Farewell to Rev'd John Dalby

Clapham and district were all greatly saddened to hear of the death of their popular vicar, the Rev'd John Dalby who died on Thursday, 24th April, aged 60.

Following is a tribute from Canon David Creaser:

The long funeral procession, led by Bishop Martin, making its way up to the Austwick burial ground on Thursday, 1st May was a never-to-be-forgotten sight. Made up of people from every comer of the parishes, from the local community and Diocese, and from far beyond, it was a testimony to the love and esteem in which John was held by everyone with whom he had come into contact. That love extended to Lesley and her family, and the thoughts and prayers of us all are with them, sharing as we do in the shock and pain of this tragic loss.

John was made Vicar of the united benefice of Clapham with Keasden, Austwick and Eldroth in 1984, when Peter Winstone left Clapham, and when he had been priest in charge at Austwick for six years. From the outset he was determined to minister to all the people in the parishes and community, whether churchgoers, or not, and he was tireless in every part of pastoral work in fulfilling the responsibilities he felt to be his, to young and old alike. Last December, interviewed in this newsletter, John admitted to the oversight of four churches, four church halls, two village schools, two church councils, two church committees, the Sunday services and baptisms, weddings, funerals, and burials in four churchyards. We all know that he fulfilled this near-impossible task with a care well beyond the call of duty and with no thought for himself.

Canon Creaser goes on to compare John with a parson in Canterbury Tales and there are a lot of similarities . . . .

He speaks of him as a learned and well-read man, who was rigorous in expounding the gospel, faithfully teaching his people with diligence, insight and with a thought for their needs and circumstances. This priest faced each set-back (and there were plenty of those) with great patience. Not having a mercenary thought in his head, he shared what he had with others. Even when ill and tired himself, he didn’t neglect parishioners in need, even those in the far flung corners of his large parish. His manner of life was exemplary, though he was unaware of it, and he didn’t expect others to do what he was not prepared to do himself. This parson’s real preference was to minister quietly at home in his parish.

No milk-and-water Vicar, however, this one. If something needed saying, he would say it, without fear or favour and if someone (no matter who) needed telling, he would tell them straight.

David Creaser
SUMMARY REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
(13th May, 2003)

GENERAL:
Teddy Dawson was re-appointed Chairman of the Parish Council, with Eileen Plumridge as vice-Chairman.

The Parish Council’s final accounts for 2002/3 were approved and will now be submitted for auditing.

Arriva Trains (Northern) now say that the new waiting shelter for Clapham railway station will be installed during May.

Following a request from the Parish Council, Lancaster & Morecambe College have agreed to pick up and set down students using their bus service from the centre of Clapham village from the start of the autumn term. At present students have to wait for the bus on the roadside verge on the by-pass.

The Parish Council is making an inventory of external signs, seats, memorials, etc. within the parish, and will then try to establish responsibility for their care and maintenance.

Most of the work to improve the Clapham to Austwick field-path has now been carried out by the National Park Authority. The project should be completed in the near future.

To discourage so-called ‘travellers’ from using the closed section of the A65 road as a camping place, NYCC have now replaced the gates at both ends and fitted new locks to each. The wire fence protecting young trees planted on the wide verge in this area has also been repaired; but NYCC have not yet taken steps to prevent parking on the verges, nor have they built the suggested stone wall by the gate at the village end. In the long term, the verges might be better protected (and also made more attractive) by further tree planting, a suggestion which will be followed up by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council will take up a complaint about agricultural vehicles and piles of hardcore/rubble being left on the moorland fringes at Newby and Keasden, detracting from the appearance of the whole area.

CLAPHAM:
NYCC have now repaired the pot-hole in the road near Crina Bottom Farm, and others near Sunnybank Cottages and Jacques Barn in Clapham village. Repairs to the road surface of Eggshell Lane have also been completed. The redundant speed limit repeater sign at Gildersbank has been removed.

Within their car park, the National Park Authority have relocated the ticket machine and laid an additional flagged pathway to improve access for disabled visitors. The old re-cycling enclosure has been removed.

NYCC were reminded that they had agreed to cut the grass verges on both sides of Cross Haw Lane this year. This was not done for the first cutting early in May.

NEWBY:
Electrical contractors will be asked to investigate recurrent failures of the street light near the chapel.

It was agreed that Yorkshire Water had left Newby village green in good condition after completion of their water supply works, and that no additional restitution work is needed.

KEASDEN:
A derelict caravan, left until recently on the roadside near the old chapel at Keasden, has been removed.

A complaint about another caravan, parked alongside the access track to Lower Moss Cottages,
has been passed on to the Planning Enforcement Officer. This is thought to be the same caravan which was recently moved on from the disused railway sidings at Clapham Station.

PLANNING:
Planning approvals granted since the last meeting:
• Revised proposal for erection of an agricultural building to store silage, at Home Farm, Clapham.
• Extension to kitchen and dining room at Fellbrook, Station Road, Clapham.
• Temporary (5 years) use of a yurt as bed/sitting room at Wenning Hipping, Keasden.
• Extension of domestic curtilage/creation of sunken patio at Wenning Hipping, Keasden.
• Reinstatement of metal railings at Ingleborough Hall, Clapham.

Planning applications still awaiting a decision:
• Amended plans for extension of the house into the attached barn; and conversion of an outbuilding to be a granny annexe – both at The Heigh, Mewirth.
• Planning – premises at Newby used by a caravan storage and repair business: The site operator has suggested to the District Council’s planning officers ways of minimising the visual impact of caravans in the yard to the west of the building by increasing the height of the boundary wall. The Parish Council is opposed to this suggestion, on the assumption (to be confirmed) that the intention is to make more use of the yard outside the building for storing and working on caravans. Such use of this area has already been refused by the Planning Inspector, and would probably displace more vehicles from the site onto the roadside verge. Use of this verge for parking is already a contentious issue. Moreover, the proposed wall would not appear to offer any screening of the site from the road into Newby village. It was also pointed out that the so-called ‘compromise proposal’ only seeks to address one issue, whereas the present complaints about operations at the site include working outside the permitted hours, noise disturbance, and the apparent habitation of one of the caravans there.

NEXT MEETINGS:
The next two meetings of the Parish Council will be held on July 15 and on September 16. Both meetings will start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

CLAPHAM SCHOOL PTA
A big thank you to everyone who donated bags of old clothing for the ‘Bag 2 School’ collection on 2nd May. An amazing 1050kg was collected for which the PTA received £210.00. The money will be used towards activities, equipment, trips etc. to benefit all the children of the school.

Libby Morrison, PTA Chairman

THE STREET MARKET

The Street Market will be held on Saturday 26th July, and donations of anything to sell will be most welcome. You can contact the following people if you have items you wish to donate.

Cakes: Liz Mason (51319)
Books: Heather Pearce (51071)
Glass/pottery: Margaret Bullock (51451)
Household linen: Jean Claugton (51491)
Tombola: Eileen Plumridge (51486)
Plants: Elga Balmford (51324)
Jam: Valerie Potter (51628)
Raffle prizes: Vesta Walton (51685)

White Elephant/bric-a-brac: or any further information please contact Jean Claugton (51491)

The Newsletter Committee are having a stall at the Street Market this year and will be very grateful for any old Videos, CDs or Tapes, but no records, thanks! This is to raise funds for the Newsletters.

These can be left at:
Peter Ings at Croft Cottage
Chrissy Bell at Gildersbank
David Sharrod at Rose Cottage, Riverside or
Ray Hull at Park View Cottage, Church Avenue

Open Gardens in Clapham
We are hoping to arrange a ‘Clapham Open Gardens’ weekend during the afternoons of the 12th and 13th July. This will be in aid of the Clapham Church Repair Fund. More details later, or telephone 51486.

BROCKLANDS Woodland Burial
Environmentally-friendly burials open to people of all faiths
Each grave has a tree planted on it
Peaceful and secluded setting
Ask for a leaflet or come and visit
Julia and Chris Weston Rathmell
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REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO
THE PARISH ASSEMBLY – 13th May, 2003

In his report, the Chairman made the following points:

Two new Parish Councillors had been co-opted
during the year, Gerald Kay and Colin Price replacing
James Garth and Valerie Potter respectively.

Public meetings had been organised to display
maps of local 'access land' for the proposed 'right to
roam' legislation.

The National Park Authority had been petitioned
unsuccessfully to retain its Clapham Information
Centre.

The parish precept had been maintained at £3,000
for a further year.

Donations had been made to a number of com-
community organisations working for local people.

Financial accounting procedures had been intro-
duced to comply with new regulations for Parish
Councils.

A publication scheme had been introduced, as
required by the new Freedom of Information Act.

A new code of conduct had been adopted by
Parish Councillors, as required under recent
legislation.

The Chairman then referred to a number of
projects, initiated by the Parish Council, which had
come to fruition during the year:

- introduction of a 20mph traffic speed limit for
  Newby (NYCC).
- completion of a major drainage scheme (and
  repairs to the beck-side walls) on Station Road
  (NYCC).
- tidying up the area around the Clapham
  Millennium Stone.
- relocation of the re-cycling bins within the car
  park, moving them away from nearby houses
  (YDNP).
- provision of a new notice board in Clapham
  village.

- rights of way improvements on the Newby to Cold
  Cotes and Laithbutts lanes. Minor works
  elsewhere.
- completion of many minor highway works around
  the parish, mostly road surface repairs (NYCC).
- installation of a dog waste bin in Newby (CDC).
- provision of a road salt bin at the top of Riverside,
  Clapham (NYCC).
- provision of sandbags for emergency use in
  Newby (CDC).
- making safe unstable memorials in Clapham
  Churchyard.

He said that several other projects should be
completed in the near future:

- provision of a waiting shelter for Clapham railway
  station.
- improved surface water drainage on Henbusk
  Lane (between Newby Cote and Newby);
- improvements to the Clapham to Austwick field
  path.
- moving the coach parking area in the car park
  away from nearby houses, to reduce noise
  disturbance.
- works to reduce nuisance caused by some of the
  so-called 'travellers' who camp out on the old
  road.

In the coming year, the Parish Council will
continue to press for:

- road surface repairs and ditching works on the
  Keasden Road, and a higher priority for its winter
  griting.
- The Parish Council also expects to:
  - participate in the proposed Settle Area taxi-
    voucher project.
  - support English Nature's plans to reconcile
    agricultural and environmental interests on
    Newby Moor.

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for Local People

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CHURCH NEWS

We now have an interregnum following the death of our vicar Rev'd John Dalby whose funeral was on May 1st at Austwick church followed by interment in Austwick cemetery.

Services are being held as usual conducted by local retired clergy. If there is need of a special service or any problems arise, please ask for help from the Wardens Dr. J. Farrer and Mrs. E. Mason or the rector Rev'd Alan Fell of Sedbergh telephone 015396 20283.

Procedures for replacing Mr. Dalby are now in hand but it may be some time before a new vicar is in the parish.

The Bishop of Beverly will take a confirmation service on Monday, 16th June at 7.30 p.m. in Clapham church. Our candidates are Alexander Greenbank and Fergus Voight and we wish them both a happy and successful future.

The Street Market will be on Saturday, 26th July. Helpers are always needed. Please contact Mrs. Jean Caughton 015242 51491.

Letter to the Editor
Sunnybank Cottage, Clapham

Dear Sir,
Through your newsletter may we thank the people of Clapham for all their support during what has been a very difficult time for our family.

After what happened to my husband and son, I had no idea what the response of our community would be, but I was totally unprepared for what did happen.

To all those people who have offered us their good wishes and practical support we say a very big thank you. To those who have come round with flowers and masses of support and gifts, to all of you we want you to know what a real difference you have made to our lives - thank you.

Bernadette, Tony & family

THANKS

Lesley and family would like to thank all the many people who sent cards and messages of sympathy following John's death. During the week we were very moved and comforted by the presence and kind words of everyone who sat with us in church after the reception of John's coffin. It was your thoughts and prayers that gave us the strength to make our final farewells on Thursday. John was, and we are, privileged to live within such a fine, caring community. Thank you for joining with us in thanking God for a life well lived and for your love and support.

17 YEARS ON

This spring China was cagey about the number of people affected by SARS. Seventeen years ago the Chernobyl explosion in the Ukraine was not discovered until Scandinavia alerted the World to it. But both illustrate the 'global village' idea and how things in one part of the world affect people in other parts. 384 farms in the Lake District, Wales and Scotland still have stock movement restrictions due to Chernobyl radiation.

Each summer, for five years now, Clapham has hosted a day for youngsters who have been touched by the disaster. Belarus was contaminated by radiation which lurks in the ground water which waters the crops. Belorussians based in the Bolton Abbey area will come to Clapdale Way on Thursday, 14th August. They are in the UK for a month as part of a nationwide scheme.

If you can help us with cakes or home-made biscuits, please bring them to 2 Clapdale Way on Wednesday, 13th August. This year, we are giving presents of new clothes, Clapham ladies are knitting sweaters and baseball caps have been promised.

As well as swimming the children will explore and play - hopefully in good weather. Your help is paramount and greatly valued.

Please phone me on 51608 if you can help.

Janet Raine

AGE Concern
NORTH CRAVEN
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01729 825669
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I will be happy to be of service
Workers Educational Association 1903–2003

JOHN RUSKIN – His Life Through Pictures

An illustrated talk by Stephen Wildman of the Ruskin Library, Lancaster on Saturday, 21st June at 10.30 a.m. in Clapham Village Hall.

This event to commemorate the centenary is free of charge and should make an interesting and enjoyable morning. Anyone may come – queries: 51323 or 51324.

The W.E.A. was founded at a time when for many, schooldays were brief and opportunities for further education very few. It aimed to teach the basic subjects when necessary and extend learning to community skills, arts and crafts, and the new ideas which changed the century. It works in institutes, universities, prisons and small communities like ours.

The branch in Clapham was established in 1960 and over the years we have learned much about our heritage through courses in music, literature, art and many forms of history, most of them local. We have studied the mysteries of the ancient standing stones and of the Universe as revealed by the Hubble space telescope. Our learning is for enjoyment and always informal. So if you wish to join us why not come on June 21st or to the autumn class in September. There will be details later.

Clapham Development Association – Update

The closure of the National Park Centre brought concerns to us all about the future of Clapham. This public building provided a valuable information service and it also houses the community snooker club. From these concerns the Clapham Development Association was born (formerly The Clapham Traders Association) to encompass all interested parties that hope to encourage Clapham to move forward and to improve it's already strong sense of community. There have already been some exciting ideas flagged up by members of the community and local business. It has been identified that we are in need of a local information brochure, website and signage to continue support for established businesses. Also new and fresh ideas for use of the National park Centre building as a showcase for local crafts people, provide workshop space and house the National Park information point. Improvements around the village are also high on the agenda including securing funds for regeneration work for fencing and general maintenance.

As this is a community based initiative we would like to invite anyone who would like to get involved to come along to the meetings and also hope that the community as a whole will support us and any social events.

For further information please contact: David Kinglysley 015242 51240, Keith Blondel 015242 51018 or speak to John & Linda in the village shop.

Future Meeting Times will be displayed on the village notice board.

James, Jenifer, Michael & Anne are

Party Animals

PRIVATE PARTIES:
Christenings, Birthdays, Weddings, Themed Parties and Funeral Teas, etc.

In your home, garden, village hall, marquee, barn, attic wherever...

We can provide: Decorations to Venue, Bar, Catering, Table Waiting and Washing up.

Telephone: 015242 51877 or 015242 51404

THE FARMING YEAR

Don't you soon get fed up of rain. After the dry spell in March and April things are back to normal. Grass growth has been slow but hopefully the rest of the stock will be out soon. Being on an organic system means we do not apply artificial fertilisers to the land and it helps not to spend too much time looking over neighbouring walls, a thick skin comes in handy too. Instead we rely on clover to provide nitrogen and it will soon catch up. We drilled 23 acres of spring barley into a near perfect seedbed and it is looking a promising crop, this is our third year of growing barley and we learn something new every time. This years lesson is that whatever the crop, there is no substitute for a fine seedbed although I was reminded of an old proverb quite recently – "two moons in May, no straw or hay", anyway time will tell. I expect to make a start on first cut silage towards the end of May on some new seeds sown last August, red clover grows really well here, providing nitrogen in the soil and a high protein forage. After two years it will be ploughed in for spring barley and then back to red clover and grass. The recent wet spell has been good for the new hedge plants, the curlews and lapwings are singing, IACS forms completed and things are freshening up. Spring is my favourite time of year, it gives us hope for the year ahead.

David Burns – Meldingscale Organics.

Arbutus
Country Guest House

offer a discount to Friends and Relations of locals
See Jackie or David for details

RIVERSIDE, CLAPHAM
Tel: 015242 51240
BETHEL NEWS
Bethel Sunday School had a good weekend 31st May – 1st June celebrating their Anniversary with Mr. Jem Hudson of Derbyshire. Children took part in the Saturday evening meeting.

Work has also started on the toilets for the disabled – the meetings continue as normal.

We are again planning to have a stall at the Street Market, raising money for charity.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS

SUNDAY
- Sunday School: 10.00 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.
- Services: 11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
- Youth Service: 4th Sunday evening
- Family Service: last Sunday morning

WEDNESDAY
- "429": 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
  Stories, games and crafts
  (4 to 9 age group)

THURSDAY
- Senior Citizens: 1st Thursday of month 2.30 p.m.
- Ladies Meeting: 3rd Thursday 2.00 p.m.
- Ladies Coffee Evening: last Thursday 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY
- Mums 'n' Tots: 9.45 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.
  all babies and pre-school children,
  with parent/carer are welcome
- Youth Club: 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.
  (10 to 14 year olds)

COFFEE MORNING
will be held at Birchlands, The Green, Clapham to raise funds for Street Market equipment on Saturday, 21st June & Saturday, 28th June 10.30 – 12 noon
Home-made Cakes • Bring & Buy • Raffle

SMALL WORLD
FAIR TRADE, BOOKS & LOCAL CRAFTS
Open every Weekend
(We are at the top of the village)
Watch out for notices regarding an Open Evening in the near future
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CLAPHAM WI
Clapham Women's Institute meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. New members, visitors and friends are always welcome. For information telephone 51219.

Programme:
June 11th: A Love Affair with a Store
  Speaker: Mrs. S. Wardleworth
July 9th: Gardening from Scratch
  at the home of Mrs. Jean Davey, Newby
August 13th: W.I. Walk
September 10th: Fair Trade
  Speaker: Mrs. C. Allen

WHIST DRIVES
Whist Drives will be held in the Village Hall on June 6th, 13th & 20th and on July 4th, 11th & 18th and on August 1st & 8th. It will be rainbow whist on 13th June and semi-partner on 11th July. Admission £1 including refreshments.

In May £100 was given to the Friends of Harden Ward, and a further £100 to the MacMillan nurses at Lancaster from the charity fund.

Linda & John
welcome you to
CLAPHAM VILLAGE STORE & POST OFFICE
Monday – Friday ........ 0700–1800
Saturday ................. 0730–1700
Sunday .................. 0800–1400

Post Office Hours:
Monday – Friday ........ 0900–1730
Saturday ................ 0900–1230
Telephone: 015242 51212

7
While we enjoyed a remarkably sunny dry April, around the Mediterranean there was a “blocking system” for three weeks, giving the locals a dousing and holding up our migrants. Apart from the odd early bird these were very late arriving this year. Highlights included Dotterel on top of Ingleborough – two May 3rd and then on May 10th three seen by Norman Thomson. These colourful (and tame) waders head north to the Cairngorns in a series of “hops” between the higher summits – most famously Pendle Hill, but Ingleborough does seem to be getting more – or are we just looking for them?

An amazing sight for the time of year were 20 Crossbill in Trow Gill May 3rd, presumably the same birds that were there two months ago but who knows where they have been since. A real spring sound was Snipe drumming on Hardacre Moss April 7th, and throughout the month in Crummockdale. A strange sound this, produced by the vibration of the stiff outer tail feathers as the birds close their wings and plummet out of the air during display flights. Similar to twanging a ruler on a desk . . . or did you not do that at school? Then Cuckoo at Meldingscale Farm April 29th.

Activity on Hardacre Moss and Newby Moor included breeding Stonechat (suspected for a couple of years) a Merlin April 4th and two hunting Short-eared Owl several times. Just outside our Parish a pair of the rarer Long-eared Owl are breeding. Otherwise “first” dates – unless you know better – were: Chiffchaff March 27th; Woodcock “roding” same day; Willow Warbler March 28th; Sand Martin Meldingscale March 30th; Blackcap April 3rd; Reed Bunting Hardacre April 7th; Tree Pipit April 8th; Swallow April 14th; House Martin April 16th; Redstart April 25th; Swift April 29th; Garden Warbler May 5th; Wood Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher May 15th (very early that one); Ring Ouzel, Golden Plover May 3rd; Pied Flycatcher Clapdale Farm May 3rd; Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat Clapham Station May 6th; Sedge Warbler Newby Moor May 7th; Whinchat, Grasshopper Warbler Crook Beck May 11th.

Records supplied by Tim Hutchinson, Smithy Cottage.

CUCKOO TOWN? There is a lot of anecdotal evidence, though no “stats” yet to prove it, that Cuckoo numbers in Britain have crashed in the last couple of years. As it happens Dr. Farrer learned a lot about this amazing bird while hospitalised recently! Did you know, for example, that the town of Marsden celebrates Cuckoo Day with the same story of origin as Austwick? The female partially incubates the egg before laying so that it hatches earlier than her “victims” young. The egg markings match those of the host, which varies from bird to bird – around here most are probably laying in Meadow Pipit nests. She spends a lot of time perched quietly watching them, to find their nests and also to study their habits. This means she can nip in and lay in a few seconds while the nest is vacant – up to 20 eggs in 20 nests. The first act of the baby cuckoo is to murder its foster siblings by levering them out of the nest. One of the most remarkable facts is that the adults clear off to Africa well before the new generation, who follow their parent to exactly the same spot a few weeks later. Explain that one!

OPEN GARDEN
Mr. & Mrs. Davey of Croft House, Newby are hosting an Open Garden on Friday, 4th July – Saturday, 5th July 1 – 5 p.m. both days.
Cream Teas • Plant Stall • Quiz
Proceeds for Clapham Women’s Institute

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For Advertising your products and services, please contact Sylvia Haxell on 015242 51603
Articles, News and Ideas PLEASE! for the next issue by 25th July, 2003 to the Village Shop, Liz Walton, Ray Hull or David Sharrod.

Articles submitted but not included in the present publication will be put in future newsletters.