

PASTORAL LETTER

Woodside Cottage

Colton

ULVERSTON

LA12 8HE

December 2018

Dear Friends

One of my lovely friends put up her first Christmas tree on October 1st this year, which seemed a tad early to me. However, I wonder if we all spend too long, too early, getting ready for Christmas? Because it seems to me that it begs the question – what are we getting ready **for**? A mammoth present giving fest? A blow out of “can’t fit in another piece of Christmas cake” proportions? Not another party? A brief holiday from the humdrum of ordinary life?

It seems to me that these can be the burdensome incidentals that go with Christmas and certainly not the things that make Christmas memorable. As I look back at the Christmases that I remember – those memories don’t involve food or presents – they focus on people. The Christmas my dad dropped the ash tray when clearing out the fire and covered the entire dining room, including the laid table, with ash dust. Our first Christmas in our first house – with both our families gathered round the table - when Bob had to climb through the dining room window to get to a free chair round the crowded table. Of course, being human beings – we had our fair share of awful moments too. Fall outs, arguments, tears and disappointments because Christmas can be like that too, sometimes.

In the midst of all this activity let us not forget that Christmas is really all about getting ready to celebrate the birth of that baby in Bethlehem, the Lord Jesus. Please don’t leave him out of your festivities. He has called us his brothers and sisters and we ought to remember that. Without his birth there would be no reason for a celebration on December 25th. The first Communion of Christmas is a very moving service, the joy of celebrating in church on Christmas morning is fun, I love finding out from everyone

what they got in their stockings. (Who can forget the boy who got a vintage car hooter?)

We are all members of God's family, we call him Father, so come and spend some time with your extended family, giving thanks for that greatest of gifts, his son, Jesus.

With love, prayers and best wishes for a peaceful and fraught-free Christmas.

Your sister in Christ

Joanna



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Carols and Candlelight, Lotwick, 7 December. 6:00pm. Refreshments

Carol Service, 23 December, Colton, 3:00pm (Mulled wine and nibbles afterwards)

Christmas Eve – Children's Service, Penny Bridge 3:00pm. With Christingle.

Benefice Service, Penny Bridge, 11:00pm

Christmas Day – Combined Service, Lotwick, 10:30am.

All are welcome & especially please do bring your family



Decorating Colton Church: Friday 21 December, 10:00am.



COLTON CHRONICLES

We go through the year with little thought of the work that goes into preparing and taking a service, just taking everything for granted and it takes a special service to remind us of our shortcomings.

On the Sunday when we celebrate All Saints and All Souls when there was a wondrous and moving Benefice Service of 'Remembering and Thanksgiving', at Colton, for those who had lost those dear to them, which was not only deserving of our thanks but a timely reminder of those short comings. The service was organised and led by the Revd. Joanna Henson and Lay Reader Pam Priestley to whom we offer our deep-felt gratitude. Also thanks to the ladies for the tea and cake that followed.

The origin of the Colton Parish News is shrouded in mystery although there is evidence that it existed in the last decade of the 19th. C jointly with Rusland, Satterthwaite and Finsthwaite, but sadly its future is in doubt. This edition is the 231st. your editor has edited and it is getting increasingly onerous mainly due to difficulty in filling the pages, the falling number of readers and the unfortunate fact that the said editor will, in early December, be 92 years of age and there is no apparent successor.

The only alternative would appear to combine with the Penny Bridge & Lowick magazine, which is fine, if you like advertisements.

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Benefice Administrator: The Benefice is pleased to announce that **Juliet Caldwell** has been appointed to the post and will take up her duties on **Monday 26 November**. She will be working in conjunction with Pat Fox, Coniston.

The role of Benefice Administrator is to work alongside those leading ministry in the valley and congregation members, to free them from administration, and to allow them to participate in other ways in church services and community outreach. Juliet will be working from Penny Bridge Vicarage. Contact **T: 010229 861 668** on **Mondays & Tuesdays**.

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PARISH NEWS

A very warm welcome to Sally and Ian Pirnie who were back in church on Remembrance Sunday. We wish them both well and pray for a return to full health.

Furness Bach Choir: Our next concert is on **Saturday 1 December** at **Ulverston Parish Church, 7:30pm**. It is a mixed programme focused on

music for double choirs. The concert includes familiar and less well known pieces by Bach, Handel, Gabrieli, Mascagni and Britten.

The choir have been working with Marco Bellasi, their musical director, for just over twelve months now and the quality of their music-making together seems to improve with every concert.

Tickets are available from Sutton's Bookshop in Ulverston from early November and on the door.

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Rusland Horizons

Events: Tuesday 4 December. Practical Conservation Working Party **9:00am – 4:00pm.** Meet at National Park Southern Office, Lane Ends, Haverthwaite, LA12 8AB.

Sunday 4 December. 'Big Christmas Bash' at various sites at **10:00am** followed at **3:00pm** in the White Hart, Bouth for Hot Stew and mulled wine (vegetarian alternatives available).

Seats £4 & booking essential. Whisky raffle. Contacts Gill McKinnon and Carol McNeill, **T: 861 507.**

Gill.mckinnon@gmail.com & carol.Mcneill@tiscali.co.uk

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Oxen Park Cinema Club: There are two films showing in December. The First on **Tuesday 4 December**, "*In the Fade*" and the second on **Saturday 15 December**, "*The Party*". Both at the **Carthouse, 7:30pm.**

Next year there are in January also two films in January in January, the first on **Tuesday 8 January**, "*Sweet Country*" and the second on **Saturday 19 January**, "*In Between*", both at the **Carthouse, 7:30pm.** The showing on the 19th. is a 'Super Special' with food before the film, £6.

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SALTMINE THEATRE COMPANY

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

Sunday 9 December, 6:00pm in John Ruskin School.

The whole world is about to change...but first the forest of Greenwood is getting very crowded indeed. Apprentice Angels are looking for a Shepherd, a Shepherd is searching for a lost Sheep and a disguised King is hunting for a very special Baby. Confusion reigns, identities mistaken and loyalties betrayed; will things ever get sorted out?

Come and see the story of the first Christmas as you've never seen it before. **'Hark! A Nativity Story'** is a charming, funny and enchanting retelling of the Nativity story, jam-packed with beautiful music, audience participation and bags full of family fun.

Tickets available from Wards Newsagents and Julie Gregory (phone 015394 41125). Adults £7, Children £3.

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Bouth Village Hall: The **Annual General Meeting** of the Hall will take place, this year, on **Thursday 29 November. 7:30pm.** The Hall is a precious asset in the village, first constructed as a Reading Room in 1929 by the Black Beck Gunpowder Work and needs plenty of help to maintain it so turn up and help!



BOUTH WOMENS INSTITUTE

At a well-attended Annual General Meeting retiring President Jenny Hare delighted us all with a surprise and gorgeous cake on the occasion of our 75th. AGM. Jenny has retired and the new line up is as follows:

President	Lynne Jowett + (New members mentor)
Vice President	Susan Smith + (Sick Visitor)
Secretary	Alison Gruber
Treasurer	Sue Dean + (Vice secretary)
Vice Treasurer	Christiana Gruber
Program Organiser	Hazel Coates
Press Secretary	Jenny Smith
Substitute for all these Posts!	Marion Hamer

We are working hard for the ‘Christmas Party’ held this year on **Wednesday 12 December**. Invitations to ‘local super seniors’ will be sent out at the end of November.

Note: Our meeting on 9 January is Open and special, as the speaker is the famous Cumbrian author Ruth Sutton.

Mainly Jenny S.

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COLTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Lengthsman: As the rains of the winter started so Archie turned his attention to making sure as many of the drains in the parish are as clear as possible. It does seem to be a never ending task, but time spent now not only helps prevent flooding of roads and land but it also means that the roads are less icy when winter really sets in. The councillors are also thinking towards the colder weather and are checking the amount of grit in the grit bins within the parish, if anyone notices a bin which is running low then this can be reported directly to Highways through the online system; go to www.cumbria.gov.uk then roads, report a fault, winter service.

Parish Clerk: After two years of looking after the administration of Colton Parish Council the current clerk has decided to hand over the role. Karen would very much like to thank all the current and previous councillors as well as the local residents for making her job enjoyable and achievable. It does, however leave the council with a gap; we are therefore now in the process of recruiting a new clerk and hopefully will have someone in place in the near future.

Broadband update: Provided by broadband champion, Mike Postle. 93% of Cumbria can now get Superfast broadband and 95% have >10mb. The Connecting Cumbria contract is well under way and general message is if it is not happening now it won't be for a while. Blawith could be connected soon which will help Nibthwaite. Connecting Cumbria has £3.9m but nothing is likely to happen with *this until 2020 as the government has stated all properties should* have fibre to property rather than fibre to cabinet. Fibre to property is a more expensive option that the £3.9m won't cover. Most of Colton PC can now get fibre either to the property or to a cabinet. Two remaining spots are parts of Colton Hamlet and the area to the North of the parish on the Satterthwaite exchange. Community Fibre

Partnership Scheme (CFPS) is now our best hope. Another alternative is using 4G and buying a router that uses mobile data to provide home internet.

Change in contact details: Please note that the email address for the parish council has changed. If you wish to contact us use clerk@coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

Our next parish meeting is to be held on **Monday 3 December, 7:00pm at Rusland Reading Rooms.** All are welcome to attend.

E: clerk@coltonparishcouncil.org.uk W: www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

I recently became a carer for my partner, who I live with, and can no longer work. We've started falling behind on our bills and I'm worried our debts are only going to get worse. I'm on Carer's Allowance but what else can I do?

A change in circumstances can often trigger financial problems. Take action quickly so you don't slide into further debt. Try to make savings on your household bills by switching suppliers or contracts. Contact your local authority to see if you can get a council tax reduction. Try to boost your income too. You may be able to apply for benefits jointly with your partner to be paid alongside Carers Allowance.

Contact your creditors and ask if you can reduce your repayments. They can also freeze any interest and charges. Check if you have payment protection insurance that covers becoming a carer. It's important to prioritise paying your council tax and rent or mortgage.

For further help working out your budget, negotiating with creditors or checking which benefits you're entitled to, contact your nearest Citizens Advice.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice on any aspect of debt, consumer problems, benefits, housing, employment or any other problems. We have various outlets across South Lakeland and can also give advice over the phone –

telephone 03444 111 444 for an appointment and help, 015394 46464 for debt and on-going enquiries. Please note the opening hours at Windermere have been reduced, but contact details remain the same.

South Lakes Citizens Advice is a registered charity,

No: 1118656 and company limited by guarantee, No: 6113551.

FRN: 617574



The Oxen

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
“Now they are all on their knees,”
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
“Come; see the oxen kneel,

“In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,”
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

Thomas Hardy



*“Heap on more wood – the wind is chill
But let it whistle as it will,
We’ll keep our Christmas merry still.”*

Sir Walter Scott



DIARY DATES

- 1 December Furness Bach Choir, Ulverston Parish Church, 7:30pm.
2 December **Advent Sunday, Morning Worship, Colton, 9:00am.**
3 December Colton Parish Council Meeting, Rusland Reading Rooms, 7:00pm.
4 December Rusland Horizons, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Cinema Club, 7:30pm.
7 December **Carols & Candlelight Service, Lowick Church, 6:00pm.**
9 December **Combined Service, Holy Communion, Penny Bridge.**
Rusland Horizons, 'Big Christmas Bash' 9:00am. – 3:00pm.
12 December Bouth W I Christmas Party Village Hall, 7:15pm.
15 December Cinema Club, 7:30pm.
21 December **Decorating Colton Church, 10:00am.**
23 December **Carol Service, Colton 3:00pm.**
24 December **Children's Service with Christingle, Penny Bridge, 3:00pm.**
Benefice Service, Holy Communion, Penny Bridge, 11:00pm.
25 December **Christmas Day, Combined Service, Holy Communion, Lowick, 10:30am.**
30 December **Combined Service, Holy Communion, Colton, 10:30am.**

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6 January Epiphany, Morning Worship, Colton, 9:30pm.



Please do not forget to pay for your magazine - £6

All most forgot:

**Carols Round the Tree, Christmas Eve, Bouth Village Green,
6:00pm.** In the White Hart if raining.



Apologies for the mistakes last month, which locally, cause much merriment, so if you find any this month please keep it to yourselves.



Colton Church Readers & Prayer Leaders

Month December 2018

Date / Service	Readers Names	Lessons	Prayer Leaders
2 December			
First Sunday of Advent			
Morning Worship	Margaret Sanders	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13	Susan King
9:30pm. <i>Donald</i>	Roderick Smith	Luke 21:25-36	
9 December			
Second Sunday of Advent			
Holy Communion	Combined Service		
9:30am <i>Vicar</i>	St. Mary the Virgin, Penny Bridge		
16 December			
Third Sunday of Advent			
Morning Worship	Sue Lydon	Philippians 1: 3-11	Judy Redhead
9:30am <i>Pam</i>	Ian Pirnie	Luke 1:39-55	
23 December			
Fourth Sunday of Advent			
Carol Service	Lessons and Readers		
3:00pm <i>David B</i>	To be arranged		
24 December			
Christmas Eve			
Children's Service	St. Mary the Virgin		
3:00pm <i>Vicar</i>	Penny Bridge		
24 December			
Christmas Eve			
Holy Communion	Benefice Service		
11:00pm <i>David B</i>	St. Mary the Virgin, Penny Bridge		
25 December			
CHRISTMAS DAY			
Holy Communion	Combined Service		
10:30am <i>Joanna</i>	St. Luke's, Lowick		
30 December			
Second Sunday of Christmas – Combined Service, Holy Trinity, Colton			
Holy Communion	Susan Smith	Colossians 3:12-17	John Tarr
10:30am <i>Vicar</i>	Graham Wallace	Luke 2:41-52	

SIDEPERSONS ROTA

2 December Mrs. Susan King
 16 December Mrs. Susan Smith
 23 December Mrs. Sue Dean & Mrs. Margaret Sanders
 30 December Mr. Roderick Smith



Decorating the Church: Friday 21 December, 10:00am.

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