

ST. MARY'S CHURCH * WREAY

December 2018 & January 2019

This edition is kindly sponsored by Alex & Jane at the Plough Inn

Sunday Services

2nd December	11.00am	Holy Communion
9th December	11.00am	Morning Service
16th December	11.00am	Holy Communion
23rd December	No Service	
24th December	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service
30th December	10.30am	United Service St Michael's, Dalston
6th January	11.00am	Holy Communion
13th January	11.00am	Morning Service
20th January	11.00am	Holy Communion
27th January	6.00pm	Evening Service

Christmas Eve Carol Service

Come and celebrate the festive season at our special carol service on Monday 24th December at 6.00pm. Please note that there will be no service at St Mary's on Sunday 23rd December.

Midweek Communion

There will be a midweek communion at Wreay Hall on Wednesday 16th & 30th January at 10am.

1st December: Beneath the Beacon

Beneath the Beacon is a night of music and poetry on Saturday 1st December from 7.30pm in St Mary's Church. Part of this summer's celebration in Penrith, this is only the second performance and is a collection of original songs, tunes and poetry inspired by local, historic characters brought to life in model and automata form by Dawn Hurton.

The historical figures portrayed include Sarah Losh, Lady Anne Clifford, coffin-ship campaigner Samuel Plimsoll, the Yellow Earl, travelling player Charlotte Deans, suffragist Catherine Marshall and poacher William Graham to name but a few.

The array of songs and poems, which includes 'A Song for Sarah' were written by a group of local artists and include poignant, uplifting and at times comical pieces which promise to provide a uniquely interesting and memorable evening.

Tickets are £5 and available from Bookends, 19 Castle Street, Carlisle, or Ad lib, 9b King Street, Penrith, or call 016974 73687 or complete the enquiry form at www.stmaryswreay.org.uk.

Parish People - Alex Foster

Alex, who was born in Hull 52 years ago, has been landlord of the Plough Inn for nearly five years. The Plough won the *Best Country Pub* in the *Carlisle Living Awards 2018*. To quote *Taste Cumbria*, 'It's a small pub in an even smaller village that's renowned for an extraordinary building. But the Plough's pitch-perfect pub food attracts perhaps as many visitors to Wreay as its Victorian church (famously designed by a woman, Sarah Losh). A simple, cosy interior sets the scene for well-executed dishes that please all generations, from melting slow-roasts to proper pies and juicy burgers'.

Alex looks forward to giving you a warm welcome over the festive season. Call 016974 75770 to book a table.

What did you want to be when growing up?

A musician in a band.

When were you happiest?

Playing music

What is your greatest fear?

Not being able to play music anymore.

What was your most embarrassing moment?

Breaking my thumb playing cricket and then gigging the same evening, having to tell the band and 'adapt' my guitar playing.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

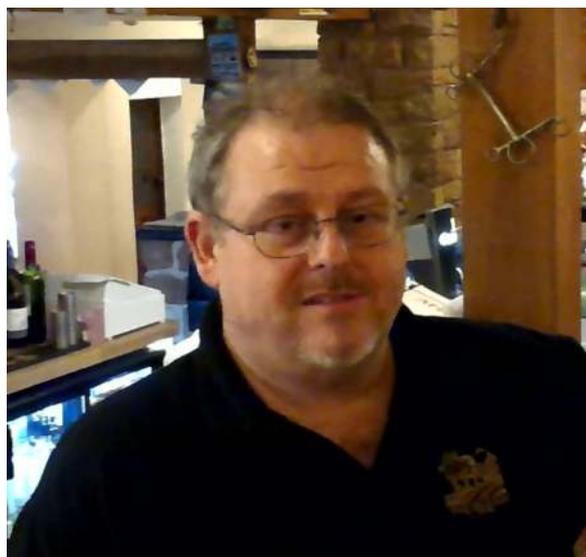
Keith Moon

How do you relax?

What is relaxation?

What is your favourite thing about Wreay?

The pub and its customers.



5th December: St Mary's House Group

The next meeting of the House Group will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th December at Lister Hogg's, Chapel Hill, Wreay when we will be studying Psalm 90 - Praying the Dead. All welcome.

11th Dec: Stoneraise, Wreay & District WI

The AGM on 13th November went well. Elizabeth Potts was elected as President, Sally Threlkeld as Treasurer and Sue Dixon as Secretary.

The next meeting is on 11th December at Skitby when there will be lunch, a demonstration and tea. The competition is for a Christmas napkin and the present is a gift worth £5.

Scalesceugh Hall Christmas Events

Scalesceugh Hall are holding a number of events leading up to Christmas with proceeds going to Eden Valley Hospice. All events take place from 2.30 to 5.00pm and must be booked in advance.

9th December: Wreath Making

15th December: Eden Baroque £12

16th December: Eden Baroque £12

Concerts include mulled wine and mince pies. Craft workshops include afternoon tea and cakes. Book online at www.scalesceughvillas.co.uk or call 07888 896902 or email info@scalesceughvillas.co.uk.

23rd January: St Mary's House Group

The House Group will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd January at Lister Hogg's, Chapel Hill, Wreay when we will be studying Psalm 150 - Praying our Praise. All welcome.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

Welcome to Skyla Maggie Malloy who was baptised in St Mary's on 21st October and Owen James Steel who was baptised on Sunday 18th November.

Holy Matrimony

Congratulations and best wishes to Nicholas Alexander Paton and Laura Jane Mason who were married in St Mary's on 29th September.

Thank You

I would like to thank all those who have helped with the flowers, cleaning of the brass and the church throughout the year, it is much appreciated.

Thanks also to Wreay School for their generous donation to the food bank at harvest time and all those who contributed throughout the year.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy 2019. Jennifer Johnson

Thank you also to all those who took part in the Parish People items this year. Raymond Whittaker

Church Helpers

Sidesperson

2nd December	Jim Budd
9th December	Lynn Jones
16th December	Bettie Gray
24th December	Sally Budd

6th January	Patricia Harrison
13th January	Lister Hogg
20th January	Raymond Whittaker
27th January	Stan & Eva Bird

Administer the Chalice

2nd December	Lister Hogg
16th December	Bettie Gray
6th January	Jim Budd
20th January	Jennifer Johnson

Church Cleaning

2nd December	Elizabeth Ross
9th December	Richard Dixon
16th December	Elizabeth Potts
30th December	Patricia Harrison
6th January	Jan Massey
13th January	Elizabeth Roberts
20th January	Pat Cherry
27th January	Bettie Gray

Hall Cleaning

1st December	Mike Turnbull
18th December	Gerald Gerrard
15th December	Jennifer Johnson
5th January	Stan & Eva Bird
12th January	Ellie Clark
19th January	Geoff Metcalfe
26th January	John Thoburn

Readers

2nd December	Lynn Jones
9th December	Elizabeth Roberts
16th December	Lister Hogg
6th January	Jim Budd
13th January	Richard Dixon
20th January	Patricia Harrison
27th January	Bettie Gray

Readings

2nd December	1st Jeremiah 33: 14-16
	2nd 1Thessalonians 3:9-end
	Gospel Luke 21: 25-36
9th December	1st Malachi 3: 1-4
	2nd Philippians 1: 3-11
	Gospel Luke 3: 1-6
16th December	1st Zephaniah 3: 14-end
	2nd Philippians 4: 4-7
	Gospel Luke 3: 7-18
6th January	1st Isaiah 60: 1-6
	2nd Ephesians 3: 1-12
	Gospel Matthew 2: 1-12
13th January	1st Isaiah 43: 1-7
	2nd Acts 8: 14-17
	Gospel Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
20th January	1st Isaiah 60: 1-6
	2nd 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
	Gospel John 2: 1-11
27th January	1st Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
	2nd 1Corinthians 12:12-31a
	Gospel Luke 4: 14-21

Dear Friends,

It's Christmas time once more, and the time to get out the yearly decorations. Holly wreaths find their way onto our doors to welcome the visitor, mistletoe appears mysteriously hanging above our heads in unexpected places as an excuse to catch a kiss from those we admire, poinsettias adorn the table together with Christmas roses. What better way to celebrate the festival than by bringing a bit of nature into our homes.

The bright-red holly berry represents for us the blood that Jesus spilt on the cross, and its spiky leaves remind us of the crown of thorns that he bore as he won for us a way back to God. As a green plant in the winter, mistletoe is said to symbolize Christ's re-birth. Poinsettias probably came to be used in Christmas decorations as they bloom in the winter and are the perfect Christmas colours as well as being star-shaped. And the purity of Christ is shown in the white flowers of the Christmas rose.

Several myths surround the use of these plants at Christmas time. There is a medieval legend that the mistletoe was once a tree from which Jesus' cross was fashioned. Because of its contribution to the crucifixion, God punished it by making it into a parasitic plant that could never again grow on its own. Both the poinsettia and the Christmas rose appear in stories where someone was unable to provide a gift for Jesus, but their tears were turned by angels into something worth giving.

Yet, strangely, all these plants are poisonous! Christmas roses have provided the toxins used to poison arrows, and they can cause cardiovascular disorders, convulsions and respiratory failure. Mistletoe has also been known to cause unpleasant symptoms and also death through drinking tea that was believed to be a therapeutic herbal drink. Ingesting the poinsettia simply leads to nausea and vomiting, and most cases of holly poisoning are equally mild.

It seems strange that these poisonous plants are used to celebrate the greatest move of God to combat the poison that humankind brought into God's perfect world. But then I suppose that God's pure act of love was surrounded by more human poison, as first Herod tried to kill Jesus as a baby, and then the religious authorities of the day sought to eliminate him, eventually succeeding (or so they thought) at the cross. God's love, though, cannot be thwarted! God's love is more powerful than anything. It can change the way we look at things in a new way and see the beauty in these plants whilst avoiding their poison.

May God's love fill us this Christmas and enable us to see those around us as he does – in all their beauty.

Steve Carter

