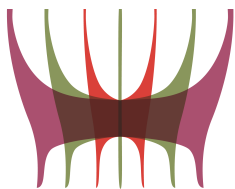
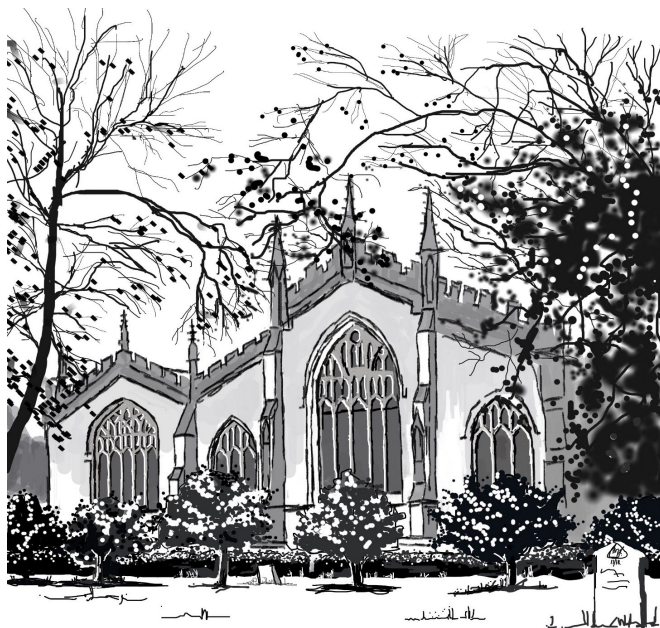


PARISH LIFE

Magazine



HOLY TRINITY KENDAL PARISH CHURCH



June 2026

50p

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For one month every four years, the World Cup becomes the centre of the human universe. For some it is more than just a tournament; it is a pilgrimage of hope, a display of devotion, and a quest for glory.

But for those who follow Jesus, the parallels between the "beautiful game" and the spiritual life run deeper than just the Sunday morning kick-off. And while one pursuit ends in a gold trophy and the other in eternal life, the journey of the athlete and the journey of the disciple share a striking common ground: the pursuit of something greater than oneself.

Every World Cup story begins with a selection. A manager who surveys the talent, looking for those willing to sacrifice individual ego for the collective mission. And there in the pages of the Gospels, we see Jesus doing the same along the shores of Galilee. He didn't look for the most polished or the most popular; He looked for those willing to drop their nets and follow.

After all being a fan is easy, you can wear the shirt and cheer from the sofa. But being a player is different. It requires that you have "skin in the game." In the same way, following Jesus isn't a spectator sport. It's a call to join a "squad" - the Church - where every member has a specific role to play. Whether you're a "striker" sharing the Gospel or a "defender" standing up for justice, the goal remains the same: bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth.

Paul noted this in his letters:

"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." (1 Corinthians 9:25)

The discipline of a world-class player, the early mornings, the repetition, the refusal to give up when the legs are burning, is a mirror of the spiritual disciplines. Prayer, fasting, and the study of Scripture aren't just "religious chores"; they are the training ground that prepares us for the moments when life gets us down, for the times when the pressure of the world is on.

But one of the most humanizing aspects of the World Cup is the heartbreak. We see the tears of the superstar whose penalty kick went wide, or the devastation of a nation knocked out in the final minutes. In these moments, the world's judgment is often harsh. And a single mistake can define a career.

In the world of football, you are often only as good as your last game. But in the Kingdom of God, the "manager" operates on a different system: **Grace.**

Peter, one of Jesus' closest teammates, suffered the ultimate heartbreak when he denied knowing Christ three times. By the world's standards, he should have been dropped from the team. Instead, Jesus met him on the beach after the Resurrection, restored him, and gave him the captain's armband to lead the early Church.

Following Jesus means that while we strive for excellence, our ultimate value isn't tied to our performance, that we play **from** a position of acceptance, not **for** a position of acceptance.

But the truth is that after all the matches are played the World Cup always ends. The stadium lights will eventually go out, the fans will fly home, and the trophy is locked away in a cabinet, and whilst the "glory" of the world is beautiful, it is also fleeting and often forgotten.

Following Jesus offers a different kind of victory. It's a reminder that we are playing in a much larger tournament - one where the victory has already been won on a hill called Calvary.

So the next time you see a player drop to their knees in prayer after a goal, or see a stadium erupt in song, let it be a reminder.

We were made for worship, made for community, and made for a goal that transcends ninety minutes.

In the grand stadium of life, the Greatest Manager is calling you off the sidelines.

It's time to get in the game.

Rev. Andy Ward

Revd Shanthi - Please be aware that Revd Shanthi has legally reverted to her maiden name and is now Shanthi Peiris (pronounced 'PEER' as in look 'RIS'). The Vicar's board, which records the name of the church leader at the time they are appointed, will remain unchanged. Other Church documents etc will be changed as appropriate.

Turning the Leaves

Outside the Becket Chapel is a glass topped cabinet containing the Border Regiment Book of Remembrance: men who fought and died in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts. At Noon on Friday 8th May the cabinet was moved into the Bellingham, their regimental chapel, to be central to a short service of Remembrance, "The Turning of the Leaves". Attended by more than a dozen veterans, our MP and Mayor, some 40 or so names were read out, silence observed and prayers said taking, in all about 20 minutes. It was an important and moving reminder of the price paid by people of this town for the freedoms we have.

Plans are afoot to hold this on every second Friday of the month and to gather more names to be inscribed in their book. Anyone will be welcome to attend in future and I commend it to you- and even if you never go, next time you're in the Bellingham perhaps you might consider that the wooden flag casing commemorates in part the 107 Kendal men killed or taken into long captivity fighting against overwhelming odds as part of the 1940 Dunkirk rearguard at Incheville Wood.

Dick Forsyth

July 19th: A Date for your Diary

On Sunday, July 19th we look forward to welcoming A & L, our Mission Partners working in SE Asia, together with their 3 boys, to KPC. They will be with us for our 9.30am and 11.15am services and also for a Bring and Share lunch immediately after the 11.15a, service. This will give them the chance to share with us their news, both about what they have been doing and also about their future plans.

L's contract with the school where she has been teaching finishes in June and, at the time of writing, the next step is not yet clear, but they hope that will be resolved by the time of their visit to us. It will be very good to have the chance to meet them face to face again and to learn more about their work at first hand.

Burundi Back on the Menu

Last year, because I needed surgery, I was unable to go to Burundi. With the surgery successfully accomplished, the University asked me earlier this year if I would go and teach again and I have accepted their invitation. I was fortunate in booking my air tickets before Donald Trump started the war with Iran as they would be more expensive now!

I'll be going for a month, leaving the UK in the middle of September. Burundi doesn't make the headlines here in the UK but it remains one of the poorest countries in the world. In 2025 the official inflation figure was 35% and for over two years there has been a severe shortage of the petrol and diesel needed for basic travel.

Before I go I'll write a bit more about what I'm expecting to do but in the meantime I value prayers for both Linda and myself. Thank you.



Dipping Your Toe in the Old Testament

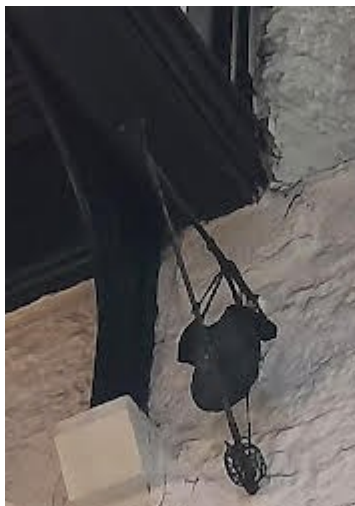
The next chance to 'dip your toe' into the Old Testament will be held on Saturday, July 4th. We shall again meet in the vestry at KPC: 9.30am for 9.45am – finishing by 12.00noon.

This time we will look at the Book of Isaiah, one of the high-water marks of Old Testament prophecy. What do we know about the prophet, how was the book produced, what themes hold the 66 chapters together, what does it tell us as Christians?

You can just roll up but, as usual, if we know you are coming (email to michaeljh45@aol.co.uk) we'll make sure there are refreshments for you! Don't forget to bring a Bible!

Michael Hunter

Church Picture Quiz



Last month's quiz picture was of the helmet and sword high above the vestry door in the Bellingham Chapel.

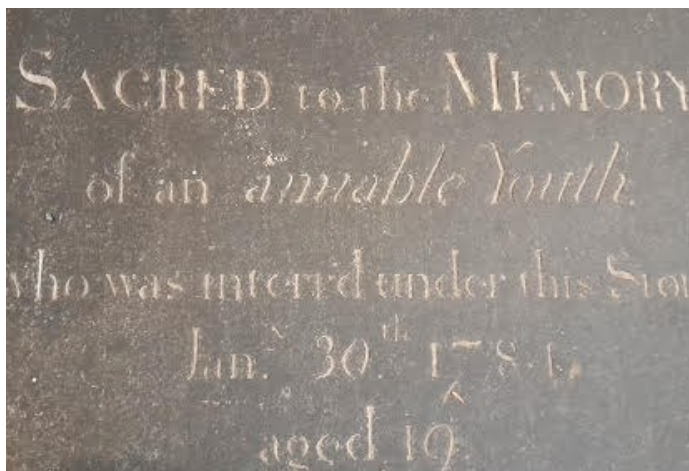
It is said that during the Civil War, Robert Phillipson of Belle Isle, was being besieged by Colonel Briggs and his troops.

On the next day, it being a Sunday, Robert and his companions rode into Kendal looking for revenge.

They rode into church up and down the aisles searching for the enemy, and during a skirmish Robert's saddle was slashed and loosened, his sword falling to the ground. In his haste to leave the church

he hit his helmet on the apex of the door frame; the helmet also being left behind. The story goes that he managed to kill one of the troops before fleeing back to Belle Isle. For this and other happenings Robert Phillipson became known as "Robin the Devil".

This month's picture.



Treasured memories of a friend and legend

For the past few months we have once again been treated to a wonderful series of Friday organ concerts from a variety of very talented musicians.

However Andy's organ concert on 1st May held a particular poignancy as he dedicated it to the much loved and much missed Charles Edmondson, who died in March.

Charles had been a regular contributor to our concert series since they began in 2016, in fact it is estimated that his concerts alone have raised over £6,000 towards our organ restoration fund.

Andy selected 9 pieces from Charles' Friday lunchtime repertoire over the past 10 years and even produced a programme in Charles' own unique style, using the same font, quirky subtitles for each piece and a splash of colour too. All were pieces typical of Charles – jolly, engaging, varied and not overly highbrow. As a concert on its own it was wonderful; as a tribute to Charles it was perfect. As some folk suggested afterwards it was almost as if Charles was there himself sitting on the console playing along with Andy and he would have loved it.

Our grateful thanks to Andy for continuing to arrange these marvellous concerts and thanks to Charles for all the pleasure he gave to so many of us over the years. As Andy said in his programme notes, "treasured memories of a friend and legend".



The Kendal Churches Together Good Friday Service was held this year at St Thomas' Church, led by Rev George Briggs. The church was full to capacity for a wonderful service of song, scripture and sacred drama, after which over 120 folks (up on last year) processed through Kendal to witness to our Faith. As usual there were stops for times of worship:- at the Market Place (pictured), Birdcage, Abbot Hall Gardens and finally KPC, where warm drinks and hot cross buns were very welcome, after a rather wet walk!



Our Easter Morning Sunrise Service at Kendal Castle, saw over 70 faithful folks (& dogs) assembled to worship together in word & song, led by Revs Shanthi & Andy, in praise of our Risen Lord.

Turning outwards from our circle, we prayed for the town of Kendal just before the sun rose up over the fells. There was a huge sense of oneness together as we greeted each other that Easter Morning - *Praise the Lord.*

Delphine Gratrix on behalf of CTiKD



The Longest Yarn® is a unique knitted and crocheted exhibition telling the story of World War II through wool.



The picture above depicts the dig for victory campaign urging Britains to grow food amid shortages. Gardens, Parks and even bomb sites became vegetable plots.



To the left is the Dunkirk return which was silent & haunting. Exhausted troops landed barefoot, met with tea and blankets, quiet kindness, and relief after unimaginable horror.

Buckingham Palace on VE day - joyful crowds flooded Buckingham Palace, Churchill joined the Royals on the balcony, while Princess Elizabeth and Margaret mingled incognito.

Anita Peat





Kendal's oldest building, one of England's widest churches.

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