

PARISH DIARY FOR MAY

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|-----|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | <i>Ascension Day</i> | | |
| | 7pm | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| | 7.30pm | Choir Practice | St Peter's |
| 3. | 10am – 1pm | Coffee Morning Holiday Camp | St Peter's Hall |
| 4. | Seventh Sunday of Easter | | |
| | 8am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| | 9.30am | Sunday School | St James's |
| | 9.30am | Coffee Church | St Peter's Hall |
| | 11am | Morning Prayer BCP | St James's |
| | 11am | Parish Communion | St Peter's |
| | 3pm | Holy Baptism | St Peter's |
| | 6.30pm | Evensong | St Peter's |
| 6. | 2 – 4pm | St Peter's Hall open | |
| 7. | 10am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| | 2pm | Mothers' Union | St Peter's Hall |
| | 7.30pm | Archdeacons' Visitation | Lancaster Priory |
| 8. | 7.30pm | Choir Practice | St Peter's |
| 10. | | Christian Aid Soup and Rolls | St James's |
| | 4pm | Holy Baptism | St Peter's |
| 11. | Whit Sunday | | |
| | 8am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| | 9.30am | Family Communion | St James's |
| | 11am | Morning Prayer BCP | St Peter's |
| | 6.30pm | Christian Aid Service | St Peter's |
| 13. | 8pm | Ladies' Group | St Peter's Hall |
| 14. | 10am | Holy Communion | St James's |
| | 2 – 4pm | St Peter's Hall open | |
| | 6.30pm | Parent Praise | St Peter's |
| 15. | 7.30pm | Choir Practice | St Peter's |
| 18. | Trinity Sunday | | |
| | 8am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| | 9.30am | Sunday School | St James's |
| | 9.30am | Coffee Church | St Peter's Hall |
| | 11am | Morning Prayer CW | St James's |

12 April Donald Smith (Ashes)
15 April Charles Hutchinson (Ashes)
John Mason

FROM THE RECTOR

There is a story in the Bible about a successful business man who goes to the labour exchange to find some workers. Early in the morning he finds a team and agrees on the wage for the day. Later he needs some more workers and he goes back to the labour exchange. He does this several times during the day. The last set of labourers only worked for an hour. When the labourers lined up to be paid the business man paid them all the same. Although he paid what he agreed the labourers who had worked all day long thought he had been unfair.

Most of us can understand their point of view. The point of the story though is somewhat deeper. It is a story about how we see the world. Do we see it as from our point of view or from God's point of view?

Some Communists once argued that people should adopt a worldly point of view 'from everyone according to their ability to everyone according to their need'. Although it is a noble point of view it didn't work in practice and people had to be forced to do it. It became a police state.

The Bible asks us to see things from heavenly point of view. The Bible argues that we are all made in the image of God. That means that we are all special. The business man in the Bible story sees all the labourers as special and important enough to be treated equally.

This month we have a special week devoted to Christian Aid. Christian Aid asks us to see everyone in the global family as special and important. It seeks to bring justice to every one.

Many scientists argue that we have abused our planet. It has resulted in global warming and climate change. The sea level is rising, there are floods in some places and droughts in other places. Hundreds of species are in danger of extinction. Many people in the world are suffering from poverty, hunger, disease, violence and exploitation.

If we see things from God's point of view we are asked to act on behalf of the planet and the people in a caring and responsible way. We are asked to see all the

people of the world as our brothers and sisters. We are asked not only to count our blessings but to share them with one another.

With this in mind we offer our prayer and practical support during Christian Aid Week. On Saturday 10 May 08 there is to be a Christian Aid fund raising event at St James and on Sunday 11 May 08 there is to be a Christian Aid service at St Peter's led by the young people (see advertisement)...see you there!

Prayer for Christian Aid Week

God of the rushing wind, sweep through my indifference.

God of the fiery flames, ignite my compassion.

God of the many voices, open my mouth to speak out against injustice.

That through your Spirit and my actions this world may be transformed.

Amen.

DIGEST OF PCC MEETING

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Monday 10 March 2008.

The Minutes of the last meeting were signed as a correct record with all in favour.

A baptism request for a family living outside the parish was accepted.

The Treasurer handed round copies of the finished accounts. St James Since Peter McDermott had finished there had been some problems particularly with unauthorised use of the premises. Some of the firedoors had been left unlocked and the car park barrier had been left open. There are now notices asking the users to make sure that the Centre is secure when they leave. The situation will be monitored.

Annual Report The PCC Secretary handed round drafts of the report. The Annual Meeting format was discussed. The diocese has sent a letter saying that the Deanery Synod representatives should be elected this year. June Greenwood does not wish to continue leaving one vacancy. Roger Cornthwaite, John Disney, Jim Whittaker, and Margaret Dean are due for re-election and Barbara Taylor who does not wish to continue. There is also one vacancy for St James.

The Archdeacon's Visitation will be at Lancaster Priory at 7.30pm on 7th May 2008. The parish has been asked to host the Bishop of Bethlehem on Sunday 13th July. This is the date of the Sunday School Prizegiving and it has been agreed that

on that day, Morning Prayer will be at St Peter's at 9.30am, the Family Service followed by the Prizegiving at 11am at St James's followed by a Fun Day and Barbeque. The PCC agreed that up to £500 could be set aside for this.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All meetings at St James's Centre unless otherwise noted

4 th May	Sunday School	9.30am
11 th May	Family Service	9.30am
18 th May	Sunday School	9.30am
25 th May	Holiday	
1 st June	Holiday	
8 th June	Family Service	9.30am
15 th June	Sunday School	9.30am
22 nd June	Sunday School	9.30am
28 th June	Rose Queen Saturday- assemble at Rectory 1.30pm procession starts at 2pm. Crowning approx 3pm Rectory	
29 th June	Assemble at St Peter's school 2.40pm, procession to church. Outdoor service at 3pm St Peter's Church.	
6 th July	Sunday School	9.30am
13 th July	Family service and prizegiving	9.30am

(* indicate changes to programme)

MOTHERS' UNION

Canon Christine Mullineaux was the speaker at our April meeting, I was sorry to have missed her but we were away on holiday. For our May meeting we plan to have a tea party, in the Rectory garden if fine, the Rector has already said that he will try to supply us with a canopy. The entertainment will be 'homegrown', we hope that you will all enjoy a bit of a do!

Plans for our trip to Windermere are well under way, it should be a lovely day especially if the weather is good.

A report on the Coffee Morning will appear in the next issue of the magazine. We are supplying the refreshments for one of the Confirmation Workshops and the Confirmation, our thanks go to all those who work so hard to provide our ministry of hospitality. We are now very well aware of the enormous amount Diane does

for us, so far her treatment is going well and we look forward to her joining us again for our meetings. We send our prayers and best wishes to all those who are not so well.

God bless and love, Janet

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Over the past years (at least twenty) a faithful team of church members have distributed and collected Christian Aid envelopes, house to house around the Parish.

This year we are doing something different. On Saturday, 10th May, from 11am to 2pm, at St James's Centre, there will be Soup and Rolls as usual.

In addition, there will be stalls, a raffle, and other entertainment.

We hope that everyone will come to this fun filled event and, in addition to having a really good time, we can raise a lot of money for this very worthwhile cause.

Meg Morgans can give you more details on 851186 and if you have any ideas or gifts for the stalls, she will be glad to hear from you.

On the evening of Sunday 11th May, at 6.30pm in St Peter's Church, the young people will be leading us in a special Christian Aid service. The Music Group will be playing for us and there will be contributions from the Simpsons and Senior Discussion Group and balloons!

Don't miss this weekend of events for Christian Aid, it promises to be fun and thought-provoking and hopefully we can raise a record amount of money too.

COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday, 3rd May, Edith and Freda will be holding a Coffee Morning in St Peter's Church Hall in aid of the Leeds Children's Holiday Camp at Silverdale, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. There will be the usual stalls including a plant stall. Admission 50p including refreshments. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

SHOWS

Thursday May 8th 2008
"Singing in the Rain" L.A.D.O.S.

Thursday June 19th 2008
"The King and I"

Please ring Jean on 859220 to reserve your seat – thank you.

THANKS

We at St James's would like to congratulate and thank the young people of the parish, and others, for the wonderful displays they arranged for Eastertide. A lot of thought, work and time went into the project, and we want them to know how much it was appreciated. Thank you all.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Parish for the beautiful basket of flowers which was presented to me on my retirement as one of your organists. It has been a privilege and a joy to serve as both a full time and part time organist at St Peter's, St Andrew's and St James's for approximately twenty years. Sadly, circumstances have made it impossible for me to continue but I shall always have happy memories of my days at the keyboard. Thank you for all your good wishes.

Ailsa Cooper

CHURCH TAPESTRY KNEELERS

We three have been taking a rest but are now taking orders for church kneelers. Details can be obtained from:

Diane Brown	851254
Dorothy Magill	859641
Mary Wilson	853149

FROM THE DIOCESE

The diocese is holding a half-day conference on “The Challenge of Christian Stewardship” at St Cuthbert’s Church, Fulwood on Saturday 7th June 2008 from 9am to 2pm including a free buffet lunch. The guest speaker will be Paul Winstanley, Stewardship Advisor Ripon and Leeds Diocese and Bishop Geoff will be speaking about “the challenge in the Diocese”. A representative from the Inland Revenue will also be in attendance to discuss the “nuts and bolts” of Gift Aid. For further details or to book a place please contact Andrea at Church House on 01254 503070 ext 236.

God Our Rock

The course for those who want to know and grow in their faith.

This course is open to all – the only qualification being the participant’s desire to grow in their Christian faith. It takes place over one year, divided into 3 terms of 9 weeks. There are three day-conferences each year on subjects that complement the theme for each term. It acts as a preliminary for those wanting to go on to PA/Reader training.

The aims of *God Our Rock* are:

- To increase people’s understanding of God, the Bible and the Church.
- To equip participants to live faithfully as Christians today
- To appreciate more of God’s revelation and draw closer to God
- To get to know others and hear different points of view
- To examine different facets of the Christian faith
- To ask questions that people may have been wary of asking
- To clarify the basis for people’s belief
- To learn how Christians through history have made sense of God

Participants will gain:

- Confidence in their faith and Christian life
- A thorough grounding in the Bible, Christian teaching, the unfolding story of the Church and applied Christian living
- A grasp of how things fit together so sermons and Bible studies will become more fulfilling
- An understanding of how God is at work in the world
- A renewed sense of God
- A Diocesan certificate
- The possibility of nationally recognised awards via the Open College

Network.

The course costs £15 per term. For further information please contact the Rector or Jacqui Mallinson, God Our Rock Church House, Cathedral Close, Blackburn BB1 5AA or email ministry@blackburn.anglican.org

ST PETER'S HALL - IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is part of the tenancy agreement with the Diocesan Board of Finance that **no parking is allowed outside St Peter's Hall**. Please explain this to any drivers who try to park there. Obviously if we are in breach of the agreement we could lose the Hall!

ST JAMES CHAIRS

Now that Peter has finished as the caretaker at St James we are relying more on self help. Each organisation and congregation is asked to make its own arrangements for setting out the furniture and for returning it to the standard layout after their session. We have replaced the heavy metal chairs with light weight chairs to make this process easier. So far there has been an impressive spirit of mutual support for which we wish to thank you.

HOME COMMUNIONS

We have a small team of people specially licensed by the Bishop to take Holy Communion directly from the Sunday service to anyone who is temporarily unable to come to church. This is a way of sharing the fellowship of the Lord's Table with our church family and we are very grateful to the team for this ministry. If you would like to receive communion from one of the team, please contact the Rector and he will be glad to arrange this.

HOSPITAL VISITING

As most of you are aware, there are very strict rules of privacy in place governing hospital visiting and the Rector is unable to receive information directly from the hospital or even the hospital chaplain. If you would like the Rector to visit you must give him very full details, eg ward, full name, home address etc.

READING SHEETS

Sponsorship for the reading sheets for the last three months of 2008 is now being

prepared.

A payment of £5.00 enables us to provide reading sheets for one week for the whole parish. Dates can be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis and a dedication of up to twenty letters can be included. If you would like to sponsor a week please fill in a form or let Janet know which week you would like.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our magazine printers, Inprint Solutions, have moved to Chorley, very close to the railway station. We are hoping to form a team of volunteers to collect the magazine each month, please let the Rector know if you would like to be part of the team.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

To mark the 60th anniversary of the ending of the Palestine Mandate in 1948 the Palestine Veterans Association and the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association are holding a reunion at the National Arboretum and Armed Forces memorial and Leslie Morgan will be reading the lesson and leading the assembly in prayer.

The Heysham Parish Fundraising Group

SOUP AND ROLL DAY

Soup and Roll day will be part of the Christian Aid Effort on 10th May.

More details in this Magazine.

Don't miss this opportunity to have fun and make A REAL DIFFERENCE to those who have nothing but DESPERATE NEED.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Material for the JUNE magazine should be handed to the Rector by Sunday, May 11th 2008.