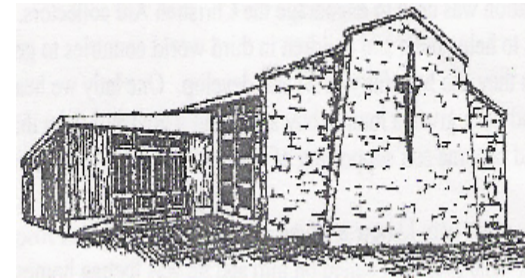


The Messenger

January, February and March 2007

No 15



Churches Together in Cowling



Dear Friends,

The beginning of a New Year provides us with an excellent opportunity to take stock of our lives. William Sangster provides us all with a challenge and points us to the One who can transform our lives for the better.

Dr. W.E. Sangster was a famous preacher of the 1950s; before that, in the London blitz, he had a wonderful ministry to people sheltering underground - many of whom came to join his Westminster Central Hall congregation.

Here is part of a Sangster sermon for the New Year:-

"I cannot promise you in the coming year, a new set of circumstances.

Indeed, I anticipate for myself and for you, difficulties and disappointments and obstacles and some pain - for that is life. No year has yet dawned which did not contain them....

But, in the name of Him who sits on the Throne, I promise you that if you receive Him in your hearts, and if you will submit to His Lordship over you, you can have a new heart, a new life and therefore, a new birth ...

I do promise you, even in grey times, new life in God...

He can give you a new world, with new delights and new comforts, and new hopes, and new ends. No, not by changing your external world, but by changing you".

May 2007 be a year in which we look to Christ, rely on Christ and live for Christ more fully than we have ever done before so that He can change and transform us and be glorified in our lives.

A Happy New Year to you!

Nigel

Holy Trinity update

Personal

Len's stroke in September was a terrible shock to all of us. However we are delighted that he is now home and doing so well. His, and Margaret's, irrepressible humour and determination have shone through all the ups and downs of these months. They have continued throughout this time to be interested and involved as much as they can be in the life of both Holy Trinity and St Andrew's and have been an inspiration to us.

Just before Len's stroke we at Holy Trinity had been working on a "Who does what?" list which had already revealed how much they did. Since then we have been reminded over and over again of how much they have been doing for years to keep the show on the road! Thanks, love and prayers from us all.

Betty Whitham has been doing flowers at Holy Trinity for many years and is reluctantly giving up at the end of 2006. Thank you Betty for all you have done. Doing the flowers is just one of many roles Betty has had over her many years with Holy Trinity and it was good to be able to say Thank you to her on her 85th birthday as we celebrated the work done on the building recently.



Looking back with thanks and looking forwards with hope

For all that has been, thanks. To all that shall be, yes, in all times and in all places" (Dag Hammarskjold)

At our joint service on November 19th we celebrated work done over the last few years on Holy Trinity Church's building. This began in November 2003 with the installation of a new heating system. It continued in 2004/5 with the repair of the tower and clock - with help from English Heritage, the Parish Council, local fundraising and an anonymous (to all of us!) bequest of £10,000. Then this Autumn, the roof was repaired with a further grant from English Heritage and local fundraising.

It is not clear what the future will bring. We have been in discussions with the school, between the Churches, and with others in the village. We hope at least to get toilet facilities and a kitchen and probably create a bit more space for other activities or different ways of worshipping and using the building. We are committed to doing the work in cooperation with St Andrew's and hope that when we set up a new group to take the work forward that they will be involved closely at every stage.

Bridget Rees

Nigel's Sabbatical

I started my sabbatical in mid- August not knowing what direction my ministry would take in the future. I began by concentrating my thoughts on issues concerned with hospice chaplaincy, particularly children and death. This is clearly a complex, delicate subject but one which I found to be very rewarding and inspirational. I benefited a great deal from visiting a number of hospices and speaking to the chaplains. I gained a great deal from these visits which I know will help me in my pastoral care of people facing terminal illness and other forms of suffering an heartache.

During the latter part of my sabbatical the direction of my ministry took a completely unexpected twist when I was asked by the Methodist hierarchy to consider going to Shetland. On our visit we found the people to be extremely warm and friendly. They have a great love for Christ and we were impressed by their generosity and sensitivity to the needs of our family. I will have eleven churches in my pastoral charge so I should not suffer too greatly from boredom and apathy.

The task does seem daunting but it will make me rely on God and depend on Him as I know I will struggle desperately without His wisdom, strength and guidance.



Smiling is infectious: you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled, I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile, then I realised it's worth,
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Monday Club & Toy Service



Monday Club will not be meeting in the next quarter, partly because of the unavailability of organisers and partly because the children are now so well served by after school activities at the local primary school.

Many thanks to Susan and Lorraine for all the work they have done with the children. We all thoroughly enjoyed their nativity play and singing at the Toy Service on Dec 10th and were astounded by the numbers of toys brought in. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously. These gifts have now been taken to the Salvation Army and will be much appreciated by less fortunate children. In the same service we celebrated gifts to JMA (Junior Mission for All). Contributions here again help less fortunate people, 2/5 of the money being used in Britain and 3/5 abroad. It is particularly useful in providing health care and education in countries which cannot afford services we take for granted.



What's on?

Holy Trinity

Every Sunday Eucharist at 10.30
(except 1st & alternate 3rd Sundays)
1st Sunday Eucharist at 8.00

MU

Mondays at 7.30 pm

PCC

17th January
14th February
21st March

St Andrew's

Every Sunday at 10.30
1st Sunday also at 6.00
3rd Sunday with Holy Trinity see below

Prayer group 1st & 3rd Tues 9.30
Coffee Fridays 10.00—11.00

Regnal Tuesdays 2.00 Bancroft Room

Jan 9th	Games
16th	AGM
23rd	Drawing together (art)
30th	"Getting to know you" - Dorothy
Feb 6th	Games
13th	Speaker
20th	Crafts
27th	"Getting to know you" - Eva
Feb 6th	Games
13th	Speaker
20th	"Getting to know you" - Jan
27th	Report from Regnal Conference

Joint services and Activities

January 7th

10.30 Joint Covenant Service at St Andrews

January 21st

10.30 Joint Service at Holy Trinity

February 18th

10.30 Joint Service at St Andrew's followed by open meeting focussing on discussion on communion and Jacob's join lunch

March 18th

10.30 Joint Service at Holy Trinity (Mothering Sunday)

April 8th

10.30 Joint Service at St Andrew's for Easter Sunday

April 15th

10.30 joint Service at St Andrew's

Lent groups will be held on Tuesdays at 7.30 in the Bancroft Room beginning on February 27th and Thursdays beginning on February 22nd at 2.00 pm

Pentecost 2007



One of our most successful joint ventures to date was the celebration of the birth of the church at Pentecost in May 2006. One beautiful day we stretched our brains and legs as we completed Tony's treasure hunt round the village, then ended up outside St Andrew's to enjoy an open air brass band concert put on by Earby Brass Band. A good time was had by all and we ended up with a celebration tea and birthday cake. We plan to put on a similar event this year so watch this space! Let's hope the sun smiles on us again. Perhaps we could also put on an exhibition in the church celebrating the churches of Cowling, their origins, the legacies of past members and memorable events. Suggestions welcome. Let's hope the sun shines on us again.

This event is one of the many musical treats we have enjoyed throughout the year thanks to Alice, her personal efforts and her many contacts.

Opening the church for meditation and prayer

After our involvement in the Methodist connexional project "Pray without ceasing" we felt that the church should be open on a regular basis so that people could drop in just to enjoy the peace and solitude for quiet meditation or prayer. We decided that this was easiest to do when the St Andrew's was open anyway so chose alternate Wednesday afternoons when the Citizen's Advice Bureau was using the premises. They are in from 1-3 but we decided initially to open the church door and play background music from 1.30 to 2.30. To do this we would welcome volunteers, willing to open the doors, put on some music, then just wait around in the background, reading, relaxing to the music, praying as they wished, available but not disturbing anyone who came in, and eventually closing up again. We cannot expect people to come but feel the church should sometimes be open and would like to start on this small scale. Please contact a member of the church council if you feel you could help.

The days when we hope to open are:

January 10th & 24th

February 7th & 21st

March 7th & 21st

Update from St Andrew's

An extraordinary general meeting was called on December 14th chaired by superintendent Jacky Hale to consider the future of St Andrew's. Many attended and others sent messages of support. This meeting allowed a free exchange of opinions and concerns and will be followed by another in the spring. Property concerns had brought financial issues to a head and also highlighted problems of manpower. We owe a great debt to former members who have kept the church running by their labour and expertise but can no longer rely on members to do maintenance work.

FINANCIAL SITUATION: The current crisis was precipitated when asbestos found in the boiler room had to be removed at the expense of over £2 000. A subsequent fire inspection said that we must have the boiler house relined by a qualified builder so that it could contain any fire for 30mins. We are currently seeking estimates but have approached builders without success. We urgently need quotes.

We currently pay an assessment of £2 000 to the circuit every quarter. Next year's budget will be decided at a February meeting of church treasurers.

Another meeting to look at ways forward will be held after the treasurers' meeting and after we have figures for work on the boiler room.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH: In addition to Sunday services both the church and the wider community use the church building throughout the week. Many community lettings will move on completion of the village hall. We must consider the role of the church two years' hence when we expect to have a new village hall. A lot of valuable initiatives have been started using this site, many jointly with Holy Trinity. Facilities at Holy Trinity will improve but St Andrew's occupies a large site in the centre of the village. The Christian communities of Cowling must consider what other func-

tions (fellowship, outreach and community service) they should provide in addition to Sunday worship and how and where these could be best met.

THE BUILDING: St Andrew's is a mainly wooden construction. There are no immediate structural concerns but it will not last forever. If land were to be sold any monies from that sale would be kept in trust to be used by St Andrew's. If the congregation ceased to meet then the monies would revert to the circuit.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Do we want to maintain this site and if so why?
- Are there still a significant number of people willing to contribute money, time and efforts to the future of St Andrew's?
- What Christian presence do we wish to maintain in the village and where?
- What legacy do we want to hand on to others?

IMMEDIATE ACTION:

Any assistance would be welcome in identifying builders able to give quotes for the building work needed in the boiler room and willing to complete this work.

Please pray for our church and consider any ways in which you could help us raise money for this work which should be done by this spring. Whatever we choose to do in the future the building is needed now and must meet health and safety regulations

What can you contribute?

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this issue. Articles, poems, thought for the day, memories, quizzes etc wanted for the next magazine.



Bible readings:

If you wish to receive Bible readings for each day please contact Bridget Rees - 5 Lincrag Gardens Tel: 01535 636108 Email: Bridg-

Keeping Faith in the Holy Land

January brings the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In November I was lucky enough to visit Palestine/Israel to join an ecumenical conference run by Sabeel. Sabeel is an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians which seeks to deepen the faith of Palestinian Christians and to promote unity among them towards social action. It strives to develop a spirituality based on love, justice peace, non violence, liberation and reconciliation for the different national and faith communities. The word "Sabeel" is Arabic for 'the way' and also a 'channel' or spring of life giving water.

Ecumenism is often a delicate and difficult process. In Jerusalem it has been going on ever since division began in the Church very early in its history and has been extremely difficult at times. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre or the Church of the Resurrection - same Church but different names according to your tradition - is controlled by a number of the older Churches who guard their piece jealously at times. The keys to the Church are kept by a Muslim family in an attempt to keep the peace!

There were representatives and speakers of all the local major denominations at the Sabeel Conference "The Forgotten Faithful" - from the Orthodox Churches - Greek, Armenian, Coptic, Syrian and Ethiopian, the Latin Church - what we call the Roman Catholic Church which includes the Greek Catholic, the Melkites, the Maronites as well as Anglicans, Church of Scotland, Baptists and Lutherans. Methodists and many others were also represented by participants from the UK and USA among others.

If we think ecumenism is difficult at times in Cowling - try it in Jerusalem. Perhaps there, as here, our divisions can be a scandal to those outside.

Bridget Rees



CDFC United Services Jan -March 2007

Date	14 Jan	11 Feb	11 Mar
Venue	St Thomas	St Peter's	St Peter's
Leader	Nigel Barton	Michael Cowgill	David Warrington
Notes			Stop the Traffik

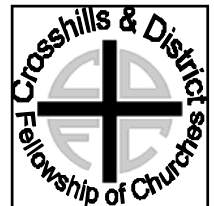
In addition there are times for prayer for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

DATE	Monday 22 January 2007	Tuesday 23 January 2007
HOST	Mary Clough	Anne Sollberger
VENUE	Braidagarth, Baxter Wood	31, The Hawthorns
TIME	12.00 noon	12.30 pm
	Glennis Attwood to lead	

DATE	Wednesday 24 January 2007	Thursday 25 January 2007
HOST	St Peter's Church	St Andrew's Kildwick
VENUE	St Peter's Church	Kildwick Parish Rooms
TIME	9.30 am	7.30 pm

DATE	Friday 26 January 2007
HOST	Joan Ayres
VENUE	13, Beech Street
TIME	12.00 noon



Baptisms at Holy Trinity

November 16th	Adam James Edwards Jacob Andrew Edwards Ryan Tyler Vollentine
December 10th	Archie Jacob Vine Somers

IN SILENCE

**In silence
Find the inward light
That tells God is near
Be still
And know
That He transcends
All our ideas
About how we should worship Him
And our images of God.**

**Reflect
As we put into words
And theological constructs
And forms of 'Church'**

**How we put Him in a box
That we can comprehend
And lose sight
Of Him**

**In silence
Unclutter our minds of all the
Religious things and words
That make us deaf dumb and blind
To the Creator of our being
And Lord of life.**

*Tony Tate
16.12.06*

Praying for the people of Cowling each week

Please let us know of any prayer requests.

Dec 31-Jan 6 Sun Street, Manor Park , Fold Lane
Jan 7-13 Woodland St, Gibb St, Queen Square
Jan 14-20 Park Road, Scar View, Royd St
Jan 21-28 Acre Meadow, Laycock Fields , all homes on Keighley Rd & Colne Rd
Jan 29- Feb 4 Pinnacle View, Old Oakworth Rd & outlying homesteads
Feb 5-11 Winkholme, Middleton, Ickornshaw, Nan Scar, Park Lane, Lumb Lane
Feb 12-18 Stone Head Lane, Warley Wisw Lane & surrounding dwellings
Sandyforth Lane, Reedshaw Moss
Feb 19-25 Lane Ends Estate, Wainman's Close, Bannister Walk, Dick Lane, Earl
Crag View, Old Saw Mill
Feb 26-Mar 4 Cowling Hill Lane, Tom Lane & outlying areas
Mar 5-11 Low Lane (Norwood), Long Lane & all surrounding dwellings
Mar 12-18 Collinge Road, Lingcrag Gardens, Mill Croft
Mar 19-25 Springwell Close, Green St. Hartley Place, Spring Gardens, Walton St,
Cross St. Queen St
Mar 26-Apr 2 Sun St, Manor Park, Fold lane

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send contributions by March 20th, by email if possible. Alternative contact—Edna Smith*