



Wagtail

The parish magazine
of Whittington, Arkholme
and Gressingham
February 2015

Monday 9 February 7.30pm
Arkholme Village Hall

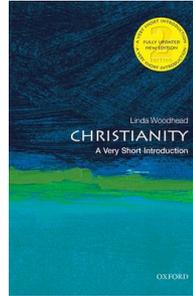


**History and experiences of
Bibby's Coach Company**
with *Chris Bibby*



Visitors welcome – details
21303 or 71818. *Competition:*
transport-related limerick

Lent Book Club



This Lent we will be reading 'Christianity' by Linda Woodhead from the Oxford University Press 'Very Short Introductions' series (Second edition 2014) copies on sale at the back of church ~~£7.99~~ **£5.00**

Everybody is welcome to come along and discuss the book, one chapter each week, on Wednesday evenings at **7.30pm** at Station House, Arkholme, starting **Wednesday 25 February**

Meet the author

Linda Woodhead herself will join us for the evening on **Monday 30 March**, venue tbc.



Linda Woodhead is Professor of Sociology of Religion at Lancaster University.



Wednesday 11 February 1pm
Arkholme Village Hall
Lunch Club

*Please phone Doreen on 22023
by Monday 9 February
if you wish to attend*



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

Tuesday 17 February
6pm to 7.30pm

Pancake Party

Whittington Village Hall

*Free entry – pancake mixture
provided – cook your own or let us do it
for you – all your favourite fillings provided*



Friday 27 February
Whittington Village Hall
**Social evening with
Pool and Darts competitions**

*Bar open 6.30pm, competitions start
7.30pm – hot snacks, games, prizes
Everyone welcome*



'The Big Breakfast'

Sunday 22 February
9.30am to 11am

Arkholme Village Hall

with music from pianist Bill Roberts

Standard £7.50 • Mini £5.00

Tickets – Louise 07970 191 998
or Katarina 07581 127 668

*Come along and catch up with friends
and neighbours over breakfast!*

Gressingham Fellowship

Friday 27 February 7pm
Gressingham Old School Room
Pie and Pea supper and AGM

*Come along with ideas for social events
in the village and enjoy a hot supper (£4)
Please book your pie (meat or vegetarian) by
phoning Rosie on 22148 by 23 February*

more events on the back cover...

Wagtail

Many thanks go from the three villages to Pam Manton who has looked after Wagtail through 2013 and 2014 – and thanks also go to our hardworking assembly and distribution teams, and to all those who contribute pieces for the magazine. Wagtail is a team effort.

Along with the editorship and the photocopier, I have inherited the Wagtail archives – or, at least, about twenty-four years of archives, with quite a few gaps. If anyone has a similar or older archive, please do let me know.

Twenty-four years ago, Wagtail was often just one sheet, sometimes two, sometimes one-and-a-half, inside a coloured wrapper carrying a different front cover design every month.

Every copy had the diocesan newsletter stapled inside, with its letter from the bishop, and its stories from churches all around Lancashire – but the local section had the same familiar Wagtail mix of news and diary items that continues to give the magazine its place in the life of the three villages twenty-four years later.

The deadline for items for inclusion in each edition is the nineteenth of the preceding month. Please submit all items to the new email address editor@wagtail.org.uk

- Michael Hampson

Directory and organisations

Carnforth and Lunesdale 'Divorce Care for Kids' (DC4K)

new course starts Monday 9 February 5.30pm to 7.30pm

'Are your kids confused and hurting from your separation or divorce? We are a small group, here to provide support to the family in a non-judgemental, understanding, fun and friendly environment, where kids have the opportunity to have meaningful conversations about the issues they are facing and to talk to adults who are not their parents or perceived to be on any "side". They also become part of the DC4K family and recognise it is neither their fault nor them alone who are experiencing this trauma.

We start the sessions by sharing tea together, which helps kids feel like family, and helps busy parents to get to the sessions. We also cater for younger teens, who have their own separate time of sharing. We look forward to meeting you and your kids.'

For further information or to register phone Sue 01524 730642 – www.dc4k.org

Arkholme Parish Council Clerk Gilliam Hodgson 21814

Arkholme Lunch Club Carole Webb 22202 and Doreen 22023

Arkholme School Joy Ingram (Headteacher) www.arkholme.lancs.sch.uk 21418

Arkholme Village Hall bookings Rebecca Jackson-Pitt jackson-pitt@hotmail.co.uk

All-year-round Book Club May Levick 21669

Brownies Gill Hodgson 21814

Methodist minister Peter Brown 01524 771230

Playgroup/Toddlers Danielle Barker wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com 21921

Police beat officers PC4081 Linda Head and PCSO7109 Paul Shepherd, telephone 101

Whittington Village Hall bookings Karan Metcalfe 71287

Women's Institute Rosemary Blanchfield 21303

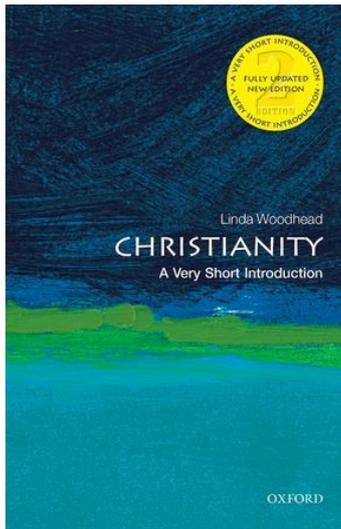
Vicar Revd Michael Hampson vicar@these4parishes.co.uk 21712

Village Hall draws

Arkholme: £20 to Mr and Mrs P Haygarth; £15 to Mr S Close; £10 each to Mr J Nicholson, Mr and Mrs B Metcalf, Mrs E Helme, Mr J Mackereth, Mr and Mrs J Blacow, Mr R Webb

Whittington: John Preston £20; Anne Pettifor £10; Jess & Sam Rowley £5

Lent Book Club 2015



Our Lent Book for 2015 is
'Christianity' by Linda Woodhead
(Second edition, 2014)
from the Oxford University Press
'Very Short Introductions' series
Copies are on sale at the back of each church
~~£7.99~~ **£5.00**

Everybody is welcome

to come along and discuss the book, one chapter each week,
on Wednesday evenings at **7.30pm** at Station House,
Arkholme, starting **Wednesday 25 February**
or alternatively at 1 Montbegon in Hornby at 4.15pm
on Tuesday afternoons starting Tuesday 24 February.

Week 1 24/25 February Introduction and Chapter 1

Making sense of Jesus of Nazareth

*Merely human? Human but chosen?
A god in disguise? Fully human and fully divine?*

Week 2 3/4 March Chapter 2

The Christian God and the Christian Faith

The Trinity, the Sacraments, the story of Salvation

Week 3 10/11 March Chapter 3

From rebel movement to imperial religion and beyond

Twenty centuries of Christian globalisation

Week 4 17/18 March Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

The three Christianities

Church Christianity, Bible Christianity, Spirit Christianity

Week 5 24/25 March Chapter 6 and Conclusion

Christianity and the modern world

*The modern era – reformation and revolution;
and where next for this faith that continues to grow on the global scale*

Meet the author

Monday 30 March

Linda Woodhead herself will join us on the Monday of Holy Week,
Monday 30 March, at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed. *Linda Woodhead*
is professor of Sociology of Religion at Lancaster University.



B4RN - Digging for gold!

I had a free day on the last Saturday in November and when I saw the B4RN poster appealing for volunteers for digging work in Whittington, I decided to go along. I reasoned that if I clocked off at lunch time, I would have 'shown willing' without getting too involved.

It didn't quite work out like that, and it was nearly dark before we finished work that day. 'Strangely addictive' was how one person described it and it was! We've only lived in Whittington two years and we enjoy the ethos of a small and quiet community. But it was good to meet other villagers, and learn new names and chat while digging together - or watching others do it! It was good exercise, good to be out in the fresh air and good to feel that you're doing something for the community.

I have to admit that when I was first approached about B4RN I wasn't very keen - BT seemed to provide all I needed for my computer, Skype calls and TV. But things seem to change very quickly in the digital world. A few days after the digging, my computer crashed and I realised that I had no access to all the information that makes my life work these days. Happily we have a computer-literate son who lives in Manchester and he came up and sorted me out. But he did warn me that the future is 'in the cloud' and that's where I should be backing up all my files and documents. To do that with music and photos, you need the sort of speed and bandwidth that a B4RN fibre-optic connection offers. So I've changed my mind and eagerly await its arrival in the village.

I may not get out with my spade on another Saturday before Christmas, but I'm hoping to lend a hand again in the New Year. And I commend B4RN volunteering to anyone who, like me, spends much too much time sitting in front of a computer screen!

Andrew Schofield (Holker House, Whittington)

Parish Councils

Gressingham Parish Council met on 5 January and received the latest report on the bridge work ("has taken longer than expected and is way over budget") and associated works in the vicinity ("the trees on the bend near the bridge may be pruned, but there will be no new road signs to slow cars from going too fast over the hump of the bridge"). The Public Rights of Way document was discussed, and members expressed concern about the dangers to pedestrians on the stretch of road near to Lune View, Hornby: the clerk will contact Hornby Parish Council. "The chairman announced that she wished to relinquish the position of chairman at the next meeting". Next meeting Monday 9 March.

Whittington Parish Council met on 6 January and as well as receiving the regular police report (just two crimes, both in October - "burglary on or near Loyne Park and anti-social behaviour on or near Manor Farm") set aside £500 for expenses for the Whittington B4RN broadband volunteers, took another step towards registering *The Dragon's Head* as an officially recognised community asset, and received a financial report that included donations to Royal British Legion, Wagtail Playgroup & Toddlers, Arkholme Brownies, North West Air Ambulance, and Arkholme & District WI. Other issues discussed included a Listed Building Planning Application for Low Hall Cottage, the state of the Burrow Mill Lane bridleway, highway flooding near Docker Hall Cottages, and stone tipping at Township Quarry. Next meeting Tuesday 3 March, 7.30pm in Whittington Village Hall .

Sunday services

including the new Whittington service time of 9.30am

Last year Whittington moved to having its Sunday service at the same time every weekend. This month – with extra resources available across the four parishes – it joins Arkholme in having its weekly Sunday service in the traditional Sunday morning slot at 9.30am.

In Arkholme, the pattern is *9.30am on the first three Sundays of the month*, with an invitation to attend 9.30am in either neighbouring parish on the other Sunday.

In Whittington, the pattern is *9.30am every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month*, when there's a 9.30am service ten minutes away in Arkholme.

Here's the programme for February. Join us one Sunday soon.

	Whittington	Arkholme	Gressingham
1 February	→	9.30am	8am
8 February	9.30am	9.30am	-
15 February	9.30am	9.30am	3pm
22 February	9.30am	↔	9.30am

...and in Hornby

10.45am Parish Communion every Sunday

8am Holy Communion on 8 and 22 February

Small Churches

by Norman Pittenger

When one thinks of the great Christian community, with its long history and its wide reach, one is filled with reverence – and a sense of the *mystery* of corporate faith, life, and love.

Every parish and every mission, no matter how small and insignificant, no matter how petty or narrow its concerns may seem, has its part in this historical movement; and when one is despondent about one's own 'St-John's-by-the-Sea', one can turn again and again from that parish and its apparent failure to the great fellowship through the ages, and find in the thought of that fellowship a 'cordial for drooping spirits'.

There is more here than meets the eye, for this fellowship in its true and deep sense is indeed the 'Body of Christ', as St Paul called it, and 'the family and household of faith'. The only way in which one can be a participant in that great community of faith is through willing participation in the small cell of the Body in the place where one lives – and such willing participation will have the double effect of strengthening one's own life in Christ and also strengthening the community of faith.

It is easy enough to sneer at the insignificant or ineffective little local congregation, but if we are humbly although critically ready to '*put up with*' the fellowship where and as we find it in our own community, we shall help to strengthen it and give it a new effectiveness, while at the same time we shall discover for ourselves the deepening of Christian discipleship, and find that we are renewed and enriched by other men and women who, like ourselves, are seeking to live in the Christian way, informed by the Christian faith and supported by Christian worship.

from *God in Process* (1967)



The weather in Arkholme

Robin McIlveen

	November 2014	December 2014
Rain days	22	25
Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+)	6	9
Wettest Day	21st-22nd 21.1mm	6th-7th 12.8mm
Monthly total	81mm (31.8")	109mm (4.3")
2014 total to end of month	1,015mm (40.0")	1,124mm (44.3")

November

After a very dry September (18mm), and a fairly wet October (144mm), November rainfall (81mm) was spot on our long term monthly average of 80mm. Days with any rain were normal at 22, and 6 days with 5mm was highish. *The dryish spell in the second half of the month produced a fine show of autumn tints*, and cloudy nights limited frosts to only one very marginal morning (24th) and delayed the final fall of leaves.

December

Though the monthly total was a little above the 80mm norm, nearly 80% of it fell in the unusually large number (9) of days with at least 5mm, and the high total (25) of days with rain made the month feel quite wet. There were 11 morning frosts, several quite sharp, clustered in the second and final weeks of the month, but Christmas Day was simply cool, with 1mm of rain.

Totals for 2014

Although 2014 was *distinctly* the wettest year on record for parts of Britain, and the weighted average for the whole of Britain was *marginally* the wettest ever, our local total rainfall for 2014 was *well below* our wettest, ranking eighth in my thirteen years in the garden, and well down on the drenchings of 2008 and 2012 (over 1,400mm each).

January so far

You don't need me to tell you that 2015 has been very wet so far, with over 127mm by January 19th, including a solid splash of 33 mm in the 24 hours ending at 0900 on the 2nd of the month. I hope it eases up now, as very wet winter months can become soggy in the absence of drying sun.

The wrong kind of hail

fell on our area in the afternoon and evening of Tuesday January 13th. Hail pellets of small pea size lay to a depth of a several centimetres over an unusually wide area, and effectively buried the grit and salt which the Council authorities say they had applied to the roads earlier in the day, producing very slippery conditions in the late evening. Hail like this normally falls from isolated, sporadic wintry showers, but this seemed unusually widespread and persistent – which is difficult to explain on current models of the mechanics of hail production. However it happened, it gave a few motorists an unhappy reminder of our weather's power to surprise.

Arkholme and District WI

The December meeting was a festive occasion. Joan Bentley came to demonstrate how to 'Deck the Halls'. It was an open meeting and about fifty friends and fellow members joined us for the evening. Joan deftly prepared nine floral creations, not only instructing but also giving ideas for variations and throwing in appropriate anecdotes. Now we should all be able to construct a five pointed star from twigs and decorate it, as well as keep those long Amaryllis stems from toppling. Each arrangement was offered as a raffle prize. Joan is a very generous speaker!

In January, a sharp contrast, Mick Gradwell came to speak to us about his role in investigating and bringing to justice those responsible for the death of **twenty-three Chinese cockle pickers** in the treacherous waters of Morecambe Bay eleven years ago. As Detective Superintendent, his task was to gather together available information and follow the threads back to establish the actions that brought the victims to their end. It was soon a huge international undertaking. What began as employing illegal workers under a fairly benign regime had become ruthless exploitation, with no consideration for safety, once it was seen by the overseas bosses how lucrative the cockling business could be. Mick Gradwell's task was enormous. He found a vast, sophisticated network of people trafficking run by powerful Chinese gangs. Gaining the trust of witnesses took time and following the thread back to China longer still but eventually, families learned what had become of their loved ones and some of those responsible faced British justice. Many of us had heard from some who were out in the bay that frantic night but this talk showed the aftermath – painstaking work by the police to reveal the criminal exploitation that was its cause.

At our meeting on 9 February Chris Bibby will tell us of the history of the local coach company and recount a few of his travelling tales. We meet at 7.30pm in Arkholme Village Hall and visitors will be welcome.

Gerald writes...

Friend and fellow bowler John Mason is recovering at home after major heart surgery, John was taken ill on a bowling green at Kendal last September and had heart surgery at Blackpool but it is good to know that he is feeling better and managing to have a walk when the weather is nice, so hurry up getting fit again John the bowling season starts in two months time.

David Kenyon tells me he raised £3,767 selling the Lune Valley calendar on behalf of St Johns Hospice and would like to thank everyone who bought one, I thought the photos he collected were very good and a true picture of our villages one hundred years ago.

Congratulations to the ladies who decorated the Church at Christmas it really was beautiful, we spent some time looking at the individual arrangements and wondered at the time and dedication it took to collect and arrange both the flowers and the foliage it really was lovely.

I must inform the Parish Council that **the Whittington archives** they were discussing do not belong to the Village but are my personal collection that I have put together over the years. I want the material to stay in the village after my time and just wanted to make sure that there is somewhere in the village where it can be kept so that it is available to future generations.

There are two dances this month Dennis Westmorland is playing in Whittington Village Hall on February 7th and the Roe Valley band are here on the 21st.

Also best wishes to **Jean Dixon**, who is in hospital and also **Keith Bateson**, who are both recovering from operations.

Gerald Hodgson

Arkholme Village Hall

Dorothy's War



with 'The Harmonettes'

Thursday 26 March 7.30pm

Spring 1919: the War is over, and it's an important day for the village, a day of celebration - a bright, hopeful day. But for Annie and Elizabeth this is also the day when a woman arrives in the village who will change their lives forever. Who is she? What has she to do with them? And who is the man that connects them all? Based on the extraordinary true story of a woman's amazing journey into the heart of a man's war, Dorothy's War is told through songs of the period ranging from much-loved favourites to forgotten gems, all sung live in close-harmony. You will be gripped; you will love the songs; you will sing along; you will laugh; above all, you will be moved.

www.theharmonettes.co.uk

Tickets (£7/£5) from Liz 22236 or Chris 07519 281305 c.may@lancaster.ac.uk
a 'Spot On' event

Coming up at Arkholme Village Hall

Saturday 18 April

Afternoon Tea and car treasure hunt

Sunday 10 May

Melody A. Johnson's 'Miss Caledonia'
a 'Spot On' event

Sunday 21 June

Community Sports Day

Saturday 19 September

Lunesdale Live II

with Paul Lamb and local bands

Saturday 26 September

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Saturday 7 November

Bonfire Night

Thursday 31 December

New Year's Eve party

plus tbc Quiz Night and buffet (kids' and adults' quizzes) and Autumn Charity Ball

In Hornby

Flower Club

Thursday 19 February 7.30pm

Hornby Institute

'Say it with Flowers!' An open evening where members are invited to demonstrate an arrangement of their own choice and talk about the reasons behind their selection of flowers and foliage.

Everybody welcome, we would be delighted to see you so come and join us and have fun. £4.00 to include refreshments.

Countryside Society

Friday 20 February 7.45pm

Hornby Institute

Julia Pigott will give an illustrated talk on Bumblebee identification

Hornby Castle Snowdrop Weekend

21-22 February 11am to 4pm

Hornby Castle

View the wonderful snowdrops – in the borders, and along the riverside woodland walk. Plus evergreens, coloured stems, scented shrubs, winter flowering perennials, and walled garden nursery with over seventy varieties of snowdrops and refreshments available. Plants for sale. Ceramics exhibition by Wyn Abbot with pottery for sale. *Informal talks on the history of Hornby Castle by Sue Bull and Garden Talks by Ken Green (resident gardener).* Dogs allowed on leads. Disabled access to some parts of the garden.

Hornby Occasionals

18 March to 21 March

Hornby Institute



Tickets £10 available from the Institute, weekdays 10am-12noon or call 22227 or 07467 109 950