t already have your address, please email me at: [aitchpateman@gmail.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CHelen%5CDesktop%5Caitchpateman%40gmail.com)

**Services in December**

There are changes to our usual pattern to incorporate the special services for Christmas.

It is expected that the services at **St Mary’s Gosforth** will continue to be available on Zoom. For an invitation email:stmarys.gosforth.zoom@gmail.com or tel. 01946 725899

For information about **Phoenix Praise** live and Zoom services contact Jill Hudson for details tel: 019467 21592 email: [jillfhudson@hotmail.co.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CHelen%5CDesktop%5CATP%20October%5Cjillfhudson%40hotmail.co.uk) Website: [www.phoenixpraise.org.uk](http://www.phoenixpraise.org.uk)

**Mission Community Prayers** is expected to continue as usualon Thursday mornings, except for 23 December. For an invitation contact David Davies: [divord4@gmail.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CHelen%5CDesktop%5Cdivord4%40gmail.com)

**Sunday Written Liturgy– Into His Courts With Praise** This will continue to be issued except for Sunday 26 December.

**December Services in Seascale, Gosforth and Drigg** Seascale Services are in St Cuthbert’s Church unless otherwise indicated.

**Sunday 5 December**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Seascale | 9.30 | Holy Communion  | Revd Gavin Walker |
|  | 6.30 | United Evening Service | Viv Kendall |
| Gosforth | 11.00 | Family Service | Lay team |
| Drigg | 11.00 | Holy Communion | Revd Robert Bracegirdle and Revd Wendy Bracegirdle |

**Sunday 12 December**

**Remembrance Sunday**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Seascale | 9.307.00 | Methodist Morning ServicePhoenix Live and Zoom in the Methodist Church | Doug McDevitteJill and Keith Hudson |
| Gosforth | 11.00 | Holy Communion and Baptism | Revd Philip Dorling |
| Drigg | 11.00 | Family Service | Revd Jonathan Falkner and Sheila Falkner |

**Sunday 19 December**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Seascale | 9.303.00 | Holy Communion Village Carol Service at St Joseph’s RC Church | Revd Robert BracegirdleSt Joseph’s Team |
| Gosforth | 6.00 | Village Carol Service | Revd Philip Dorling |
| Drigg | 11.00 | Holy Communion | Revd Wendy Bracegirdle |

**Friday 24 December**

**Christmas Eve**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Seascale | 4.0011.30 | Crib ServiceMidnight Communion | Revd Jonathan FalknerRevd Philip Dorling |
| Gosforth  | 4.00 | Crib and Christingle Service | Revd Philip Dorling |

**Saturday 25 December**

**Christmas Day**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Seascale | 9.30 | Methodist Worship at the Methodist Church | Viv Kendall |
| Gosforth  | 10.00 | Holy Communion | Revd Jonathan Falkner and Sheila Falkner |

**Sunday 26 December**

**St Stephen**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Drigg | 11.00 | Holy Communion | Revd Robert Bracegirdle and Revd Wendy Bracegirdle |

**The St Cuthbert’s Team**

Rector: Reverend Philip Dorling tel: 25102 m: 07500239684 Parish Associate Minister: Reverend Gavin Walker tel: 25386 Parish Associate Minister: Reverend Jonathan Falkner tel: 21852 Lay Reader: Dorothy Chatterley tel: 28379 Lay Reader: Sheila Falkner tel: 21852 Lay Reader: Brian Pateman tel: 28131 Lay Worship Leader: Jim Geering tel: 27380 Pastoral Outreach Minister: Peter Holburt tel: 21584 Organist: Dorothy Chatterley tel: 28379 Church Wardens: Jim Geering tel: 27380 Joyce Roberts tel: 28655 PCC Treasurer: Tom Jones tel: 28938 PCC Secretary, Messy Church, Safeguarding Officer: Mary Waterhouse tel: 27641 Website and Magazine Editor: Helen Pateman tel: 28131

**From the Rectory**

**Time off or Time out this Christmas?…**

Like most people, I hate being away from my family. If I am going to spend money on ‘staying away’, I want to share the time, and the experience, with the people I love most. I want to have fun! This means that, on the rare occasions when I do go away on my own..... I try to keep it cheap! When I was younger.... this normally meant camping, or Youth Hostelling.

A while back, I remember discovering that I was obliged to ‘stay way’ from home. After thinking about it for a while, I decided that I should try to go for it....and renew my acquaintance with, what turned out to be, a very busy city centre Youth Hostel. I booked into the male dormitory, and prepared myself for a night in a bunk bed for the first time in nearly 20 years... I mean, how bad could it be? I always used to love meeting the interesting people in Youth Hostels, and hearing all about their travels.

On my arrival, I could not believe the changes. You could buy food in a pretty smart restaurant, and you could sit drinking a pint of beer in the super modern ambience of the glass walled common room. What is more, the YHA appears to have done away with the notion of ‘an agreed bed time’..... so, I rapidly began to think things might be a lot better than merely ‘interesting’.

At 11.30pm I went to my bunk. The room was hot, because the heating was on ‘full wack’ and the window was closed. Also - to my consternation...it was not properly dark. Next to each bed, lights glowed, illuminating the snoozing faces of my dormitory companions. I thought it would be OK.... in Zululand I was often called upon to share my accommodation with up to 10 of my brother priests. Carefully, I climbed onto my top bunk, and settled down to sleep.... trying as hard as I could not to shake the bed as I went, for fear of waking up the stranger below me.

I need not have worried. Twenty minutes later his phone went off. Then, on the other side of the room, there was a loud buzzing, like some sort of tropical wasp. The strange electronic calls, which began at around midnight, continued all night long, as not one, but three of the young men I was sharing the room with, spent their ‘rest time’ texting their friends. In the morning, I was very tired, and frankly, quite angry. I had not had the courage to ask these strange young people, who stayed up all night communicating with their mates, for some ‘TIME OUT’. I think I must have been in shock.

The next day, gladly driving back home full of caffeine, I could not help thinking that the world has become a pretty strange place over the course of the last fifteen years. Electronic communication has been very important since the pandemic started, but it cannot be right that it should become more important than the ‘eye to eye’ type that we all once just took for granted. When God wanted to communicate with the world, he sent Jesus Christ to meet with us in the flesh.... eye to eye...... because that is how you can tell if a person loves you.... or not. That’s what Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds, and Kings saw all those years ago, staring at them from the manger – the eyes of God... full of love… for them.

As we approach Christmas this year, I am hoping to be able to take some ‘TIME OUT’ from the gadgets and the screens that dominate my life. I am hoping to be able to see the people I love, eye to eye, and in the flesh. Wouldn’t that be great? If it has done nothing else, the last two years have surely shown us how precious it is to actually be with other people. Of course, for a variety of reasons, some of us cannot be that fortunate. If that happens to be the case for you, I do hope you will manage to contact your loved ones, one way or the other. It really is so important to stay in touch - just maybe not all night long! Christmas ‘TIME OFF’ should be just that! With that, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas......and may you all know the abundance of God’s blessing in the year to come!

 *The Reverend Philip Dorling*

**From the Parish Registers**

**Baptisms**

7 November Connie Maeve Rigg

11 November Arlo Bland

**Funerals**

20 October Bernice Joan Jobbins Funeral and Cremation at Distington Hall

16 November Caitlin Kerr Funeral at St Cuthbert’s and Cremation at Distington Hall



**Advent Course – held in St Mary’s Room , Gosforth and on Zoom**

During Advent, a group of us will be using the Open Doors resource - 'What if?'. This 6 session course makes reference to the 'World Watch List' of places where Christians are most persecuted in the world and aims to help those who attend to think about what it means to have your church building closed and permission to gather in the name of Christ denied. Obviously we all have some new but nevertheless partial insights in this area now. The course is available on Zoom. Each module stands alone and everyone is welcome to join for any session, in person or on Zoom

The sessions will run as follows:

* 11th Nov - What if your church was closed down?
* 18th Nov - What if you had to follow Christ on your own?
* 25th Nov - What if you couldn't own a Bible?
* 2nd Dec - What if a family member turned against you because of your faith?
* 9th Dec - What if you could not talk openly about Jesus?
* 15th Dec - What if following Jesus meant making sacrifices?

**The Methodist Christmas Fair**

held on Saturday 27 November raised £450:41 for Hospice at Home West Cumbria

A Huge Thank You to Everyone!

**Seascale Wednesday Outreach Group**
The Wednesday afternoon groups invite you to join them for Carols &
Cakes with members of the Phoenix Praise Band on Wednesday 1st
December at 2.30pm.
At present Tea & Chat and the Memories Group are preparing
decorations for their Christmas trees as part of the Christmas Tree
Festival (Details elsewhere in this newsletter).
During the months of January and February Tea & Chat and the
Memories Group will not be meeting as usual. We will be holding a
Friendship Hour instead on Wednesday 5th January and Wednesday 2nd
February at 2.30pm when we invite you to drop in for a time of
fellowship with tea and cake.
We extend Christmas Greetings and our best wishes for the New Year to
everyone. At this time of year we especially remember our members
who are not able to attend meetings at present and assure them that we
remember them in prayer.

**Churches Together in Seascale and District** 
We are planning to distribute free mince pies in Seascale and Gosforth
the week before Christmas and would welcome donations of Mince Pies
which could be from Gosforth bakery, shop bought or homemade.
Further details will be on church notice sheets nearer the time.
Watch out for “stars” appearing around Seascale during Christmas week
a gift to the community from the local churches. The stars will carry the
message
“May the guiding light of Christ, the Morning Star, draw you to him, shine
into your dark places, and light your onward path.”

**Christmas Tree Festival at St Cuthbert’s Church**
Saturday 11th December 11:00 - 18:00
Sunday 12th December 12:00 - 17:30
The Tree Festival opens on Saturday at 11:00 am with St Cuthbert’s
Christmas Fair where there will be a selection of stalls and a warm and
welcoming soup lunch followed by tea and cake. During the afternoon
we will be entertained by Albert and Penny.
Sunday afternoon we will join together with Jill and Keith to sing Carols
by Candle Light and enjoy a glass of mulled wine. The festival will draw
to a close with the drawing of the raffle at 17:00.
There will be craft activities for children throughout the festival.
Donations will be shared between Action for Children and The Children’s
Society.
**All are welcome!**

**Christmas Fair** 11th December 11am in St Cuthbert's Church

Stalls -  produce (jams, chutneys etc), tombola, indoor plants, books. There will also be a raffle and soup lunch.

If you have items to contribute to the stalls or the raffle or can provide soup or cakes please contact Mary Waterhouse (tel: 27641) or Joyce Roberts (tel: 28655).

If you have ideas for further stalls you would be willing to run, do get in touch, we would be most grateful.

Because of the Christmas Fair there will be no Methodist Coffee Morning on 11 December.

