

**April
2025**

**Theme:
'Cross'**

Faith in the Moor



News, Views and Articles of Interest



60 pence

“The Old Rugged Cross”

Giovanni dal Ponte

“Mary Magdalene embracing
The Cross”

[between 1400 and 1438]

Fitzwilliam, Cambridge

<http://data.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/id/object/424>



Mary kneels at the foot of the cross. She has her arms wrapped around it in an embrace. It almost looks as if she is hanging on, in the middle of an earthquake, as the rocks split around her. Her mouth is downturned in a frown, and her eyes are turned towards us, mournful and sorrowful.

But the cross is already empty apart from the Crown of Thorns. The body has been taken away – yet she remains, clinging to the old wooden cross. A blood-stained hole by her hands shows us where Jesus’ feet have been nailed.

The words of the popular hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” were written in 1912 by an evangelist named George Bennard. He was a Methodist preacher who held evangelistic rallies. One night in his meeting, he was heckled and jeered at. Some men made fun of him and his faith. In response he wrote the

words of the hymn, averring that he was never ashamed of the Cross of Christ. Later, the hymn was popularised by another famous evangelist

called Billy Sunday, and it went on to become a Country Gospel Music favourite covered by singers like Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Willie Nelson and Elvis Presley (to name but a few...)

*"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.*

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown."*

So, Mary clings to her cross, almost like a drowning sailor clinging to the mast of a sinking ship. And... maybe that's exactly the image – that in the storms of life we can only cling to the Cross.

The Cross tells us exactly how much we are loved and cherished by the Father, and the cost he was willing to pay for our freedom, winning us back to himself. Whatever storm I may find myself in, I can **always cling to this fact: I am loved.**

Hold on to the cross! *Dave Milner, Methodist Superintendent Minister*

Never a Cross Word

Obviously you would expect a Christian magazine to focus on the Cross of Christ through Lent and Easter. But there's so much more to that one word! From the Market Cross on our cover, to Cross Fell under which we all dwell. We ponder when being cross can harm us, and when it might be good to be angry. We explore the history of crossword puzzles, and celebrate cross-stitch, embroidery and other needlecrafts alive on the Moor. As we give thanks for the new lambs we ask how many of the common local breeds you recognize. Sheep have to be hardy to thrive up here; some are special cross-breeds. And from woolly to Woolly's, we chat with Steve and Marie at the Station café. Cross-fertilization inspires this magazine, a happy partnership between Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholics. We are looking for a new team member, especially if you are Methodist or Free Church, or can use a word-processing programme. Help with distribution would be hugely appreciated too. Please get in touch – see p34.

BNW

Market Ups and Downs

Some snippets from the history of Alston Market Cross



1754 William Stephenson Of Crosslands was elected Alderman of Bridge Ward Within. In 1757 he became Sheriff and he was elected Lord Mayor of London in **1764**. from "A New History of London", John Noorthouck.

ca 1897 Jean Ryding

In celebration of becoming mayor, William gave money for the erection of a Market Cross in his home town of Alston on land given by the Lords of the Manor, the Greenwich Hospital. Inscription in St. Augustine's Church:

'This Market Cross was erected by The Right Honourable Sr. WILLIAM STEPHENSON Kn(ight) born at Cross Lands in this parish and elected Lord Mayor of London 1764'



1871 from book by 'Austin Clare' - pen name of Wilhelmina

Martha James daughter of the Rev Octavious James of Clarghyll Hall.

1883: In the centre of the town stands a neat Market Cross, erected by subscription in 1883, at a cost of £154, of which sum H.P. Stephenson, Esq., of London, contributed £50 and the Lords Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital a like sum." (Bulmer's Directory 1901 online, page 325). Apparently the Greenwich Hospital took exception to its not being credited in the original inscription for donating the ground which the Cross stood, and instructed it to be removed.

WWII Italian POWs, Simon Danby



from Joan Walton's collection, 1953



1970 press cuttings

The cross has been demolished by runaway lorries a couple of times, and has been the location for filming historical productions.

1980

Simon Danby



1996 Jane Eyre



1999 Oliver Twist

The lamp on the top is a memorial to Hugh Kearton, the first chairman of the Historical Society.

Alastair Robertson



2022 for Ukraine Eve Pollard

*Ed: Next time you buy fruit and veg from Paul under the Market Cross, just think of the times it has seen!
Many thanks to Alastair and the Alston Moor Historical Society*

Suspended in Time

A pivotal moment in history



We used to divide time between 'BC' and 'AD' – 'before Christ' and 'Anno Domini.'

The modern terms 'BCE' and 'CE' – before the common era and common era – still pivot on the birth of Christ.

St Paul is different. He pivots the whole of time and history, creation itself, a few decades later. Not the birth, but the self-emptying, death-defeating act of Christ on the cross. There's a lovely German word for his theology – 'heilsgeshichte:' salvation history somehow doesn't quite cover it. St Paul was passionate that the whole of God's plan – creation, fall, flood, covenant, Law, even sin – was leading up to and dependent on the cross. And to him that moment wasn't just an end, but a beginning – the first fruits, the catalyst of new life in every age to come. It is not a passing moment, but one which ricochets backwards and forwards in time, healing creation, saving all God's children, long dead and yet to come.

Paul writes passages of resounding power and triumph in Ephesians and Colossians, ringing with joy in what Jesus achieved on the Cross. And in Romans 8.31-39 he exults in this transforming act of undefeatable love,

from which nothing and no-one can separate us, nothing at all, not ever.



(See John 19:17-37)

04-18-2014

"I, JESUS, HEREBY BEQUEATH MY CARPENTRY STUFF TO ZED, MY GOOD TUNIC TO ROB, AND I'LL BE BACK TO PICK UP THE REST. TO EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ... I LEAVE LIFE."

The secular world says 'we all have our cross to bear' as if it's about this life's problems over which we have no power. Christians hear or read 'take up your cross and follow me' and rejoice: it is not a burden to fear, but something we are free to choose, something that is bursting with life and healing power.

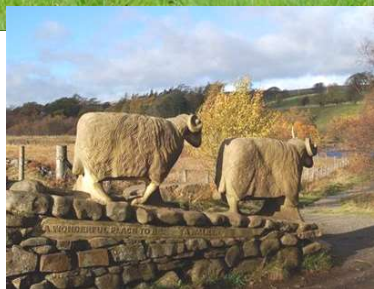
BNW

Pure Bred, Cross Bred and Happy Bred

When we first moved to Alston over ten years ago, I wouldn't have known a Texel from a Teeswater. Friends soon pointed out the differences to me! Can you identify these nine most common breeds of ewes and lambs which you may see around the Moor this month? You may see a ewe of one breed looking after a lamb from another.

Catton last month





Breeds shown are Swaledale, Texel, Blue-faced Leicester, North of England Mule, Teeswater, North Country Cheviot, Herdwick, Rough Fell, and Jacobs. And a couple snook in from down the valley!

Thank you to Ollie Harrison for his expert advice. BNW





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‘Be Angry but Sin Not’

Can anger be a good thing?

Lots of things in life can make us cross, but most pass. The problem is when they hang around and affect our mental health, or our faith. If we try to pretend we’re not angry, and swallow our feelings, they can make us ill. It can be one of the many elements of depression.

The heading comes from Eph 4.26. The Message version reads: ‘Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don’t use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don’t stay angry. Don’t go to bed angry. Don’t give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.’

The big things that fire up righteous anger are injustice, cruelty, abuse of power, oppression. Sometimes mere compassion for the victim is not enough and appropriately directed anger at the cause is valid, even creative. ‘But sin not’ – ungodly reactions can do more harm than good. So much ‘social’ media seems to be powered by false or misdirected anger, and is poisoning our relationships and sense of common humanity.

Matt 5.22 ‘whosoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be in danger of judgment.’

What a warning for us. It is important to remember how others might feel in the heat of our anger.



Sometimes we feel powerless against global events and trends, and turn our anger on God who we believe should fix all our problems for us. We have a pastor friend, who after his Mother’s suffering told himself ‘there is no God.’ We also have a Ukrainian friend whose faith struggled in the face of what is happening in her country. One third of the Bible is people expressing their anger and pain to God, occasionally saying ‘why should I believe in you? I Quit.’

But when things calm down and we stop treating prayer as a slot machine we find God is still there with us. Both our friends found Him again and their faith is stronger.

George Mullard and BNW

A P.S. from George; thank you to all those who remembered my birthday!

Crossroads of Life

Marie and Steve Wooldridge were at a crossroads in life and have very happily followed the signs to Alston. When young, Steve had dreams of having a career in football, however those dreams came to an end and he found that he enjoyed the retail trade. He found it suited him as he liked chatting and being with people. He had also always enjoyed and was considered 'arty' at school. Meanwhile Marie was a bit of a 'free spirit' and had several occupations including Administration, Cinema supervisor,



a photography business and studio and a great interest in baking. This was inevitable as her Mother's family had a bakery business. During the 'Covid lockdown' Marie and Steve developed a home bakery business from their home in Essex, selling online via social media and later when lockdown finished, worked for 4-5 years selling their bakes on a market.

Sometimes life presents new challenges in unexpected places, in their case it was at a family funeral. They were talking to Steve's brother Paul about how they hoped to have maybe a catering wagon/food truck and eventually a cafe. Fortuitously Paul and family had already moved to Cumbria just up the road from Alston in Slaggyford. Imagine the conversation starting with 'There is a Buffet car at Slaggyford and by the way there is also a café on the station in Alston that are looking for new people to run them.' So, it seemed meant to be. From mid-November 2024 they became key-holders of the Cafe on the station at Alston. They offer hospitality to many of the visitors to the station and any other people that wish to call in and enjoy the food and drink.

Wooly's is not only the station cafe but as they say 'A safe space that is comfortable and Community orientated'. This is shown by the local people that are exhibiting paintings and photographs on their wall space and how they are welcoming other people that help each other. So far there is a crochet group on a Wednesday afternoon and Kirsty (Sister in law to Steve) who happens to be a dog trainer, is also in the café on Saturday



Retriever puppy. Apart from the catering challenges, dogs and four grown up daughters, they are always looking for new challenges. Steve's favourite cake is Kinder Cookie Pie and challenge is to build himself a bar at home! Marie's favourite cake is lemon drizzle and her aim is to have 2 beautiful family dogs that are immaculately trained. As from the 1st Saturday in April (the 5th) the café will be open with extra staff every day from 9.00-5.00 but closed on a Monday. The Buffet car will also be operational at Slaggyford when the trains are running from the first Saturday in April under the direct care of Marie. Orders for Wooly's cafe can be taken by phoning on 07491 598693. What is there not to like?

JH



A Calling to Crafters

The Cross Stitch kneelers in St Augustine's are testament to the faith and skill of so many crafters, worth taking time to view. We have been told the Victorian Altar frontals are superb examples of the finest embroidery of their era. But it's not just the churches that celebrate needlecraft. Why not join one of the local craft groups for inspiration, assistance, refreshments, laughter and above all friendship.

The **Slaggyford** WI craft club is now 99 years old. It started when the ladies of the WI were nearly all farmers' wives and sewing and knitting were part of life. First knitting socks, balaclavas and anything else needed by soldiers of the Second World War. In about the fifties it was lace making, tatting, embroidery, tapestry and probably knitting too.

In 2000 the ladies made tapestry kneelers for Saint Jude's church, then it was vests for the newspaper babies, teddies also for abroad and baby blankets. At the moment it is bobble hats, jumpers, felt animals with cute clothes, and knitted animals, all for charity. But the prime reason for this club is friendship and chat.

We meet every Monday afternoon at 2pm in the Knaresdale with Kirkhaugh Cairns Community Hall.

Irene Boyles

Garrigill Knit and Natter – every Wednesday afternoon 2 – 4p.m.
Garrigill Village Hall £2.00
Contact Helen Green 382374



Nenthead Knit and Natter – every Friday afternoon 1.30 – 3.30p.m.
Nenthead Village Hall £2.00
Contact Christine Habberjam – 381489.

Alston Craft Group- every other Tuesday afternoon 1 – 3p.m. (from 1st April)
Masonic Hall £2.00 Contact Gill Rogers 381473.

Every other session – we all jointly make a Craft of some sort, otherwise bring along your Knitting, Sewing, Card Making, Rugging, Tapestry, Quilting or Craft of your choice – or a project you have never finished or are stuck with, always someone can come up with an idea to help you.



All these groups have tea/coffee breaks and often cake or biscuits or both.

You can become involved with the Linus Project – Contact Vita Collins of Brampton – 01697 742093 (e-mail bandrcollins@aol.com) WI members are all currently making a quilt (either sewn or knitted), quilts are given to children in need of comfort and remain in Cumbria.

Gill Rogers

Thank you to Jane Lowry for her cross stitch artworks photographed specially for FitM.

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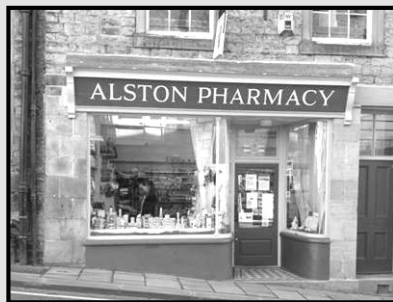
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Church Contact Details

METHODIST

Superintendent Minister: Rev David Milner

(day free of duties: Friday) 1 Lamley Gardens, Penrith CA11 9LR

☎ 07597 639314 ✉ dave@revmilner.plus.com



Lay Pastoral Worker: Dean Lawson Phone: 07897 736024

Email: laypastor@penrithmethodist.co.uk

Church Steward: Mr John de la Mare ☎ 07802 709320

🌐 www.eastofedenmc.org.uk 📘 facebook.com/alstonmoormethodistchurch

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Parish Priest: Fr John Winstanley (usual day off: Monday)

Deacons; Rev. Charlie Conner, Rev. David Greaves

St Catherine's Rectory, Drovers Lane, Penrith CA11 9EL

☎ 01768 862273 ✉ penrithrc@btinternet.com

Local Contact: Anne & Paul Parkin ☎ 01434 381704

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QUAKERS

Carol Graham ☎ 01388 517145 ✉ hillhouseeast@yahoo.co.uk

Antony Christie ☎ 01434 381633 ✉ antonychristie@aol.com

Kate Webb ☎ 01434 381562 ✉ kate.webb@yahoo.co.uk



CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Vicar: the Revd Mark Nash-Williams (usual day off: Monday)

The Parsonage, Brampton Road, Alston, Cumbria CA9 3AA

☎ 01434 382558 ✉ vicar@alstonmoorcofe.org.uk



Churchwardens:



Alston Andy Morsman 07375 905246

Garrigill Vacant – contact one of the other Wardens

Kirkhaugh Richard Graham 381367

Knaresdale Irene Boyles 381388 Carol Grieves 382472

Nenthead Madeleine Harris 382144 Simon Crossley 200241

Lambley Vacant – contact one of the other Wardens

🌐 www.alstonmoorcofe.org.uk 📘 facebook.com/alstonmoorchurches

Methodist Services



All services at 11.00 am in St Wulstan's, unless otherwise stated.

6 Dean Lawson

5 pm Pennine Praise at the Hive, Nenthead

13 Palm Sunday EEMC joint service Kirkoswald -10:30 am meet KO Chapel to walk with donkey to 11:15 St Oswald's

20 Easter Day Holy Communion Rev Mary Elliot

27 Rev Dave Milner

Quaker Meeting for Worship



Quaker Meeting for Worship continues to take place every FOURTH SUNDAY of the month at 10.30am, throughout the year

Everyone most warmly welcome to join us for an hour of silent, reflective worship at these times.

Roman Catholic Mass



St Wulstan's, Kings Arms Lane, Alston, CA9 3JF

Vigil Mass every Saturday as usual throughout Lent at 6.00pm with confessions available from 5.30pm

Stations of the Cross in every Thursday in Lent at 4.00pm
Holy Week:

Saturday 12 April Palm Sunday Vigil Mass at St. Wulstan's with the blessing of Palms 6.00pm

Maundy Thursday 17 April at St. Catherine's Penrith
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Good Friday 18 April at St. Wulstan's. Liturgy of the Passion 3.00pm

Holy Saturday 19 April at St. Wulstan's Vigil Mass of Easter 6.00pm

Ecumenical Service at Grisedale Croft

A relaxed, informal service, on Thursday 10th April 1.30 pm

Church of England services & events



Worship and Prayer in April

Sunday, 6th April (*1st Sunday in the month*):

9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh
11.00am	Sung Communion	St Augustine, Alston (<i>also livestream</i>)

Sunday, 13th April – Palm Sunday (*2nd Sunday in the month*):

9.30am	Morning Prayer	St John, Nenthead
11.00am	Sung Communion	St Augustine, Alston (<i>also livestream</i>)



for Holy Week & Easter, see separate page



p23

Sunday, 27th April (*4th Sunday in the month*):

9.30am	Holy Communion	St John, Nenthead
11.00am	Prayer & Praise	St Augustine, Alston (<i>also livestream</i>)

Sunday services online

- Join us at 11am weekly on **Zoom** using the app – or, with an ordinary phone, dial 0203 051 2874. The **Meeting ID code** is **357 123 751**.
- Or find us on **YouTube** – youtube.com/@AlstonMoorParishChurches
- Download the orders of service from alstonmoorcofe.org.uk/worship and the notice sheet from alstonmoorcofe.org.uk/whatson

Regular Weekday services

Morning, Evening & Night Prayer

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Morning Prayer: | Wed-Sat, 9am | St Augustine's & on Zoom |
| • Evening Prayer: | Wed, Thu & Sat, 5pm | St Augustine's & on Zoom |
| | Fridays, 6pm | St John's, Nenthead |
| • Night Prayer: | Fridays, 9pm | Zoom |

Informal Holy Communion

- Every Thursday, 12 noon
- Chat Room, Alston

Prayer requests and virtual candles



If you would like someone to pray for or with you, phone Mark on 01434 382558 or email pray@alstonmoorcofe.org.uk

Light a candle at churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle or in any of our parish churches

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April Dates for your Diary (subject to change)

Tuesdays 8th, 15th, 12 noon

Lent Lunch & Lent Group

Chat Room, Alston

Sat 26th, 10am

St Jude's Coffee Stop *Knaresdale w Kirkhaugh VH*

Sun 27th, 10am-3pm **Coffee Shop**

Garrigill VH



I'm Sarah, the new Community Development Coordinator for Alston Moor Partnership. This role is all about helping community groups survive, thrive, and grow!

I can help with funding, problem-solving, volunteers, and more. So get in touch - Find me on Facebook, or email communitydev@alstonmoorpartnership.co.uk

The Chat Room

bottom of Front Street, next to Mad Hatters. Open all year, for a safe space, a warm welcome, a cuppa and a chat. Whether you need a moment's break from the weather, or an hour of company and deeper conversation, the hosts are always pleased to see you.

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Holy Week & Easter 2025

Holy Week



Saturday (12th April)

6.00 pm Vigil Mass with Blessing of Palms (RC)

St Wulstan, Alston

Palm Sunday (13th April)

9.30 am Morning Prayer (C of E)

St John, Nenthead

10.00 am Sunday Service with procession (Methodist) **St Oswald, Kirkoswald**

11.00 am Holy Communion w. Blessing of Palms (C of E) **St Augustine, Alston**

Maundy Thursday (17th April)

12.00 pm Informal Holy Communion

Chat Room, Alston

4.00 pm Stations of the Cross

St Wulstan, Alston

7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (RC)

St Catherine, Penrith

7.30 pm Last Supper, Stripping of Altar, Vigil (C of E)

St John, Garrigill

Good Friday (18th April)

11.00 am Prayer Cross (hymns, prayers, passion reading)

by Alston Town Hall

3.00 pm Liturgy of the Passion (RC)

St Wulstan, Alston

Easter

Holy Saturday / Easter Eve (19th April)

6.00 pm Vigil Mass of Easter (RC)

St Wulstan, Alston

8.30 pm Easter Vigil (C of E) with First Communion of Easter **St John, Nenthead**

Easter Sunday (20th April)

6.00 am Sunrise Communion (Methodist) & breakfast **Cottage Wood, Calthwaite**

9.30 am Easter Communion (C of E)

St Jude, Knaresdale

9.30 am Easter Communion (C of E)

St John, Garrigill

11.00 am Easter Communion (Methodist)

St Wulstan, Alston

11.00 am Easter Communion (C of E)

St Augustine, Alston

12.00 pm Easter hymns at the Cross

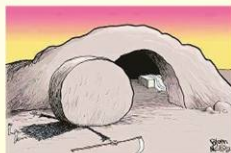
Outside the Town Hall

3.00 pm Easter Communion (C of E)

Ss Mary & Patrick, Lambley

6.00 pm Easter Communion (C of E – BCP)

Holy Paraclete, Kirkhaugh



Stations of Cross

The basis for this beautiful devotion, widely used during Lent, is the *Via Dolorosa* ('Way of sorrow') in Jerusalem – the path that traces Jesus' final walk from the judgement-hall of Pontius Pilate, through the streets of Jerusalem, to Golgotha and thence to His burial-place.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

From being originally a form of service used by the Roman Catholic Church, its use has become more widespread and has found its place within the Anglican, Methodist and Lutheran traditions. As with Jerusalem's *Via Dolorosa*, there are typically fourteen stations, though historically this number has ranged from seven to thirty. They mark stages on His way to Calvary, from being condemned to death and receiving His Cross, to His crucifixion and His being placed in the tomb; in some written orders for the Stations, a fifteenth has been added to denote the Resurrection. In churches of the Roman Catholic and High Anglican traditions, the fourteen Stations are represented by sculptured or painted depictions around the walls of the buildings.



The observance of the Stations of the Cross began in the Middle Ages, when Christians who had undertaken a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and, for various reasons were unable to again, wanted to be able to follow Jesus' final walk to His execution at appropriate times of the year, particularly during Lent and Holy week. In the 16th Century, the Franciscan Friars who were, and continue to be the appointed guardians of all the ancient Christian sites in the Holy land, were given Papal permission to place the depictions of the Stations of the Cross in their buildings, and the Stations became increasingly a formal part of the prayer-life of the Catholic Church.



Station 2 'Jesus receives His Cross'. Catholic Truth Society

I have walked the *Via Crucis* ('Way of the Cross') in numerous churches, at home and abroad, more times than I can remember. But one of my most meaningful experiences of the Stations was on a rainy day in Lourdes with Father Jerome Ainsworth and a group of friends from St. Catherine's Church in Penrith; particularly moving as the sculptures are life-size and beautifully carved in

bronze-coloured stone. Perhaps most significant of all for me was following the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem with a pilgrimage group from my Reader-training course at Lindisfarne College of Theology, on the afternoon of Good Friday 2019. A number of you had given me notes with various prayer-requests for my pilgrimage. I said these daily for you in Jerusalem, and after praying them for a final time in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at the end of the *Via Dolorosa*, I left them, along with numerous others that had been put there, by the black stone slab that traditionally marks Our Lord's final resting-place.

In what remains of Lent, I would commend the Stations of the Cross to you as a preparation for the mysteries of Holy Week and Easter. You can join in them with our friends at St. Wulstan's at 4pm every Thursday during the Lenten season. It is regrettable for me that my work commitments prevent me from joining in myself, but I would recommend it as a deeply satisfying and worthwhile devotional experience.

RP

A Lent(ish) Study(ish)

I wonder how many of you like me are finding that Lent is becoming as crazy as the annual Advent run up to Christmas? The training for my ordination in June and parish work seems to be an almost full time. But I'm particularly appreciating the retreats and residencies. Only a couple to go now. But this has meant that I've missed the Tuesday Lunchtime Lent discussions. At my last retreat we spent the weekend thinking about several of the people who were particularly close to our Lord: Mary of Bethany, Peter and our Lord's mother Mary, amongst others. Music, some excellent monologues and several works of art from Sieger Koder and Caravaggio helped our reflections, guided by some thought-provoking gentle questions posed by our Director of Ordinands, Stephen Tranter. If you would like to join me, I'm going to facilitate a couple of similar, albeit shorter, reflections during Lent weeks 4 and 5, on the evenings of Friday 4th and 11th April at 8pm, followed by compline for those who wish to stay. Venue: Chat Room, Alston. Hmm, an engineer discussing music and art, whatever next! So, some potentially different music, a couple of moving videos and some artwork to explore – hopefully to put us in a thoughtful frame of mind as we approach Easter.

Andy Morsman



News from St Jude's

Some sun at last! very welcome although it is still very cold.

Just home from a very busy funeral, for George Ridley; a very popular well known local man, the church was packed to the doors. Andy Morsman conducted his first funeral with Rev Mark assisting and Richard Pattison playing the organ. It was a lovely service with Christine, (George's wife) relations, friends and neighbours, then afterwards all invited to the Kirkstyle for delicious refreshments.

We all hoped everyone would remember February Coffee Stop despite being early - it was still the last Saturday as usual but it was only the 21st. We needn't have worried! as usual it was very busy. March Coffee Stop is the 29th then April 26th.

Unfortunately Saint Jude's church is urgently in need of considerable repairs, so we had a presentation to outline the problems and ask for help. There were over 40 people in the Community hall, with positive vibes and offers of help in various forms.

Our next meeting will bring together all offers for the best possible way forward. If you would like to help in any way please get in touch with Kim, Carol, Irene or Rev. Mark

A big thank you to all who responded, we will be in touch with you all soon. It is exciting times ahead.

Our first service this year was Prayers for Peace, Mark told of the number of wars going on in the world at this time, it is an unbelievable amount of misery and destruction and in need of all our prayers. The Easter service on the 20th April includes Holy Communion. Look out for our Service booklet in church or the Community hall.

Thinking of the Knarsdale with Kirkhaugh Community Hall; it is a great place for events and clubs. Can we invite you along to the A.G.M. on 25th March at 7.30pm, where you will see how vibrant and forward thinking it is. You may like to join in with ideas and suggestions for our community, you will be made most welcome. Among the activities there is Women's Institute, Carpet bowls, Book Club, Craft Club, Church Meetings, Entertainment of various kinds including domino drives, both afternoon and evening. And of course the Coffee Stop on the last Saturday of every month.

That's all for now folks.

Stay Safe and look after each other

Irene Boyles.

Pepin's Puzzles answers; see p33 first! Pairing: A4 B6 C7 D5 E2 F1 G3 Crosses: Tau, Saltire/St Andrew's (Hexham Abbey), Papal, Fleury

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South Pacific in the North Pennines

On a chilly March day in Alston it's quite difficult to imagine life in the South Pacific, but with the help of the World Day of Prayer service, written this year by Christian women from the Cook Islands, who shared stories of aspects of their lives and their Christian faith, a little taste of the tropics was created on 7th March in St. Wulstan's church.



Before the service started, the carillon bells of St. Augustine's church rang out across the town with the tunes of the hymns which would be sung in the service. Many thanks, as ever, to Josephine for playing the bells for us. Two of the hymns were new, having been written especially for the service.

The theme for the service, based on Psalm 139, was "I made you wonderful." The church was decorated with photos of the Cook Islands, flower garlands, a model canoe, tropical fruits, shells and a beautiful hand-made quilt – all items representative of Cook Islands life. Many thanks to all who brought items to decorate the altar, as well as all who brought scones, cakes and fruit which were enjoyed after the service. Thanks too to Sheila for playing the hymns in the service and to all who read or helped to lead the service.

A total of £230 was raised in donations for World Day of Prayer charities. Thank you to all who contributed.

If anyone who was unable to attend would like a copy of the service booklet, please contact Lizzie Smith, as we have several spares.

ES



A Gift and a Blessing

A few of the regulars of Nenthead St John's gathered to give thanks for the fabulous artwork by Lionel Playford and people from the village. Revd Mark blessed it to be:



*'a source of inspiration and joy to us;
help to keep alive the memory
of this place's history;
strengthen the bonds
between church and community;
and remind us to look with confidence
to the future,
trusting in your promise of Creation renewed,
a new heaven and a new earth,
your work of art perfected and fulfilled.'*

Around it are single-word responses on seeing the art installation.

'I have a sense that this work is gathering a

lot of positive energy around it which I hope will continue long into the future. Anyone who comes to visit me will be taken to St John's from now on.' *Lionel Playford*

'I was proud and privileged to be a part of Nenthead heritage that will be with the community forever.' *Kate Bainbridge*



Going on an egg hunt:

How many golden eggs like this one can you find in the colour pages?



1 Across, Without a Clue (5 letters)

Are you a cruciverbalist? How much do you know about crosswords? Looking them up for this issue I was surprised how ‘young’ they are. Word-puzzles for children were around in the 1870s, and there’s evidence of something similar in Pompeii, but the version we recognize today began much more recently.



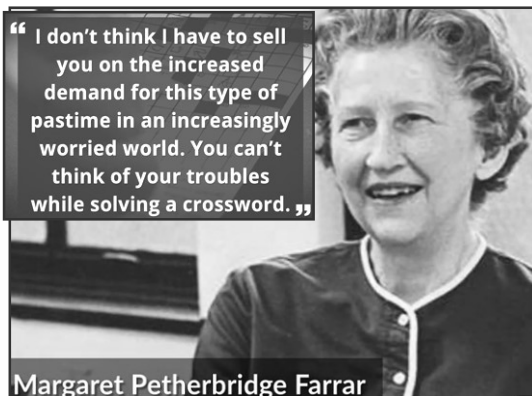
1913: on the eve of the First World War, Arthur Wynne, a Liverpool journalist working in New York, looking at old children’s word puzzles, came up with a diamond-shaped puzzle with clues and squares in which to fill in letters. His first “Fun Word-Cross Puzzle” was published on 21 December 1913, in the ‘New York World.’ Crosswords quickly became a popular distraction from the dark content of the rest of the news.

During the early 1920’s other newspapers picked up the newly discovered pastime and within a decade crossword puzzles were featured in almost all American and British newspapers.

1924: Simon and Schuster published the first crossword puzzle book, but under a pseudonym (Plaza Publishing) as it wasn’t deemed serious enough for their company! It came with a pencil attached.

1925: The first person to create a cryptic crossword was English poet and translator Edward Powys Mathers, who went under the name Torquemada; setting the tradition that cryptic compilers use pseudonyms. His clues were extremely obscure, but later compilers made easier cryptic crosswords.

1942: The New York Times refused to publish crosswords for decades, calling them a passing fad, until the woman who was to be their first crossword editor persuaded them, following the attack on Pearl Harbour: to “keep readers sane with the rest of the news so bleak [and] provide readers something to occupy time during coming blackout days.”



1976: computers were first used to help place words in a grid. 1980s brought Apple's 'Crossword Magic' software to help compile crosswords, and the 1990s published the first online crosswords and software for creating them.

2006 the film Wordplay hit the big screen, winning the critics' choice best documentary award in 2007.

BNW

Keswick Convention 2025

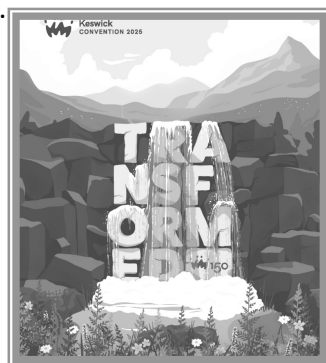
Have you thought about attending Keswick Convention next summer? Join with thousands of believers in worship to our God in the beautiful setting of the Lake District.

At Keswick Convention 2025, as we celebrate 150 years of Keswick Ministries, we will be exploring the truths of the Bible through our theme *Transformed*:

- **We are transformed:** Jesus Christ has delivered us from darkness to light, freeing us from the clutches of evil, and guaranteeing our future with him.
- **We will be transformed:** One day, we will be presented before God's throne, faultless and full of joy; made pure, beautiful and stain-free.
- **We are being transformed:** The power of sin is broken, and the penalty paid, but we still battle with its ongoing presence. We curve inwards, forget who we are in Christ and live for ourselves instead. And yet God continues to work through us.

Keswick Convention offers a varied programme to encourage you in your walk with the Lord, and space in the afternoon to appreciate his creation and all that Keswick and the surrounding area has to offer.

- Morning and Evening sessions
- Kids and Youth Programme
- 19 - 24s Programme
- Count Everyone In
for adults with learning disabilities (Week 1)
- Keswick Unconventional Arts Programme
(Week 3)



There's no charge to attend, as funding is through donations. All you need to do is book your accommodation and come along! More details can be found at www.keswickministries.org

ME

Pepin's Puzzles

Pair the following A to G correctly with numbers 1 to 7

A. ...the wondrous cross on which	1. towering o'er the wrecks of time
B. with the cross of Jesus	2. I fain would take my stand
C. The Cross and the Switchblade	3. where I first saw the light
D. Lift high the cross	4. the Prince of Glory died
E. Beneath the cross of Jesus	5. the love of Christ proclaim
F. In the cross of Christ I glory	6. going on before
G. At the cross, at the cross	7. in crime-ridden area of New York

The names of various types of cross are hidden in the grid – in all directions

L	A	T	I	N	R	S	O	S	S	R	O	S
E	R	C	A	L	C	T	K	G	R	E	E	K
N	U	C	U	E	C	A	L	A	T	B	M	L
G	S	O	L	E	E	N	L	L	O	O	A	F
E	S	T	O	J	L	D	O	V	G	P	A	H
F	I	H	R	H	G	R	R	O	A	C	T	E
C	A	P	R	D	R	E	R	P	L	R	I	R
G	N	T	A	U	E	W	B	A	O	O	Y	A
R	F	L	I	J	L	S	X	U	R	S	G	L
E	O	L	N	L	B	K	A	L	F	S	A	B
L	F	L	E	U	R	Y	L	L	A	L	U	F
T	L	K	F	S	D	M	A	L	T	E	S	E
A	T	I	M	J	D	S	A	L	A	T	R	Y

LATIN
GREEK
ST ANDREWS
CALVARY
LORRAINE
CELTIC
TAU
FLEURY
CROSSLET
PAPAL
MALTESE
RUSSIAN

Here are some common names, sayings and words all with CROSS in them – but all vowels are missing

Th* CROSS K*ys CROSS L*gg*d Kn*ghts CROSS *n*s f^ng*rs
CROSS y**r H**rt aCROSS *n*s m*nd CROSS b*nch*rs
(not angry MPs!)

Can you name these crosses? Which has a Hexham connection?



David Pepin

About 'Faith in the Moor'

This Magazine is a 'Churches Together' publication. It aims to share information useful to regular and occasional churchgoers, to the wider community, and to tourists and visitors. It reflects the life of the faith community in our corner of the North Pennines. Here people encourage, celebrate and debate their faith.

The different Christian churches who create this magazine get along very well, and work together in a spirit of openness and mutual regard. Faith in

the Moor welcomes input in harmony with this open Christian

Faith. Also from those whose spirituality is not focussed on a

particular religion, and those whose faith is in the Moor itself; its people, its uniqueness, its future. We support whatever enriches our community here.

Current team: JH = Jeanette Haslam,

ME = Mary Elliot, ES = Lizzie Smith,

MH = Madeleine Harris, RP = Richard

Pattison, BNW = Bar Nash-Williams



May Theme: 'Stone'

Deadline: **Friday 18th April**

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EYE-WITNESS

Stories from Israel and the West Bank

*Come and hear first-hand from Tanya Williams,
recently returned from the West Bank*

- *What is daily life under occupation really like?*
- *What is the Israeli peace movement doing?*
- *What can be done to promote a just peace in Israeli-occupied Palestine?*

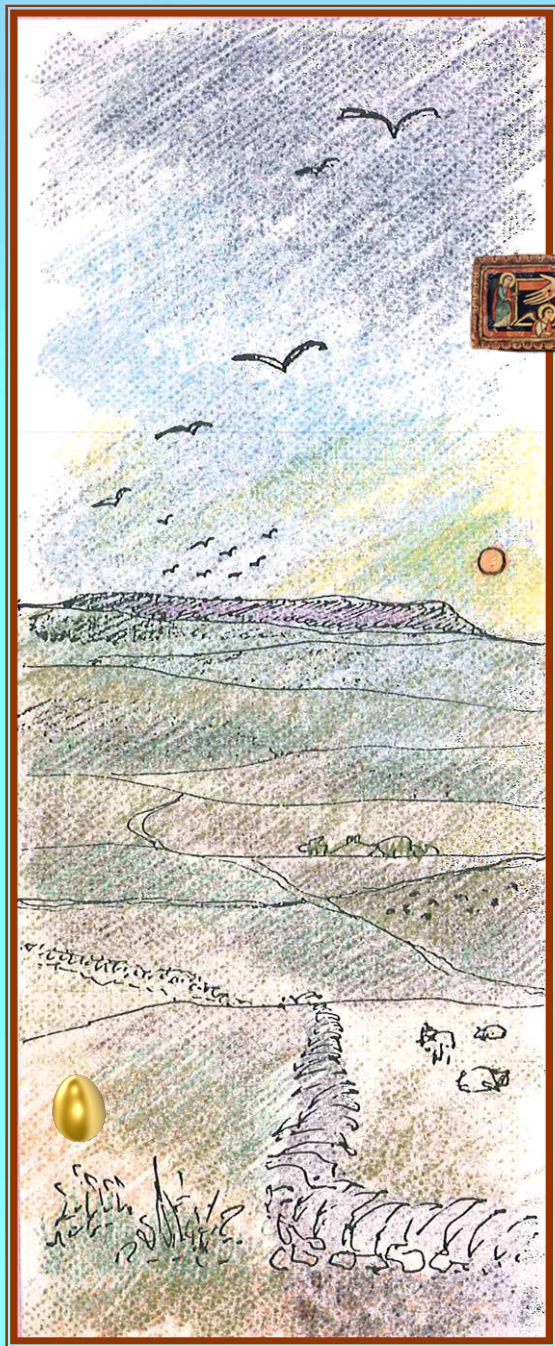


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George Mullard's Taize cross, floating serenely above Cross Fell by David Pepin



And what is this painting about? See p25

