The Borrowdale News

December / January 2017

‘Monarch of the Dale’ by Gill Bulch

(Framed prints and greetings cards of this painting and others are for sale in Grange Methodist Chapel in aid of The Borrowdale Story)

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VICARS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Churches in the valley are special places. People come to them for all sorts of reasons – for worship, for solace; for quietness to think, pray or ‘sort their heads out’ (to use a phrase from a soldier I knew who had a lot on his mind). I love popping into St Andrews for five minutes; or passing the time of day in Holy Trinity – just to pause, sit, think, say a prayer.

What makes them special is that they are places that point ‘beyond’. But they are here. So they speak of a deeper and greater reality; while also speaking of how that reality is with us.

Christmas is coming. Kids will soon start getting excited. At the heart of Christmas is the message that God is with us. God is so passionately concerned for us that he is prepared to become one with us, sharing life as a carpenter’s son; after having been born a political refugee; living life in a rural village; then journeying through life to the Cross and then to Resurrection.

The Carol ‘O Come O Come Emmanuel’ - ‘Emmanuel’ means ‘God with us’; O come – because we want him with us.

We all make mistakes, even Christians, even the church. But God is bigger and more generous than anyone human being, any group of human beings, any community or even church. We may struggle, sometimes getting in right, sometimes wrong.

‘God with us’ speaks of hope and how things can get better now and always; speaks of new beginnings and how we can be forgiven; speaks of joy and how even in the darkness of winter, snow, flood and rain we are not alone.

God be with us! God be with you!

Rev Charles Hope

MIDNIGHT MASS

11.30 pm Christmas Eve at Saint Andrew’s by Candlelight

Just come!

No better way off starting Christmas!
Jigsaw is Cumbria’s Children’s Hospice. We provide support to children and young adults with life limiting conditions throughout the county.

The children’s hospice provides one to one care for children and young adults with life limiting illnesses, as well as extending the care and support to their families. Jigsaw’s home-from-home environment allows the nurses to match the children and young adults home routine as closely as possible, ensuring a smooth, relaxing and peaceful transition between the home and hospice.

BORROWDALE CAROL SINGERS 2017
Will again be raising money for this wonderful work.

We will be singing around the valley on the following nights.

Thurs. 21st Dec       Meet at Grange Chapel at 6.30 (Grange & Borrowdale North)
Fri.22nd Dec           Meet at The Institute at 6.30 (Rosthwaite)
Sat. 23rd Dec          Meet at Seatoller Car Park at 6.30 (Borrowdale South)
Sun. 24th Dec.        Meet at Borrowdale Gates Hotel at 6.15 (Hotels)

PLEASE JOIN US TO SING OR WELCOME US AT YOUR DOOR.
LET’S GIVE WHAT WE CAN TO THIS AMAZING PLACE.
As everyone knows a group of Trustees have been elected/appointed to run The Institute. The Trustees have met several times and they have decided to attempt a pretty major restoration of this building which will be a hundred years old in 2020.

We have done some work - consultation - and detected that if the building was more appropriate it would be used more. We have visited half a dozen other village halls in Allerdale which have recently been revamped.

We are very grateful to all of those who have completed our Community-wide Questionnaire. We are still expecting a few more but the overwhelming response is that we have your support in doing this work and that if we can do it, it will be well used.

So we are now exploring two things. First what do we think needs doing to the present building and second how do we raise the money to do it.

The sketch below is just one of the ideas we are looking at. It provides solutions to two vital needs - new toilets that are accessible and on the ground floor and storage space adjacent to the main hall. If we decide to go ahead we shall appoint an architect and he or she will listen to our needs and produce a viable solution/plan.

Hopefully the Trustees will draw all this together and present it to the Community early in the new year. That will be a very important meeting when the Trustees ask everyone who lives in the valley to support this piece of work. No date yet, but when we have a date we will let everyone know and we will look for a packed out meeting.

Personally I see this in the context of the whole valley and many other changes and opportunities. Brexit and its effect on the Agricultural Business; The vital importance of our School and the help we can offer; the part Borrowdale will play in the UNESCO award as a place of outstanding beauty; the plans that the Church has to develop its work at Saint Andrew’s; The discussions that are just beginning to see if affordable housing can be provided in the Valley. In all of this The Institute can play an important part, be a hub building, in a growing and changing situation.

Malcolm Stonestreet.
Thorneythwaite
We’re waiting for the studies that we commissioned earlier in the year from various specialists to come in, which means there isn’t much to report just now, so in the meantime this is what we’re up to elsewhere in the valley:

High Snab Dam
In October the ranger team painstakingly restored a historic dam in the Newlands valley. The dam is an ancient scheduled monument, originally built by the workers from Goldscope mine during the reign of Elizabeth I.

One of the outflows had been undermined, putting the rest of the dam at risk. The advice from our regional archaeologist was to repair it using traditional methods and materials, so no concrete, just good old-fashioned drystone walling techniques.

We’re really pleased with the result – it’s hard to tell where the repairs stop and the original stonework starts.

Watendlath Hydro
On the subject of water, you might have spotted the recent report in the Cumberland News about our planned hydro electricity scheme at Watendlath. Many of you may know that all Watendlath’s electricity used to be provided by hydro power – the 1920s turbine is still in situ, although it hasn’t worked since the hamlet was connected to the mains.

Our plan is to install a new, more efficient turbine into the original power house sometime in the Autumn of 2018. Like the Hause Gill hydro scheme, it will be a ‘run of the river’ system that guarantees a set amount of water that will always be untouched so that the ecology and aesthetics of the beck are protected, and takes some of the water for powering the turbine before returning it all back into the stream. The only fuel we need is rainfall and we have plenty of that in Borrowdale!
**Langstrath tree planting**

This winter we’re continuing the work we agreed with the Langstrath common graziers in 2016 by planting 100 native species trees between now and March. This time we’ll be planting a bit further up the valley – towards Angle Tarn and Stake Pass.

This will help regeneration of the fragmented ancient woodland in the valley, and in future years as the trees mature, their root systems could help in the process of stabilising soils, reducing the risk of landslips and sediment being loaded into the pristine Langstrath beck affecting fish other wildlife and potentially impacting on land and property downstream throughout the river system.

We have a limited number of places for people who’d like to volunteer to help with the tree planting, if you’re interested please email penny.webb@nationaltrust.org.uk to find out more.

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**PLEASE NOTE**

Miss Betty Walker wishes it to be known that the article she wrote on page 12 in the October / November edition, entitled The Battery Charger! originated from a story by the late George Hughes of Seatoller, which he told at a social evening in Borrowdale Institute.
FARMERS’ SERVICE AND DINNER 2017
PEACE?

Just under a thousand people come into Holy Trinity Church, Grange each month in the Summer (we have a little machine which counts them!) nearly all of those who write in our Visitors Book say it is a place of Peace, Peacefulness, Tranquility. So we, apparently, provide a little space in this troubled world and in their troubled hearts, where they find this elusive gift of Peace. That's quite something to have on offer.

I try to say prayers each morning and evening in the Church.
Often people come in - and I always stop the job and have a chat with them - if they are willing.

On Wednesday in Holy Week a man and three children came in. The children were well behaved. The man was from Morocco. It transpired he was of a traditional Muslim family and had been brought up strictly in that tradition.

Now living in France he had heard of Christianity and strongly rejected it. Ultimately, in order to win the case for Islam, he had read the four Gospels. He was amazed and almost immediately asked for Baptism. That was sixteen years ago. He is now a faithful, practicing member of the Church. OK lots of people convert...

But what really 'got' me was the way he described what he found in the Gospel. "It was forgiveness - up to seventy times seven" "it was love, it was full of hope and life and light!" Such enthusiasm, such clarity, such wonder was if not totally new to me, it was hugely refreshing. Anyway it made me feel stale and boring and rather old...

Then Deip came into Church to say his evening prayer and I just sat there full of wonder.

On the way out of Church I looked in the book we provide for people to request our prayers and here was another wonder: Chief George Osundiya (Nigerian) Please pray for good health and long life for me, my wife Naomi and our two children Yeni and Daykin.

So next time you walk or drive past this little church in the middle of nowhere - well actually it's a place of peace - internationally and inter faith connected!

Malcolm.

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Slightly Older Persons Christmas Lunch at Borrowdale Hotel
Tuesday 19th December
Book with Malcolm - 77671
SNIPPETS

SID Hind died in hospital recently and was cremated on October 23rd. A large congregation came together to reflect on his life, give thanks for that life and to support Iris and her family in their loss. Sid was a happy man who coped courageously with health problems in his last years but he was loved by everyone and respected as a great family man, a good friend and a reliable haulage man. The wake at The Royal Oak was excellent.

Charlie Baines has been on a school trip to Rome. We hope to hear a lot about this - question, did he get up in time to go to Mass in Saint Peter’s at 7am?

The Valley Arts Weekend at Glaramara was a pilot project and it was rated a great success. Glaramara is a wonderful venue and it was good to see the results of years of hard work and investment in making it a comfortable, sophisticated and delightful hotel. Six artists from the valley showed their work and the PCC received just over a thousand pounds for their Cancer Research Appeal. There sure is some talent in the valley!

The SOP Christmas Lunch is booking up. This will be held, thanks to the kindness of the Borrowdale Hotel on Tuesday 19th December - 12 for 12.30. Bookings to Malcolm (77671) and do let him know if you need transport.

Tups are busy at this time of year - their work last year brought around eleven thousand lambs to the valley. School numbers are also holding up - fifty four this term but we could do with a few more cuckoos.

As the visitors thin out the roads come up. Lots of Diversions. In February the Borrowdale Road will have some attention - potholes and drains. Snippets is determined to be grateful.

Thorneythwaite is seeking planning permission to develop their large barn as a Respite Centre for families who are living with critical illness. Borrowdale which is a place of healing, hope and refreshment for thousands of people each year will now be able to be involved in helping children and families in their greatest need.

Candles are the symbol of Christmas. A light and some little warmth in a dark place. A bit of wax with some string in it and there you go. Saint Andrew’s will be ablaze with a thousand candles for the Midnight Christmas Mass on 24th. Let’s hope the folk turn up...please!

In Grange we have been practising as the generator broke down and we lit our candles - actually it’s a very nice way of living. No TV and you don’t see the wrinkles

Snippets is hopeful for 2018. Growing up takes time. Education takes time, so does growing old and learning how to retire.

Malcolm Stonestreet
Earlier this month I launched Copeland’s first ever skills fair – an event aimed to help our teenagers and young people find out more about the wealth of apprenticeship opportunities and adults looking for employment. Whilst my eldest daughter has chosen the university route, my three younger daughters are making their own career choices and exploring the apprentice route. Personally, and professionally, I understand that parents are understandably concerned to help their children find their path to adulthood – and I truly believe that apprenticeships are a fantastic way forward.

As part of the skills fair, it was the perfect opportunity to also launch my new initiative, TeenForce100. The project aims to help 100 teenagers in to the part-time workforce, in partnership with parents, schools and employers. There is a well-established association between having a part-time job as a teenager and gaining full-time employment in adulthood, but many young people are struggling to find a job. I want to make that connection easier, to help open doors, provide some basic training and enable young people to enjoy a little financial independence, it's so important. We had over 80 young people sign up to the project during the skills fair and in the coming months, I will be working with local businesses and organisations to help secure a part-time role for those who expressed an interest in getting involved with the project. If any local businesses, teenagers, parents or carers would like more information about TeenForce100 please email Trudy.Harrison.MP@parliament.uk or call 020 7219 4002.

What to look for in December/January

In 1991 a British Rail press release blamed ‘the wrong kind of snow’ for disruption to services. The phrase became a byword for euphemistic and pointless excuses. Yet there are different kinds of snow, depending on the density and moisture content. In areas of high humidity snow is heavier, whilst drier snow is lighter and prized by skiers and snowboarders. Light, powdery snow will not bind together and will not make snowballs or snowmen, no matter how hard we try.

Whilst the Inuits have many words to describe snow, we seem to have few, though one of my favourites is ‘snirt’ describing snow covered in dirt, often found at the end of winter.

Fingers crossed for a White Christmas!
We’ve a lot to thank the Ice Age for. Volcanoes and folding, caused by the continuous movement of the Earth’s crust, gave us the dramatic peaks but glaciers gave us the finishing touches as they scoured the valley over 10,000 years ago.

Glaciers are like slow moving rivers of ice. As the ice flows and gains energy it picks up rocks which freeze into the base causing it to act like a scouring pad. The valley would have been a V shape, formed as the river cut into the rock but the ice smoothed this out to a U shape with steep sides (think of Surprise View).

Just as rivers have tributaries so do glaciers. In a number of places smaller glaciers joined from the side and were cut off leaving their own U shaped valleys ‘hanging’. Once the ice melted the river was left to tumble down a steep drop to form a waterfall. A good example is at Styhead (left), which ends abruptly at Taylorforce Gill.

The ice moved north building energy until it hit The How at Rosthwaite. The loss of energy resulted in the dropping of rocks to form ridges called moraines, the clearest curves southwards between Longthwaite and Borrowdale School.

Look out, also, for rounded elongate hummocky deposits called drumlins which can be seen in several areas. See if you can spot some when you drive up Honister Pass.

Grange Bridge sits on a rock which is a large roche moutonée (French for sheep rock), smoothed on one side by the ice and plucked on its far edge. Smaller versions can be spotted around the valley.

As the ice melted it left us a stunning lake in the deepest part of the valley bottom. We have a lot thank that Ice Age for!

Ref: The Borrowdale Story leaflet ‘Geology in Borrowdale’
Worship and Dates...

3rd. December  10-30 am Saint Andrew’s, Stonethwaite. ‘A Club’ worship with HC.
4 pm Evensong at Grange.

10th.DECEMBER 10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange.

12th December  9-30 am Editorial Group at Northside.

13th December  5 pm Saint Andrew’s, Stonethwaite. Christingle

14th December  1 pm PCC at Northside.

17th December  10-30 am Saint Andrew’s, Stonethwaite. (Charles)
4 pm Evensong at Grange.

19th December  12 for 12-30 pm Slightly Older Persons Christmas Lunch. Borrowdale Hotel (transport requests to Malcolm 77671)

21st December  Carol Singing Grange.

22nd December  Carol Singing Rosthwaite.

23rd December  10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange.

Carol Singing Seathwaite.

24th December  Carol Singing - The Hotels.

11-30 pm Midnight Mass at Saint Andrew’s, Stonethwaite.

25th December  10-00 am Holy Trinity, Grange. Christmas Day Carols and Communion.

31st December  10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange.

4 pm Evensong at Grange.

7th January  Saint Andrew’s, Stonethwaite. ‘A Club’ worship and HC.

4 pm Evensong at Grange.

9th January  9-30 am Editorial Group at Northside.

14th January  10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange.

21st January  10-30 am Saint Andrew’s, Stonethwaite.

23rd January  COPY DATE.

28th January  10-30 am Holy Trinity, Grange.

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These are dark days for the May Government. The prime minister can’t seem to get a grip, and so deadlocked are UK and EU negotiators they can’t even agree when to take lunch. It’s now the end of November, and Britain has passed the half-way mark: it’s been seventeen months since the referendum and in another sixteen, Britain is scheduled to leave. The public have grown weary of the constant drip, drip, drip of news about Brexit and Brexit-related cabinet divisions, leaked documents, and Government U-turns. It’s a weariness that’s matched only by public pessimism. If recent poll results are correct, nearly two-thirds thought the negotiations in Brussels were going badly and 7 per cent of those who voted to leave believed they had made the wrong decision.

There are mountains to climb between now and next October, which is when the chief EU negotiator insists he needs a deal on the final tetras of the UK's departure. The clock is ticking. Mrs May triggered Article 50 prematurely — before the cabinet was prepared to adopt a common position and consider a common negotiating strategy. Precious time at the negotiating table was lost as she set about attempting to forge unity at the top of her Government. And then there was that snap election in June, when more time was lost.

It’s no wonder, then, that talks were delayed — and have been stalled. Negotiators are still struggling to resolve three issues: (1) the amount the UK owes the EU, (2) the border arrangements between Northern Ireland and Ireland and (3) rights for UK citizens living elsewhere in the EU and for EU citizens living in the UK. Once these issues are sorted, negotiators will move on to what the Government calls 'trade talks'. In fact, these are talks not just about trade, but about loads of subjects pertaining to the UK’s future relations with the EU. (The most difficult talks about the minute details of future UK-EU trading relations will begin only after the UK has left the EU.)

Assuming a deal is ultimately concluded, there are several hurdles to jump. First, the European Parliament must accept the deal. Second, at least twenty of the twenty-seven heads of state/government, meeting in the European Council, must agree. Third, some of the EU member states could also insist on ratifying the agreement themselves. And fourth, both houses of the UK Parliament must approve. Parliament may be the highest of the mountains to climb.

Any number of a series of events can happen between now and 29th March 2019. Let’s consider one. Assume that the EU, in an effort to discourage other EU member states from seceding, insists on a hard, harsh or even punitive Brexit. Were that to happen, MPs could swallow hard and vote to accept the agreement. Or they could reject it, convinced that no deal is better than a bad deal. (Either one is likely to inflict substantial damage on our economy.) Alternatively, MPs could press Mrs May to take back the letter she wrote on 29th March 2017 that triggered Article 50. Lord Kerr, who had a hand in crafting Article 50, has said that such is possible; as he put it, 'We can change our mind at any stage during the process' up to 29th March 2019. If Mrs May withdrew her letter, the UK would remain in the EU.

What will happen over the next sixteen months is anyone’s guess. But there’s no guessing that there are mountains to climb. It’s just a matter of taking the right path to the top.

Bruce Norton - Political Analyst for the Borrowdale News

The answer is The Chinese Bridge