



LANCASTER
PRIORY

PRIORY newslink

The Parish Church of St Mary, Lancaster



50p

A welcoming, inclusive Christian community serving God's people in Lancaster

No. 48
May 2018

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Images of the Messy Church at Easter event courtesy of Nick Walker

REACHING THE UNREACHED

In May our World and Community Group will be focussing on Reaching the Unreached (RTU), the charity serving the poor in Southern India, and we shall have the opportunity in our weekly intercessions to pray for its work.

RTU helps to bring family life to orphaned and abandoned children; food to hungry families; water to thirsty villagers; opportunity to rural women; houses to the homeless; and education to the poorest children and adults.

The Priory's support has already provided two houses for families who had previously been living in mud and palm leaf shacks. Our recent donation has enabled another, named St. Mary's House, to be built this year. The display board at the back of the church illustrates the wonderful work of RTU, and in particular we can see Lancaster House, Priory House, and St Mary's House, with the three families who now have sound, secure, and happy homes. The board also shows the recently sent Certificate of Appreciation recognising our support for the house building programme, and our compassionate commitment to the very poorest children, families, and communities which RTU serves.



Christine Dickinson

VISION AND STRATEGY 2018

Now available is the Vision and Strategy 2018 Document which is the fruit of much discussion across the wider Priory Family.

The Blackburn Diocesan Vision 2026 was commended to the parishes of the Diocese, and this document is our response to that challenge from the wider diocese, and interpreted for the unique context of Lancaster Priory, in its role as a Greater Church, and the Civic Church for the City, County and Duchy of Lancaster.

The process began with a Parish Away Day held at Dolphinholme Village Hall, and a wider consultation took place following that meeting, and responses were received from a number of further contributors. Over the next five years we will commit as a parish to work to make the recommendations in the report a reality in our shared life as members of the Body of Christ in Lancaster.

The Rt Revd Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn writes:

I am always delighted when I see a local church working on Vision and Strategy. That's because it makes such a difference for a parish to have a clear sense of direction, to know where it is heading, to articulate what it is seeking to achieve, to offer a rationale for all the busy activity in the diary and to outline the steps being taken to achieve those goals.

In addition, I am very pleased to see the way the Diocesan Vision 2026 is being used to guide, inspire and influence the priorities at Lancaster Priory.

This diocesan lead is intended to prompt parishes around the diocese to ask how Vision 2026 might work in their setting, avoiding a top down imposition, but encouraging a bottom up approach that is owned locally.

Congratulations to everyone in Lancaster Priory for helping to create this document, which I pray will be read widely and will have a positive impact on mission and ministry in Lancaster over the next five years.

DEADLINE FOR
JUNE 2018 ISSUE
WILL BE:
FRIDAY 11th MAY

Priory People

Graham Davies' funeral address given by Revd. Dr. Anderson H M Jeremiah

"Faith is a very personal thing; it is something that I do with God. I don't do prayer, but I speak my mind frankly with God. I know He is there and He knows I am there". These are Graham's words! The lasting impression of Graham on me is this firm faith in God, emulating the advice of Paul to Corinthians, to stand firm in the faith, be courageous and be strong.

Talking to Graham and Mary over the past few months it became clear that this firm faith in God permeated into every aspect of his life. His character as an electrician, to provide the right connections and solve any problem! As Mary recounted, he loved a crisis and wanted to be in the middle of it to fix it. By the way, he did much of the electrical work in the church until he became ill! My conversations with Mary also revealed what a loving and kind husband Graham was, a good role model father and granddad. We all know that Graham loved the church through and through, but when I asked Mary when Graham actually started coming to church, I got a very interesting reply.

Graham was not a very churchy person to begin with. But when they moved to Lancaster and the boys were little, Mary wanted to find a church home. After coming to the priory for a while, Jon decided that it is not for him. He seem to have said one Sunday, since dad is not going to church I am not going anymore! Graham heard his reasoning and said well I am going to church from next Sunday. And he never stopped. Graham's desire to set a good model to others was at the heart of his life. Whether it's being adventurous in faith and or a burning desire to help anyone in need. Graham had a charitable and curious mind shaped by honesty, kindness, integrity and fairness. Which I am sure many of his friends will recognise.

Regardless of how deep our personal faith in God and His providence, the death of a loved one makes each one of us feel keenly the personal loss. There is a sense of an aching void as we think of a loved on who is no longer with us. We miss their companionship and our grief is deeply personal. This is very true of Mary and the children and all of us who are gathered here as we mourn the death of Graham.

But the beauty of this gathering is that we are here to comfort one another, the support and love shared in fellowship with God our supreme comforter. Graham is physically absent but the memories he left behind are timeless, he may have passed onto another life, but he will be part of our lives because he touched our lives in unique ways.

Death of a dear one reminds us of our own mortality, but as we stand in the shadow of the risen Christ, we are reminded of the finality of eternal death. Death is not the end and death cannot define our destiny. Rather we reflect on the values that guided Graham in this earthly life so that we may embrace some of them in our own lives.

The gospel message from John (14:1-6) is that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Jesus sets out for us a model in which we are to live in his new commandment, to love one another as He loved us, in service to one another. One can clearly see this from what was said today of the love that Graham had for his family and the wider community. We can clearly see Christ example lived out in his life. John's gospel talks about eternal life as a present reality that begins when Christ dwells in us and we live in him. During our numerous conversations, theological and political (believe me!) one thing that Graham and I agreed on is the fact that eternal life is not just something that happens to us after this earthly life, up in some heavenly realm but it is something that begins in love for one another as Christ has shown us to love, here and now. Graham was a testament to it.

Dear Mary, family and friends, in this Easter season, we are assured of the presence of risen Christ in the midst of our grief and heartache. As Jesus promised to his friends that he is going ahead of them to prepare a place, a living place, a house for us, for Graham, for us. Jesus also said that he is the resurrection and life. Resurrection in Greek means to 'stand again' or 'return to status'. That's the message that I wish to leave for you today that we are called to the eternal hope in Christ and carry on the good work of Graham, to 'stand again' so that others may know and experience that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. I could almost hear Graham say, "I am all right, don't worry about me, get on with what you need to do!"



RETIREMENT

Photos of Lawrence Walker, who has served as a server for twenty years in the Priory for the 8.00am service on Sundays. He retired on Sunday 1st April.

Photos courtesy of Alice Granger



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 13 - 19 MAY 2018

We've had the Beast from the East this winter, and although we love to talk about the weather, because we have so much of it, we don't experience the extremes suffered in other parts of the world, such as hurricanes.

Haiti, the focus of this year's Christian Aid appeal, is still suffering the devastating after-effects of the 2016 hurricane. If we, in our small and relatively safe corner of God's Kingdom don't help, the next hurricane could wipe out many like Marcelin and his family, homeless in Haiti, and struggling to survive. 'We'd just die.' But Christian Aid believes in life before death.

So please respond positively in Christian Aid Week, 13 - 19 May 2018 by volunteering to help with the house-to-house collection, and/or by giving generously when they knock on your door.

For more information, please contact Rosemary Brockbank,

AN INSIGHT INTO MUSTARD SEED - TEN YEARS ON



Mustard Seed has settled down over the last few years to operating between mid-September to mid-May, and by the time you read this we will be approaching the end (last evening will be Tuesday, May 15th) of our tenth "season". Brian (Kirtley) and I, who currently co-chair MS, thought it would be interesting to show you a small window into our work over the years.

Our main purpose, of course, is to provide a three course cooked meal, shelter, support, and companionship - particularly over the winter months -

for the homeless and needy. With this in mind the team has produced since 2008 between four and five thousand dinners to a wide range of grateful recipients: those with mental health and drug-related problems, the unemployed, the asylum seeker, the lonely, the immigrant, the ex-offender.

Some are regular guests who we now know well, others intermittent, and others for one or two weeks only. Additionally, we keep a stock of warm and waterproof clothing and a few sleeping bags for giving out when needed.

All years have seen wide fluctuations - from 4 on one occasion to 31 on another! - in weekly numbers, with newcomers virtually every week. This makes planning in terms of "helpers" always a challenge, and gives us something of a "frisson" each week. But if we have a goodly number of helpers it does allow much more conversational interaction with our guests as we can dine with them. If we have too few helpers, we tend to run around like the proverbial scalded cats.....but always with dignity....!

On the Tuesday prior to Christmas we provide our guests with a special traditional dinner, together with a small bag of useful presents (eg woolly hat, gloves, etc), some sweets or chocolate, and a Christmas card. Through the very generous donations made at Pat Heighway's funeral all our guests are given a Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg.

At the end of each season we now clear our stock of foodstuffs and donate it to Olive Branch, ensuring that in September with donations from, for example, Sainsbury's and our own Priory Harvest appeal, we start the new year with fresh and in-date produce. We tend to keep any remaining clothing for use in the following year.

In the earlier years we did seem to have more "exciting" incidents than recently. We did have some minor violence, illness of guests, and the involvement of police or ambulance on a number of occasions. In recent years this has not been the case, and it would be easy to become complacent. We are not, and are currently having a detailed examination of our policies and practices from the perspectives of safeguarding and health/safety in readiness for next September. We also have amongst our helpers one or two First Aiders, and many with DBS clearance.

We are privileged to have a willing team from whom we draw time and resources week after week. Funded entirely by donations - both from the Priory congregation and elsewhere - the work continues as, sadly, it needs to do - this season we have so far cooked nearly 400 dinners. And, through our membership of Faith in Support of the Homeless (FISH), we work closely with the other bodies in Lancaster concerned with the challenges of homelessness and housing poverty.

As ever, we welcome new offers of help, and in particular we are quite reliant on a relatively small team of cooks. (Clearly this is a critical task, and one for which reimbursement of expenses is available). As a mere male incapable of toasting a piece of bread satisfactorily I am personally immensely grateful to our cooks. But if anyone is interested in helping in this way - and I am assured that it is really not as difficult as it might sound - please contact Lois Kirtley in the first instance for further information.

I hope this has given you an insight into the work of MS. If you would like to know more Brian or myself would be delighted to talk to you. *John Dickinson*

THE ARK is short of volunteers for the Friday evening meal service at St Thomas's, and have asked if any Mustard Seed volunteers might be able to help. It runs at a similar time on Fridays, though doors opening earlier at 6pm. Contact details: Margaret Houghton, tel 32464; han2312@btinternet.com Also taking this opportunity to let you know that the last Mustard Seed of the season is to be Tuesday 15th May. *Brian*

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WELCOMERS

Last year nearly two thousand visitors came to the Priory on Sunday afternoons who might have been excluded but for volunteers to keep the church open. Some come to view our beautiful church, some to pray or sit quietly and contemplate. All deserve a warm welcome.

We start again on Easter Day April 1st this year. If you feel you can help as a steward please sign up on the rota at the back of church, or contact Tim Jenkinson on timothy.jenkinson@btinternet.com or 65595 for more information.



'The beat goes on':

Marjorie Holt returned to tell us of her experiences as a novice police woman ('forget all that' the Desk sergeant said when she returned from training 'I'll tell thee what we do.')

She introduced us to characters both criminal (the drunk rescued from drowning in mud and only reluctantly arrested - 'sergeant'll go mad if we take him in like that') and reasonably law-abiding (Big Amy, who was to be Marjorie's sister-in-law, had a wide repertoire for smuggling bargains bought on duty into the station). A con artist with a penchant for misleading road menders had to be warned off for his own safety; a 'flasher' was arrested once Marjorie was certain that's what he was doing ('I was very innocent'), and with the aid of a large, cumbersome radio.

Radios were just becoming available, policewomen were the last to get them - nor were they issued with hand cuffs or batons: ('You just had to convince them they'd be better off arrested' Marjorie explained.)

After becoming the youngest female sergeant Marjorie left the force to become a store detective; that has to be another story...

Diary:

May:

Thursday, 10th 2pm: 'The foundling boy'; talk by Henry Grainger.

June:

Thursday, 14th: 'Adoption through the eyes of a single man'; talk by Dorothy Bolton.

PAAWS - Wray and Wennington, Friday, May 4th

Here are the details of the May walk, led by Rebecca Procter, tel. 01524 848767 Email procterrebh@gmail.com)

The walk is around 6 miles of undulating terrain with the usual tally of stiles and undoubtedly some muddy areas. We meet at 1000 for a 1015 departure at the public car park in Wray (ie at the cafe by the bridge).

Please bring a snack and picnic lunch. Refreshments will be available of course at the café at the end of the walk.

Usual car-sharing and dog-walking comments apply. Please contact Rebecca if you need any more information, and to let her know whether you will be joining the group."

We are hopeful that you will be able to be with us, and that bluebells will be on show! *John D*

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

During the Easter season, you'll notice the 'Stations of the Resurrection' around the church once more - eight of them so far, and we in Sanctuary Guild are planning three others! Do take a little time to read the text accompanying the stations, and let your imagination work on the amazing Resurrection experience that each one represents - life-changing events that still affect us today.

Every one of the Stations is the result of so much work and has often brought to light talents people had kept hidden. Design skills, photography, patchwork, calligraphy and felt-making as well as hours of patient stitching - you know who you are, thank you all!

Back in November we invited people to be photographed to help plan the ninth station 'Five hundred at once', and this is almost complete; as a 'work in progress' it can be seen in church on weekdays. Thank you to everyone who consented to be photographed, your likeness will be in there somewhere, though you may not be instantly recognisable. (We hoped to hint at the range of individuals in the congregation, not provide exact portraits.)

Sanctuary Guild is always glad to welcome new members - complete novices as well as experienced stitchers, and those with a new skill to share. What we have in common is that we are all 'makers' who want our making and our faith to progress together.

To find out more, talk to Jean Simpson or Lois Kirtley (the sidespeople can point us out).

TUESDAY GROUP

At our well attended meeting on 10th April, Mick and Hilary Short spoke about the Fairfield Association. This is a charity which was formed in 1996 to preserve, among other things, the Fairfield Nature Reserve. This area is very close to the city and the Big Meadow is a site for wetland birds including Lapwings and Oystercatchers. White Park cattle, an ancient and endangered species, graze the fields and help the flora to thrive and are quite domesticated. After the talk Mandy Bannon showed us a display of the various coins, tokens and clay pipes which had been unearthed on the site. In May we will be going to the cinema and our AGM takes place on 5th June.

Barbara Bland

FROM A PRIORY MUSIC LOVER

What a wonderful variety of music we were treated to over the Lenten, then Passiontide and ultimately Easter tide.

I am always amazed and delighted by the energy and quality of the music we are have at Lancaster Priory.

Thank you to ALL the singers and musicians.

Margaret Pattinson

Services:

SUNDAY:

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Priory Eucharist
All Age Eucharist (First Sunday of month)
11.30 am Choral Mattins (First Sunday of month)
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

TUESDAY:

10.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)

WEDNESDAY:

12.30 pm Holy Communion with Healing

THURSDAY

12.45 pm Lunchtime Service at Penny's Hospital Chapel

OUR PRIORY VISION PRAYER:

Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we pray that your Holy Spirit may be with us,
that we may worship you in the beauty of holiness,
call others to follow you as disciples in today's world,
witness to our faith among our communities,
grow leaders to inspire many to serve you,
and reach out in Jesus' name
to all who need your saving love and grace. Amen.



Left: PAAWS walkers pretending it's a wet day in the beautiful Hodder valley.

Nick Walker was our leader on this Trough of Bowland visit and we thank him for his excellent choice.

Photo courtesy of J Harvey

MARSH COMMUNITY CENTRE:

KEEP CALM AND EAT CAKE
at the **COFFEE & CAKE CLUB**
Coffee, cake and chat, activities and outings
Marsh Community Centre - Willow Lane
ALL women welcome
Fridays 1.30 - 3.00pm
£1.00

KEEP CALM AND SING
with
Marsh Community Choir
Marsh Community Centre
Thursdays 1.45 - 3.00pm term times
Singing reduces stress, lifts the spirits and is food for the soul.
Sing in a FUN and relaxed way, just bring enthusiasm.
MEN and WOMEN and ALL abilities welcome.
£1.00

News and information for inclusion in Priory Newslink is always welcome.

Please send your items to

Email: priorynewslink@gmail.com,

by good old pen and paper or via the Parish Office (01524 65338)

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 2018 ISSUE

WILL BE: FRIDAY 11th MAY

Contacts:

Vicar:

The Revd Chris Newlands, Priory Vicarage, Priory Close, Lancaster, LA1 1YZ
01524 63200 prioryvicarage@googlemail.com

SSM Associate Priests:

Revd Dr Anderson Jeremiah 01524 931861

Revd Jill Novell

Curate:

Revd Dr Rebecca Aechtner

Readers active in the Parish:

Dr. Richard Carter

Mr Jim Garbett (Reader Emeritus)

Mrs Lois Kirtley

Mrs Christine Mullineaux

Hon. Associate Priests:

Revd Gareth Beresford Jones

Revd Keith Brockbank

Revd Steve Evans

Revd Tim Evans

Revd. Paul Finlinson

Revd Canon Tim Girling

Revd Stephan Harker

Revd David Newton

Revd Canon Professor John Rodwell

Revd Canon John Roff

Hon. Associate Minister:

Revd. Michael Fielding

Parish Officers:

Wardens:

Dr Tim Jenkinson 01524 65595 Mr Andrew Nicholson 01524 60972

Treasurer:

Mrs B Gardner 01524 66430

Planned Giving:

Mrs Anne Maunder Mrs Barbara Gardner

Giving Officer:

Mr Andrew Nicholson (01524 60972)

Secretary:

Mrs Bron England 01524 65338 lancasterpriory@yahoo.co.uk

Head Verger:

Alice Granger 01524 65338

Music Department:

Director of Music:

Don Gillthorpe 0797 454 0037 DoM@lancasterpriory.org

Organist:

Ian Pattinson FRCO

Choral Director Emeritus:

Jeremy Truslove 01524 66204

Church Groups

Mothers' Union:

Christine Mullineaux

East meets West:

Hilary Hopwood

Mustard Seed:

John Dickinson

Brian Kirtley

Fairtrade:

John and Christine Dickinson

Sanctuary Guild

Lois Kirtley

Tuesday Group:

Pam Simon Denise Willey

Priory Youth Group:

David Cheung, Cath Hill and Sarah Hutchins.

Priory Young People's Officer

Katie Schad

Priory All Age Walking Group:

Tim and Gill Jenkinson Christine and John Dickinson

Young Church:

Leaders - Katie Schad Viv McCracken

Gill Jenkinson Jane Hartley

Social Group:

Andrea Howson David Cheung

The Priory Welcome, Outreach and Communications Committee

Alice Granger

Resources

Michael Greenhalgh

World and Community

Revd Michael Fielding

Spiritual Growth

Joop Brouwer

All those named above may be contacted through the Priory Office

Contributions for Newslink: Email: priorynewslink@gmail.com

Diocese of Blackburn:

The Bishop of Blackburn, The Rt Revd Julian Henderson 01254 248234

The Bishop of Lancaster Designate, Revd Jill Duff

The Archdeacon of Lancaster: The Ven. Michael Everitt

The Area Dean, Revd Linda Macluskie Tel: 01524 411039