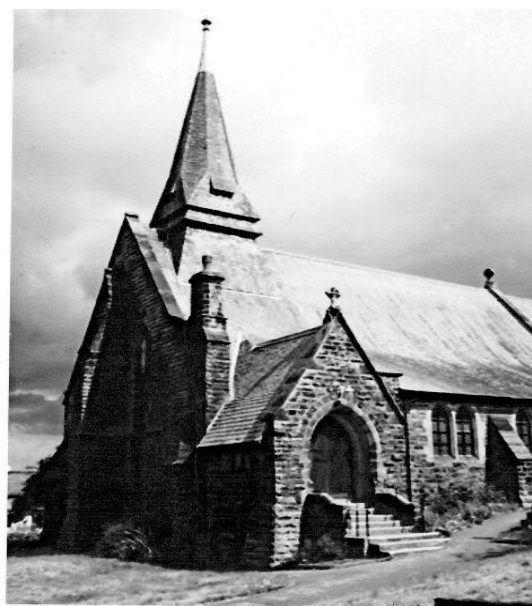


Parish News

For the parishes of :-

**St Luke's Dunham
on the Hill &
Hapsford**

**St Paul's
Helsby**



December 2010 & January 2011

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Priest in Charge

Rev. Margaret Saville
St Paul's Vicarage, Vicarage lane, Helsby. Tele: 01928 722151

Who's Who at Helsby St Pauls

Reader

Shirley Knipe Tele: 01928 724357

Church Wardens

Joan Langton Tele: 01928 723895

Ken Miller Tele: 01928 732064

Organist

Tony Green

PCC Treasurer

David Johnson Tele: 01928 722182

PCC Secretary

Barbara Atkinson Tele: 01928 722760

Giff Aid Secretary

Joan Langton Tele 01928 723895

Church Hall Bookings Secretary

Andrew Meakin Tele: 01928 724106

Web site: <http://www.stpaulshelsby.org.uk>

Who's Who at Dunham-on-the-hill St Lukes

Church Warden

Position Vacant

Organist

Robert Fletcher

PCC Treasurer

James Horncastle Tele: 01928 724436

PCC Secretary

Judy Ford Tele: 01928 723748

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Web site: <http://www.dunhamhillstlukes.org.uk>

Twitter site: <http://twitter.com/JudyATStLukes>

Priest's Corner

As this issue of the Parish News reaches you I am sure that almost everybody will be in the throes of planning for Christmas; a happy time for the majority of people but often the most difficult time of year for others. One of the comments often made to me is 'Christmas is a time for children' or 'Christmas isn't the same without children'. I do think having children around helps in creating a more magical atmosphere at this time of year but really Christmas is for everybody, no matter what their age.

Let's not forget that we celebrate Jesus birthday; the Son of God coming into the world to share life as we know it. He comes to share family life, growing up just as we have done with parents and siblings and extended family members, sharing the joys and sorrows of family life right up until he began his short ministry, and the path which brings us all life in abundance, forgiveness of sins and that promise of eternal life.

He also brings us new relationships, with God and with one another as we become church, the Christian family where all believers belong, and should feel able to belong. It is our joy as members of the church family to welcome all those who come to us no matter what their age or their ability or their understanding – we are members of the same family. Unfortunately we don't always get it right and some feel excluded or are upset by another family member's behaviour or attitude [just like any ordinary family], so they stay away. We are always learning and welcome opportunities of putting things right when we are aware of getting them wrong.

Perhaps Christmas time is a good opportunity for us all to think about our own family, our church family and put right anything that is out of kilter as we remember that Jesus came into the world to unite us in his love.

One of the ways that we are united with Christ and with one another in our church family is through sharing in worship, especially Holy Communion, when we remember other Christian families will also be sharing in their churches at the same time as ourselves. Very often visitors from other denominations come to our services for a variety of reasons and at different times of the year, especially when visiting their families at Christmas. Anyone who is a full member of their own church is welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion. If not confirmed within their own church then a blessing is always given at the altar rail to those who come forward. It is one way of including everyone in the family gathering.

If you haven't felt part of your church family for a while, or if you haven't visited your church family for a while, why not make this Christmas a new beginning and share fully in the joy of being part of Jesus family as we welcome him once again into the world. Let his love lift you and help you to feel you belong. We shall certainly be delighted to welcome everyone to our celebrations throughout the Christmas period at St Luke's Dunham-on-the-Hill and St Paul's Helsby.

Wishing you every blessing of this Christmas season and joy in all you hope for yourselves and your family and your church family in 2011.

Reverend Margaret

Autumn Fair

Many thanks to all those involved who came to support St Paul's Autumn Fair. Although numbers were down on last year, the event went with its usual swing. The notable event was Rev Margaret drawing her own ticket out first in the draw to a chorus of 'Fix!' from around the room. At the time of going to press a total of £713 had been raised. Well done to all.

A fond farewell (for now)!

Over the last few months Dennis Jones has been playing the organ at St Paul's whilst Tony Green has been out of action. We bade Dennis a fond farewell last week and he will always be welcome at any time in the future.

NEWS FROM ST LUKE'S
DUNHAM-ON-THE-HILL

Church Draw Winners for November 2010

- 1st G. Hall
- 2nd P. Hinkley
- 3rd A. Robert's children

Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford Community Survey
A Church at the Heart of the Community

Over several months this summer volunteers visited homes across the Parish to ask residents what they think about St Luke's Church and the part it plays in the local community. We asked six questions:

1. Do you attend a church?
2. Is the presence of St Luke's church in the community important to you?
3. Is there anything that puts you off coming to St Luke's?
4. What, if anything, would you like to see the church offer as an alternative to Sunday mornings?
5. Is there anything that St Luke's could do for the community?
6. Would you be interested in knowing when special services are on?

If people were out, or if they didn't have time to talk to us, we left copies of the questionnaire so that they could fill them in and return them to us. We also put the questionnaire on our website for people to download. We wanted everyone to have an opportunity to tell us what they think.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who visited homes and collected people's responses. We would also like to thank everyone who talked to them or who returned a questionnaire.

Thank you for your many suggestions of things that St Luke's might consider doing for the community and for telling us about the things that you don't like so much.

We have noted all of your comments and ideas, and the Parochial Church Council will be looking in more detail at them over the coming year and thinking about what we might do next to make St Luke's more relevant to the community as a whole.

We received 48 questionnaires, which is about 20% of the approximately 250 households in the Parish. Three quarters of respondents said that St Luke's is important to them. 8 people said that they would like to be notified when special services are on, and we have noted their email addresses or telephone numbers so that we can contact them. Please let us know if you would like to be added to this list.

The survey is part of St Luke's Growth Action Planning (GAP), which is an initiative being taken on by churches throughout the Chester Diocese. Our questionnaire has been included in the pack of ideas for GAP year 2, so that other parishes can use this idea in their own communities. Richard Burton, Parish Development Adviser, said "I'm very encouraged by the results of this survey, which shows that St Luke's is a valued part of the community. The ideas that have been put forward will give the PCC plenty to think about and help the church to focus on serving the needs of local people."

Christmas Services at St Luke's

Thursday December 23rd
Crib and Christingle Service
4.30 pm

Christmas Eve Communion
8.00 pm

Christmas Day Service
Morning Prayer for Christmas
Led by Prof Neville Ford
9:30am

Quiet Corner

You Mustn't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
Rest! If you must – but never quit.

Life is queer, with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out
Stick to your task, though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with one more blow

Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.
And you never can tell how close you are,
it may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit –
it's when things seem worst that you **MUSTN'T QUIT**

Two little boys

After a heavy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddles through her kitchen window. As she watched the older boy, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved him, face down, into the water hole.

As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping wet, the mother ran into the yard in panic.

"Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?" she asked as she shook the older boy in anger

"We were just playing 'church' mum" he said.

"And I was just baptizing him .. in the name of the Father; the Son and in ... the hole-he-goes"

How well do you know your bible? Answers in February

1. Who were Cain and Abel's parents?
2. Who were Noah's sons
3. Which of Joseph's brothers determined to sell him into captivity?
4. Which brother did Joseph hold hostage?
5. What were the ten plagues visited upon the Egyptians?
6. Who succeeded Moses as leader of the Israelites?
7. Who was Ruth's husband?
8. Who succeeded David as king of Israel ?
9. Who was placed in the fiery furnace by Nebuchadnezzar?
10. Who had Daniel thrown into the lions den ?
11. Who was swallowed by a whale?
12. Who was the father of John the Baptist ?
13. Where did Jesus turn water into wine?
14. Which disciple was a tax collector ?
15. Whose daughter did Jesus restore to life?
16. Which tax collector did Jesus call down from a tree?
17. Who denied Jesus thrice ?
18. In whose tomb was Jesus laid?
19. What was the nick-name of Thomas the Doubter?
20. Who was the first martyr?

Parish Profile



This month we introduce you to Barbara Seville from St Paul's Church.

Barbara was born in 1943 in a small Staffordshire mining village where everyone knew everyone and just popped in and out of each others homes. Life was quiet and safe and they didn't feel the need to lock their doors.

Her mother was a staunch Methodist and Barbara went to Sunday School from a very early age. She was the eldest of four children and was frequently accused by her siblings of being

bossy! They are all the best of friends now and are very close to one another.

Barbara's education began at Heathcote Primary School which was in the next village and Barbara can clearly remember the day that the school bus could not make it up the hill during the bad weather and they all had a day off school! At the age of eleven she went to Sir Thomas Boughy High School where she discovered an aptitude for writing and a strong disinclination for Maths.

After school there was college and after qualifying, Barbara went to a residential special school in Rudyard, working with children with physical disabilities. It was here that she met her first husband and they were married in 1967. 1971 saw the arrival of her first daughter Kate, followed four years later by Jane. For the next ten years all Barbara's energy went into bringing up the girls- although she did find time to become Founder Chairman of Biddulph Ladies Circle and for two years ran a local playgroup.

In 1982 her husband Philip was asked to go to Africa to run a textile factory. Barbara stayed in England to get the girls settled into boarding school and then, in March 1983, she flew out to join him.

They spent eight years in Zaire, seven of which she worked at the Zaire British association School with a team of Baptist missionary teachers. Barbara made some lasting friendships and had some amazing experiences when in Africa. During one school holiday she took the girls up to the Kivu and Rwanda region on a safari holiday where they trekked through thick forest to see mountain gorillas. “It was an unforgettable experience” says Barbara.

The years passed quickly but she was happy to return to England and be back with her girls in 1991. On their return they settled in Cheshire and began to worship at Knutsford Methodist Church (KMC) where she helped to run a beginners class in junior church. After her marriage ended she was on the move again, this time to Lymm. During this period Barbara helped to set up and run a nursery for the Red Cross. This was a very successful venture but after two years she was happy to be lured back into Knutsford primary education as a teaching assistant where she stayed until she retired two years ago.

In early 1998 her colleague from the Red Cross engineered a meeting between Colin and Barbara and they got on wonderfully well right from the start. So well in fact, that they were married at KMC in October 1999 – the beginning of a blissfully happy time for them both. Colin introduced her to St Paul’s – although at first it was hard to tear herself away from KMC. They both still have links there and are members of a house Bible Study Group.

Since Barbara retired she has been able to get more involved in St Paul’s and loves being part of the congregation. She enjoys worship and hopes she can make a small contribution to the life of the church. Her faith means a great deal to her and has helped her through good times and bad. One of the hymns at their wedding was “One more step along the world I go” and Barbara tries to live her life that way – knowing that God is always there. Her Favourite hymn is “Immortal, Invisible” because of the beautiful words.

Retirement has given Barbara more time for sewing, knitting, gardening and making things for the home. A real luxury is to be able to take time out to read a good book! The downside is having to cook every night, Colin did a lot of it while she was still working !

They enjoy going to the theatre and concerts but their greatest pleasure these days is spending time with their baby granddaughters who have brought them both such immense joy.

Your roving reporter

Patricia Holder

Christmas Services at St Paul's

Christmas Eve
Crib and Christingle Service
4.30 pm

Midnight Mass
11.30 pm

Christmas Communion
10.00 am

Children [of all ages] are invited
to bring along a gift to show the congregation

EXTRACTS from SOLOMON'S DIARY I 1014 BC

I am now king of Israel. It is odd to think that this is because of a promise my father made to a beautiful woman he once saw taking a bath. My half-brother Adonija had expected to be king, so he wasn't much pleased that David had made me his successor. As a consolation he asked for Abishag (remember? the nice young lady who kept my father warm at night) to be his wife. That was not on! A former king's wives and concubines can only be given to the next king. So Abishag is mine. Adonija has had to die.

I have married Pharaoh's daughter - a small price to pay for keeping peace with Egypt. She's a pleasant girl, but a bit heavy on the mascara. She talks in hieroglyphics - I haven't the faintest idea what she's saying.

Amen

by David Knipe



Come and Sing Carols at St Paul's!

Following on the success of the last years Christmas Carol Service we are making plans for *Christmas 2010*.

This year's carol Service will be on Sunday 19 December at 6.30pm in St Paul's Church Helsby.

If you would like to join a singing group for Sun 19 December, please speak to Gary O'Neill (01928 723 327) or come to any of the rehearsals on Thursday nights in St Paul's Church. Everyone is welcome to come and sing, whatever your experience, and the weekly rehearsals follow the normal Choir practice [7.30pm. – 8.00pm]



So please come along on the following Thursdays at 8.00pm:

Thursday 29 November

Thursday 2 December

Thursday 9 December

Thursday 16 December

And a final rehearsal on Sunday 19 December at 5.00pm

The Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

St Luke's

21st November

Ben Chasey Hamilton
Rihanna Winnie Jean Hamilton

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for Ben and Rihanna, grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Funerals

St Paul's

22nd September Frederick Alan Evans 84 years

2nd November Dorothy Hayes 81 years

Lord God, creator of all, you have made us creatures of this earth, but have also promised us a share in life eternal. According to your promises, may all who have died in the peace of Christ share with your saints in the joy of heaven, where there is neither sorrow nor pain but life everlasting. Amen.

A prayer (based on the 23rd Psalm)

The Lord is my leader
He will keep me in safety to walk with him throughout my life

He will guide me through the rocky, barren and thorny paths into a safe haven where peace, serenity and security dwell.

He will take unto himself, all the insults and hurts in my earthly life and turn them into love, forgiveness and peace.

He has promised to lead me without fear, softly into his Heavenly Kingdom and dwell with him throughout all eternity.

Amen – So be it!
Elizabeth M Fowler June 2010

Dates for Your Diary

- 11th December Christmas Grotto in the Village Hall
4.00 pm to 6.00 pm
- 12th December Carol Service in St Luke's church 6pm.
- 17th December Chester City Band concert
in St Luke's church 7.30pm tickets £6.50
- 19th December St Paul's Carol Service featuring
Hillside Primary School 6.30 pm
Followed by mulled wine and mince pies
- 24th December Crib & Christingle Service at
St Paul's 4.30 pm
- 24th December Carol singing in Dunham area 7pm and 9pm (before
and after Christmas Eve communion service at St Luke's)
- 26th December Joint communion service at St Paul's church, 10am.
(Note: there will be no service at St Luke's on this day.)
- 8th January Book Stall and Coffee Morning
10am -12 noon in St Luke's Church room
- 9th January Plough Sunday at St Luke's
- 9th January Healing Service St Paul's 6:30pm
- 17th January St Paul PCC Meeting 7.30 pm
- 18th January St Luke's PCC GAP pre-planning
meeting. 7.30, 17 Talbot Road.
- 27th January St Luke's PCC meeting 7.30 in Church
Room
- 30th January St Luke's GAP Year 2 open meeting.
10.30am in church (after the service).

Festive Fare

What are the origins of some of our most popular Christmas food?

Turkey – meat has always been a staple part of the traditional Christmas meal -, although it has not always been a turkey. It is believed that the act of serving a large roasted joint of meat at Christmas originated from ancient sacrificial rites designed to appease the gods and guarantee a good harvest in the year ahead. Meats favoured for this were beef, mutton, pork, peacocks and swans. It was King James I who introduced the turkey during the 17th Century for the simple reason that it was better for his digestion. However, not everyone could afford the expensive new addition and the poor of the land substituted goose for the turkey because they were more plentiful.

Mince Pies – mince pies have been around for centuries, although they have not always been presented in the way we know and love today. In the original form they were much larger and crib shaped (to represent the manger in the story of the birth of Jesus). They were also full of real meat, spices and fruit. They fell foul of Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate who felt that they were far too excessive for his puritan taste buds and promptly banned them. They arrived back after the Restoration although the actual meat content was not removed until the 20th Century.

Christmas Pudding – The origins of the good old Christmas pud (otherwise known as 'plum/figgy pudding') are believed to date back to medieval times when plum pottage was a popular dish during celebrations. This was meat broth with breadcrumbs and dried fruit added and seasoned with wine and spices. The broth developed into a thicker pudding when pudding cloths were invented in the 17th century and the meat content was removed. The pudding sealed itself as part of Christmas when it was introduced to the Royal Christmas dinner table by Prince Albert.

Christmas Cake – the custom of a Christmas Cake (fruit cake with marzipan and icing) dates back to Victorian times. Before that cake was eaten during the festive period but without any toppings. It is believed that the use of marzipan is linked to Tudor Marchpane (an iced and decorated marzipan cake) that was often used as a table centrepiece during banquets.

Collects for January 2011

January 2nd Christmas 2

God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.

January 9th The Baptism of Christ

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

January 16th Epiphany 2

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

January 23rd Epiphany 3

God of all mercy your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

January 30th Epiphany 4

God of heaven, you send the Gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God the Father,
Help us to hear the call of Christ the King
And to follow in his service,
Whose kingdom has no end;
For he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, one glory

Services in January 2011

January 2nd

Christmas 2

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------------------|
| St Paul | 08.00 am | Holy Communion [BCP] |
| St Luke | 09.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| St Paul | 11.00 am | Sung Communion |

5th Wednesday Worship at St Paul's 7.30 pm

January 9th

The Baptism of Christ

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------------------|
| St Paul | 08.00 am | Holy Communion [BCP] |
| St Luke | 09.30 am | Holy Communion |
| St Paul | 11.00 am | Sung Communion |
| St Paul | 06.30 pm | Healing Service |

12th Wednesday Worship at St Paul's 7.30 pm

January 16th

Epiphany 2

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------------------|
| St Paul | 08.00 am | Holy Communion [BCP] |
| St Luke | 09.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| St Paul | 11.00 am | Sung Communion |

19th Wednesday Worship at St Paul's 7.30 pm

January 23rd

Epiphany 3

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------------------|
| St Paul | 08.00 am | Holy Communion [BCP] |
| St Luke | 09.30 am | Holy Communion |
| St Paul | 11.00 am | Sung Communion |

26th Wednesday Worship at St Paul's 7.30 pm

January 30th

Epiphany 4

| | | |
|---------|----------|----------------------|
| St Paul | 08.00 am | Holy Communion [BCP] |
| St Luke | 09.30 am | Holy Communion |
| St Paul | 11.00 am | Sung Communion |

Collects for December 2010

December 5th Advent 2

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

December 12th Advent 3

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

December 19th Advent 4

Eternal God, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

December 25th Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth; accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Services in December 2010

1st Wednesday Worship at St Paul's 7.30 pm

December 5th Advent 2

St Paul 08.00 am Holy Communion [BCP]
St Luke 09.30 am Morning Prayer
St Paul 11.00 am Family Service

8th Wednesday Worship at St Paul's 7.30 pm

December 12th Advent 3

St Paul 08.00 am Holy Communion [BCP]
St Luke 09.30 am Holy Communion
St Paul 11.00 am Sung Communion
St Luke 06.00 pm Carol Service

15th Wednesday Worship at St Paul's 7.30 pm

December 19th Advent 4

St Paul 08.00 am Holy Communion [BCP]
St Luke 09.30 am Morning Prayer
St Paul 11.00 am Sung Communion
St Paul 06.30 pm Carol Service followed by
Mince Pies and Mulled Wine in the Church Hall

23rd Wednesday Worship at St Paul's 7.30 pm

December 23rd

St Luke 04.30 pm Crib & Christingle Service

December 24th Christmas Eve

St Paul 04.30 pm Crib & Christingle Service
St Luke 08.00 pm Christmas Communion
St Paul 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

December 25th Christmas Day

St Luke 09.30 am Christmas Service
St Paul 10.00 am Christmas Communion

December 26th St Stephen's Day

St Paul 10.00 am Combined Communion Service
for both St Paul's and St Luke's

29th December No Wednesday Worship