



Wagtail

The parish magazine
of Whittington, Arkholme
and Gressingham
April 2017

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2pm Friday 7 April
Arkholme Village Hall
Dough!



**Suitable for ages 3 to 8
and their grown-ups**
£5 per child, adults free

Jess is in a mess, a very doughy mess.

Unable to resolve the chaos in her kitchen she has to make a journey to an unfamiliar place to get help. Everything tastes, smells and feels different there.

Fantastic things can happen with ordinary stuff. And what could be more ordinary than the dough that makes our everyday staples. Familiar to all cultures, dough creates the loaves, naan bread, croissants, dumplings and chapattis that remind us of home.

Presented by Spot On and Creative Scene



Monday 10 April 7.30pm
Women's Institute
Arkholme Village Hall
Ruth Gibbons on Healthy Eating. *Visitors welcome*

Wednesday 12 April 1pm
Lunch Club

Arkholme Village Hall
Open to all retired residents of Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham three-course lunch £7 – *please book by Monday: Carole 22202 or Doreen 22023*

9.30am Sunday 9 April



Whittington Parish Church
'Sunday Morning Songs of Praise'
with Palm Procession,
Holy Week readings, and
traditional palm crosses to take home
Half-hour with the very best all-time
favourite hymns including – for Palm
Sunday – *All Glory Laud and Honour*
and *Ride on Ride on in Majesty*
Join us at 9.30am on Sunday 9 April

9.30am Sunday 16 April
Easter Day

Whittington Parish Church
Easter morning service with *Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Thine be the Glory*,
and more – plus
Easter morning Holy
Communion and
Easter Egg Hunt
after the service
Join us on Easter Day at 9.30am



Friday 28 April 7.30pm
The Romans in Lunesdale
Gressingham Old School Room
with local historian Andrew White

more events on the back cover...

Classified ads

We hope you find these listings helpful

Boarding Kennels and cattery at Docker Park Farm, home from home for your dogs and cats enquiries@dockerparkfarm.co.uk 21331 www.docker-park-kennels.co.uk

Boarding Kennels and dog day-care Aughton Road, Gressingham LA2 8LS helen.burrow@hotmail.com 07766 446272 www.aughtonroadkennels.co.uk

Calluna Furnishings, Quernmore creating unique interior upholstery and soft furnishings, made-to-measure curtains, cushions, re-upholstery, Roman blinds, upholstery and up-cycling, alterations and many more. Free consultation and collection service. 01524 805504 - www.callunafurnishings.co.uk / info@callunafurnishings.co.uk

Logs Direct Ltd – local specialists in Winter Fuel. Kiln-dried logs, smokeless fuel, house coal, kindling, firelighters, briquettes and pellets. Also top soil, compost & bark. Collect from us or delivered to your door. www.logsdirect.co.uk / 01524 812476

Painting and Decorating A Holloway (Decorators) Interior and exterior Established over 25 years tonyholloway@hms.me.uk 01524 771880

Physiotherapy Marie Colyer MCSP HCPC Bentham 62216 www.benthamphysio.co.uk

Lune Valley Physiotherapy Leah Dalby MCSP HCPC Maximise potential after surgery, accidents, illness including cancer – leahthephysio@gmail.com Melling 07934 785797

Darren Jones Plumbing General plumbing and bathroom installations, Oil and Gas boilers installed and serviced, renewable energy options available 07738 379328

New this month

Karl's Fresh Fish Every Thursday from Fleetwood to your door. Established in the Lune Valley for 20 years. Telephone Karl 079 799 47475 for a weekly or fortnightly delivery.

Web design Do you have a business, organisation or charity that needs a website? Our kettle's always on at the Urban Attic, call to arrange 01524 874549 urban-attic.co.uk

Funeral Services B&W Funerals (J G Macdonald) – 24 hour Service, Private Chapel of Rest. Covering the Lune Valley and the Dales. 39 Main Street, Ingleton LA6 3EH. Office 41293, Home 61390, Mobile 07758 002260, email jmfunerals@gmail.com

Youth worker wanted (paid position)

Wanted – part-time Children's and Youth Worker, approximately 10 hours per week. Paid position with Benefice of East Lonsdale. Closing date 21st April. For information contact Revd Mark Cannon 015242 21030 mhcanon@fsmail.net

Advertising in Wagtail

Ads in Wagtail cost £2 per line per edition. There are ten editions per year (every month except January and August), and payment up to the end of the calendar year is appreciated for simplicity.

It is also possible to sponsor an edition of Wagtail, which buys a tag on the front page and half the back page as full-colour display ads, from £40 per edition. For examples, see past editions online at wagtail.org.uk

Wagtail has a print-run of 460 copies, and is distributed to every home in Whittington, Newton, Arkholme, Docker, Gressingham, Eskrigge and Aughton. The deadline for each edition is the nineteenth of the preceding month.

Contact ads@wagtail.org.uk



Wagtail

Welcome to the April edition.

All local churches and community groups are invited to send in news of their activities to Wagtail – reports of recent events (with photographs if possible) as well as announcements of what's coming up. Other local news is also welcome.

The next edition is the May edition. The deadline for items for inclusion is 19 April. Please submit all items to editor@wagtail.org.uk

Wagtail is also available online at www.wagtail.org.uk

Many thanks as always to all our contributors and distributors.

Michael Hampson

Directory

Arkholme Post Office *Arkholme Village Hall* Mondays and Thursdays 2pm to 4pm

Whittington Post Office *Whittington Village Hall* Thursdays 1.30pm to 3.30pm

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

Arkholme Village Hall www.arkholme-village-hall.co.uk 07716 122940 Committee usually meets second Thursday of each month (email or phone to check) – all welcome

Book Club *May Levick* 21669

Bowling Club Arkholme Monday evenings *David Smith* 03330 119 303

Drama Group *Neil Read* 21339 realneed@hotmail.com

Kirkby Lonsdale Voluntary Car Scheme Car and volunteer driver, 45p per mile measured from driver's house back to driver's house 07788 522511

Lunch Club *Carole Webb* 22202 or *Doreen Airey* 22023 for retired residents of the three villages – usually on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May

Playgroup/Toddlers *Danielle Barker* wagtailplaygroupandtoddlers@gmail.com 21921

Police PC3573 *Rob Barnsley* carnforthnpt@lancashire.pnn.police.uk telephone 101

Whittington Village Hall *Karan Metcalfe* 71287

Coffee Mornings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 10.30am to 12noon

Women's Institute *Janice McIlveen* 21693

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

Arkholme and Whittington Parish Council Clerk *Gillian Hodgson* 21814
6 Meadoway Arkholme LA6 1AT arkholmebrownies@hotmail.com

Details of all three parish councils, and full minutes for Whittington and Arkholme, are online at committeeadmin.lancaster.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetailsList.aspx

Gressingham Parish Council agendas and minutes are available online at www.hornbyvillage.org.uk/organisations/gressingham-parish-council

Details of all planning applications are online at www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning

*Local churches and community groups can be listed here for free
Please send additions, updates and corrections to editor@wagtail.org.uk*

Arkholme and District WI



Gressingham School Room was the venue for our meeting this month to which Janice McIlveen, our president, welcomed fifteen members.

At the short business meeting, which preceded the speaker, we learned of the many and varied courses available, including invitations from local WIs to attend their open evenings – ‘A Voyage to Saint Kilda’ at Caton, and ‘An Inspirational Woman’ at Overton. The outing organised by Anne Symons this month is dinner and a cinema visit. March is bulb ordering month when we can order high quality bulbs through our secretary, Nicole Davison.

Janice then introduced the speaker, Steve Mees, from Holehird Garden, who spoke to us about ‘The Magic of Compost’. Steve spoke enthusiastically and entertainingly on his subject, fielding our many questions at the end of his talk. When Steve first took on the responsibility of composting for Holehird, he went to Kew and returned to the Lakes with a lot of knowledge and facing a huge task. This knowledge was supplemented by a find in a second-hand book shop, F C King's ‘Gardening with Compost’, published in 1944. F C King was the Head Gardener at Levens who believed compost was ‘treasure from waste’. Compost-making needs knowledge, skill and a great deal of patience. The beautiful garden at Holehird is testament to Steve’s knowledge and skill – and his mantra is, ‘Relax, compost happens’.

Next month’s meeting will be on Monday 10 April in Arkholme Village Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Ruth Gibbons, a home economist, and her subject will be Healthy Eating. Visitors are welcome as always.

Hornby Institute

Hornby Drama Group

will present some

“Plays in Maytime”

Three one-act plays

performed by

junior and senior members

Friday 19 May

and Saturday 20 May

7.30pm at Hornby Institute

Adult £6 Child £4

Hornby Singers

Choose the afternoon sessions or the evening sessions – or both. Tuesday evenings 4 & 18 April 7pm to 9pm. Tuesday afternoons 11 & 25 March 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome. Pat 21449

Hornby Flower Club

Thursday 20 April 7.30pm

‘Arranging without Oasis’ with Jo Sakne.

Information: Pat 21449

Countryside Society

Friday 21 April 7.45pm

Steve Garland on

‘Some Insects of North Lancashire’

Aughton Village Hall

Bingo

Saturday 18 March 7.30pm

Aughton Village Hall in aid of Aughton church.

Prizes include gammon, chicken, chocolates and Easter eggs. Raffle, refreshments.



Arkholme's Robert Webb to be High Sheriff of Lancashire

Robert Webb of Arkholme has been appointed as the next High Sheriff of Lancashire – a royal appointment that dates back over a thousand years. Today it is an unpaid and voluntary role, and the official duty is to “protect, and assist in upholding, the dignity and well-being of Her Majesty’s Judges, and to project the principles of encouraging responsible citizenship, and respect for the diversity of the community, which lie at the heart of our constitution”.

Robert writes: *I am due to take up office on Friday 7 April at an Installation Ceremony at County Hall in Preston. The High Sheriff’s duties were vast in Saxon times, but fortunately they have been drastically reduced since then. Gone is the need to raise an army, collect taxes, run the courts, or hold executions, and in modern times the main responsibility as the Queen’s representative is to look after visiting High Court Judges, both by giving them hospitality and by sitting with them in Court. I intend to lend my support over the year to the whole of the Criminal Justice System, as well as encouraging and highlighting the brilliant work of the Charitable and Voluntary sectors within the County. Carole and I are expecting to be pretty busy in the months to come, and I am sure it will be a fascinating experience for both of us. I am especially pleased to have Michael Hampson as my chaplain for the year, and I feel doubly honoured, as an adopted Lancastrian, to have been invited to join such a long and rich tradition. I am looking forward to my duties with excitement and trepidation – in equal measure! If you happen to see me in Court Dress you will realise what an ancient tradition this is!*

As well as running the family business, Robert has served as a magistrate for twenty years, was a governor of Arkholme School for ten years, and has recently become a member of the board overseeing the multi-academy trust connected to Ripley Saint Thomas School in Lancaster. He also served for twenty-five years as a trustee (and more recently chairman) of Cancer Care North Lancashire and South Lakeland, until his retirement last year, marked by the grand fundraising finale of abseiling down the Ashton Memorial.

Most High Sheriffs adopt a particular focus for the year, such as a particular charity or project. Robert is going ‘back to basics’ for a High Sheriff, and will be focussing on supporting everyone involved in the criminal justice system, from the police and the courts to the prison and probation services.

Concluding Bill Taylor’s year of Fundraising for MNDA



3pm Sunday 30 April
‘From Commemoration to Celebration’
concert by Divers Voyces choir in aid of
Motor Neurone Disease Association
Saint Margaret’s, Hornby

mnnda
motor neurone disease
association

Notices

A huge vote of thanks to all those who supported what is now developing into the annual Whittington litter pick on Saturday 11 March. More than twenty intrepid collectors scoured the roadside verges out to the Parish boundary and collected thirty-one sacks of refuse, varying from crisp packets and empty cans (who is the secret lager drinker?) to a head torch and carbon monoxide alarm. Thank you also to the ladies who supported us with tea and cakes at the conclusion, to Whittington Parish Council for their support of the event, and to Lancaster City Council Cleansing Department for the loan of equipment and the disposal of our efforts. Please make a note for March 2018 - we would love to see more people next year! – *Mike Redmond*



Well done all the volunteers who turned out for Gressingham's litter picking day on Saturday 11 March. As last year, you cleaned the verges superbly and created a mound of bags for the council to remove. Hopefully passing motorists will have observed our efforts and be less inclined to leave their litter behind! – *Gressingham Parish Council*

SAUSAGE PIE & BEER FESTIVAL

Whittington's First Sausage, Pie and Beer Festival was a great success, with more than 200 people through the door. We raised £454.60 for St John's Hospice and £80 for Whittington Village Hall. Steve and Kate Manders would like to thank everyone who came, all the stall holders, and the village hall committee for their support in making it such a good event. We are already planning next year's. – *Kate and Steve Manders*

Gressingham's got talent! Gressingham Fellowship is thinking of hosting a talent evening later this year – a fun informal event where the people of Gressingham and Eskrigge could show off their talents. This could be a performance (individuals or small groups) such as singing, playing an instrument, magic/puppet show, drama, comedy, poem, story, physical or intellectual skill etc etc. Or you could present something: painting, sculpture, textiles, model, film, photography, flower arrangement, cooking, baking, gardening etc. We need some offers in advance if we are to go ahead, so please contact Alex if you might have a talent to show: alexphillips@promotional-goods.org.uk

The Pearson Trust Working Group has an exhibition in Gressingham Old School Room on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 April from 2pm to 6pm, and again on Sunday 23 April from 5pm, with an open meeting and Question and Answer session on Sunday at 7pm (for which the whole Working Group will be present). The exhibition and the meeting are opportunities to find out what the Working Group has managed to discover about the history of the School Room going back to 1843, and progress so far in investigating the possibility of re-ordering the church building as a combined church and community centre.

Hornby Swimming Pool There will be a public meeting for all who are interested in working to save Hornby Swimming Pool on Thursday 30 March at 7pm at Hornby Institute. If you are unable to attend but would like to be kept up to date with developments please register by email to saveswimminginhornby@gmail.com

The planning application for twelve new houses in Arkholme (on the Kirkby Lonsdale Road between the Playing Field and Thorney Croft) has been resubmitted. To ensure that your earlier comments are considered, they also have to be resubmitted: you can go to planning.lancaster.gov.uk/online-applications/ and put 17/00244/OUT in the search box.

The Return of Bus 81A The Lancaster Bus Users Group met on 16 March in Carnforth. The Whittington representatives set out some of their ideas for a review for the old 81A route. This met with a surprisingly warm reception, as it coincided with a possible re-instatement of the 81B route through Wennington, Tatham and Wray, because of the difficulties in those villagers getting to Kirkby Lonsdale. The Chairman had been discussing this with Stagecoach recently. It was agreed that at the next meeting, on 11 May at 6pm at The Cornerstone, Lancaster, an agenda item specific to the 81 service will be included. It is good to be able to report on a positive reaction. It would be good to have maximum supporting attendance at this meeting. – *Duncan Foster*

Arkholme Church Cleaning The Parochial Church Council would like to sincerely thank Ann Shepherd and Mary Hodgson for the many years they have devoted to church cleaning. We need to replace them and hope that some more people will volunteer to help. Please contact Bridget on 03330 119303 for further details.

Arkholme churchyard grass mowing Please would volunteers contact David on 03330 119303 if they are willing to take on a small patch of the yard to mow.

Arkholme Parish Council has a vacancy for a fifth parish councillor. For more details please contact a current councillor or the clerk (details in the Wagtail directory on page 3), or join us at our next Parish Council meeting.

Gressingham Old School Room A vacancy has arisen on the Old School Room Management Committee. This is due to the resignation of Gillian Coulthwaite, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. If you are a resident of the parish of Gressingham and would like to serve on this committee, or would like further information, please contact the Chairman Peter Lumb on 21847.

Gressingham Church Cleaning rota 1 April Mrs Lumb and Ms Rowling, 8 April Mrs Cottam, 22 April C Livesey and A Pelter, 29 April Mrs A Bartle

Gressingham Parish Council met on Monday 6 March. A reply has been received from Lancashire County Council (LCC) in response to Gressingham's earlier submission suggesting ways to minimise the risk of future damage to Loyn bridge: LCC has agreed to implement improved signage to deter long vehicles, and improved road markings; Gressingham will reply suggesting the introduction of "HGVs - Do Not Follow SAT NAV" signs. Caton parish council has kindly agreed to allow Gressingham to share one of Caton's Speed Indicator Device (SpID) signs; this will be used periodically on the main road at both ends of the village. LCC is insisting that the "Borwick Road" sign at the top of Fall Kirk is correct according to the official map. The parish council will purchase a new road safety mirror for the junction by the church; Heather Bell has kindly agreed to it being reinstated on her land. David Wiper gave a progress report from the Pearson Trust Working Group: the grant money to support the Pre-Feasibility study and church building Heritage Assessment has been received, and the work is underway. Next meeting: Monday 8 May at 7.30pm in the Old School Room.

Whittington Race Night returns on Saturday 24 June 7.30pm in Whittington Village Hall. You can be owner, trainer, jockey or punter – reserve the date.

Whittington Village Hall Draw £20 Phyllis Pinch, £10 Eric Pelter, £5 Jo Fell

Arkholme Village Hall Draw MARCH £20 MR AND MRS METCALFE £10 MR AND MRS J BLACOW £10 MR D BURROWS £10 MR AND MRS COLLINGWOOD £10 MRS A SHEPHERD £10 MRS C BARTON £10 MRS C SHANNON; APRIL £20 MR AND MRS ELAM £10 MR AND MRS D BARTON £10 MRS M LEVICK £10 MR AND MRS C WADDINGTON £10 MR AND MRS BALL £10 MR AND MRS D AIREY £10 MR T HAYTON



Vicar's report on 2016

for Annual Parish Meetings 2017

Hornby 11.45am Sunday 23 April *Saint Margaret's Hornby*

Arkholme 10.30am Monday 24 April *Arkholme Station*

Whittington 7.30pm Tuesday 25 April *Whittington Village Hall*

Gressingham 7.30pm Wednesday 26 April *Gressingham Old School Room*

We have said farewell to some of our most committed older members across the four parishes over the last several years, and yet the good news is that average Sunday service attendance remains steady – across all four parishes – as younger people have begun to join us in worship Sunday by Sunday, and we continue to develop our work as a benefice in many different ways.

Perhaps the most obvious celebration of our young people is the continuing development of our **monthly 'youth-led' service in Hornby**, where young people now routinely present the entire service from the opening greeting all the way to the Peace – and we are looking to continue to develop this programme during the year ahead.

Despite the many farewells, the average attendance at Parish Communion in Hornby on an ordinary Sunday is the same in 2016 as it was ten years ago – an average of 56 adults – but with the bonus of half a dozen young people (on average) when it is the Sunday for the monthly Sunday School or the monthly Youth-led service, and with a younger age-profile over all. Also there were 105 adults and 10 children in church for Easter Day, and 90 adults and 20 children for Remembrance Sunday, a service that continues to grow year on year – as do both the Carol Service (about 200 present this year), and the Christmas Eve Crib Service (doubling each year since we re-launched it, with 90 people present in 2016).

Sunday services across Whittington, Arkholme and Gressingham are steady year on year: up a nudge at 11 in Arkholme, down a nudge at 10 in Gressingham, and steady at 9.5 in Whittington. Amongst the many special-occasion services, Remembrance Sunday was once again observed, including the 11am silence, in all four churches.

As we enter 2017, Whittington has had a successful launch for a new monthly '**Sunday Morning Songs of Praise**' service (16 at the first one, 24 at the second one), and Gressingham has plans for a Carol Service in church in December 2017, with quarterly 'Sunday Evening Songs of Praise' leading up to it, beginning in early April.

David Peacock moved to Beetham during 2016, reducing our (retired) clergy team, but Robin McIlveen continues as our Lay Reader, Derek Seber and Tony Ewens continue to assist leading occasional services, Mary McClements has led Matins in Gressingham (as churchwarden), and Anthony Smith joined Judith Greenwood on our team of Occasional Preachers in 2016, completing the Occasional Preachers Course and now holding the Occasional Preachers Licence (they both also occasionally lead services).

A team of six youth leaders from across the benefice continues to lead school assemblies weekly in both schools, and each school attends services in the parish churches three or four times during the year, including Hornby school's visit once each term to the weekly Wednesday morning communion service. Hornby school had its church-school inspection early in 2017 – for Worship, Religious Education, Christian Distinctiveness and Church-School links – and was rated Grade 1 Outstanding on all four assessment criteria, a credit to the staff and children and the whole of the wider school community.

The Mother's Union was on the verge of closing at the beginning of 2016, but instead underwent something of a revival, with a new branch leader in Rose Roberts, four new members due to be enrolled (as I write) on Mothering Sunday 2017, and a full and varied programme established for the year ahead.

Special events and projects in the benefice in 2016 included another delightful Summer Evening at Newton Gate (although likely to be remembered as rather chilly in May), another Heritage and Thanksgiving Day in Whittington (this time taking the Church Bells as its theme, with working models and demonstrations and CCTV), the truly spectacular Flower Festival in Saint Margaret's, Hornby (curated by the Hornby Flower Group), Hornby Songs of Praise both that weekend and to conclude the Hornby Institute Centenary celebrations, and the dedication of the very fine new Whittington gates. The Lent Lunches supported Christian Aid, Afternoon Teas were served in Hornby church on Sunday afternoons each month through the summer, and the All Souls concert for the Hospice has become a regular feature in early November, this year featuring Palestrina's *Missa Brevis* and accompanying pieces, sung by the Divers Voyces choir.

The Lent Programme again ran successfully as a book group, jointly with Saint Mary's, reading Gerald O'Collins' *Catholicism* from the Oxford University Press *Very Short Introductions* series. Across the two book groups (one in Hornby and one in Arkholme), and a delightful final evening in church with Father Luiz, about thirty people took part, and as I write, the programme for 2017 is under way, reading Mark Noll's *Protestantism* from the same series, and looking forward to a final evening in Holy Week with Anderson Jeremiah from Lancaster University.

We also continue to share with Saint Mary's the combined choirs carol service, the Remembrance Sunday parade, the Palm Sunday procession, and Pentecost drinks in Saint Mary's garden. In 2016 we also shared another in our series of joint away-days on the theme 'Seven Day Faith', with a bring-and-share lunch eaten in the sunshine outside the fine modern Borwick and Priest Hutton Memorial Hall.

Saint Joseph's House of Prayer in Tunstall was opened in September 2016, with Sister Sue commissioned as assistant curate in the East Lonsdale group of parishes, and Sister Judith due to join us in these four parishes as our curate following her ordination in July 2017. Together they maintain the House of Prayer as a place of prayer and hospitality, with guests always welcome, and a programme of events and activities through the year.

Links within the benefice continue strong, coordinated through the Benefice Advisory (or coordination) Committee, and celebrated in our Sunday United Benefice services, held for each Patronal Festival and in every month with five Sundays. In 2016 we also shared a mid-summer lunch and garden party in Arkholme. The Benefice Advisory Committee is working through Bishop Julian's thirteen marks of a healthy church, under the bishop's 'Vision 2026' heading, and one early response to the programme was making Lectionaries available (sets of readings for the full year), and these proved very popular, being re-printed several times to meet demand. The Benefice Advisory Committee also coordinates all youthwork across the benefice, and ensures compliance with best practice in safeguarding in accordance with diocesan policies.

I am of course enormously grateful to all those who contribute in any way to the life of the four churches: leading and taking part in Sunday services, offering music and hospitality, decorating the churches with flowers, organising special events, serving as churchwardens and on the PCCs, taking communion to the housebound and to The Old Vicarage, ringing the bells, winding the clocks, cleaning and maintaining the churchyards and the buildings and their contents, working for various charities including the Morecambe Food Bank and Christian Aid, caring for one another within the church community and beyond, and all those other things that contribute to our churches' life and ministry. For myself it is a privilege to be a part of the church community across the four parishes, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside you all in the year ahead.

- Michael Hampson



The weather in Arkholme

Robin McIlveen

February Weather in Arkholme

19 Slightly Wet Days (less than 5mm) together adding up to 18.1mm

6 Decidedly Wet Days (from 5mm to just under 25mm) together adding up to 77.8mm

0 Extremely Wet Days (25mm and over)

25 Rain Days in total adding up to **95.9mm** (3.8 inches) – leaving 3 dry days

Wettest Day 22nd-23rd had 19.7mm

The first half of the month was quite dry, with only 19mm of rain, but it felt wetter than this, since there were only 2 dry days out of 14. The third week added another 23mm, and the last week doubled that again, making the whole month rather wetter than the notional 80mm, and there were only 3 dry days in the whole month, instead of the typical 10.

The many cloudy nights kept morning temperatures up, so that there were only six air frosts on the apple tree (air temperatures under 0°C), none of them severe. Storm Doris accounted for our wettest day, but it is a measure of how much less stormy this winter has been than the last, that D for Desmond was reached on 5 December 2015, whereas D for Doris has been reached over 2 months later this winter.

The first week of March was wet (50mm) but the second was very dry. However as I write on the 17th the depressions are queuing up in the Atlantic, bringing wind and rain to Northern Britain and promising more.

Middle latitude depressions are known technically as Extratropical Cyclones, to distinguish them from the Tropical Cyclones which form in low latitudes. Both types are called cyclones because winds in the lower atmosphere blow round the low pressure in huge wheels of air, turning anticlockwise on the weather map in the northern hemisphere, and clockwise in the southern hemisphere.

If you are an addict of the shipping weather summaries before 1am on Radio 4, you will know that in our big depressions wind strengths reach Gale Force 8 over wide areas. By definition, this means that average wind speeds lie in the range 39 to 46mph 10m above the sea surface. At Storm Force 10, the average winds are between 55 and 63mph. And at Hurricane Force 12, they lie at or above 73mph. Force 12 is not common in middle latitudes, but is the minimum for Tropical Cyclones to be named and called Hurricanes in the Atlantic and Typhoons in the Pacific. In such storms, average wind speeds can exceed 150mph 10m above the sea surface. In such conditions the interface between air and sea becomes blurred by flying water, and waves are massive.

By the end of February there have been 12 dry days in 2017, 37 Slightly Wet Days giving 48mm of rain, 10 Decidedly Wet Days giving 121mm, and no Extremely Wet Days, a total of 47 Rain Days giving 169mm of rain. (The January report incorrectly boosted the wettest day from 18.6 to 23.6mm, and reduced the actual 9 dry days to 8. The system is human.)

Robin McIlveen

No bus? Try these Community Transport Services

Lancashire County Council promotes the following 'Community Transport Services'. It would be really helpful for other local residents if you could share your experiences of trying to use any of them. Email editor@wagtail.org.uk or phone 21712.

Dial-a-Bus 01524 416735

Operates between 9.30am and 2.30pm

Up to 9 miles £4 adult single fare

Up to 18 miles £5 adult single fare

Over 18 miles £10 adult single fare

It has been suggested that it would require at least 7 passengers to make the service viable out here. Do let us know your experiences.

Lune Valley Community Car Scheme 01772 516208

Operates between 8.30am and 4.30pm

40p per mile while you are in the vehicle

This is actually the 'Lune Valley, Lancaster, Morecambe, Garstang and Rural Fylde' Community Car Scheme, with a Preston phone number. The nearest registered drivers are in Lancaster and Morecambe – so they may or may not be interested in coming out this far. Do let us know your experiences. They are also advertising for new drivers.

Kirkby Lonsdale Community Volunteer Driver's Scheme 07788 522511

This one is already in our Wagtail Directory every month. It operates on request if a voluntary driver is available. 45p per mile measured from the driver's house back to the driver's house. John Keegan writes: 'I made use of this to get to RLI in November last year. I can highly recommend the service, which is looking for volunteers in Whittington. The driver that took me came from Barbon.' Do let us know your experiences.

Gerald writes...

Once again the spring flowers in the churchyard have been beautiful – first the snowdrops, followed by the crocus and daffodils – they really have been a superb sight, also the large carpet of snowdrops in the ghyll at the lower end of Moor Brow gets bigger every year, well worth stopping for a few minutes just to admire the beauty of them.

Does the village really want to spend upwards of £7000 on a speed awareness camera? Could someone not make a dummy policeman with a high viz jacket and a fake camera in its hand a bit like the Wray scarecrows and place it at strategic places around the village? I am sure motorists would slow down just to view him.

John Jackson and Gerry Hoggarth – two of Arkholme's older residents – have recently moved to an old folks home at Hornby, where I am sure they will be enjoying each other's company. Best wishes to both of them.

The rooks and jackdaws are busy building new nests, there are new born lambs in the fields, the hawthorn hedges are just starting to show green – what a wonderful time of year, we are so lucky to be able to enjoy it.

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

Our **'Songs of Praise'** services are informal, half-hour services featuring the very best all-time favourite hymns

This month we have three Songs of Praise services

6pm Passion Sunday 2 April in Gressingham

9.30am Palm Sunday 9 April in Whittington

3pm Easter Day 16 April in Arkholme



HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Palm Sunday 9 April



Palm Processions and Holy Week readings in all four parishes *with traditional palm crosses to take home*
8am Gressingham
9.30am Whittington
9.30am Arkholme
10.45am Hornby
Hornby Palm Procession joint with Saint Mary's begins at Hornby Primary School 10.45am – service includes Holy Communion in Gressingham, Arkholme and Hornby

**Monday 10 April
7.30pm**



Dr Anderson Jeremiah from Lancaster University will conclude our Lent Programme with an illustrated talk on his travels around churches in Asia, West Africa and South America, exploring the growth and diversity of global Christianity – *at Saint Margaret's Hornby, everybody welcome*



**Maundy Thursday 13 April
7.30pm** Hornby
Eucharist of the Last Supper

Good Friday 14 April
9am Arkholme
10am Hornby
Good Friday readings and prayers

EASTER DAY 16 April
8am Hornby
9.30am Whittington
9.30am Arkholme
10.30am Gressingham
10.45am Hornby
plus 3pm Arkholme Songs of Praise

SUNDAY SERVICES in APRIL

	Whittington	Arkholme	Gressingham
Passion Sunday 2 April	-	9.30am HC	6pm SoP
Palm Sunday 9 April	9.30am SoP	9.30am HC	8am HC
Easter Day 16 April	9.30am HC	9.30am HC and 3pm SoP	10.30am HC
Sunday 23 April	9.30am HC	-	9.30am HC

HC – Holy Communion SoP – Songs of Praise

Hornby 10.45am Parish Communion every Sunday
*including Sunday School on the first Sunday of every month (2 April)
 and the youth-led service on the third Sunday of every month (16 April)*