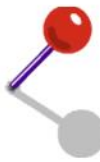




ST. MARY'S CHURCH

NEWCHURCH-IN-PENDLE



Your Parish Church exists to be the people of God through faith in
Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit,
worshipping Him, making disciples and serving others.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Sunday Dec 2	Advent Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion 5pm Carol Service, St Thomas', B'ford
Monday Dec 3	PCC Meeting	8pm School
Saturday Dec 8	"A Tapestry of Christmas Music" Concert 7.30pm in church	
Sunday Dec 9	Advent 2	9.30am Holy Communion 4pm Christingle Service
Tuesday Dec 11	School Christmas Presentation	2pm in church
We'day Dec 12	School Christmas Presentation	6.30pm in church
Sunday Dec 16	Advent 3	9.30am Holy Communion 4pm Service of Lessons & Carols
Sunday Dec 23	Advent 4	9.30am All age Service
Monday Dec 24	Christmas Eve	10pm First Communion of Christmas
Tuesday Dec 25	Christmas Day	9.30am Christmas Day Communion
Sunday Dec 30	Christmas 1	9.30am Mattins
Sunday Jan 6	Epiphany	9.30am Epiphany Service of Light
Sunday Jan 13	Epiphany 2	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday Jan 20	Epiphany 3	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday Jan 27	Second S'day before Lent	9.30am All age Service

CHURCHWARDENS

Kathleen Wilkinson
2 Osborne Terrace, Spenbrook,
Newchurch-in-Pendle, Burnley BB12 9JJ
Tel. 01282 617971 brianwilco@tiscali.co.uk
Chris Widdas

5 Osborne Terrace, Spenbrook,
Newchurch-in-Pendle, Burnley BB12 9JJ
Tel. 01282 691850 cwiddas@beeb.net

CHRISTMAS GREETING

We would like to wish everyone a very happy
Christmas and very best wishes for 2008. We
look forward to seeing you in the spring.
Mavis and Ernie Entwistle

Next issue Please have your articles
for the next 'News' by Friday January 18.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

NEWCHURCH-IN-PENDLE



DECEMBER 2007 - JANUARY 2008

WWW.STMARYSNEWCHURCHINPENDLE.ORG.UK

Rev John Hallows, St Thomas' Vicarage, Wheatley Lane Road,
Barrowford, Nelson BB9 6QS

Telephone 01282 613206 Email jhallows@tiscali.co.uk

Dear Friends

You don't expect a vicar to use the F-word, especially at Christmas time. I confess to feeling ambivalent about Christmas. As a Christian I believe in Jesus, Son of God, through whom God has fundamentally repaired his relationship with his world. And so I really enjoy the re-telling the Christmas story, the amazing prophecies in the Old Testament about peace, the nostalgia of carols in candle-lit churches. But I am not so naïve that I ignore the bad things happening all around me. Two thousands years since the birth of Jesus, and not a lot to show for it. Instead many of us turn the celebration of his birth into a festival of consumption and switching off from the needs of the world.

And so the F-word. I was listening to Midweek on BBC Radio. Two guests were using the F-word rather a lot. Ginn Fourie and Letlapa Mphahlele, both South Africans, had a lot in common. Letlapa was responsible for the murder of Ginn's daughter in a terrorist attack. After the end of Apartheid, Ginn had the courage to seek out Letlapa and confront him with what he had done. Not to condemn him, but to understand him, and to allow him to express remorse. That took enormous courage, but it released a lot of positive energy leading to a process of reconciliation which drew in whites and blacks.

The F-word is Forgiveness. We often perceive forgiveness as a sign of weakness, whereas the opposite is true. It means small people taking risks, because they believe in a greater good.

When I heard their stories, I felt a little less ambivalent about Christmas. Christmas shows us God's preferred way of operating. Instead of working on the massive scale using superpowers to do his bidding, God prefers to get inside small situations, like a homeless baby in a backwater of the Empire. Once inside, God transforms hearts and awaits the ripples, just as he has done in Ginn Fourie and Letlapa Mphahlele. And the two thousand years since that birth in Bethlehem have witnessed untold examples of the Spirit of Jesus entering into situations of pain and bringing forgiveness and fresh starts. The fact that there aren't more instances, or that on the level of nations and races we have had more failures than successes points to a massive flaw at the heart of our nature.

So this Christmas I encourage you to get inside the story. Come and enjoy the opportunities for worship. Remember that for God, small really is beautiful. And that God really can change situations by using people like us.

I wish you a happy Christmas, and a New Year overflowing with blessing.

PS. Someone has asked me why there is nothing really happening for Christians based in Roughlee. If you are interested in getting something started, come along to the Milligan's, Croft House, Stang Top Lane on Thursday 24th January, at 8pm.



God bless you *John*

ST.MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL has had a successful audit this month, which ensured that we are working in accordance to LEA procedures and policies. We were very pleased with their positive comments. The children continue to 'flourish', and are enjoying the practices for our Christmas concerts which take place in church on the 11th December at 2pm and 12th December at 6.30pm.

This is a very busy term - the run up to Christmas is always exciting, and filled with fun activities, parties and celebrations.

We are also taking time to reflect and thank God for helping us through the past year. The School Council have taken this opportunity to put together a short prayer which they would like to share with you.

Mrs Susan Hasler-Cregg

Father God

You have made this school year a happy and friendly one

There have been many changes - sad to see Miss Waller leave but thank you for bringing Mrs Hasler-Cregg to look after us.

Thank you for our lively lessons and activities, for all those who teach us and thank you for keeping us safe and loved throughout

We look forward to next year - guide us to live as good Christians

Amen

mothers union

At our October meeting, plans had to be re-arranged as the speaker was unable to come. Mrs M. Taylor came at short notice and we all enjoyed her talk on Christmas legends.

Plans for Christmas will be circulated soon, as well as the programme for 2008.

Members of St.Mary's Mothers Union hope all our readers will have a happy and blessed Christmas and health & happiness in 2008.

MULLED WINE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
Saturday 22nd December. 7.30pm Spennock.

ST.MARY'S PRAYER GROUP

The next Prayer Group meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd January. There is no meeting in December.

POSADA

During Advent, the small knitted figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey will be journeying through our parish to arrive at the church on Christmas Eve.

The Posada is a custom of accomodating the figures in different homes each evening and delivering them on to the next home the following day.

If anyone can help with this and can look after the figures in their home as part of their preparations for Christmas celebrations please have a word with the Vicar or either of the churchwardens.

WI

Members will celebrate Christmas at their meeting on Wednesday 3rd December. There will be a Jacob's Join supper & entertainment and small gifts will also be exchanged. The first meeting of 2008 will be on Wednesday 9th January when a film will be shown. Wishing you all a Merry

Barley Chapel

It's that time of the year again when...Barley becomes Bethlehem!

Join us on Sunday December 16 at the Car Park at 6pm to follow the journey of Mary & Joseph. Angels and Shepherds required - please contact Mike 694127 for details

December services at 10.30am
Dec 2 - CAST - all age worship service
Dec 9 - Rev Andrew Turner
Dec 16 - Shirley Clegg
Dec 23 - Rev Andrew Turner
Tuesday Christmas Day - Mark Clegg

Kids in Kailahun

The team are off on Monday Jan 7 returning Saturday Jan 26. Many Thanks to all those who have supported this initiative. We invite you to a special service to be held on Sunday Jan 6 at 10.30.

ST. MARY'S NEWCHURCH IN PENDLE

Parish NEWS

BARLEY ~ GOLDSHAW BOOTH ~ ROUGHLEE

Barley with Wheatley Booth www.barleyvillagehall.org

Parish Council meetings take place on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in Barley Village Hall.

Next Meetings: December 12, January 9 & February 13

Parish Council Chairman / Parish News co-ordinator:

Derek Heap Tel. 692264 derek.heap@lancashire.gov.uk

Parish Council Clerk: Rosemary Connor Tel. 611517 rosemaryconnor@aol.com

Village Hall Chairman: David Weatherill Tel. 613280

audrey@stanglathie.fsnet.co.uk

Goldshaw Booth ~ Newchurch, Sabden Fold, Spen Brook

Parish Council meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in Newchurch School.

Next Meetings: December 11, January 8 & February 12

Parish Council Chairman: Kathleen Wilkinson Tel. 617971 brianwilco@tiscali.co.uk

Parish Council Clerk: Val Blamire Tel. 612914 vkblamire@hotmail.co.uk

Parish News co-ordinator: Chris Widdas Tel. 691850 cwiddas@beeb.net

Roughlee Booth www.roughlee.org.uk

Parish Council meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 8pm in Roughlee Village Centre.

Next Meetings: December 3, January 7 & February 4

Parish Council Chairman: Brian Nelson Tel. 697220 brian.t.nelson@btinternet.com

Parish Council Clerk: Gill Fawcett Tel. 601841 clerk_roughleepc@hotmail.co.uk

Village Centre Chairman / Parish News co-ordinator:

James Starkie. Tel. 699262 james_k.starkie@yahoo.co.uk

Councillors

Lancs. County Councillor: Shelagh Derwent Tel. 616064
shelagh.derwent@cc.lancscc.gov.uk

Barley

On a bright sunny November afternoon over forty villagers and neighbours gathered as the Reverend John Hallows dedicated the new war memorial in the village centre to the local men who died in the two World Wars.

The British Legion provided a parade of standards leading those assembled in a slow march from the Village Hall to the plaque. A reading of the verses by Laurence Binyon "At the going down of the Sun, and in the Morning, We Will Remember Them", a two minute silence, the placing of wreaths and bugles playing the Last Post were at the heart of a befitting ceremony to those who gave everything. We now have a fitting place to remember and reflect in the village.

On a less spiritual level, more of a bumpy level, the access road to Ogden reservoir directly outside the Village Hall has been an eyesore to all and a pot-hole hazard to anyone on foot. The Parish Council mustered support from United Utilities and the Village Hall Committee to raise sufficient funds to re-surface the roadway – working together everyone has benefited and the main junction in the village looks much better for it.

For those who missed the Village Quiz you don't know how much you don't know. Quiz Masters were David & Brenda Goodger who grilled a full house with topical, teasing and tormenting questions. It was a good night out and a chance to meet friends and neighbours and I would encourage you all, as we move in to the festive season, to join in events in the Hall, at the pub, in the restaurant, at the church or in the cabin and enjoy the freedom and community we have in Barley. **DI Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All!**

Village Hall

CRAFT GROUP: Monday 3rd December and 7th January 1 – 3pm

YOUNG FARMERS: Every Monday
 – Contact Charlotte 07732 148576



KEEP FIT: Monday 8pm weekly circuit training - Contact John Tel. 611517

WHIST: Every Tuesday and Sunday 25th November.

COFFEE & CHAT: Wednesday 12th Dec. & 9th January - join us 10am to 12noon.

PENDLE PUMPKINS: every Thursday 10am – 12noon. Contact Jan. Tel. 613564.

LINE DANCING: every Thursday 7.45pm – Contact Ruth 696834

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY sponsored by Barley Parish Council, Saturday 22nd December: 1pm to 2.30pm children up to 5 years, 2pm to 4pm children up to 11 years. Children living in Barley, Newchurch and Roughlee are all invited.

BURNS NIGHT: Saturday 26th January in 7.00pm for 7.30pm. 3 course meal, coffee + bring your own drinks. Tickets £14 Tel. 613280 or 691850 AW

Local History

Group

Wednesday 17th January at Barley Village Hall. We will be starting the new year with a special showing of glass plate slides of the Ribble Valley and other areas of local interest from 1900 to 1913 by Mr Jim Halsell of Blackburn. Anyone interested in seeing the slides should ring 699580 to book a seat. The cost will be £2.

Goldshaw Booth

A glorious morning, spoilt only by getting the 'Mail' instead of my customary 'Times'. How can anyone read anything else? But this gave me a reason to walk over to Fence to buy a proper paper and, coming back over the ridge, I stopped to look at what must be one of the best views in the world: the white buildings of Newchurch, reflecting the low sun, casually scattered across the angled shapes of the green fields, flanked by dark woods and homely under the wild purple hump of Pendle. What a great place to live, particularly for those of us lucky enough to have the time and fitness to get out and walk and learn to love the land and its animals.

And what a strange place to build a village, half way up a hill. Why there? Glib guide books say that St Mary's is on the site of a 'chapel of ease', a resting place for those who carry coffins. It seems a daft route to follow, up and down hills, so where was the track, on which the chapel presumably stood, going to? And even if there was a track here, why take a rest halfway up a hill, why not at the top, or the bottom, by the stream? Or in Barley, where there is a pub? Possibly Newchurch shouldn't be here at all; which would be a shame because it looks good where it is on a morning like this.

Living here is a privilege to be appreciated – and earned, and maintained. It is not without effort that the village looks like it does. The report of the Best-kept village judges commends the tidiness of the village and the care which villagers show for the cottages and houses in it; it takes commitment from everyone, inhabitants and planners alike to keep it like this and, if we are going to beat Barley again next year (a consummation devoutly to be wished, as Hamlet remarked; but we won't resort to daggers) then even greater efforts will be necessary. Maybe we will see a little more white paint around?

Work on the junction between Jinny Lane and

Cross Lane is due to commence imminently (see below) and we hope that it will not inconvenience people too much. When it is completed, with the signpost refurbished and an old-style lamp post replacing the present monstrosity, it will look well and will encourage our efforts to improve the area in front of the toilets.

Lest anyone elsewhere in Goldshaw feels that their corner is being forgotten, and that all improvements are directed at Newchurch, don't forget that these are the current plans only and that ideas for any other part of the parish would be very warmly welcomed.

Parish Clerk

Val Blamire has done excellent work as Clerk to the parish for the last three years and it was with great regret that the Council heard at the last meeting of her intention to retire from the job. The Council are very grateful for her contribution and will have difficulty in replacing her. But we are sure that there will be someone else in the parish who could take over. Is this you? Let's hear from you!

Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2008. BM

URGENT! - Bushes & Trees

Many of the trees and bushes in the area to be redeveloped at the top of Jinny Lane have been planted by John Healey over the years and it will be a shame if they are dug up and sent to the tip. If any local villagers would like to remove these before the contractors arrive please see John or Hilary Healey at Old Earth House. Any donations for these will be welcome and will be sent on to Pendleside Hospice. There is a collecting box for the Hospice at Old Earth House.

ROUGHLEE



Two events followed up the Best Kept successes; one a celebration held in the Village Centre where 30 residents gathered to view the various regalia that had been presented to us. Pictured above are a couple of the paintings that appeared in Lancashire Life, mounted together, framed and now hanging in the Centre. This, along with the painting donated by the magazine were unveiled - the latter was then presented to its subject, the Bay Horse, to whom it is loaned and available for public viewing.

The second event was held at the Town Hall where Roughlee, together with Newchurch & Blacko were formally thanked by the Mayor and treated to supper and a most interesting tour of the chamber and the mayors' regalia.

Hard on those heels came the Ball (below) - a most splendid and successful event. More; bigger; better and warmer all spring to mind but the real success is the village involvement in putting it on, not just the committee members but several more, and then the enjoyment it brings to us, and all the sur-



rounding villagers that support it. Thanks to all for helping and attending.

Work is well under way on the area opposite the school. When finished it will create a couple more parking bays and an extended grassed area to replace that lost by erosion. There is also space for another commemorative bench if anyone is interested?

As the festive season approaches, our Seniors are looking forward to the annual lunch on Tuesday December 11 at 1pm, in the company of the Mayor & the schoolchildren. Invitations have gone out and the event is open to anyone, but those over 65 get it for free. As always though, it is always difficult to ascertain who is and who isn't of age!, so please, if you would like to come, do contact PC Chairman Brian Nelson by Dec. 7.

Second Friday Club is postponed for December but returns on January 11. JKS

Above: James Starkie and Parish Council Chairman



Seasonal Greetings to all Villagers

from Roughlee Parish Council
& Village Centre Committee