

St Catherine's Church, Crook

December - January 2015



**We all owe everything to Almighty God;
Come and worship Him at St Catherine's.**

CHURCH SERVICES (every Sunday)
December - January

DATE	SUN- DAY	SERVICE	THEME	READINGS
December 7th Advent 2	11am	Morning Worship (CW)	Zechariah & Elizabeth	Isaiah 40:1-5 Luke 1:5-25
14th Advent 3	2.30 pm	NO MORNING SERVICE CAROL SERVICE		
21st Advent 4	11am	Holy Communion (CW)	Mary and The Angel	Isaiah 7:10-16 Luke 1:26-38
24th	11.15 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE MID-NIGHT COMMUNION	Christmas Is coming	1 Peter 1:8-12 John 1:1-14
25th	10 AM	Morning Worship (CW) CHRISTMAS DAY	Glad Tidings of great joy	Psalms 145: 1-7 Luke 2:1-20
28th Christmas 1	11am	Morning Worship (CW)	The increase of His Kingdom	Isaiah 9:1-7 Luke 4:14-21
January 4th Christmas 2	11am	Morning Worship(CW)	The Wise Men	Isaiah 49:5-7 Matt. 2:1-12
11th Epiphany 1	11am	Morning Worship (CW) + Baptism	Baptism of Jesus	Psalms 2 Matt. 3:13-17
18th Epiphany 2	11am	Holy Communion (CW)	Water into wine	Rev. 21:1-7 John 2:1-11
25th Epiphany 3	11am	Morning Worship (CW)	Called to follow	Isaiah 52:7-10 Matt.4:12-23

WHO'S WHO AT ST. CATHERINE'S, CROOK

Priest-in-Charge	Rev. George Briggs Tel: 01539 730683 E.mail george@stkmail.org.uk
Curate:	Rev. Brian Crowe Tel: 01539 730683 E.mail brianadmin@stkmail.org.uk
Licensed Readers:	Mr Reg. Bradby Mrs Hilary Fitch Mr Tony Fitch
Church Wardens:	Mrs Ruth Hunter Mrs Mary Allcock
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs Hilary Fitch
P.C.C. Secretary:	Mrs Ann Heap

Please do not hesitate to contact us for baptisms, weddings, funerals or any pastoral needs. Just ring or Email St Thomas's office at admin@stkmail.org.uk We are grateful to those who care for our church and grounds week by week - cleaners, flower arrangers, gardeners. Let us know if you want to help!

You are cordially invited to.....A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!

Guest of Honour:	Jesus Christ
Date:	Traditionally, December 25th, but He's around, so the date is flexible.
Time:	Whenever you're ready. Please don't be late though, or you'll miss out on all the fun!
Dress Code:	Come as you are, because Jesus will give you fresh, new garments of His righteousness and and purity to wear.
Place:	In your heart....He'll meet you there. You'll hear Him knock.

This year we have taken special opportunities to remember the men and women who gave their lives in world wars and conflicts past and present, and as we move from Remembrance Sunday into the seasons of Advent and Christmas it seems fitting to recall the extraordinary story of one Christmas in the trenches.

On Christmas night 1914, fighting ceased in the trenches of World War I and soldiers from both sides sang the well-known carol, Silent Night, across No Man's Land. Some soldiers from the British and German armies even joined together to play football. The scene is captured in this poem:

Christmas Eve 1914 by Sue Langwade

**Enemies. Festering in trenches, mired in stinking mud
So close to one another, they can smell each other's food
Shivering, exhausted, given orders to shed villainous blood
In rare sleep they dream of home, missing those they love
In the midst of darkness, light
In the midst of bleakness, hope
A touch of heaven in the midst of hell**

**Germans – adorning Christmas trees with flickering lights
Reach out the hand of friendship across the desolate divide
Astonished, with glee the British respond, glad of the respite
And all relish their shared humanity that Christmas Eve night
In the midst of darkness, light
In the midst of bleakness, hope
A touch of heaven**

**Then on the war-ravaged landscape, football united
The Germans took the victory – by just one goal decided
It truly was a beautiful game, but this peace couldn't abide
Until far too many had laid down their lives
As we recall that staggering Christmas truce one hundred years
on
Awed once more by the power of love, in the Christ child born
Let 'Peace on earth, good will to all!' prompt our actions and
our thoughts
And thank Jesus and those courageous ones, whose blood our
peace has brought
In the midst of darkness, light
In the midst of bleakness, hope
A touch of heaven**

For us all I pray that this Christmas, as on that field a hundred years ago, the noise will abate long enough to hear heaven's choir proclaiming the good news that is ours. That fear will be overwhelmed in glorious light, and lonely silence will be broken by the cry of an infant born to change everything. That hope will rise up as we stop and wonder at the one who comes to make his home with us. Like those men a hundred years ago, may we find our lives renewed by the love of God as heaven touches earth.

With every blessing and all joy this Christmas,

Rev George Briggs

Priest-in-Charge, St Thomas Kendal with St Catherine Crook

A summary of the minutes of St. Catherine's PCC meeting held on 4th. November, 2014

- Rev. George Briggs had enjoyed his first harvest at St. Catherine's in a beautifully decorated church, and thanked everyone involved. It had been lovely to have 8 families with children. Only 45 people had attended the harvest supper, and it was decided to look for a different caterer for next year.
- Administrative work for St. Catherine's has been provided by Janet Sullivan at St. Thomas' Office over the last twelve months, generously funded by Rev Brian Crowe at a cost of £2,044.64, based on 4 hours per week. This will be funded by St. Catherine's in 2015, possibly from our Parish Share.
- Mission Communities will involve the Anglican, Methodist and United Reform churches looking at how to share resources, leadership and mission together. This is in the context of the Diocesan vision to help everyone in Cumbria to have the chance to know Jesus by 2020. Rev. George Briggs, Hilary Fitch and Helen Greenbank will represent Crook at a meeting chaired by Rev Brian Crowe.
- Ideas for outreach and fundraising for the church roof were discussed.
- It was decided to support the same charities this year by continuing to give 15% of our income.

Father Christmas or Jesus?

Father Christmas lives at the North Pole.....JESUS is everywhere.

Father Christmas rides in a sleigh.... JESUS rides on the wind and
walks on the water.

Father Christmas comes but once a year...JESUS is an ever-present help.

Father Christmas fills your stockings with goodies.....JESUS supplies all
your needs.

Father Christmas comes down your chimney uninvited.....JESUS stands
at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart.

You have to wait in line to see Father Christmas.....JESUS is as close as
the mention of his name.

Father Christmas doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hello little
boy or girl, what's your name?"JESUS knew our name before we
did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He
knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on
our head.

Father Christmas has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.....JESUS has a heart
full of love.

All Father Christmas can offer is HO HO HOJESUS offers health, help
and love.

Father Christmas says "You better not cry".....JESUS says "Cast all your
cares on Me, for I care for you".

Father Christmas's little helpers make toys.....JESUS makes new life,
mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Father Christmas may make you chuckle but....JESUS gives you joy that
is your strength.

While Father Christmas puts gifts under your tree.....JESUS became our
gift and died on the tree.

Author unknown

Dear all at St Catherine's

I am sorry that I have not been able to say a personal 'good-bye' to you all, but the move to Gargrave has happened rather suddenly, after a slow start! It is perhaps as well, because I feel that it would have been too emotional for me to have said this in person.

However, I did not want to leave without taking this opportunity to thank you all so very much for your wonderful love and support over this past very difficult and sad year for me.

Cruel circumstances have taken over sadly from the passage that Peter and I hoped to tread together for many more happy years here in Crook.

I shall take away such lovely memories of you all. I shall always remember the very happy times when I felt so proud to see Peter playing the organ at St Catherine's, after all his hard work and daily practice.

My thanks to Reg when, at one of the Harvest Suppers, he surprised Peter by asking if he was able to play the organ! From that chance conversation, Peter felt blessed and excited with this new challenge which he came to grasp with a passion and love.

He found that it opened a door to actively serve at St Catherine's in a very practical and wonderful way. It also provided him with many happy hours playing and practising at home and a strong organist team developed together with Ruth and Jean

It's a good thing that we lived in a detached house, and sufficiently away from our neighbours, Ann and George and Wesley and Val, during practice times! One of the memories that will make me smile is when Raymond encouraged Peter to 'widen his repertoire' with some of the old favourite songs for Remembrance Sundays!

My 'quiet man' suddenly became a very active member of the Church, when he also rather reluctantly became one of the Church Wardens!

I know that he felt very fortunate to be working with Ruth and they complemented and supported each other so well.

With the sad loss of Peter in January, my life has now of course changed totally. It is therefore sadly, but right and sensible, that I move away from this beautiful area and all our friends, to be close now to my immediate and very caring family.

I know that I am very blessed that through our wonderfully happy marriage, we have three loving children and also now two lovely grandchildren.

I hope that many of you may be able to visit me in Gargrave, whenever you are passing through en route to other areas - you will be most welcome! My new address will be in the updated Church Directory.

My love to you all and may God continue to bless you and also His beautiful Church in Crook,

Ann (Keene)

No room in the inn, of course,
And not that much in the stable
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host -
Not to mention the baby
Using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another
cherub in
For love or money

Still, in spite of the overcrowding,
I did my best to make them feel
wanted.
I could see the baby and I
Would be going places together.

By U.A. Fanthorpe



The Farmer's Donkey

One day a farmer's donkey fell into an abandoned well. Terrified, the animal cried for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old and impossible to retrieve. He realized the well needed to be filled to prevent future losses. So he invited all his neighbours to help him.

They all grabbed shovels and began to throw dirt into the well. At first, when the donkey realized he was being buried alive, he cried horribly. Then, to everyone's shock, the donkey quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit the donkey's back, the donkey would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer and his neighbours continued to throw dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take another step up. Soon everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

Life is going to throw dirt your way and attempt to bury you. However, no one ever gets out of life's wells by giving up! Shake the dirt off and take a step up!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, 14th December

2.30pm Carol Service

(With Tea/Coffee and mince pies!)

PLEASE NOTE: NO MORNING SERVICE

Sunday, 21st December

11am Morning Worship

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, 24th December

11.15pm Mid-night Communion

Christmas Day

10am Morning Worship

(Please note service time)

Crook Memorial Hall Committee

Christmas Coffee Evening

for all the family

Saturday, 13th December at 7.30pm

Bingo - Dominoes Stalls - Raffles

Coffee and Mince Pies

Competition:- A Snow Photograph

KID'S TEA PARTY

Saturday, 3rd January, 2015

2.00pm to 4.00pm

(Grandchildren Welcome)

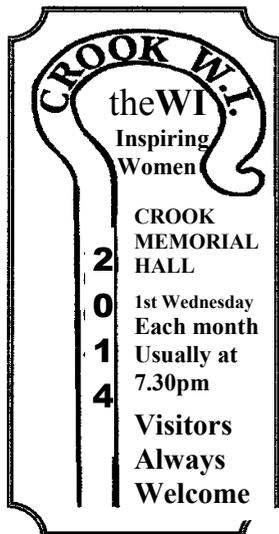
followed at 7.30pm by

Hot Pot Supper and Quiz

Tickets required Please book in advance

A.S.A.P. Ring Kath on 821415

If you require a vegetarian meal contact Kath on 821415.



December 3rd

“ChristmasFest”

Competition:- Small Wrapped Gift

January 7th

New Year Party (12pm Start)

Co-operative Lunch

Speaker:- Sheila Innes

“Are you sitting comfortably”

St Catherine’s Carol Singers

We plan to sing on two nights. On Tuesday December 16th we will start at Gravel House at 6.30pm and travel in cars to some outlying homes. On Wednesday 17th we will meet at the Sun Inn at 7pm where we will be joined by the Crook Young Farmers for a tour of the centre of the village on foot finishing about 9.30pm at the Sun.

We are collecting for 2 local charities:- First Responders’ and the Talking Newspaper.

Peter and Mary Simm

Crook Memorial Hall Committee

Have a Spring Clean!!

Table Top Sale on Sunday, 15th February 2015

Each stall to cost £7 (to be paid in advance)

We will also sell soup and buns, tea and coffee

This will be advertised

Enquiries to:- Alison on 01539 821402 or Kath 01539 821415

**Charity Christmas Tree Festival
Kendal Parish Church
Three Weekends before Christmas**



Festival Opening Times;-

Fridays	Saturdays	Sundays
4pm - 7pm	11am - 6pm	3pm - 5pm

Entry £1 (children FREE) - Homemade refreshments

Festival Concerts:- Fri 5th Fri 12th Fri 19th

Contact the Church Office on 01539 721248

For tickets Email:- concerts@kendalparishchurch.co.uk

**A Christmas Coffee Evening with Burneside Brass
At Underbarrow Village Hall**

On Friday, 28th November - 7pm - 9pm

**A Big Raffle ~ Tombola ~ Guess the Weight of the Christmas
Cake Competition ~ Christmas Gifts & Stocking Fillers For Sale
~ Bric A Brac Stall ~ Cake Stall ~ Herdy 'Seconds' Mugs for Sale
and much more not to mention Festive Christmas Carols
being played by members of Burneside Brass.**

An Event Not to be Missed ! Hope to see you there

Church Cleaning Rota

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
6th Joan Matthews	3rd Ann Heap	7th Judi Webster
13th Audrey Rowlinson	10th Ann Underwood	14th Mary Simm
20th Lilian Atkinson	17th Mary Allcock	21st Cherry Burgess
27th Thelma Brown	24th Jennifer Gorst	28th Diane Holt
	31st Hilary Fitch	

Church Flower Rota

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
Mary Allcock	Ann Heap	Sheila Aspden
Jennifer Willink	Sylvia Girdam	Lilian Atkinson



CANDLES

On 30th November, it is Advent Sunday.



If you come to Church that day, you can see the first Advent candle being lit - or even light it yourself.

Each Sunday in Advent an extra candle will be lit, until all 4 candles are bringing light to us all, just as Jesus does.

What is Advent?

This is the time when we open our hearts to Jesus and prepare for His coming. Then, on Christmas Day, we celebrate the time when He was born as a baby.

Look out for candles

Look around as we get nearer to Christmas and see if you can spot candles in shops, in windows and on Christmas cards.

Come to Church for the Carol Service at 2.30pm on Sunday, 14th December and see how many candles there are.

The Christmas candle

Look for the Christmas candle in the middle of the 4 Advent candles.

This will be lit on Christmas Day, which is Jesus' Birthday, to remind us that

Jesus is the Light of the World.

