



Wagtail

The parish magazine
of Whittington, Arkholme
and Gressingham
March 2015

Dorothy's War



with 'The Harmonettes'

Thursday 26 March 8pm
Arkholme Village Hall
(note change of time)

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 or book online (booking fee applies) at www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/151270 a 'Spot On' event

Monday 9 March 7.30pm
Arkholme Village Hall



Discovering Lake District Villages
with Andrew Lowe



Visitors welcome – details 21303 or 71818. Competition: five home-grown daffs in a vase



Wednesday 11 March 1pm
Arkholme Village Hall
Lunch Club

Open to all retired residents of Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham, usually on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May, cost £6 per person. Please book at least two days in advance with Carole 22202 or Doreen 22023. April Lunch Club will be a week later than usual on Wednesday 15 April.

Free fitness classes

weekly starting **Tuesday 3 March**
7pm Arkholme Village Hall
funded by Lancaster City Council
and the National Lottery
Twelve weekly sessions led by Sarah Cheyette and open to all

Do you like to sing?

Would you like to sing in a group?
Come along to our new village choir!
every Wednesday 7.30pm
Arkholme Methodist Chapel Rooms
varied programme
all ages and abilities welcome
Louise Jones 22366 / 07970 191998
louisejones65@btinternet.com



Hornby Occasionals
18 March to 21 March
Hornby Institute
Tickets £10 available from the Institute, weekdays 10am-12noon
22227 or 07467 109 950

Wagtail

Gressingham needs more Wagtail distributors.

If you could assist – even with just a few copies to your neighbours – please contact Mary McClements on 21461 or mary@blink.biz

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

New children's dance classes (ballet and tap)

Tuesdays in term time 3.30pm to 6.30pm Arkholme Village Hall

Dauida on 01524 858817 / 07771998266 / davi1234atherton@live.co.uk

Flower Club

Thursday 19 March 7.30pm Hornby Institute

'Driftwood to die for!' Jane Burns demonstrates what can be done with bits of driftwood found on local shores.

Countryside Society

Friday 20 March 7.45pm Hornby Institute

AGM and members' contributions including an illustrated talk on 'The Night Sky'

Social evening in Aughton

Saturday 28 March 2015 7.30pm Aughton Village Hall

Bingo with good prizes – Gammon, Chicken, Chocolates

Raffle, free refreshments, proceeds to Saint Saviour's Church

Children's Society collection

Thank you to all who either filled their boxes or gave donations to the Children's Society collection this year. All your contributions are very much appreciated. I have decided not to do the collection of boxes next year, but if there is anyone out there who would like to continue this tradition, please give me a call on 71795 – Sally Hall.

Directory

Arkholme Parish Council Clerk Gilliam Hodgson 21814

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

Arkholme Village Hall bookings 07716 122940 arkholmevillagehall@gmail.com

All-year-round Book Club May Levick 21669

Brownies Gill Hodgson 21814

Lunch Club Carole Webb 22202 or Doreen 22023

Methodist minister Peter Brown 01524 771230

Playgroup/Toddlers Danielle Barker wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com 21921

Police PC4081 Linda Head carnforthnpt@lancashire.pnn.police.uk 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: January – K Warburton £20; B Lewis £10; J Gardner £10; Dr Berry £10;

P Manton £10; Mr and Mrs Collingwood £10. February – Mr and Mrs Fell £20;

Mrs Hodgson £10; Mr Duxbury £10; Miss B Travers £10; Mr C Hall £10; Mr C May £10.

Whittington: £20 Mike Bar; £10 Margaret Taylor (Gressingham); £5 Lord Reay

Lent Book 2015

As I write, we have already sold 46 copies of the Lent Book.

Meet the author

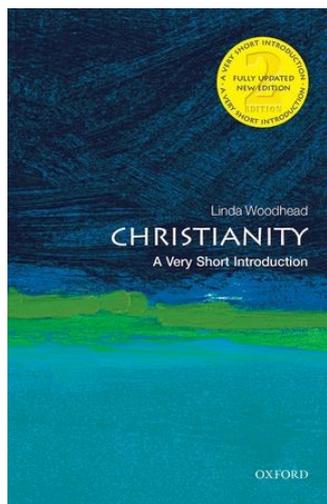
Linda Woodhead will join us at **7.30pm on Monday 30 March** in Saint Margaret's church, Hornby. Linda is the author of our Lent Book for 2015, the title '*Christianity*' in the Oxford University Press 'Very Short Introductions' series – and professor of Sociology of Religion at Lancaster University. **Everybody welcome.**

Copies of the book are available at the back of church ~~£7.99~~ £5.00



Discuss the book

There is still chance to join the remaining sessions of the Lent Book Groups, one meeting in **Arkholme on Wednesday evenings** at 7.30pm at Station House, and the other meeting in **Hornby on Tuesday afternoons** at 4.15pm at 1 Montbegon.



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

Trinity, Sacraments, 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

Everybody is welcome to join this Book Club through Lent this year

Magna Carta – the local connection

You will no doubt be hearing more and more as the year goes on about the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta – but did you know about the local connection?

Magna Carta was the great charter of rights signed on 15 June 1215, at Runnymede by the Thames, by King John of England and a council of 25 barons.

One of those 25 barons was Roger de Montbegon of Hornby.

In the week running up to the anniversary, there will be a special exhibition in Saint Margaret's church, Hornby, including information about Magna Carta and Roger de Montbegon, and a facsimile copy of the document itself.

And then on the evening of the anniversary itself – **Monday 15 June** – local historian Andrew White will be giving a talk on *Hornby, Magna Carta and the Montbegons*.

Watch out for more information nearer the time.

Arkholme and District WI

Chris Bibby had mounted a fascinating display of photographs of the early days of Bibby's Coach Company. What is it about old photographs that sets us talking?

It all started in 1920 when Clem Bibby bought a motor car and added a box to carry fruit and vegetables out from his shop to the villages. One shop became three and vans followed. Soon an open charabanc carried ladies on outings at 12mph but didn't last long. (Could the Yorkshire weather have influenced this?)

1956 saw the first coach with a roof, and the rest, as they say, is history! Clem died and in 1962 the last shop closed and the business devoted itself to coach travel under the leadership of Fred. Peter took over in 1983 and the business remains in the family to this day.

Chris started 'on the buses' while still at school, going on holiday excursions, serving refreshments on the coach and generally looking after passengers, working alongside the driver. By the time he was old enough to drive he was an 'old hand! He recommended Austria as a good place for a first coach tour and then treated us to 'Edelweiss' on his euphonium – quite a surprise! Chris finished his talk with an epic tale of an unforgettable journey with some Yorkshire WI ladies returning from Denman College, then played us in to tea with 'Jerusalem' – what else!

At our meeting on Monday 9 March we shall be 'Discovering Lake District Villages' with Andrew Lowe. We meet at 7.30pm in Arkholme Village Hall and visitors will be welcome.

In the absence of Rosemary Blanchfield, Barbara Atkinson chaired the meeting. She was able to announce success for Arkholme and District teams in the countywide quiz: the Whitty Wizards were the winners in Arkholme and another of our teams lost second place only by a tie break. We hear from players at other venues that scores might have been higher but all will be revealed at the Council Meeting in March.

Photographs and details of nominees for the National Board of Trustees were available for consideration before voting. Disappointingly, only one candidate is a Northern member. Details are also online this year.

The treasurer reminded members that subs. are now overdue and our contribution to National and Federation funds are to be paid after the next meeting. Please contact Jane Binney if you haven't paid and will not be at the meeting in March and she will arrange to collect the money.

Jane Binney

Arkholme Parish Council

Arholme Parish Council met on 2 February and confirmed 18 May as the date for the AGM. Leaf debris on Main Street had been cleared successfully, and a blocked culvert on the B6254 opposite the chapel had been reported. Dave Airey would rebuild the pound wall now that Raggy had cleared the highway; annual rent of £12 is due for each pound. It was confirmed that the Village Green belongs to the Local Education Authority. S137 donations of £100 each were made to Arkholme Brownies, Arkholme Brownies Pack Holiday, Wagtail Playgroup and Toddlers, Lunch Club, Arkholme Children's Party, Crown Green Bowling Club, Arkholme Choir, and North West Air Ambulance. Councillor Jackson-Pitt was pursuing the registration of The Bay Horse Hotel and the bowling green and club house as Community Assets. Councillors present: Chris May, Charles Waddington, Bridget Smith, Graham Jackson-Pitt, David Howarth; Clerk Gillian Hodgson; one member of the public. Apologies from City Councillor Roger Mace and PC Linda Head. Full minutes are available on the noticeboard and from the Clerk. Planning applications can be viewed at planapps.lancaster.gov.uk/publicaccess. Next meeting Monday 2 March 7pm in Arkholme Village Hall.

Bell ringing

Could it be your new hobby/skill/passion?

Bell ringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit. It also makes a glorious sound!

Many consider ringing to be their contribution to church life, others do it for the pure pleasure and the company it brings.

Ringers come from all walks of life and range in age from ten to those in their eighties.

*"When I'm ringing
I forget all the
tensions and
frustrations of the
day. Even better:
I couldn't wish for
a nicer group of
friends!"*

Could I become a ringer?

"If you can ride a bicycle you can ring!"

Ringing is well within the capabilities of most people. The initial learning takes several weeks, after which you can begin to ring with the rest of the band. Most ringers practise once or twice a week and ring before church on Sundays.

"Being able to count is all the maths you'll need and you can become a very good ringer without knowing anything about music."

Why learn to ring?

- * Friends around the world
- * Lifelong learning experience
- * Maintain a traditional skill
- * A service to the church
- * Team activity
- * A great mental workout
- * Visits to amazing places

Change Ringing

The origins of change ringing lie in the sixteenth century when church bells began to be fitted with a full wheel. This gave ringers control of their bell, allowing sets of bells (rings) to be rung in continuously changing patterns. Music is created by altering the order in which the bells sound. This is done in defined sequences of changes called methods. Learning a few simple methods allows ringers to join in with other bands in towers around the world.

"One of the delights of ringing is the endless opportunity to learn new things."

Come and see

Contact Anne or Rob Pettifor on 71904 (anne.pettifor@btinternet.com) and learn more about opportunities to ring around here or just come along and have a look at what is involved for yourself. **There are bells at Whittington and Hornby** and we are always on the look out for new members. Initial tuition can be at a time to suit you and then our regular practices are on Tuesday (Whittington) or Thursday (Hornby) evenings. Beware! once you've got the bug, you'll find it hard to give up.

"I learnt to ring over forty years ago and I still get the same buzz that I did when I first started."

Whittington coffee morning

Wednesday 4 March – and the first Wednesday of every month

10.30am to 12noon in Whittington Village Hall

Everybody welcome



The weather in Arkholme

Robin McIlveen

January Weather in Arkholme

Rain Days: 23

Decidedly Wet Days (5mm+): 12

Wettest Day 1st-2nd: 31.8mm

Monthly total: 163.8 mm

At just over twice the long term monthly average of 80mm, January was very wet – though shy of the 200mm+ deluges which occasionally descend (September 2012 gave us 208mm). However over 90% of January's total fell on the twelve *Decidedly Wet Days* (daily totals of 5mm or more) which is unusually high – we usually have 4 to 6 DWDs delivering about 70% of the month's total. The concentration of nearly all the rain in 12 days probably prevented January from being sodden under foot, since there was time for some drying by wind (and sun) in the other 19 days. There were frosts in the first six days, and again from the 17th to the 21st, and finally in the last couple of days of the month. Between times, the cloudy, sometimes windy, nights kept temperatures at and above the seasonal average. There were only touches of snow from time to time, while other parts of Britain suffered some of the usual seasonal disruption caused by a even few centimetres of snow.

The wet weather ended as February came in and a large high pressure built and persisted in the North Atlantic. It has only just lost its grip on British weather as I write on the 18th, with the result that the February total so far stands at 9mm, compared with the 125mm accumulated by this time last month. On four cloudless nights, temperatures fell to -5°C on my apple tree, and there were four lighter frosts on other occasions, when there was enough cloud to reduce the outgoing radiant heat from the surface to the night sky.

High pressure zones are called anticyclones because winds near the surface blow clockwise (looking down on the weather map) around the high pressure in the northern hemisphere. You might think that surface winds should blow straight outward from the high pressure centre, and in fact they try to – but because of the Earth's rotation, every weather map in the northern hemisphere is turning anticlockwise, which shows as an apparent clockwise turning of the air relative to the weather map.

This is the dreaded Coriolis effect, whose finer mathematical points used to reduce my second year students to sullen bewilderment year after year.

So for as long as the high pressure lay to the west of us earlier this month, the winds blew coldly from the north, and we lay in the shelter of the Lake District hills, with little wind chill to add to the crisp morning air. Then as the high pressure drifted east of Britain we were bathed in milder, cloudy air blowing from the south in that persistent clockwise flow.

Gaspard Coriolis published his dynamical analysis in 1835, and the winds, jet streams, Gulf Stream, artillery shells, and long slow snooker pots, have been obeying ever since.

Whittington B4RN update

On 5 and 6 February, a group of volunteers from Whittington supported B4RN's technical team in 'blowing' the fibre optic cable along the ducting all the way from Arkholme to Whittington Village Hall. Since then, B4RN's technicians have been busy splicing the fibres in the cabinet behind the Village Hall.

The Whittington volunteers are enjoying a brief respite from the digging while our 'site manager' is away on holiday. However, we have not been idle. The main duct has been extended from Low Hall Farm as far as the boundary with the Dragon's Head, and spurs have been dug to most of the dozen or so houses on that side of Main Street. The task which will occupy us over the next 3-4 weekends will be to connect up those houses in preparation for blowing the fibre into the individual 'router' terminals. As usual, we are learning as we go along - but with invaluable advice and support from the B4RN team. Once we have 'got the hang' of the first 2 or 3 connections, we expect to proceed at a good pace. The next phase will be to replicate our digging and connecting activities at the Maltings, before moving towards the northern end of the village.

Given that this has been a entirely volunteer driven project, we are pleased with what has been achieved so far. Our core band of ten or so volunteers has worked virtually every Saturday, and the occasional Sunday, since last August - while two or three people in particular have put in considerably more time in planning and preparation.

Any new faces at our Saturday sessions would be most welcome. The work can sometimes be physically demanding, but no one is asked to do anything they are not comfortable with - and perhaps the most appreciated contribution is made by those lovely people who turn up with tea and cakes at 11 and 3 o'clock! For me, the most rewarding aspect is being out in the fresh air in the company of neighbours and friends - and ticking off a few more metres at the end of the day!

Jeff Eaman

Gerald writes...

No need to pay to see a lovely snow drop display this year. Just walk up the road towards Moor Brow - the walk will do you good - look over the fence on the left hand side and you will see a beautiful white carpet of snow drops stretching right across the ghyll, a lovely reminder that spring is really here.

The annual charity dance held in January raised £1,015 divided equally between Cancer Care and the Macmillan Nurses charities.

I had a nice little note from Chris Travers who has been clearing up his late sister Bridget's house. He recalls how the family moved to Arkholme when they bought Cawood View in the nineteen fifties. He was just a schoolboy then, and he loved going for walks with my father when they exercised the dogs at Storrs Hall.

My bird feeders have been very busy this year. They just love the fat balls I have been putting out for them and they are eating two every day at the moment, such a variety of birds and all eating as if there was no tomorrow, so nice to watch them coming and going the whole time.

The next dance in the Village Hall is on Saturday 7 March when Bill Johnston will be providing the music - it will be another good night.

Gerald Hodgson



**The Church of England parishes of
Hornby, Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham**

Vicar: Revd Michael Hampson
 vicar@these4parishes.co.uk · 015242 21712
weekly bulletin online: www.these4parishes.co.uk

Sunday services

In Arkholme, the pattern is 9.30am on the first three Sundays of the month with 9.30am services in both neighbouring parishes on the other Sunday

In Whittington, the pattern is 9.30am every Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month, when there is a 9.30am service in Arkholme

Gressingham's services each month include, as well as a 9.30am communion, an early 8am communion, and a prayer book evensong

On Palm Sunday – 29 March – the joint-churches Palm Procession begins at 10.45am outside Hornby Primary School

Good Friday and Easter Day service times also appear below
Join us one Sunday soon

| | Whittington | Arkholme | Gressingham |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Sunday 1 March | → | 9.30am | 8am |
| Sunday 8 March | 9.30am | 9.30am | - |
| Sunday 15 March | 9.30am | 9.30am | 3pm |
| Sunday 22 March | 9.30am | ↔ | 9.30am |
| Sunday 29 March | <i>Palm Sunday service in Hornby, 10.45am</i> | | |
| Good Friday 3 April | 9am | 10am | 9am |
| Easter Day 5 April | 9.30am | 9.30am | 10.30am |

...and in Hornby

10.45am Parish Communion every Sunday

8am Holy Communion on 8 and 22 March

Good Friday service 10am

Sunday School 10.45am in Hornby church

First Sunday of every month – 1 March, 5 April

And **midweek communion** at Saint Margaret's, Hornby, every Wednesday morning at 10am

Lent Lunches

A lunch of home-made bread and home-made soup served inside Saint Margaret's church **every Wednesday in March** from 12noon to 2pm – in support of Christian Aid