

## Holme St. Cuthberts Christingle



Report by: Mrs L Tembey

On the 24th December our annual

### Down the Line

Report by: Holme St Cuthberts History Group

John Huggon treated an audience in Culterham Hall, Mawbray to a wonderful collection of slides in November. There was a fascinating display, and expert information was given throughout. The show covered the building of the railway into Silloth, the growth of the town and the construction of the harbour.

For enthusiasts of these three aspects of Silloth, there were many slides to illustrate the history of each. The audience could see just how the railway and harbour brought Silloth into being. It was a great pleasure to see the results of all the painstaking research, and to enjoy an evening packed with information. The evening raised £160 for the Abbey Restoration Fund.

Christingle was held at Holme St Cuthbert Church with a good attendance of all ages from the surrounding area.

The service was taken by Rev David Tembey, one of the highlights was the reading of the Christmas Story with the children surrounding him on the chancel steps.

During the service the Vicar presented a certificate received from the Church of England Childrens' Society to Churchwarden Mr Joe Armstrong. Mr Armstrong has given 60 years service to the Church by continually giving donations received by Carol Singing around the Parish, Christingle service collections and from the school's carol services held in Church.

The carol singers visit every home in the parish over four nights, people of all ages join in. It was started by the Rev F Swift. Joe was a founder member. Vicar's including Reverend's G Gunn, R French, D Blake, A Whipp, H Grainger and David Tembey have all carried on the tradition.

Thanking the vicar

Joe presented him with a small wooden cross on a silver chain which had been carved and given by Mr R McMinn of Beckfoot, this being part of the charred wood from St. Mary's in Abbey Town following the fire in June 2006. Accepting this surprise gift, the vicar expressed his pleasure and said he would wear it with great pride as a permanent reminder of a real hope in the future.

Another presentation by Mrs L Tembey was a cheque from the Carlisle Diocese Mothers' Union 1 to 5 Bursary fund. This will be used to purchase musical instruments and other equipment to further develop the valuable Children's work.



## Holme Cultram Abbey Christingle



At Holme Cultram St Mary's Abbey Town on a cold, raw but dry Christmas Eve the annual Christingle service was held in the roof-less Abbey. It was an unforgettable setting of straw bales and paraffin lamps, candles and flash lights.

People turned up with their own handmade

lanterns. There were plenty of people on "safety watch" and the whole event went off without a problem.

A very large congregation, of 183 people of all ages, braved the cold to watch some of the children present "Countdown to Christmas", depicting the Nativity in words

and music. This formed part of the Christingle Service.

The children also led the singing. It was an excellent effort all around.

The performance was very special indeed and everyone present was pleased to be back in the original Church once again.

### Christmas Sing-Along

Report by: Ralph Pickering

It was a Joyous group of people who assembled in the Golf Hotel the week before Christmas.

With a great keyboard instrumentalist to accompany them they were there to sing their hearts out for the Christmas celebrations. There never was a birthday party like this one! Helped along with delicious mince pies and Christmas spirit from

Fausto and his staff (who sang along too) the evening all too quickly passed by.

All departed on a frosty and foggy night with sincere wishes that more will join them next year.



Back to School Bee  
by  
Molly Gilroy  
aged 8  
from

Holm Cultram Abbey School

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