



St Catherine's Church, Crook

December - January 2012

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

A warm welcome is given at 10 am each Sunday.

CHURCH SERVICES (EVERY SUNDAY AT 10.00am)

December - January 2012

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|------------------------------|------------------|--|---|---|
| December 4th | Advent 2 | Holy Communion (CW) | Living in the world | Col 1:15-20 Matt 5:43-6:4 |
| 11th 2.30pm | Advent 3 | Morning Worship (CW) CAROL SERVICE | Good Leaders E100-18 | 2 Tim. 2:1-13 John 21:15-19 |
| 18th | Advent 4 | Morning Worship (CW) | Saviour? Not me! | Isaiah 61:1-4 8-11 John 1:6-8 |
| 24th 11.15pm | Christmas Eve | Midnight Communion | God's spoken differently! | Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14 |
| 25th | Christmas Day | Morning Worship (CW) | Christmas | Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14 |
| January 1st | Christmas 2 | Morning Worship (CW) | New Beginnings | Gal 3:26-4:7 Luke 2:15-21 |
| 8th | Epiphany | Holy Communion (CW) | Living in the world in hope E100-19 | 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16 Matt 5:13-16 |
| 15th | Epiphany 2 | Morning Worship(BCP) | God calls | Rev 5:1-10 John 1:43-51 |
| 22nd | Epiphany 3 | Morning Worship (CW) | Wedding Celebrations! | Rev 19:6-10 John 2:1-11 |
| 29th | Epiphany 4 | Morning Worship (CW) | The End Goal E100-20 | Rom 8:18-25 Rev 21:1-8 |

Christmas tree at Church 2010 - Photograph taken by Sue Tredwen

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

Vicar: Rev. Canon Tim Montgomery
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Associate Minister: Rev. Tim Harmer
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Curate: Rev. Brian Crowe
Tel: 015395 68959
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Licensed Reader: Mr Reg. Bradby

Church Wardens: Mr Don Webster
Mrs Ruth Hunter

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Fitch

P.C.C. Secretary: Miss Margaret Blades

Please do not hesitate to contact us for baptisms, weddings, funerals or any pastoral needs. Just ring Tim, Tim or Brian.

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!



Serving Jesus as you serve others here, there and everywhere.....but especially in the parish we have been given to bless and serve through our actions and words.

YOUR 'M & S' CHRISTMAS!

All our shops are now into the Christmas swing hoping that we will all spend money we don't really have on things people don't really need! It's so difficult doing Christmas shopping especially for those people (usually dads) who you have no idea what they would really like but it seems wrong to get them another box of Marks & Spencer hankies as you did last year ... and the year before!

M & S always push hard for Christmas enticing us in with their 'Magic & Sparkle' and the exciting aura of celebration, presents and food. But this has got me thinking about other words which M & S could use to help us dig deeper into the real meaning of Christmas.

How about 'Manger & Stable' as we think again of the journey to Bethlehem, no room at the inn and the most amazing birth place for the King of Kings. Or 'Mary & Shepherds' as we recall the good news hailed by the angels first to Mary and then later to the poorest workers out in the fields who hurried to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus lying in the manger. Or 'Magi & Star' as we remember the great prophecies that captured the minds of the magi or wise men and brought them to Bethlehem guided by a star that stopped over the stable where Jesus was born. There they gave their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

But the two most important words are surely 'Messiah & Saviour' as we think again about the real meaning of Christmas. God reached down himself into our world and instituted his rescue plan through his own son Jesus. The 'Mess and Sin' that leaves us alienated from God was dealt with by Jesus. The comforting wood of that little cradle would eventually become the cruel wood of the cross. But the end of the story is once again good and joyful as Jesus is raised from the dead and ascends into heaven to return one day to take home those who have understood his 'Message and Story' and responded with belief and faith. I wonder if he will come back while we are Christmas shopping?

Have a very happy Christmas and do come and join us at St Catherine's for one of our special services.

**Revd Canon Tim Montgomery
*Vicar.***

A Big Thank You Has everyone noticed how good our new graveyard is looking? Thanks are due to David Bowes and Raymond's team of shedmen . Also we are very grateful to Peter Matthews and Mike Poynter who keep the churchyard neat and tidy.

We are extremely fortunate to have a team of ladies who quietly clean the church and provide lovely displays of flowers week after week.

Thanks also go to the men (or man) who shins up the tree to put up our Banner notices advertising our special services.

Last but by no means least, what would we do without Kath Jackson and all the people who distribute the Parish magazine.

Well Done everybody, please keep up the good work.

AP

Now you see us – now you don't!

Many of you may know that Tony and I are in our second year of Reader training and as part of this we will be shortly undertaking our 'Contrasting Parish Placement'. This means that from Advent Sunday 2011 until Easter Sunday 2012, we will be placed in a parish which is different from our own so that we can benefit from a wider experience of church that will enrich our own ministry. Tony and I have been fortunate in gaining a placement together at Holy Trinity, Kendal. During our placement, we will be able to participate in the life of a town church, which provides different styles of service with a strong musical tradition. We will also be able to look at their pastoral responsibilities in the parish, their evolving house groups and also be able to see the Parish Church in its civic role in Kendal. In order to do all these things, we need to involve ourselves in the life of that church, so this means that for the time being we will need to withdraw from being active at St Catherine's. Although you will see us at services from time to time, we will not be leading worship or preaching for a while.

Hilary Fitch

Our thoughts and prayers will be with you.

AP

Plot of Land The Trustees of the Memorial Hall have recently purchased, from the Lake District National Park, the small field which lies between the Church and the Memorial Hall, known as Outfield Meadow. The plan is for the younger, active members of the committee to tidy up this neglected land which will then be for general benefit and enjoyment of the village community.

MA

The Church in South Asia from Barnabas Aid (edited)

According to tradition, it was the Apostle Thomas who first brought the Gospel to India, starting seven churches in the south and setting up a cross in each of the seven towns. He is said to have converted 13,229 people, including two kings and seven village chiefs, not so much by his preaching as through his holiness of his life and the miracles he performed. Thomas is known for his doubts, but the New Testament shows that he was actually a disciple who loved the Lord deeply and the fruit of his evangelistic work in India has endured for two millennia.

We can rejoice in the Lord that there are now national Christians in every country of South Asia, even in Afghanistan. Yet life is not easy for them. They face pressures from militant Islam, the rise of fundamentalist Hinduism and a form of Buddhism that is no longer a religion of peace but has become a religion of violence. Like the apostle Paul, they are “hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

In the midst of such pressure, the church continues to grow; yet, like Thomas, they are uncertain of the future, asking their Lord the way (John 14:5). In reply the Lord Jesus promised Thomas not a road map but a relationship with Himself (John 14:6). And He will hold their hand and lead them into the future as, again like Thomas of old, they continue to affirm Him as their Lord and their God (John 20:28).

**PERSECUTED...
BUT NOT FORSAKEN**



Shelter for Christian children from Burma

Many Christian children from ethnic minorities in Burma witness horrific brutalities at the hand of Burmese soldiers, who sometimes will take the young ones and force them to become child soldiers or porters.

Desperate to keep their children safe, parents are forced to take them to Christian-run children's homes because the villages where they live and work are too dangerous.

“Ben”, a 13year-old Christian boy at one of the homes supported by Barnabas, says, “I still have a father, but no mother - she died of malaria in the jungle while we were in hiding. I have seen Burmese soldiers coming to villages and do bad things to our people. I was always very scared”.

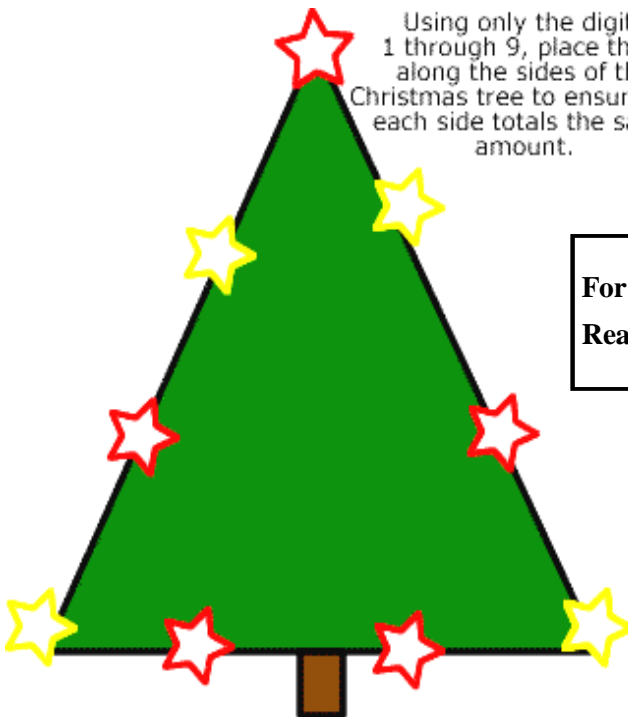
Barnabas Aid is a Christian organization which St. Catherine's funds support each year.

St. Boniface Story

Why do we have a decorated Christmas Tree? In the 7th century a monk from Crediton, Devon, went to Germany to teach the Word of God. He did many good works there and spent much time in Thuringia, an area which was to become the cradle of the Christmas Decoration Industry.

Legend has it that he used the triangular shape of the Fir Tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The converted people began to revere the Fir tree as God's Tree, as they had previously revered the Oak. By the 12th century it was being hung, upside down, from ceilings at Christmastide in Central Europe, as a symbol of Christianity.

The first decorated tree was at Riga in Latvia, in 1510. In the early 16th century, Martin Luther is said to have decorated a small Christmas tree with candles, to show his children how the stars twinkled through the dark night.



Using only the digits 1 through 9, place them along the sides of the Christmas tree to ensure that each side totals the same amount.

For a clue
Read Psalm 20

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, 11th December

10am Morning Worship

2.30pm Carol Service
(With Tea/Coffee and mince pies!)

Sunday 18th December

10am Morning Worship

Christmas Eve

Saturday, 24th December

11.15pm Mid-night Communion

Christmas Day

Sunday, 25th December

10am Morning Worship

Crook Memorial Hall Committee

Christmas Coffee Evening

for all the family

Saturday, 17th December 2011

at 7.30pm

Bingo - Dominoes Stalls - Raffles

KID'S TEA PARTY

Saturday 7th January, 2012

2.00pm to 4.00pm

(Grandchildren Welcome)

followed by

Hot Pot Supper and Quiz

at 7.30pm.

‘At Home’

‘At Home’ is an opportunity for anyone from the church or village to get together very informally for a soup and sandwich lunch to share conversation and friendship. It will take place this month at Middle Blakebank, the home of Brian and Hilary Crowe, at 12.30pm on December 8th. Anyone is welcome, and you are particularly invited to bring friends or neighbours along if you would like to.

Drop-in for some Christmas cheer!

Brian and Hilary Crowe invite you to “Drop In” at Middle Blakebank between 2.30 and 6pm on Friday December 16th to share tea, mulled wine, mince pies and cake to celebrate the approach of Christmas.

House Groups

Tony and Hilary Fitch are continuing their reader training which includes a period when they are placed at Holy Trinity Kendal for about four months – from the beginning of December until Easter, so they will not be able to lead the house group held at their home in recent years. Consequently, their house group will meet instead at 2.30pm at Middle Blakebank, Broom Lane, Underbarrow, the home of Brian and Hilary Crowe. The group which has been meeting at Ruth Hunter’s home will continue to do so at 7.30pm. The groups will meet on Thursdays 19th January, 2nd and 16th February, and complete their discussion and application of the E100 series sermons.

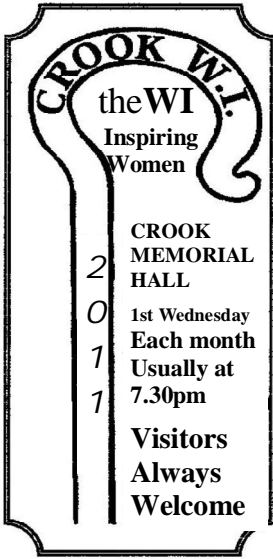
Sing for your supper!

There will be an opportunity after Christmas to combine carol singing and supper on Friday 20th January at Middle Blakebank, Broom Lane, when we will also be joined by the Two Valleys choir. All will be very welcome and further details will be available nearer the time.

Bread of life (Kenya), - Christmas Cards.

A big thank you to all those who bought cards again this year for this worthwhile locally founded charity. To date, £300 has been raised in Crook.

AK



December 7th
Christmas Bring & Buy Auction
 Wendi Lethbridge, Local Agent
 for Age UK
Competition:- A Small Wrapped Gift

January 4th
NEW YEAR PARTY
At 12 Noon
Speaker:- Abigail Saxon
“Life at the BBC”

Walking Group

A walk arranged once a month usually in the south of the county

‘A’ walk 5 – 8 miles with a few ‘ups’

‘B’ walk 2-3 miles mostly on the level.

For Date, Day and Time contact Hilary Crowe 015395 68959

Social Cycling

A small group cycling about 20 mile mostly on easy terrain and finishing at a pub/café.

For Date, Day and Time contact Aileen Lewis 015394 42264

Book Club

Based on books from Cumbria Library services. At present this group is full.

Sewing & Craft

Fortnightly and mostly during the winter months. For Dates contact Kath Jackson 01539 821415

Other Activities held at Crook Memorial Hall

Table Tennis

Monday and Friday 7.30 - 10pm

From September through the winter months

Contact:- Margaret Lister 015394 47544

Young Farmers Club

Tuesday 7.30 to 9.30pm

Rebecca Redmayne 07977932256

Aerobics/body toning

Thursday 10 -11am

Contact:- Joyce Griffin 015395 68542

Folk Dance Group

Thursday 7.30 – 10pm

Contact:- Lynn Green 015395 64026

Burneside Brass

A Christmas Concert

7.00pm - Friday, 2nd December, 2011

At St. Thomas' Church, Kendal

Tickets £5.00 Refreshments Included

Contact Dave on 07738 492061

Or Stuart on 015639 720977

ST CATHERINE'S CAROL SINGERS

A group of us will be singing carols to the homes in the centre of Crook on Monday, December 19th joined by the Crook Young Farmers.

Meet at 7pm at the Sun Inn.

We will be driving to outlying homes on Tuesday 20th between 6.30 and 9.30pm. Meet at Gravel House.

This year The Crook Young Farmers are collecting for the Children's Hospice Derian House and we are collecting for Manna House, helping the homeless in Kendal.

We hope you will be at home to hear our Christmas message.

A sign up sheet will be in the church for those who would like to come and sing and share a simple supper afterwards on the Tuesday night at Gravel House.

Peter and Mary Simm, Gravel House 01539 821503

Church Cleaning Rota

December

3rd Mary Simm
10th Cherry Burgess
17th Diane Holt
*24th Ann Keene
*31st Joyce Bradbury

January

7th Sue Tredwen
14th Vivienne Ford
21st Joan Matthews
28th Ann Clarke

February

4th Audrey Rowlinson
11th Sandra Lauder
18th Lillian Atkinson
25th Thelma Brown

* Anytime during that week

Church Flower Rota

December

Judi Webster
Hilary Crowe

January

Mary Simm
Cherry Burgess

February

Sue Tredwen
Hilary Fitch



CHRISTMAS IS AMAZING!

Christmas can be amazing with lights, decorations and presents, but the very first Christmas was even more amazing.

Imagine Mary, on an ordinary day, when an angel appeared and



said that she would have a baby. God's Son.

Imagine Mary and Joseph resting in the stable, with baby Jesus asleep in a manger.

They heard voices in the dark and in came some shepherds asking to see a baby. "How did you know we were here?" Mary asked.

"We were on the hillside, when the sky was filled with angels singing and praising God. They told us to come here. It was amazing!"

Later, three men wearing exotic clothes visited them. They were Magi, who told how

they had seen a special star announcing Jesus' birth, and had followed for miles to bring gifts to the baby. Amazing!

But the most amazing part of Christmas is that God sent His own Son into our world as a tiny baby, so that he could grow up to save us all.

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. After you have found all the words, circle the leftover letters in the correct order to form the **mystery answer**. (American spelling!!)

Angels Emmanuel Forever Glory
 Jesus Joseph Joy Lord Manger
 Mary Peace Shepherd

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | Y | L | Y | R | A | M | R |
| R | F | O | R | E | V | E | R |
| E | S | R | J | A | G | J | Y |
| H | V | | D | I | N | O | R |
| P | P | E | A | C | E | S | O |
| E | M | M | A | N | U | E | L |
| H | S | U | S | E | J | P | G |
| S | L | E | G | N | A | H | R |