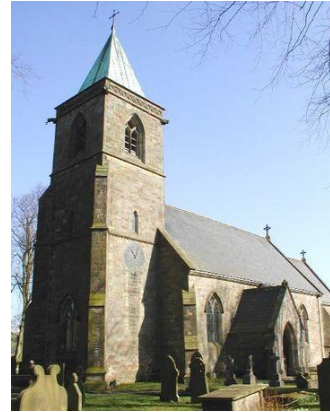


Benefice Magazine



St. Paul's, Quarnford



St. Luke's, Sheen

February

Hollinsclough Longnor, Quarnford & Sheen with Newtown
Reapsmoor & Hollinsclough Longnor

2011



St. Bartholomew's, Longnor



St. John's, Reapsmoor



St. Paul's, Newtown

40p

Benefice Directory

Vicar: Rev^d James Forrester 01298 83742
Worship Leader Janet M^cNicol 01298 812053

	St. Bartholomew's, Longnor		St. Paul's, Quarnford	
Church Wardens	Mr. L. Riley	01538 300313	Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
	Mrs. J. Lownds	01298 83680	Mrs. V. Battram	01298 22758
Secretary	Mrs. M. Boam	01298 83513	Mrs. M. Owen	0161 4913323
Treasurer	Mr. C. Smallwood	01298 70003	Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
Organist	Mrs. N. Twigg/Mrs. J. Hollingshead		Miss G. Belfield L.R.A.M.	
Deanery Reps.	Mr. J. Gilman	01298 83486	Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
	Mrs. M. Gilman	01298 83486		
Magazine Rep.	Mr. G. Roe	01298 83101	Mrs. V. Battram	01298 22758
Flowers	Mrs. A. Evans	01298 83537		

	St. Luke's, Sheen	
Church Wardens	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
	Mr. G. Grindon	01298 83264
Secretary	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
Treasurer	Mr. C. Belfield	01298 84809
Organist	Vacant	
Deanery Reps.	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
Magazine Rep.		
Flowers	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396

	St. Paul's, Newtown		St. John's, Reapsmoor	
Secretary	Mrs. M. Williams	01298 83350		
Treasurer	Mr. J. Gilman	01298 83486	Mrs. M. Mycock	01298 84585
Organist	Mrs. J. Hollinshead		Mrs. J. Gregory	01298 84429
Magazine Rep.	Mrs. M. Williams	01298 83350	Mrs. J. Gregory	01298 84429

Church Schools: Headteachers		
Longnor	Mrs. S. Evans	01298 83233
Flash	Mrs. C. Gunn	01298 23442
Hollinsclough	Mrs. J. Mountford-Lees	01298 83303

Methodist Minister
Rev^d Colin Smith 01298 23556

Uniformed Associations		
Brownies	Diana Fernihough	01538 371958

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter near the start of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which runs from the 18th -25th January. In some of my previous parishes this has been an important time because of close links with other Christian churches in the area, and perhaps in another year we may look at having a shared service with the chapel at Hollinsclough or Gradbach, but I missed the chance to suggest it for this year. I believe that the idea of unity between Christian people is very important, and does anyone else feel that it is rather sad that we have just seen a number of Anglican bishops moving into the fold of the Roman Catholics. Does that show disunity or a deeper unity between Christians?

My experience of Christian unity goes right back to the early days of my faith, when I was helped a great deal by attending Scripture Union holidays at Great Wood Camp in Somerset, where Christians of different denominations worked together happily. When I was at Lodge Moor, in Sheffield, as Curate-in-charge, I inherited a church that had strong links with the local Methodists, and later we forged ties also with the Baptists and the URC church and I was eventually authorised as the local minister for each of the 4 denominations involved. So the idea of Christian Unity has been and is important to me.

What does it mean for us in this area?

The tradition of a special Week of Prayer was developed to encourage local churches to see how they might work together more closely with those of other denominations. In a newly developed area like Lodge Moor, it made sense to build just one church to serve the needs of all the local Christians, but where there are historic chapels and churches, it is not so easy to come together, though financial pressures do sometimes encourage the sharing of just one building, and it may be that at some time in the not-too-distant future, we have to ask

questions about whether 5 Anglican and 2 Methodist buildings should be kept open to serve a population of 1500 or so. In the short term, I hope that we can find ways of working together more closely.

Even within our own Anglican churches in the Benefice, there could be a greater sense of unity. I have been encouraged by the way that folk are ready to attend special events like Flower Festivals and Coffee Mornings in other parishes; there was also great support for the various Lent Lunches that we held last year, and we shall be arranging those again this year, but as Lent does not start until the 9th March, details will be in next month's magazine. It would be great to see more support for the occasional Benefice Services on 5th Sundays and on other occasions. I know that we all have a loyalty and a love for our own church, and that is both good and important, but I wonder if it is possible to develop a greater commitment to the Benefice as a whole, recognizing that we need to work together for God's kingdom in this area.

The final part of unity is the importance of being united within each of the churches. I am not aware of deep divisions within our congregations, and I am very thankful for that. But if there are hurts or problems, remember that the Christian faith has a strong emphasis on forgiveness and on reconciliation, and it is always better to deal with any hurts rather than leaving them to fester.

May God give us all a deep awareness of our unity in Christ our Lord, as we seek to serve him in this place.

With best wishes to you all,

James Forrester

Benefice News

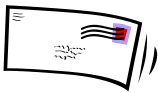
Local Police Number

0300 123 44 55

For all non-emergency calls

Paid box adverts at £2/month (£20/year) to be in all editions of the Parish Magazine. Advertisements welcome.

Used Postage Stamps



Thank you to all the people who leave stamps in our churches.

Please try to leave a narrow strip round each stamp. The last two sacks of stamps were sent to the Leprosy Mission - another sack is filling up quickly.

Electoral Roll

As we cannot find the up to date electoral rolls for either Longnor or Sheen parishes, it seems a good idea to start again.

So, if you live in the parish or worship regularly in one of the churches, even if you do not live in that parish, you are entitled to be on the roll. Being on the roll declares your commitment to the church and entitles you to speak and vote at the annual meeting which has to take place in March or April.

I have agreed to act as electoral roll coordinator for all the parishes so I would be grateful if you could contact me in **January** or **February** so that I can get a form to you and for you to return it in time to draw up the list before the meetings. We are supposed to display the lists in the church for 3 weeks prior to the meeting.

Marion Forrester 01298 83742

Teddies for Tragedies

Thank you to all the people who responded to the appeal for teddy bags. All the teddies have now gone on their way to give comfort to sick or frightened children.

As the cold weather threatens, making teddies and their bags may be a project for more people in our Benefice. The scheme is on-going.

Dates for your diary: February

Thursday, 17th Pancake & supper evening
- Flash

Mobile Library

Quarnford	Springhead Road Junction	10.25 - 10.35
/Flash	Flash School	10.45 - 11.05
	Travellers Rest	11.10 - 11.20
	Lower Summerhill	11.25 - 11.30
	Colshaw Lane End	11.35 - 11.40
Hollinsclough	Chapel	11.55 - 12.10
Longnor	The Square	1.20 - 1.50
	Old Saw Mill	1.55 - 2.00
Barrowmoor	Badgers Croft	2.10 - 2.20
Reapsmoor	Swallow Moss	2.40 - 2.45
	Park House	2.50 - 2.55

Friday 11th February

Sheen	Dovefield	12.35 - 12.45
	Cross Cottage	1.55 - 2.05
	Ball Ridge Farm	2.10 - 2.20
	Woolaway	2.25 - 2.40

Monday 14th February

Your Rural Police News

In this article I want to reiterate some advice to try to reduce your chance of becoming the victim of a scam.

A scam is a scheme designed to con you out of your cash. There are many types including fake lotteries and prize draws, ploys to get you to reveal personal details, fake investment plans, work from home schemes - the list goes on and on. Those involved are clever and sophisticated and know how to persuade us to part with our cash.

Scams often operate by unwanted contact by post, phone, email and sometimes in person and scammers;

- often sound pleasant, well spoken and kind
- have slick, professional leaflets, letters and even computer websites
- are persistent and persuasive and try to rush a decision from you
- ask you to send money before you receive their tempting offer or win

You should always treat their offers with suspicion and remember, **'if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.'**

Never be afraid or embarrassed to seek advice. Many scams are very professional and tempting particularly during tough economic times when money is tight. Reporting it may prevent somebody else becoming a victim.

If you suspect a scam contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

They are a government funded body who specialise in consumer advice and have links to local authority Trading Standards.

To help reduce unwanted mail register, free, with the Mail Preference Service at www.mpsonline.org.uk or call 0845 703 4599

Contact the Telephone Preference Service to reduce unwanted sales calls. To register your phone number, free, go to www.tpsonline.org.uk or call 0845 070 0707

If you need any advice on Policing issues contact myself Pc Andy Beresford or one of my colleagues at Waterhouses; Pc Bridget Kelly, Pc Paul Bolam, PCSO Georgina Skae-Bradburn and PCSO Paul Flowers.

For non-emergency matters contact us on **0300 123 44 55** asking for your local officers.

If I'm not in the office you can leave me a voicemail message. I check this every duty day. You can also email me on andrew.beresford@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

In the event of an emergency you should always ring 999 and even if there are no Waterhouses officers available there is continual 24 hour cover from one of our neighbouring stations.

HARTINGTON SURGERY VOLUNTEER DELIVERY DRIVERS

If you have any free time on Wednesdays and would like to join our team of volunteer delivery drivers please contact Julie Coles at Hartington Surgery on 01298 84315.

This small group of volunteers operates a rota system to deliver medication to many vulnerable and housebound patients who may otherwise have difficulty in obtaining their medication.

New volunteers always welcome.

Flash and Longnor First Responders Monthly News

www.falfr.org.uk

A new year and exams behind us and all of us in the group who took the advanced responder exam passed. We are trying hard to recruit some new responders and have some interest so now is the time, if anyone thinks it might be for them, to come forward because the training is so much easier if people can team up and share transport and compare notes!

Donations very gratefully received since the last report in December have come from a bag of coins left at Brownsplit Farm for us totalling £15.96, a cheque for £100 from a gentleman in Bristol who was helped by us after a fall at Gradbach and was most interested in the Responder Service and a huge cheque, in every sense of the word, for £824.71 from the High Peak Livestock Society who had us as one of their three nominated charities in 2010. Thank you very much indeed.

KEEP WELL and KEEP SAFE

For any information about fundraising or if you would like to train to become a First Responder please contact;

Peter Baker – 01298 83120

Jackie Ellis – 01298 83436

Deadline for the Magazine

All material should be delivered to Lynda by 20th February for the March edition. Please send to Mrs. L. Bricklebank, Cottage of Content, Hollinsclough, Buxton, SK17 0RG Telephone 01298 83541 or email lynda@coatetown.freeserve.co.uk

Longnor

St. Bartholomew's Church News

George Mellor

George Mellor's funeral was held at Hollinsclough Methodist Chapel on the 23rd December, prior to his internment in the churchyard at Longnor.

We are very grateful to his family and friends for the generous donation that was made to St. Bartholomew's in George's memory.

Longnor Playground

As many of you will already know we successfully passed stage one of a grant application for funding to regenerate Longnor Playground which is worth around £50,000.

We wish to thank everybody in the village who has helped by inputting their ideas / suggestions and we particularly want to thank Mrs Evans and all the teachers and children at St. Bartholomew's School who did a comprehensive topic relating to the playground which has been extremely informative and helpful.

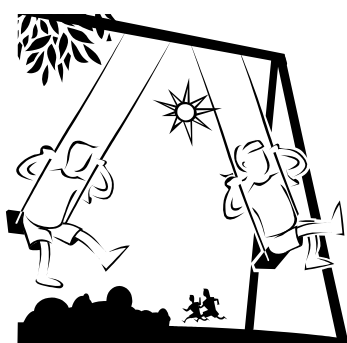
As part of the application process we had to get a number of companies to submit their plan for the playground, based on guidelines given by ourselves which reflected the ideas that had been submitted to us, and then voted on the best value for money all round design. We would like to thank everybody who came out, on what was an exceedingly cold evening on 20th December, to open and vote on the tenders that were received. The turn out was higher than expected and it was lovely to have so many members attending from

both the Action Group and the Parish Council.

The general feeling was that all the designs were of a very high quality and each one would have been a more than acceptable. However, after the voting there was a clear winner and that was Kompan. If anybody was unable to attend the meeting but would like to see the 'winning design' copies will be put up around the village or please feel free to come and see it at Longnor Caravan Park (Leek Road) or email me on info@longnorwood.co.uk and I will send you a copy of the plan via email.

Having completed this stage of the funding application we now have to apply again to the Lottery Funding (stage 2 of the funding process) and are hopeful that we will get their approval so that the refurbishment can go ahead around May 2011!

We will keep you posted - watch this space!



News from St Bartholomew's School ...

Flash school children are joining us for the whole of Wednesdays this term. Older children will be working together to study global themes with reference to UNICEF's Rights of the Child and we will be working towards Rights Respecting Schools Award.

This is an area that teaches children basic human rights but that with rights come responsibilities. We are using the training the staff of the 4 local schools have had at Longnor as part of the *Growing Global* initiative begun last year. The schools are hoping to come together for a Global day so that the children can showcase their learning.

In the afternoons we are working with Flash & Hollinsclough children to devise and practice a dance routine to be performed at Buxton Opera House as part of a multi school performance on the 14th February. The first week the children were taught by a professional dancer who has performed with the Ballet Rambert and other famous companies and will be supported over the next few weeks by Sharon Spooner, who delivered the dance provision in school last year.

The Infants topic is journeys which also ties in with the African theme running through school which will culminate with Mrs Evans educational reciprocal visit to Kenya as Cluster representative. Literacy themes will be stories from other cultures.

If anyone has any photos that Mrs Evans can include in an album to take to Kenya please let me know. They can be any aspect of our British culture and way of life, i.e. farming, pets, hobbies, birthdays, parties, Christmas etc.

Please note - the school runs a designated nursery provision with free places for 3 year olds. It opens 5 mornings a week and is staffed by well qualified Early Years Practitioners. In conjunction with this we have a pre school playgroup on site which will offers places for children from 2 years onwards, which is open 3 full days from 9.15 till 3pm. Ofsted have judged both to

provide at least good with some outstanding provision.

Visitors are always welcome. Please contact school for an appointment.

Our bags to school collection that took place on 16th November raised a total of £232.00 to be shared equally between Pre School and School. The next collection will be in June. If you have any bags ready that you need storing please contact school and they can then be stored in the Pre School shed. Bags will be sent out when we receive

them. Items that can be sent in are clothing, bedding, curtains, shoes, boots and bags. Please ensure they are bagged and tied up. Thank you.

Our lunchtime takeaway meals cooked by our school cook Miss Vickie are proving popular at just £3.50 for main course and pudding. Please use the order form available from school kitchen or office, or phone your order by 12 o'clock two days in advance. Our new menu is as follows:

ST BART'S TAKEAWAY MENUS

JANUARY-APRIL 2011

	Week1 31/01/11 07.03.2011 04.04.2011	Week 2 7/02/11 14.03.2011 26.04.2011	Week3 14/02/11 21.03.2011	Week 4 28/02/11 28.03.2011
MONDAY	Digger Pie, Boiled Potatoes Cabbage, Gravy Apple Cake & Custard	Farmhouse Lamb, Yorkshire Pudding, Boiled Potatoes & Veg. Ice-cream Pot	Beef Meatballs in Italian Sauce & Pasta. Top Hat Sponge.	Pepper Pizza, Potato Wedges & Peas. Chocolate Iced Sponge.
TUESDAY	Sausage, Mash, Green Beans & Gravy. Lemon Iced Bun	Fish, Mash Potatoes, Peas/carrots & Parsley Sauce. Muffin	Fish Fingers, Creamed Potatoes, Peas & Parsley Sauce. Toffee Pudding & Custard	Pork Meatballs in Italian Sauce, Spaghetti & Garlic Bread Muffin
WEDNESDAY	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Roast Potatoes & Baked Beans Jam Tart & Custard	Spaghetti Bolognese & Garlic Bread. Shortcake	Cottage Pie & Cabbage. Pin Wheel	Turkey & Vegetable Pie, Creamed Potatoes, Broccoli & Cauli. Jelly
THURSDAY	Roast Dinner Rice Pudding	Roast Dinner Jam Sponge & Custard	Roast Dinner Marble Sponge & Custard	Roast Dinner Shortcake
FRIDAY	Fishcake, Chips & Peas. Chocolate Sponge & Custard.	Beef Burger, Chips & Peas/Sweetcorn Chocolate Crunch	Hot Dog, Chips & Beans. Cookie	Beef Burger, Chips & Peas. Chocolate Cake

Longnor & District
Pre-School Playgroup
High quality care and education for 2-5 year-
olds Ofsted rated: GOOD

Opening times: Mon, Tues, Wed, term time
9.15am–12.15, 12.45-3.15pm
Lunch Club 12.15-12.45

- A small, friendly group based in the
- Surestart room at St Bartholomew's School, Longnor, offering a wide range of exciting experiences for your child in safe, secure surroundings.
- As well as a secure outdoor play area within the school grounds, we regularly use the adjacent brilliant new outdoor *Breathing Place* at St Bartholomew's School, and of course Longnor Village Playground

- New! All-organic snack-times!

tel: 01298 83233 (ask for Heather)
info@ playgroup.st-bartholomews-longnor.org.uk
www.playgroup.st-bartholomews-longnor.org.uk
Reg. Charity: 1044161 Ofsted: 218187

Church Bloopers

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

Evening Massage--6 p.m.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

Quarnford

St. Paul's Church News

Thank you

We acknowledge, with grateful thanks, a donation from Gwen Kidd in memory of Ben and a donation in remembrance of a loving mother, Gwen Wardle, from Thelma and girls.

Flowers Sadly, over the last few years we have lost several people who were on our church flower rota.



We would welcome some people to put flowers in church and, perhaps, to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or special occasion. Please contact Val Battram 01298 22758

Quarnford Quest

Winners for January are:-

1st A. Owen

2nd D. Phillips

3rd R. Beresford

Quarnford Quest helps to pay for the maintenance of the church and churchyard. Membership is £12/year. We would like to increase the number of members in 2011. To join or renew membership please contact Janet M^cNicol 01298 812053.

From the Registers

Burial

31st December Maurine Frances Kidd

Funeral

8th January Frank Buxton

We trust them to God's merciful keeping.

News from Flash School.

The children were very happy to return to school to meet two new pupils who have moved into the area. Our school numbers are growing and we are enjoying our new working together with Longnor School on a Wednesday. The children are excited about the dance performance at the Opera House and are practising at Longnor for this event.

This term Hazel, our Peak Park Ranger, will be helping us to regenerate our pond area and create new habitats. Perhaps we can unearth a new species and be on Country File again!

We will be holding a fund raising event on Thursday February 17th for UNICEF Day for Change. This will be a supper and pancake evening.

During March we hope to have a coffee morning in aid of the Air Ambulance and the children will receive basis first aid training from Marie Frodsham (First Responder)

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Fair, the Church and School raised over £500. This was a most enjoyable afternoon, may we have many more.

More Bloopers

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

The music for today's service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.

Sheen

JANUARY'S ONE HUNDRED CLUB RESULTS

1 st No 84	Sonia Hicks	£20
2 nd No 93	Helen Critchlow	£15
3 rd No 110	Terry Willis	£10
4 th No 112	Myrtle Alcock	£7
5 th No 13	Emma Belfield	£5
6 th No 28	Dorothy Birch	£4

Thank you, to all 122 Members

DONATIONS - thank you to Pat Hall, family and friends who have made a generous donation to St Luke's church and

Sheen Village Hall in the memory of Nick Hall. We also acknowledge the donation made to St Luke's from Miss June Holland.

BIG THANK YOU - to everybody who helps in anyway with things at church, every little helps.

MAGAZINE MONEY - thank you to everybody who as promptly paid for their magazine. Anybody with magazine money still outstanding please pay Ann, George, Jean or Chris

BRASS CLEANING - Lillian and Myrtle.

.WHIST DRIVE - Friday 18th February at 8pm in Sheen Village Hall. Due to rising cost, we have put the admission up to £1.50, which includes supper. All profits go towards the up keep of St Luke's church.

PCC MEETING - Tuesday 8th March 2011 at 7.30pm.

LENT LUNCH - Thursday 17th March 2011 between 12.30 to 2pm at Sheen Village Hall. If anyone requires transport please contact Ann or George

AEROBICS CLASS - Thursday at 7pm in Sheen Village Hall. All you need is loose fitting clothing, trainers, bottle of water and a sense of humour. Your first class is free thereafter it is £3 per session. If the snow should fall please call Pam on 01298 84809 to confirm that the class is still on thank you as Wendy travels from Ipstones to take the class.

BELATED 90th BIRTHDAY WISHES - to Doreen Bassett.

POST OFFICE OPENINGS IN SHEEN - Monday mornings 9am to 1pm in Sheen Village Hall.

Hollinsclough

In Loving Memory



Mr George Mellor of the Clough, Hollinsclough, died in Macclesfield Hospital on 10th December, aged 91.

Born on 8th June 1919 at Chelmorton Ditch, he was brought up by his grandparents at New Barns Farm, Hollinsclough from a very early age. He attended Hollinsclough school and left at 14 to work with his grandfather at New Barns Farm.

In 1945 George married Kathleen Gregory, and they took over the running of the farm on George's grandfather's retirement. This was followed shortly by the arrival of their 3 children, Jean, Janet and Norman.

George spent his entire life involved with animals, his greatest passion was horses and he enjoyed attending Manifold Show and Longnor Races every year to watch the horses.

George was involved in many aspects of village life, he was a parish councillor, school manager and in later life a member of Hollinsclough History Live. He wrote many articles and short stories about rural life in years gone by, including his own book 'Walks with George.'

In 1980 George and Kathleen moved into their retirement bungalow in Hollinsclough, sadly Kathleen passed away in 1988. George remained at his bungalow until shortly before he died, this was only possible with care given by his family and a dedicated team of care workers.

Throughout his life George was a devoted Methodist, he first attended Hollinsclough

Chapel at the age of 2 and continued to attend regularly right up towards the end of his life.

His funeral service was held on 23rd December at Hollinsclough Methodist Chapel and conducted by the Reverend Colin Smith. His final journey to Longnor churchyard was made in a horse drawn Victorian glass carriage.

Action Group

The Group will be carrying out a Parish questionnaire during February and March. We hope that you will take part so that we can help to address any issues that concern you. Also you may have ideas about improving the quality of life in Hollinsclough.

On Saturday 2nd April we will be holding an Energy Open Day, with invited speakers, who can answer any questions about energy conservation/production. The emphasis will be on saving money!

More details in next month's magazine.

Next meeting Monday, February 7th at 7.30 pm in the Chapel Hall.

Warslow

Thanks

Pam, Joyce, Carol and Lisa thank everyone who supported their stall at Longnor Christmas Market held in the School. A grand total of £445 has been forwarded to Christie's Hospital Thank you!

Whist Drive

Pam wishes to thank everyone who has supported the Whist Drives in Warslow Village Hall. £290.88 has been raised for Village Hall funds.

Next Whist Drive is Monday, February 28th at 8pm.

Pre School

Open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Admission from 2 years old with funded places for 3 year olds.

Ofsted registered : 218188.

Planned activities based on Early Years Foundation.

All activities based in the safety of the

Manifold Primary School site.

Please contact us to arrange a visit or to register your child to secure a place for future years.

Contact the Pre School Leader Sarah Broadley on 01298 84320 at Manifold Primary School.

St. Valentine's Day Traditions

February 14th

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

In some countries, a young woman may receive a gift of clothing from a young man. If she keeps the gift, it means she will marry him.

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

Think of five or six names of boys or girls you might marry, As you twist the stem of an apple, recite the names until the stem comes off. You will marry the person whose name you were saying when the stem fell off.

Pick a dandelion that has gone to seed. Take a deep breath and blow the seeds into the wind. Count the seeds that remain on the stem. That is the number of children you will have.

If you cut an apple in half and count how many seeds are inside, you will also know how many children you will have.

**The Peak District's
60th Birthday Walk**

Join Friends of the Peak District's Diamond Dawdle
Saturday 16 April 2011

Join us on this fantastic charity walk to celebrate the 60th birthday of the UK's first national park!

Starting from the stunning Thornbridge Hall, there is a choice of two circular routes along the beautiful Monsal Trail - either the more challenging 15 miles (kicking off at 8.30am) or the more leisurely 7.5 miles (kicking off at 11.30am).

Both walks return you to Thornbridge Hall where you can rest your weary feet, enjoy a nice piece of cake and help celebrate 60 years since the Peak District gained its national park status. This will be a great event so please join us.

www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk
phone 0114 266 5822

In aid of Friends of the Peak District - protecting the Peak District's landscapes. Reg. charity no 1094975.

"If you love the Peak District as much as I do then please come on this great walk. Celebrate the Peak District's 60th birthday, while also raising money to help Friends of the Peak District protect its landscapes and countryside."
Julia Bradbury, president of Friends of the Peak District

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Our airplane from RAF Brize Norton was 30 minutes from landing at Ascension Island. It was already dark and we were expecting to be on the ground only long enough for the plane to be refueled. It was then the pilot told us we'd have to remain on the island to stay for an extra fifteen hours because of fog down in the Falklands. So it was that we had to stay over night at the RAF base, sharing a four bedded hut with another couple on their way out. Next morning we saw some of the beauty of this small tropical island: the green peak of this former volcano, the red volcanic soil, the flowering shrubs and minor birds squawking.

Our first glimpse of the Falklands was of the barren moorland, low hills and rocky shoreline with occasional sandy beaches. We landed at RAF Mount Pleasant and were met by our son, Edward, with his son, Luke, on his shoulders. This morning we worshipped in the Station chapel, with several of the small congregation from another island, St Helena. They work on the base but try and return every year to their own island to celebrate Christmas with their own families.

All this effort, a base with nearly 2,000 people living and working on it, is a result of a war 30 years ago next year. This afternoon Edward and I walked up Mount Harriet, a lengthy rocky outcrop on the road to Stanley. On the night of the 12th June 1982, Royal Marines attacked from an unexpected direction and, after achieving almost complete surprise, captured this heavily fortified ridge. One can still find old mortars, the blankets in which the Argentinians were wrapped on this bitterly cold winter's night, spades and cooking utensils.

As the summer wind whistled around us we tried to imagine that winter's night and the terror of this savage engagement, a small but significant fight. Behind one rock there was a wreath. On it was written a note by the daughter of Corporal Watts who was killed at this point. In another secluded spot there was a tablet to an Argentinian killed that night. Overall about 50 men died and many others wounded.

This was a place where men showed great courage and skill. It's a place where I pondered that question about how we are to live together in this world and sort out those deep differences that divide us. How do we prevent politicians setting up the situations in which they send young men to their deaths? Of course, if there was an easy answer, we'd have put it into practice long ago!

Yet, if there are no easy answers, there is the danger that we take conflict for granted and no longer see war as a breaking of those bonds of peace that God wants established between all people. Those bonds are not just an end to war but the establishment of peace: peace in the hearts of women and men and peace between all tribes and traditions, peoples and nations.

In a pit on Mount Harriet there were the broken rifles collected from the POW's after the battle. Isaiah, in the name of God, dreamed of a day when the weapons of war could be turned into the useful products of agriculture. Jesus said simply: "How blest are the peace-makers" and he wasn't thinking mainly of the wider world of battles between armies but the peace-makers in family and work and community.

Is there a link between people who seek peace in their daily lives and the way we live at peace in the world? I suspect that a people who seek peace and justice in their daily lives are more likely to seek peace between nations. So may we pray for peace and justice in Iran and Israel, Palestine and Afghanistan, Britain and Argentina. At the same time, we are each invited to take seriously Jesus' challenge to us to live at peace with God and with each other in our own lives.

The old enemies of fear and hatred, jealousy and self-righteousness, threaten us all. By the grace of God they shall not dominate our lives, Rather we welcome the light of Christ who has come that we may desire peace and pursue it.

Christ's peace be with you!

Colin

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Services in the Benefice for February 2011

	Longnor	Quarrford	Sheen	Newtown	Reapsmoor	Hollinsclough Chapel	Gradbach Chapel
Sunday 6 th	Morning Service 11.00am	Evening Service 4.00pm	Evening service 6.00pm		Holy Communion 9.30am	Getliffe 2.30pm	
Sunday 13 th	Study and Prayer 6.30pm	Morning Service 11.00am				At Earl Sterndale	
Sunday 20 th	All- Age Worship 11.00am	Evening Prayer 4.00pm	Holy Communion 6.30pm	Holy Communion 9.30am		Holy Communion Rev Colin Smith 2.30pm	
Sunday 27 th	Holy Communion 6.30pm	Holy Communion 11.30am	Morning Prayer 10.00am	Evening Prayer 4.30pm		Deacon Janet Heys 2.30pm	
Sunday 6 th March	Morning Prayer 10.00am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	Evening Prayer 6.30pm		Evening Prayer 4.30pm		

Newtown – Short morning service 9.45 am each Thursday