

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

Services	Oct	3	9.30am	Mr Neil Ward
		10	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton – Harvest Festival – including Holy Communion
		17	9.30am	Revd Richard Oldroyd
		24	9.30am	Revd Colin Vere
		31	9.30am	Own Arrangement

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Dear Friends

Towards the end of August Richard and I spent a few days in the Lake District, staying near the top of Ullswater with our son Jonathan and his family. On the first day we parked near Aira Force and strolled through the woods to the edge of the lake. It was a busy spot – there were paddle boarders, swimmers, kayakers and the Ullswater steamers making their way down the lake from Pooley Bridge at the northern end to Glendridding, something they have been doing for almost two hundred years. I can just picture those Victorian ladies climbing delicately into the boat, trying not to get the hem of their long skirts wet as they did so.

On this occasion we didn't go on the water but stayed at the edge, teaching our grandchildren how to skim stones across the water – or trying to, at least. I seem to have lost the knack, or perhaps I can blame it on the shape of the stones! Suffice to say that Victoria and Emily didn't learn much from me!

My eyes were constantly drawn to the beauty of the lake and of the mountains which frame it: the Helvellyn and High Street ranges, Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell. Maybe you've climbed some of them – if you've been across Striding Edge you've a better head for heights than I have! All this beauty reminded me of the wonder of creation, the mountains that have stood for thousands of years and the more transient splendours of the changing colours of the leaves – green at the end of summer, to be replaced by the yellows, reds and oranges of autumn, and the starkness of the bare branches against the winter sky. I was reminded of the words of David Attenborough that in times of crisis, the beauty of the world 'is a source of both joy and solace'.

And with this appreciation of beauty should come an awareness of our responsibility as stewards of creation, handing on our guardianship of the earth to future generations. And a reminder of the ways in which it is so easy to destroy that beauty through carelessness or deliberate action. Something we may wish to reflect on in coming weeks as we draw nearer to COP26, the United Nations Climate Conference, to be held in Glasgow from 31st October. You might want to read up on their goals by visiting their website and there will no doubt be plenty of information available through news channels up to and during the Conference.

We may feel that there is little we can do, that the action that counts will need to be taken at a national or international level. But coming back to my attempts to skim stones in the lake, I feel that each small thing that we do can have the effect of those ripples on the water, spreading out and making a difference.

With my best wishes

Sue

Thursday Fellowship

The Officers and Chairladies of the Thursday Fellowship invite former and new members to **Afternoon Tea and Chat** on Thursday, 30th September at 2.30pm.

Meetings will start again on Thursday, October 7th when Revd Sue will be our speaker and will talk about her sabbatical.

Further meetings as follows Thursday October 21st

Thursday November 4th and 18th

Thursday December 2nd and 16th

More details of speakers at these meetings will be available at the Afternoon Tea and Chat on Sept 30th.

Messy Church

Messy Church restarted on the 11th September, when we looked at the story of Noah. We always start with a game, and as it was a lovely day we were able to search the yard area for the animals to bring them into the Ark. The singing during the celebration was wonderful and the children remembered the actions to “our God is a Great Big God,” and those who hadn’t attended before soon picked it up! Various activities from making rainbows, to animal masks, rainbow buns and building an enormous Ark out of cardboard boxes, from which the children burst out. The 14 children sat down to a meal of jacket potatoes, beans and cheese. The next Messy Church will be held on Saturday 9th October and we will celebrate the Harvest. An open invite is extended to anyone who would like to join us.

Property & Finance

Work has continued around the building, with extra cleaning inside and general maintenance in the grounds. Weeds and grass have all been attacked and kept down, the painting of the railings has now reached the cemetery, with just the length of the building to finish. Thank you to all involved. Thank you to everyone who has continued to donate to the Church over the last 18 months your support is really appreciated. Now that people are returning to Sunday Worship and other activities are slowly beginning to restart, we look forward to getting back to ‘normal.’

‘Recollections’ by Ian Baxter

EVACUEES

The dictionary defines an evacuee as a person evacuated from a place of danger. Before the outbreak of war in 1939 it was thought that the larger British cities such as London, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool and Manchester would be heavily bombed from the beginning. But many other cities like Coventry and in this county Hull, Sheffield and York were attacked. The Government made arrangements to take children, mothers with infants and the infirm to rural areas which were considered to be safe, and his operation began on September 1st 1939, two days before Germany invaded Poland to start the war. The brunt of the operation was undertaken by the four main railways, all of which sent special trains to their termini on London to bring out the vulnerable. But the anticipated raids did not take place until much later and by June 1940 almost half those evacuated had gone back home against Government advice.

The progress of the war took a decisive turn at the end of May 1940 with the humiliating retreat of British forces from Dunkirk and the defeat of the French. With threat of imminent invasion, evacuation began again though I am not sure if any came to this area. But they did come early in 1941 when the South Coast towns were being bombed and shot up by aircraft on their way to and from raids on other parts of England. It was early in 1941 that Ladies of the WRVS visited houses in Linthwaite that had spare bedrooms to tell the householders that they would have to take on an evacuee or possibly two. My mother said that with a two-year old, another child due in July and a husband about to be called up to the forces she could not deal with another child. The authorities listened to her and said that under those circumstances she would be allocated a teacher.

Miss Frieda Gott, a lady in her early forties had spent the day organising children in Hove, Sussex, and travelled with them by train to a place they had never heard of, Slaithwaite, where they left the train. Some of them with Miss Gott then came to Linthwaite where she had to see that every child was passed into the care of strangers who were to become their foster parent for the foreseeable future. Only after every child had been housed was she able to go to her accommodation and meet her, hosts, my parents. She was immediately offered a cup of tea and a bath, which would be welcome after a very demanding day and this may have reassured her whatever they thought on the South Coast, civilisation did not end at Watford!

To be continued

Mary-Jane MacMillan

Many of you know that my father was a herring fisherman in Helmsdale in Sutherland on the stormy north east coast of Scotland some 50 miles south of John O’Groats. Helmsdale has had only one lifeboat and that was back in 1909 when a large fleet of trawlers followed the shoals of herring around our shores. That is, until 2019 when Garry MacMillan had an idea.

At his own expense Garry bought a ship’s lifeboat and set about refurbishing it to make a replica of a RNLI lifeboat. The fiberglass boat was remodelled and repainted in RNLI livery. Ingenious purchases from garden centres, chandlers, hardware stores and eBay were made. Broom handles were cut down, yellow wellington boots small enough couldn’t be found so black ones were painted, the aerials from vespa scooters were used as flag poles as they wouldn’t break in the wind. Wick lifeboat provided the flags.

Garry then through social media and word of mouth asked if anyone would like to put the names of former Helmsdale skippers and their boats on the side for a donation to the RNLI, and the boat was duly ‘launched’ in December 2019 and named the Mary-Jane after Garry’s mother.

The boat now resides on Helmsdale harbour and is becoming a major attraction, with donations coming from people on holiday, photographers and the owners who park their travel homes on the harbour overnight. At night it is lit up, and makes a welcoming sight for any boat coming into the harbour.

In 2020 Garry found a small rowing boat in a farmer’s field which has now been made into a ‘trawler.’

All the money donated is given to the nearest lifeboat station some 35 miles away in Wick and during 2020 the total of £3700 was raised. This year so far over £4,500 has been handed over, an amazing achievement.



The appeal for names was oversubscribed, but I was lucky enough to get dad’s name and his boat “Harvest Home” put on the side!



Mairi MacKay

If anyone has any item they would like to be included in the next Link please e mail to me at hirst.avondale@btinternet.com. or phone 654288

Thanks, Jennifer

