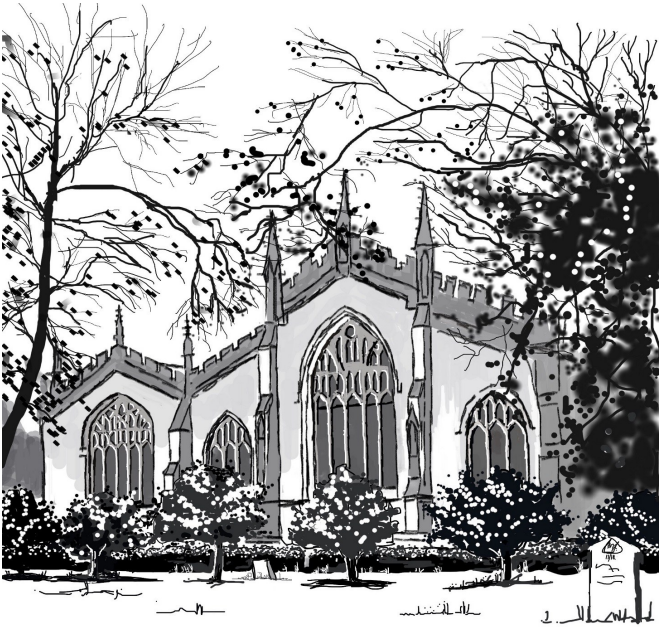
PARISH LIFE

Magazine

HOLY TRINITY

KENDAL PARISH CHURCH



December 2026 January 2027 50p

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The first gift

One of my regular Christmas routines is to watch again some special videos - Polar Express, Blackadder's Xmas Carol, Scrooge (was there ever a better Scrooge than Alistair Sim?) - and to read again a number of favourite Christmas books – Michael Morpurgo's "The Best Christmas Present in the world", Henry Van Dyke's "The Other Wise Man" and "The Christmas Box" by the American author Richard Paul Evans. In this latter book a dying old lady challenges a young workaholic father with a young daughter to discover what was the first Christmas present. And eventually he realises that his preoccupation with his business, at the expense of time with his little girl, was blinding him to the answer – the first present was love, the love of a caring father for his children, a love embodied in the person of Jesus Christ.

As John 3: 16 tells us God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. Stop to ponder on that reality just for a moment; God loved the world so much – and that includes you and me - that he came to earth in the form of a child to be our example and show us how to love one another.

The whole Christmas story began with parents who were poor, a mother in the last throes of childbirth with no comfortable place to go, a newborn child laid in cloths and with no crib for his bed and first visitors regarded as the lowest of the low. God deliberately came in such humble circumstances as a vulnerable, non-threatening child, not to force us to obey him but to win our love for himself.

That first Christmas 2,000 years ago was the very moment when God put into action his plan for the salvation of mankind and the whole course of history was transformed, when heaven and earth met each other in one loving embrace and the Word of God foretold by prophets of old took on human flesh. God's answer to violence and fear is not more force, but tenderness and vulnerability: A small baby,

fragile enough to need protecting and yet powerful enough to change the world. Christmas offers the chance to open our hearts and to hear again with refreshed ears and see again with eyes reopened the joy of angels, shepherds and wise men in welcoming and worshipping the fragile infant lying in simple cloths in a cold middle eastern stable. At Christmas Christ enters our humanity and fills the void between earth and heaven with love. Love - the first and greatest gift of Christmas.

This Christmas may your homes be filled with God's love and joy and may you have a God-filled New Year.

Every blessing
Ashley





Friends of Kendal Parish Church

A tribute to friendship, support and service, 2013–2026

As the Friends look to the future of their organisation they do so with real gratitude. The Friends were established to help preserve, maintain, repair and improve the Church of Holy Trinity, Kendal — not only as a building of beauty and historic interest, but as a living place of worship, mission and community.

Since 2013, the Friends have raised £13,163.36. That is a very considerable achievement, and it represents far more than a figure in the accounts. It speaks of generosity, commitment, affection for this church, and a desire to pass on something precious to those who will come after us.



Over the years, the Friends have supported an extraordinary range of projects — some large and visible, others smaller, practical, and easily overlooked, but all valuable. Their support has helped with the Tower Fund and donation box; the base for *Family of Man*; large-print hymn books; gilding on the weather vane; gardening and planting; repairs to the Aumbry and the Sinkinson plaque; stained-glass restoration; specialist light bulbs; dry cleaning; a server's robe; piano tuning; covers for the piano and chamber organ; panels behind the Parr Chapel altar; a pyx; palms; a vacuum cleaner; a dehumidifier; a CD player; support for the Anna Chaplaincy team; mugs; tables and chairs for the children; an Advent wreath and candles; the Choristers' attendance at the Morland Camp; music stands; display pockets; choir robes; and support for the children's worker.





The first AGM was held on Saturday 13th October 2012 in the Parr Chapel. It was followed by the inaugural Friends lecture, The Treasures of Kendal Parish Church, given by the Revd John Hodgkinson, and concluded, fittingly, with tea and refreshments. From the beginning, the Friends combined care for the church with fellowship, learning and hospitality.

There has always been a strong sense of fellowship and enjoyment. The Friends raised awareness and funds through Christmas cards, notecards and church events, including the Christmas Tree Festival, Christmas Fair and Summer Fair.

The programme of visits was equally rich and varied. Members travelled to Carlisle Cathedral; St Mary's Wreay and Talkin Tarn; Lanercost, with tea at St Martin's, Brampton; Cockermouth; Isel Church and Hall, where they were welcomed by Mary Birkett, followed by tea at Higham Hall; Rose Castle; Whalley Abbey; Skipton; and more locally Bowness and Winster; Cartmel Priory and St Anthony's, Cartmel Fell as well as the Unitarian Chapel and even Carnforth Railway Station.

One of the great strengths of the Friends was the willingness of members to share their knowledge and interests. John Campbell, Janet Thompson and Philip Heyes, among others, contributed greatly to the programme, and much could be organised and delivered "in house".



The talks ranged widely: from Jane Austen and the impact of the motor car on Kendal, to Josefina de Vasconcellos, the early years of Kendal Parish Church, Candlemas readings, David Scott's poetry, Whalley Abbey, local Arts and Crafts craftsmen, stories from the windows, church memorials, bellringing, organ music from Andy Plowman, David Wright's icons, humorous reflections from Jonathan Bielby, Terry Johnson's work on religious art and calligraphy.

Alongside lectures and visits, the Friends marked special occasions together, including Candlemas, St David's Day and St Patrick's Day. These gatherings helped nurture not only support for the church, but friendship among those who cared for it.



Then, in 2020, Covid changed everything. The age and health of many members, and of the committee, meant that most previous outings and activities were no longer feasible. Even so, the spirit of the Friends continued. Members were kept in touch through cards at Christmas, Candlemas and Easter — small gestures, but meaningful ones.

In 2022, with the arrival of Shanthi, considerable effort went into revising the Friends' leaflet, and a banner was purchased to promote the organisation more effectively. It was a sign that, even in changing circumstances, there remained a desire to communicate the value of the Friends and their contribution to the church.

Today, we give particular thanks for Kate East, who has served on the committee as Treasurer and Membership Secretary since the beginning, the only person to have served throughout. We also remember with gratitude the earlier contributions of Patricia Hovey and Janet Thompson.

We must also thank John Campbell who, though not a member of our own congregation, has made a huge contribution to the work of the Friends.

We are grateful, too, for all those who have served and supported the Friends over the years, including David Richardson, Lily Hopkins, Rosemary Howell, the Revd Anne Russell, the Revd Ashley Henderson, Dot Yates, Norman Holloway and Susan Heyes.

Above all, this is a tribute to the many people who have given time, energy, money, thought and care to the Friends of Kendal Parish Church. Their work has helped to preserve the beauty of this place, support its worship and mission, and strengthen the bonds of fellowship around it.
For that faithful service, we offer our sincere thanks and as some of us now step down we wish you the very best for the future.

Susan Heyes

KEPCEA

Transport is one of the biggest contributors worldwide to global warming and the majority of this has been caused by Western nations. In the UK it remains the single largest area of CO2 emissions and 89% comes from road vehicles with more than half of that coming from private vehicles or taxis.

However, the environmental impact of transport is not limited to global warming. Air pollution, to which vehicle emissions are a major contributor can have a devastating impact on people's lungs and also contribute towards cardiovascular disease. Noise pollution from roads and airports can, over time, cause a wide range of adverse health outcomes. Christians are called upon to care for the poorest in our society; it is often those who are less wealthy who live alongside the busiest, noisiest and most polluting roads.

There is also an impact on nature. Road kill is an all too frequent sight on many roads from motorways to country lanes. Animal habitats are increasingly criss-crossed by potentially lethal roads which make it harder for wildlife to access food sources and more difficult to encounter future breeding partners.

Caring for each other and all of God's Creation is integral to living as a Christian and is enshrined in the Church of England's Fifth Mark of Mission to 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. '

So what can we do to improve matters? Cars are essential for many people. Switching to an electric vehicle will help to reduce CO2 emissions and noise and may be an option for some. There are times when we might be able to use the bus or train; or for those more mobile to walk or cycle. Perhaps we can car share with a friend, neighbour or colleague for shopping, work or leisure activities. We can also try to amalgamate several trips into one journey to reduce car trips. We can lobby national or local government to improve public transport and walking/cycling infrastructure. Finally, when choosing a holiday, consider the impact your travel choices will have. Air travel is especially polluting so think about alternatives when you can.

We can all remember that the small daily choices we make add up to bring about real improvement to the lives of others and all of God's beautiful creation.

Lucy Varney

The Nation's Favourite Carols

Over the next few weeks, the joyful sound of Carols will become a regular part of our lives. I am sure we all have our own favourites and of course it would be boring if we all had the same tastes. Classic FM is regularly on in the background in our house and never more so than at this festive season. Each year the radio station does a poll of folks' favourite Carols and last year's results, with the top 15 shown below, make for interesting reading with "O Holy Night, "composed in 1847 by Adolphe Adam, voted the nation's favourite Carol by Classic FM readers for the 10th consecutive year. There is still some argument as to whether this classifies as a Carol or not!

1. O Holy Night
2. In the Bleak Mid-Winter - Gustav Holst version
3. Carol of the Bells
4. Silent Night
5. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
6. In the Bleak Mid-Winter - Harold Darke version
7. O Come All Ye Faithful
8. O Come, O Come Emmanuel
9. Candlelight Carol (Rutter)
10. O Little Town of Bethlehem
11. Once in Royal David's City
12. Coventry Carol
13. Gaudete
14. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
15. Joy to the World

Does your favourite appear on this list? For what it's worth I don't think you can beat the combination of Charles Wesley's words and Felix Menelssohn's music, so maybe you can work out which of these is my own all-time favourite!

Classic FM will likely be doing another poll this year, with the result announced on Christmas Day. Will these rankings have changed much in the course of a year? And what are the odds on "O Holy Night "retaining its no.1 spot?

Ashley



Last month's picture

Last month's picture was one of the angels of the Passion, four of which are to be found high up on either side of the Parr Chapel.

The four angels are depicted by one carrying the cross; the next holds the ladder, then the hammer & nails and finally the crown of thorns.

Elsewhere in the church can be found numerous angels, some carved just like these, and many others included in the stained-glass windows.

Someone once claimed there were over ninety angels to be found in this church; Norman stopped counting when he reached one hundred and thirty.

This area of the chapel contains many other items of great interest, which include the Parr family coats of arms amongst other notable families and above the windows. There is a maidenhead, believed to be a symbol of Katherine Parr.

This month's picture



Out with the Old, In with the New

As you hear the church bells ring in the New Year have you ever looked at the sign to the left of the kitchenette serving hatch?



The sign was bought by the bell ringers in1987 and donated to KPC.

The board was painted by Jack Fothergill, a skilful sign painter, for the then landlord of the Ring of Bells John Reade of Heversham who had taken the pub in 1814.

It shows actual portraits of bellringers in the tower in 1820. There is a jug of ale as it was thirsty work! In the ringing chamber are painted boards of the era detailing peals rung and the names of the ringers.

They used to ring on an open balcony and so were visible from the church interior. A young boy managed to fall over the rail and broke his leg which meant the days of the open balcony were numbered.

When Reade left Kendal in 1830 the sign was sold to the landlord of the Eagle and Child in Heversham and found its way to Heversham Hall where, in 1862, it was spotted by a local antiquary being used as a board to stop draughts down a chimney. He brought it back to its original position in Kendal.

It is possible there is not another board of this age showing portraits of ringers of this era. It truly is a treasure!

Information supplied by Lily Hopkins

Happy Christmas from around the world.

Below are the words "Happy Christmas "or "Merry Christmas" from various countries around the world and a list of the countries. For fun, can you match the words to the correct language? And how many can you pronounce!

1. Glædelig jul
2. Joyeux noel
3. Frohe Weihnachten
4. boldog karacsonyt
5. Nollaig Shona Duit
6. God jul
7. Feliz natal
8. Feliz Navidad
9. Suksun Wan Christmas
10. Nadolig Llawen
11. Chuc mung Giang sinh
12. Vacele Vanoce
13. Vrolijk Kerstfeest
14. Hyvaa joulua
15. Buon Natale



Languages

Dutch Portuguese Czech Welsh Irish Italian Hungarian Vietnamese Thai Finnish Danish German Norwegian French Spanish



Answers on page 14

Will you come to my party?
Will you come to my party?
Oh please say that you will come
There'll be lots to eat and lots to drink
It really will be fun

The Philosopher observed, "I'll think about it".
The Musician trilled, "Sounds good to me".
The Psychologist thought it a mad idea.
The Psychiatrist replied that she'd bear it in mind.
The Meteorologist said, "Fine".
The Greengrocer remarked that he'd weigh things up.
The Horologist, "Would, if I had the time".
"I'm sorry", the Penitent said.
The Optician concluded, "It looks all right".
The Librarian said, "Take it as read".
The Cardiologist hadn't the heart to refuse.
The Wrangler whooped, "Yippee".
The Inventor declared, "I can make it all right".
The Escapologist said, "If I'm free".
The Fisherman told me he'd drop me a line.
The Rugby Player promised he'd try.
The Campanologist said, "I'll give you a ring".
The Sign Language agent gave it the thumbs up.
The Trendy Office Worker said she'd diarise it.
The Snail declined, saying he was shell-shocked.
The Swimming Instructor said she'd take the plunge.

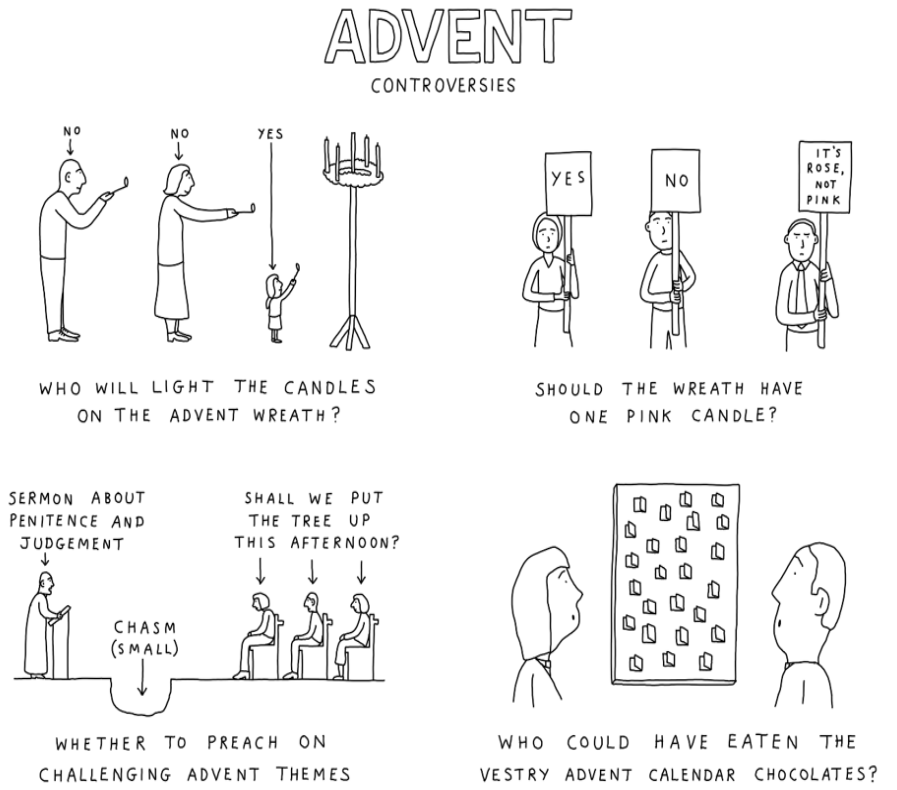
"



From the Registers

Funerals

November 10th Lindsay Ward
November 18th Brenda Hodgson



Answers

1.Danish 2. French 3. German 4. Hungarian 5. Irish 6. Norwegian 7. Portuguese 8. Spanish 9. Thai 10. Welsh 11. Vietnamese 12. Czech 13. Dutch 14. Finnish 15. Italian

Thank you very much to all who have contributed to this magazine. We would love to include your articles, notices, funny stories etc in future magazines. Do let us know if you would like any help or advice with articles. Please email items to magazine@kendalparishchurch.co.uk - we need to receive them by 15th of the month before publication.
Stephen Lockwood and Susan Heyes

Sunday Services in December

Sunday 6th	**Second Sunday of Advent**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
11.15am	The Gathering
Sunday 13th	**Third Sunday of Advent**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
11.15am	The Gathering
Sunday 20th	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
11.15am	The Gathering, with Communion
4.00pm	Lessons & Carols
Sunday 27th	**First Sunday after Christmas**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
11.15am	The Gathering

Sunday Services in January

Sunday 3rd	**Second Sunday after Christmas**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
11.15am	The Gathering
Sunday 10th	**Epiphany**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
11.15am	The Gathering
4.00pm	Epiphany Carol Service
Sunday 17th	**First Sunday after the Epiphany**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
11.15am	The Gathering
Sunday 24th	**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Morning Prayer, with Baptism
11.15am	The Gathering
Sunday 31st	**Third Sunday after the Epiphany (Candlemas)**
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)
11.15am	The Gathering



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

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