

FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 7th July 7p.m. - 8 p.m. approx.

RETURN TO YOUR ROOTS!

COWLING PRIMARY SCHOOL REUNION FOR THE OVER 50's!

Old school photos, registers and log books will be on display, followed by a visit to our Parish Church next door, then the rest of the evening at The Bay Horse (optional).

Donations to school and church funds appreciated!

Any queries please ring 01535 - 634944.

Praying for the people of Cowling each week

Please let us know of any prayer requests.

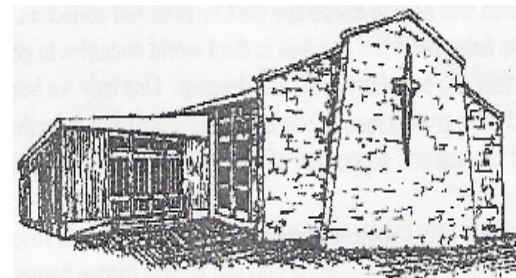
- Mar 26-Apr 1 Sun St, Manor Park, Fold Lane
- Apr 2-8 Woodland St, Gibb St, Queen Square
- Apr 9-15 Park Road, Scar View, Royd St
- Apr 16-22 Acre Meadow, Laycock Fields, all homes on Keighley Rd & Colne Rd
- Apr 23-29 Pinnacle View, Old Oakworth Rd & outlying homesteads
- Apr 30-May 6 Winkholme, Middleton, Ickornshaw, Nan Scar, Park Lane, Lumb Lane
- May 7-13 Stone Head Lane, Warley Wisw Lane & surrounding dwellings
Sandyforth Lane, Reedshaw Moss
- May 14-20 Lane Ends Estate, Wainman's Close, Bannister Walk, Dick Lane, Earl Crag View, Old Saw Mill, Lane Ends Lane and farms
- May 21-27 Cowling Hill Lane, Tom Lane & outlying areas
- May 28-Jun 3 Low Lane (Norwood), Long Lane & all surrounding dwellings
- Jun 4- 10 Colling Road, Lingcrag Gardens, Mill Croft
- Jun 11- 17 Springwell Close, Green St. Hartley Place, Spring Gardens, Walton St, Cross St. Queen St
- Jun 18-24 Sun St, Manor Park, Fold Lane
- Jun 25-Jul 1 Woodland St, Gibb St, Queen Square

*Magazine edited by Anne Pearson, 5 Wainman's Close, Tel: 01535 635612
Email: iannepearson@hotmail.com Next issue due out beginning of July. Please send contributions by June 20th, by email if possible. Alternative contact—Edna Smith*

The Messenger

April, May and June 2007

No 16



Churches Together in Cowling



Spring is in the Air: Are we up in it too?



As this season of Lent closes and Spring arrives there are many things we need to ponder. We need to think what would 'Easter' mean for Cowling Churches? How do we create a vision of new life and a resurrected Church that is embedded in the village life in an integrated way? Redemption is for everybody in Cowling – not just the select few – yet we do not seem to know how to communicate this to this generation of people who possibly know less of Christianity than any of our immediate past generations. We see the cloud rising in the west and know that rain will come [well its pretty predictable in the Pennines!] but we do not understand the 'spirit of the age'. However, it was the case before the dissent of Quakers, Baptists and Methodists that many knew nothing of Church or Christianity – it was just as irrelevant to many of our early 19th century forebears as it is to the generation of today – albeit for different reasons of abject poverty, oppression and ignorance. The demons of the Industrial Revolution with its dark satanic mills have been replaced by the demons of Information Technology and the World Wide Web. Church no longer has either the authority or the social status that it once had – like it or lump it. So why are we here? What do we have to say to people that is worth hearing and will make them think about their existence, their life, and why they are here? What is the point of moral and altruistic behaviour if we cannot demonstrate its real benefits in our lives other than appearing to be good and upright? The Church is not a panacea as all of us who are regular worshippers know – but we do know the freedom that faith in God brings – freedom to be true to ourselves and to actively choose those things we know to be good and reject those things that are evil through the Spirit that allows us to discern and see our way in this world that is today.

So in this season of Easter – somebody about why you they might understand, lem because they cannot how our faith connects with why carbon dioxide emissions matter in their impact on our world, why Christian Aid week is about life before death and not missionary work, why the work of Amnesty International in Darfur is just as important as that of the Church and why Jesus had no truck with the Church of his day and struck out for the things that really matter in this life – and led to a religion being formed in his wake.



think about how you might tell believe God exists in a way that [rather than think that it's their prob- see it our way]. In this think about Fair Trade as in important initiative,

Tony Tate 8th March 2007

News from the last CDFC meeting.



OASIS Tim & Stacey have settled well and feedback from schools is very positive. They lead a Cell group for teenagers with up to 7 regulars.

Arrangements are in place to visit Malsis School soon. A 'Video project' is planned to engage young people outside church in discussing relevant personal/social and religious issues.

Feed back lunches will be held 22nd April and 20th May, venues TBA.

Careforce – an application has been sent in with Clive Tedd offering to act as supervisor. It is likely we will get a volunteer from overseas, possibly slightly older than the Oasis volunteers have been. If successful, we will have 1 member here for a full 12 months, working 40 hours per week.

Bible Society £265 was sent from envelopes and the performance of "Jonah Man Jazz". (£101.50 was gift aided)

PASTORAL CARE A report from the meeting on 30th January suggested the possibility of forming an ecumenical group to visit nursing homes to sing hymns etc. This could be more effective than visiting individual people. A 'resource box' of CDs, services, etc. would be useful. Volunteers from the Churches to join such a group would be appreciated.

UNITED SERVICES, LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday (1st April)

Joint Service St. Thomas' and South Craven Baptist

Maundy Thursday (5th April)

Hunger lunch at South Craven Baptist.

Good Friday (6th April)

Agape Supper including Holy Communion at 6.30 p.m. at South Craven Baptist, all invited
10 a.m. Walk of witness
7.30 p.m. United Service at St. Peter's led by Rev. Peter Bannister

Easter Day (8th April)

6 a.m. Dawn service at Farnhill Pinnacle
6 p.m. United Songs of Praise at St. Andrew's Kidwick



CDFC A.G.M. 13th June, 7.30 p.m. at St. Peter's – all welcome

STAGNATION or ADVANCE?

A stagnant river breeds death, mosquitoes and all kinds of diseases. An unmoving vehicle is destroyed by rust. Oversleeping people develop bedsores. Have you ever thought what an unchanging and unmoving life breeds or develops into?

We have built our own camps and declare "I am here to stay for good." Advance is a word used mostly in the military. When the commander shouts "Advance!" it means a lot to the soldier. It means attack new targets; start to move; when moving, move actively and seriously rather than enjoying the status quo. We need to ask ourselves how long have we been doing what we are doing? How long have we been like what we are today? How can we change if we haven't advanced?

We need to break that same old pattern, that same old thinking, and advance. We need to multiply seven fold our effort to take possession of our victory. It is amazing to note that God has already promised us success, prosperity, victory, honour, glory, abundant life. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life abundantly", yet we struggle and are satisfied with rationed life due to our spiritual stagnation. God is telling us to break our camp, advance and discover our possession in Christ and take it. God is telling us don't just sit there, move on, advance and see great things ahead. Unless we advance, five years from now we will be worse off. Better start breaking our comfort zone and advance.

Being contented in life according to scripture is good but when it comes to church growth, contentment is deadly. This is a wake up call that we need to progress in our lives. We have been stagnant and unproductive for the Kingdom of God too long; it's high time we did something! God is moving us on into something new. Are we ready for God's next move in our life?

How often do you find yourself saying "We've always done it this way?" I feel the Lord is telling us we've stayed long enough doing the same things, let's get moving!

Abridged from an article by a minister in the Rochdale Circuit

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

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Holy Trinity News

Sutton with Cowling and Lothersdale

On March 1st 2007 the parishes of Holy Trinity Church Cowling, St Thomas' Church Sutton and Christ Church Lothersdale joined together.

Canon Michael Cowgill, the Vicar of Sutton, becomes the first Vicar of all three parishes, called the United Benefice of Sutton with Cowling and Lothersdale.

The installation of Michael Cowgill by the Bishop of Bradford will take place on Wednesday April 25th at Holy Trinity Church Cowling at 7.30 pm. Gill Hall will also be licensed to the Benefice with special responsibility for Lothersdale. All are welcome. We particularly hope that St Andrew's folk will join us on this occasion.

So Holy Trinity will once more have a vicar. As our vicar is shared we will have to review services etc and possibly discuss changes of times and patterns. But at least until June we will stay with the same basic pattern. We hope that our discussions will include St Andrew's people too.

Holy Trinity's Building

We have a new building group with two reps from each Church and a chair from Holy Trinity. The group has met once and cannot do much more until Michael is installed and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) has visited. The DAC is a group of people with knowledge and expertise in Church architecture and reordering of Church buildings which is able to make helpful suggestions. Our hope is at least to have some toilets installed and a kitchen as soon as we can - Anglican regulations mean this may take a little time. We are hoping to investigate the possibilities of portaloos in the short term. We have in the meantime been given permission to remove a couple of pews - at the front of the south aisle and in front of the font - which will enable us to experiment with different positions for worship and meeting.

Holy Trinity's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on April 22nd at 11.30 am after a shortened Holy Communion Service at 10.30 am. Our new Vicar, Michael Cowgill will chair this meeting. St Andrew's folk are welcome to attend though only people on the electoral roll of Holy Trinity can take part in the meeting.

A thought from our Lent meetings

At St Andrew's our congregation is often twelve now. We might ask what we can do with only 12 people. But Jesus took only 12 men and started something which still has repercussions today. We may not set the world alight but surely we can still do something useful in this village if we really want to.

Christian Aid Week is 50 years old this year.

In 1957 when Christian Aid Week first began it mobilised residents in 200 towns and villages across the UK raising £26,000. This year it hopes to raise £15.5 million with 300,000 volunteers.

This village does extremely well each year in its house to house collection largely because a team of people goes from door to door to collect the money - often several times.

Last year we raised **£860.66** through the house to house collection and a further **£198.01** from the Ploughman's lunch and Hot Pot Supper.

Please can you help raise the total - perhaps we could get it up to £1,000 this year?!

To do this we need more collectors. We have lost several collectors during the year and at least one of our regulars is on holiday during this year's week so please volunteer

This year's dates are May 13 - 19.

Please contact Bridget Rees if you can help in any way. Tel: 636108

Additional fundraising events this year are:

Hot Pot Supper and Slide Show for Christian Aid

April 12th at St Andrew's 7.00 pm
Food from Millies in Crosshills
Slide show given by Derek Proctor
"Round the English Coast"

Coffee Morning for Christian Aid

May 19th 10.00 - 12.30 at the Village Hall
Coffee Morning
Cake stall and bring and buy
Fair trade stall

You can also bring your envelopes if not collected earlier in the week!

CHURCH COUNCIL: It was pointed out at the last meeting that as our membership is below 50 the Methodist rules now allow all meetings to be open and all interested parties are welcome. Ideas on the role of the church and ways of heating it very welcome.

AGM Sun 17th June 11.45 to include a **Jacob's Join lunch.**

Elected officers continue in office though it is time for a change if anyone is interested. To avoid stagnation and to take advantage of the experience available volunteers could work with current officers, take on small responsibilities and learn a little of the job. We must remain open to new ideas.

A REMINDER OF 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?

Please continue to pray for our church and also offer any practical help you can. There will be an update on the boiler situation next Messenger.

Anne Pearson

With regret it has been decided to discontinue evening worship at St Andrew's on the first Sunday of the month. It was felt that given the small congregation it was unfair to ask preachers to turn out.

What can you contribute?

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this issue. Articles welcome for the next magazine - How about a quiz and/or news of distant friends?



This magazine is now also available on line on Cowling web. Thank you Mark!

Bible readings:

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

Update from St Andrew's

MINISTER: We will miss Nigel who has served us so faithfully as a minister and who leaves us for the Shetlands in August. Our prayers and best wishes go with him and we look forward to hearing news from the far north. He will be replaced by **Rev Charlotte Common**, a probationer minister. As a probationer she will be on a reduced timetable and may not be available immediately to all four churches she will eventually have charge of. In the interim our super Jacky Hale will be more available but we must take on more responsibility ourselves. This we are well able to do. This is an exciting new venture and we look forward to meeting Charlotte and supporting her through her probationary period.

FINANCIAL SITUATION: All work is now completed on the boiler room. Thanks to Terry who put so much time and effort into this and also to those who gave so generously. Our debts are much smaller than expected due to this generosity and this immediate crisis has been averted. Unfortunately, we now have problems with the boiler itself, currently out of commission, and are waiting to see what can be done about it and what this will cost. We remain a very small congregation with high overheads but are committed to remaining open for the time being. A meeting will be called next spring to re-examine the situation. Thanks are also due to those who have agreed to gift aid all donations to the church, ensuring a much larger hand out from the tax man this year. If anyone else would like to consider this you can use one of the envelopes available in church for one-off donations or fill in a simple declaration for all your giving to be gift aided (only name and address required). *For more details ask Anne Pearson.*

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH: Meeting next spring should give ample time for all members and adherents to consider the role of the church in the future and how and where we can best fulfil it. We should by then have a clearer idea of when the village hall will be ready and what impact this will have on us. While we will lose regular income from groups who use the building at present, we will regain space and can consider setting up rooms permanently to fulfil specific functions. All suggestions welcome.

FAIRTRADE: FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH TRADE AND MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE

- World trade has benefited rich countries and large companies but not the poor.
- One fifth of the world's population live on less than about 60p per day - that is in absolute poverty
- The poor get trapped in unjust cycles of exploitation and unfairness.

Therefore Christian Aid, Traidcraft and many other development agencies have, for many years now, campaigned to make life fairer for the poor. One way has been through the fair trade movement. The Fairtrade mark established by the Fair Trade Foundation is part of an international movement ensuring that products sold in shops and supermarkets, cafes, bars and restaurants really benefit the poorest of the poor. Such products provide security, education and health care so that people can begin to invest in their future.

So buy fair-trade products - tea, coffee, chocolate, biscuits, cakes, sugar, rice, fruit, juices, honey, nuts, oils, and even wine and beer and clothes. Over 2,000 fair trade products are now available

There will be a fair trade stall at the coffee morning on May 19th - come and buy and see for yourself what is available.

More information from: the Fairtrade Foundation,
Room 204,
16 Baldwin's Gardens,
London EC1N 7RJ



Look for this logo!



A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

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A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.


The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

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A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



Please be patient! The Lord hasn't finished with me yet.

And so say all of us!

Pentecost 2007



June 3rd — Whit Sunday

Treasure Hunt round the village starting from the memorial grounds at 2 p.m.

Earby band playing outside St Andrew's church 3.30—4.30
(inside if wet)



Exhibition at St Andrew's by Moonrakers
Refreshments
Stalls



Come and join the celebrations!

Opening the church for meditation and prayer

St Andrew's church open for quiet prayer or contemplation.

A chance to relax in peace and listen to music.

Alternate Wednesdays 1.30 to 2.30.

April	4th & 18th
May	2nd, 16th & 30th
June	13th & 27th



After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

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

Normally the first Wednesday of the month—to be confirmed with Michael Cowgill

St Andrew's

Every Sunday at 10.30
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

AGM Sun 17th June 11.45

Joint services and Activities

April 8th

10.30 Joint Service for Easter Sunday at St Andrews

Thu April 12th

7 p.m. film of the British Coast and supper
St Andrew's (Christian Aid event)

April 15th

10.30 Joint Network Service at Silsden Methodist Church

Wed April 25th

7.30 Inauguration Service for Rev Michael Cowgill at Holy Trinity

Sat May 19th

Coffee morning for Christian Aid in Village Hall

May 20th

10.30 Joint Service at Holy Trinity (Christian Aid week)

June 3rd

Pentecost Party—see article

June 17th

10.30 Joint Service at St Andrew's

July 15th

10.30 Joint Service at Holy Trinity

Bi- Centenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act—25 March 1807

For many of us the image that comes to mind when we hear the word slavery is the slavery of the Transatlantic Slave trade. We think of the buying and selling of human beings, their shipment from one continent to another and the abolition of the slave trade in the early 1800s under the influence of William Wilberforce.

BUT ... there area actually more slaves today than there were when the slave trade was abolished! This bi-centenary year gives us an opportunity to reflect on the slave trade of the past and to look at modern forms of slavery and related issues.

A central focus of the Bi-centenary will be '**Freedom Day**' on **Sunday 25 March**—the actual date in 1807 when the Act was passed.

ALSO—there is a new film due out in the spring entitled '**Amazing Grace**' about William Wilberforce and a new musical by Paul Field entitled '**Cargo**' will be touring the country later in the year.

For further information you might like to look up the following websites if you have internet access:

Anti-Slavery International: www.antislavery.org is the world's oldest international human rights organisation, founded in 1839. They work at local, national and international levels to eliminate slavery around the world.

Stop The Traffik: www.stopthetraffik.org is a new coalition which brings together many of the organisations, charities, NGOs, churches, individuals and schools that are working to end human trafficking worldwide. This campaign will run throughout 2007 and there will be many regional and national events for people to get involved with.

Churches together in England (CTE) has established '**Set All Free**' www.setallfree.net as a collaboration between those who are happy to work with a Christian ethos on the relevance of the bicentenary to British society today. Through 'remembering, reflecting and responding' they will be encouraging churches and organisations around the UK to think about the issue of slavery and what took place 200 years go.

from St Gabriels, Greystones—the parish newsletter

In Memoriam

Myra Warne

13.5.1915 – 7.1.2007

Myra was born at No 7 Woodland St. After a long courtship she married Ernest in 1939 and lived at No 4 Woodland St for the rest of her life. She was widowed in 1963 leaving her with four children under 18 years of age. Myra attended the Bar Chapel and then St Andrew's until prevented by ill health 3½ years ago. She was a cheerful, unassuming, hard-working stalwart of the church for many years, a quiet but dependable presence, sorely missed when no longer able to attend. In her last years she suffered with dementia but was very well cared for by staff at Langdale until she passed away at the age of 91. Our sincere condolences are offered to Brian, Derek, Rita, Roy and all the family.



Clara Foster

14.2.1924 – 11.1.2007

Clara passed away on the 11th of January '07. Prior to her illness she had been deeply involved in all aspects of our church life. Throughout the years she had served in the Sunday school and organising concerts, pantomimes and plays was something she really loved. For many years she held the post of secretary of the family committee. Clara took her role as a pastoral visitor very devotedly, keeping in touch by letter with many who had moved away and bringing joy to those she visited locally. Clara embodied our Lord's teaching in every part of her life; we are indeed privileged to have known and loved her. To Susan, Christine, Tim and their families we send our deepest sympathy.



Peggy Boocock

13.2.32 to 14.3.07

The funeral took place at St Andrews on Friday 23rd March led by Rev Nigel Barton. The eulogy was given by Peggy's brother Lloyd, an ordained minister. He told us how Peggy was born in Steeton but soon came to live in Cowling. She attended Cowling School and worked in textiles most of her life. She married Eric in November 1951. They lived in Green Street before taking over the family grocery/butchery business in the centre of the village. Peggy had many interests but probably her main interest was music. She learned to play the piano as a child and later played an organ and keyboard. In later years they moved to Laycock to be near Susan their daughter. Peggy suffered with Alzheimer's disease as her mother had done. The staff at Holme Wood who had given respite care and Ward 24 at Airedale Hospital were given many thanks for the wonderful work they had done. Our sympathy is extended to Eric, Susan, Gareth, Ian and all the family.



What is Dying?

I am standing on the sea shore. A ship sails and spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the ocean. She is an object of beauty and I stand watching her till at last she fades on the horizon and someone at my side says, 'She is gone.' Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all; she is just as large in the masts, hull and spars as she was when I saw her, and just as able to bear her living freight to its destination. The diminished size and total loss of sight is in me, not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says, 'She is gone', there are others who are watching her coming and other voices take up a glad shout, 'There she comes', and that is DYING.

