

Coniston and Crake Valley News

Serving the parishes of Colton, Coniston and
Torver, Egton cum Newland & Lowick with Blawith



December 2021 www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk

The Coniston and Crake Valley Benefice

"To Grow, Witness and Love Like Jesus"

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CHURCHWARDENS

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St Andrew's, Coniston & St. Luke's, Torver

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Pastoral Letter - Revd David Bickersteth

Why are we here – what is our purpose? Perhaps a silly question, for we exist because most of us were desired, and our birth was hopefully a truly joyful gift to the family. But what can we make of life and what is our future?

Christmas is about Incarnation – the Divine taking human flesh and being born among us. Christ's coming is the answer to the biggest questions of life. *'Why are we here, what happens when I die?'* Add to those questions how we find forgiveness, reconciliation and hope for creation? The list is long, the answer is short.

Christ's coming is all about the Divine who is creative love, earthing His Being in the womb of Mary, becoming One with us, becoming human. He did so to show love, teach love and die for love. Dostoevsky wrote, *'I believe there is no one deeper, lovelier, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus'*.

No intelligent historian doubts the life of Jesus of Nazareth, yet not all accept the claims of Scripture that Jesus is Incarnate Son of God.

The famous Oxford professor and writer, CS Lewis, in his middle years, gave up atheism and came to believe that Jesus was and is the Son of God. He famously wrote:

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

To know Jesus, is to know God, to know God is know who we are, why we are here, and where we are going!

The Church exists to help us know and worship the one true God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We cannot do this in isolation, Christ came to restore our relationship with the Creator God, to be part of His family. Christmas is a family celebration of life and hope. The crib is only the beginning – it foreshadows the Cross. We can find true meaning in Jesus Christ, and we need each other in that quest.

Covid has hit hard, some are still reluctant to meet as a group, but it's important that we are not hobbled by fear. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews writing in the mid first century wrote:

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (10:25).

For each of us, a day is approaching, we need direction. For Christians Jesus is the 'Way, the Truth, the Life'.

Christina Rosetti said it all succinctly in her carol:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Wishing you a Christmas full of hope and expectancy.

From the Registers

Funerals

29 th October	Beverley Clegg Law at St Mary's, Egton:	Funeral
3 ^d November	Ian Wilson Stancliffe at St Andrews, Coniston:	Interment of Ashes
11 th November	Ruth Buchanan at Holy Trinity, Colton:	Funeral

Churches in the Coniston and Crake Valley

St Andrew's Church, Coniston LA21 8EN

St Luke's Church, Torver LA21 8AZ

St Luke's Church, Lowick LA12 8EE

Holy Trinity Church, Colton LA12 8HF

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Penny Bridge LA12 7RQ

Tottlebank Baptist Church, Colton LA12 8HY

Welcomes you to our Sunday services from 10.30 to 11.30am followed by refreshments, and midweek prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Our moderator is Rev. Andrew Dodd. For further information contact Chris and Margaret Hamps, hampsc@outlook.com

Coniston Methodist Church, Coniston LA21 8HH

The Sunday morning service is at 11.00am and a warm welcome awaits you. For further information contact Joyce Holland on **015394 41594**.

St Francis of Assisi Church of the Sacred Heart, Coniston LA21 8AW

Mass is held on Thursdays at 10.00am and Saturdays at 5.00pm. For further information contact Father Matthew Jacob on **01229 779673**.

Coniston Christian Fellowship LA21 8AL

Coniston Christian Fellowship does not meet on Sundays but runs Bible Studies during the week. For further details, contact Alex or Ruth Stewart **07751 589 356 / 015394 49539**.



Church Services for December 2021

5th	Second Sunday of Advent		
St. Luke Torver	9.30am	Winter Breakfast	Linda Inman
St. Luke Lowick	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev David Bickersteth
10th	Friday		
St. Luke Lowick	6.00 pm	Carols & Candlelight	Rev Brian Streeter
11th	Saturday		
St. Luke Torver	5.00pm	Carol Service	Rev Brian Streeter
12th	Third Sunday of Advent		
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Harry Welch
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
19th	Fourth Sunday of Advent		
St. Luke Torver	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Carol Service	Rev Brian Streeter
Holy Trinity Colton	3.00pm	Carol Service	Pam Priestley
St. Andrew Coniston	6.00pm	Carol Service	Rev Brian Streeter
24th	Christmas Eve		
St. Luke Lowick	3.00pm	Children's Service	Pam Priestley
St. Andrew Coniston	4.00pm	Christingle	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00pm	Holy Communion	Rev David Bickersteth
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
25th	Christmas Day		
Holy Trinity Colton	9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bickersteth
St. Andrew Coniston	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Joanna Henson
St. Luke Lowick	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
26th	First Sunday of Christmas		
Online Zoom Service	10.30am		Rev Brian Streeter

To join the Zoom Service open your Zoom application and use the Meeting ID: 898 0429 8167 and the Passcode: 665138.

Alternatively, you can go the benefice website at www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk and click on the link in the calendar.

Parish Prayer Diary - December

1st: At 10am join with Christians across the benefice for an hour of prayer at home, praying for family, community, nation and the many needs of the world.

2nd: Pray for St Margaret's Hospice in Romania, particularly Valentina and Alexandru, sponsored by the Crake Valley community through the *Children in Distress* (5p) collections.

3rd: Give thanks for volunteers who selflessly give time and skills to help others.

4th: Pray for Bishop James' *Teaching Days* across the diocese, especially for today's session at Ulverston Parish Church.

5th: Sunday, the first day of the week

Pray by the Spirit's grace, our hearts and minds may be purified to run the race that is set before us, so that when Jesus comes as Judge and Saviour we are ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

6th: Pray the *Experience Christmas* events for primary school children across the Country will help them grasp something of the real wonder of Christmas.

7th: Pray for the practical outworking of COP26; for wise stewardship of all we have as a Nation and as an individual.

8th: Pray for the people of La Palma (Canary Islands) affected by the eruption of Cumbre Vieja volcano, and for the aid agencies trying to raise funds to help them.

9th: Pray for those who stand for truth and integrity against the corruption which undermines social and economic development in all societies.

10th: Pray for agencies working to promote animal welfare at home and abroad.

11th: Pray for the *100 Club* Christmas Social today, that this fundraiser for Torver Schoolroom will be a time of fun and fellowship for the Torver community.

12th: Sunday, the first day of the week

In this time of Advent preparation, pray that God grants us grace to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly in the light and presence of Jesus .

13th: Pray for Archbishop Justin Welby serving his national and international role.

14th: Pray for scientists developing vaccines and those involved in clinical trials.

15th: Pray for Christians in Iran imprisoned for their faith. Pray also for the work Open Doors supporting the church with online ministry and advocacy.

16th: Pray for people living with disability, and the organisations supporting them and their families at home and in their local community.

17th: Pray for teaching staff and pupils as schools close for the Christmas break.

18th: Pray for those who having explored the Christian faith, and coming to the point of personal commitment, have received Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

19th: Sunday, the first day of the week

Pray for carol services across the nation: that familiar words will refresh and inspire as they proclaim the awesome wonder of The Word made flesh.

20th: Pray for tonight's Coniston Parish Council meeting.

21st: Pray for students as they return home, and for their families.

22nd: Pray for those serving in the nation's Armed Forces whose term of duty means they will be away from home and family this Christmas.

23rd: Pray for the bereaved experiencing deep sadness and depression because of their loss of someone they love.

24th: In the busyness of final gift preparations, may we, and all who seek a better way, take time to reflect on God's greatest Gift to us: Jesus, our living hope.

25th: Christmas Day

We celebrate the day of our Saviour's birth: Jesus to You be glory given! Word of the Father, in flesh appears – O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

26th: Sunday, the first day of the week

Praise to our God who came to share in our humanity and to restore us. Give thanks for the Kingdom fellowship to which we now belong and pray for opportunity to share it with those who do not yet know the Lord Jesus.

27th: Pray for new parents as they adjust to life with their first born. Pray for mothers who are experiencing post-natal depression.

28th: Pray for chaplains, especially those who minister in prisons and hospitals.

29th: Pray for refugees fleeing from war and famine and for all who work to help and support destitute people.

30th: Pray for UN Secretary-General António Guterres and his team as they attempt to bring resolution to global issues and problems.

31st: As 2021 draws to a close, recall the blessings you have received and name them, with thanks.

AROUND THE PARISHES

Coniston & Torver

Coffee and Mince Pies

You are invited to join us for coffee and mince pies at the Methodist Church on

Monday 6th December 10 am to 12 noon

Will include singing by children from Coniston Primary School. All are most welcome.

Coniston WI

We are having a party to celebrate our 80th Anniversary! All members past and present are welcome on **Tuesday 14th December** at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, 1940's dress optional.



Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston, October 2021

Total - 652.2mm (25.7ins)

Wet days - 26

More than 1mm on 25 days

Wettest day 27th - 162.2mm (6.4ins)



Wettest day on record, 3rd wettest month on record, wettest October on record.

**THE CONISTON INSTITUTE PRESENTS:
A NIGHT OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC FROM
NORWAY AND THE BRITISH ISLES**



ANNA HUGHES



HOLLY CLARKE



ASTRID GARMO



INGRID SØRHEIM

**SATURDAY 11TH
DECEMBER 2021**

AT THE CONISTON INSTITUTE

**TO BOOK TICKETS EMAIL
SAM.CLARKE.5555@GMAIL.COM**

Doors open at 7pm.

Tickets available from the Ruskin Museum or by phoning **07789 591619**.

Apologies for the incorrect email address printed in November's magazine, Ed.

Thank you to Coniston from Charlie and Rachel Day:

Rachel and I would like to say a massive thank you to the people of Coniston for all of your cards, gifts and well wishes. We have been truly blessed to live and minister in this brilliant village and we are going to miss Coniston massively. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly, it's been a privilege to work with you all over the past four years. As many of you will know I have started my training for ordained ministry in the Church of England which I am really enjoying. Rachel and I have moved and are settling into our new home in Crosscrake where I will be serving a three year placement as part of my ministry training. Please do keep in touch, we'd love to hear what's going on in the village and hopefully we'll see you sometime soon.

Every blessing,

Charlie and Rachel Day

E: Charlie.day@emmanueltc.org.uk

Coniston C of E Primary School

H S A Christmas Bingo – Bingo is BACK!! This year, the H S A Christmas Bingo will take place on Friday 3rd December in the school hall. Doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. See you there!



Christmas Play, Reception to Y6 - The Christmas play will take place on Thursday 9th December at 1.30pm and 6pm. The Christmas play this year is 'Dragon Days'.



Torver Christmas Carol Service

at St Luke's on Saturday 11th December at 5pm.

There will be a light seasonal supper afterwards in the Schoolroom - bring your own drinks. Everyone is most welcome. The 100 Club Double Draw will be held at the end of the evening.

Donations of raffle prizes, wrapped or unwrapped, will be gratefully received in support of the Schoolroom upkeep.

Egton Cum Newland

Children in Distress 5p collection

Could I take this opportunity to remind everyone that our annual December collection is fast approaching. If you could hand your 5p coins in to Greenodd Village Store, or to me (Caroline Lambert, Torwood, Greenodd) that would be great.



We continue to support Valentina and Alexandru, who due to the generosity of our communities are both doing well, and the additional funds raised last year enabled both children to receive a birthday present. We are told by the charity that having a sponsor makes so much difference to the lives of the children involved, the cost to sponsor both children still remains at £288 per annum.

We will of course accept any donations, it doesn't have to be just 5p coins. Historically people popped them to one side throughout the year, but in this every increasing cashless society we find ourselves living in, it may be easier for you just to make a one off donation.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, Caroline Lambert

Coffee Morning for St Mary's Church, Egton cum Newland



Saturday 11th December

10am until 12 noon at Greenodd Village Hall

The usual stalls - Please come and enjoy a coffee with friends - we will be pleased to see you all - at long last!

Egton cum Newland WI

Happy Christmas to you all from the ladies of Egton WI.

We hope your celebrations go well. We have our Christmas meeting in the form of a supper with entertainment in our village hall on 14th December so I will report back on that in the new year! It looks as if 40 of our 43 membership will be there which is great.

We've just held our November meeting which was also our AGM. As it has been a shorter year for our WI meetings due to Covid we decided that we would have time for a speaker too. We made a good decision as our speaker was the authoress/playwright Zosia Wand. She lives locally and has had several books published as well as writing plays for the BBC. She was fascinating to listen to and read a short extract from one of her books which she then enlarged upon and told us about her writing process.

We will start the new year with a talk entitled "Tales of a Paramedic" by Graham Hundley which will take place as usual in Greenodd Village Hall at 7.30 pm. on Tuesday 11th January. If you would like to give us a try, ladies, do come along and you will be made most welcome.

We aim to restart our second book club and the Rummikub sessions in the new year so it will soon be all go.

Once again Happy Christmas from us all.



WATER YEAT VILLAGE HALL

is delighted to present



Ranagri

You're unlikely to hear anything more irresistible and more folky this year'

Ranagri produce an electrifying mix of virtuosic instrumentals, haunting melodies, vivid storytelling and their unique take on old and new folk songs, using guitar, bouzouki, flutes, whistles, harp/electric harp, bodhran/drums.

Friday 10th December at 8pm £13

or in advance from www.wegotickets.com/wateryeatvillagehall

Cabaret-style seating. Bring your own drinks and nibbles

www.ranagri.com
charity no: 22293

e-voice.org.uk/wyvh
card payment accepted

Lowick and Blawith

Blawith Macmillan Cake Stall



A big thank you to our friends and local community for making this such a successful event. We raised an amazing £1,262 for Macmillan Cancer Support! Thanks also to everyone who donated cakes and home produce for the stall. Your support is very much appreciated. Rachel

Reports

Broughton and Coniston District Councillors Update

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM: The division of Cumbria into two, Cumbria East and West is progressing. The northern part will be called Cumberland and the southern, Westmorland and Furness. Westmorland and Furness will incorporate the old District Councils of Barrow Borough, South Lakeland and Eden. Cumbria County Council will disappear. There will no longer be County and District Councillors, but just one Councillor per ward (in general). This will result in fewer Councillors and to make it manageable, some of the old ward boundaries will be changed. However, this is not definite until a Structural Change Order has to been agreed with the Government defining the change and structure of the new Westmorland and Furness Council. The new Council will not operate until April 2023. However, in the meantime, a Shadow Council will exist after May 2022. So, for a year there will be two Councils operating in parallel. Elections for this Shadow Council will be in May next year.

CONSTITUENCY REFORM: No further news since the Consultation ended on 2nd July. It seems that this is on hold until the Local Government Reform has progressed further.

COVID VACCINATION AND BOOSTERS: Infection rates rose significantly after half term, but are slightly decreasing now. It is still important that people are fully vaccinated and get the boosters. Gill Rise in Stanley Street is offering a walk-in booster service. It must be at least 6 months since your second dose though. Remember your COVID 19 vaccination card as well. Some District Councillors have been been trained as Community Vaccine Champions, so we can provide support and assurance and dismiss some of the urban myths that have arisen. There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility, pregnancy or breast feeding. Even if you get a mild dose of Covid, you can get Long Covid, which is not desirable. If you or a friend are worried about getting vaccinated, we are willing to give help and support, please contact us on **077784 30926**.

BIN COLLECTION: Unfortunately bin collections have been disrupted over the past few weeks, due to increased demand, more visitors and a shortage of HGV drivers. This has resulted in some green bins not collected. The Collections staff have done a fantastic key worker role over the past 18 months, so please bear with them.

FLOODING: We hope you managed to stay dry during the floods. Coniston Boating Centre was flooded and Coniston was virtually impassable at Monk Coniston and on the eastern side. Duddon Bridge was flooded and the A593 was impassable at Clappersgate. All at one time. SLDC have a site in North Lonsdale Road, Ulverston where you can drive in and pick up sandbags.

GREEN COMMUNITIES: A number of Green Community campaigns are starting up in and around the valley and we would love to get everyone involved, of all ages and groups. There was a Green Sparks event at Spark Bridge on 18th September. Here, Dan Fox showed a film on the River Crake. There were bug hunts in the river, a Swap Shop and various displays, plus cake and tea. It was well attended by over 70 people. There is lots going on, so if you are interested in getting involved or developing similar groups, please contact us.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT: The National Park in conjunction with various agencies, like the National Trust, SLDC, Police and Emergency agencies, formed the Tactical Visitor Management Group. Plans were drawn up this year with the local Parish Councils to deal with the extra visitor numbers and new visitors. This led to extra patrols, signage, shuttle buses, pop up campsites and car parks and welcome hosts in car parks. The operation has scaled down somewhat as we move into autumn as it gets less busy but is still ongoing. In most cases, the pop up car parks and campsites have gone back to their original states. A review is currently going on to discuss the learning experience and efficacy of the operation and plans are prepared for next year.

SELF PUBLICITY: Ian was awarded a National award for Councillor Achievement last month. It was for his involvement in the formation of the Safer Lakes group and what became the Tactical Visitor Management Group. This led to specific area plans in the busiest areas, pop up car parks, camp sites, signage and patrols. What started with putting up Covid posters up led to a multi-agency county wide operation to reduce the amount of chaos and bad behaviours in the Park. "It is nice to see appreciation for what you do, but it was very much a team effort. I was driven to help because I realised how busy the emergency agencies and Rangers were working as many had been furloughed or were isolating. One of the nicest compliments I received was "We feel safe in our village" and that was what it is all about". One of the many great attributes of this area is that there is a great community spirit and we do things because we have to and because we care.

Contact us on **077784 30926**, if you have any queries/concerns or would like any more information.

Or ian.wharton@southlakeland.gov.uk,
heather.troughton@southlakeland.gov.uk
tracy.coward@southlakeland.gov.uk

Stay Safe, Keep Healthy, Ian, Heather and Tracy

Brantwood Gardens

Hello, my name is Bethan and I'm the Head Gardener at Brantwood, John Ruskin's former home on the shores of Coniston Water.

I feel incredibly lucky to have my dream job, looking after Brantwood's 250 acre gardens and estate with our small team of staff and volunteers. Our estate runs from the heathland up on Crag Head, through semi-natural ancient woodland, naturalistic woodland gardens, herbaceous borders, an orchard, and all the way down to the lake shore. This means there are lots of different habitats and our land is wonderfully bio-diverse. I love having volunteers as part of the team for all sorts of reasons, I thought our volunteers would put it better than me, this is what they say:

"Working in the Brantwood garden is a joy. We all have our own reasons for volunteering there, but for me the physical exercise, the company of some lovely people, time spent enjoying England's greatest scenery and a weekly routine I can look forward to are all important to me." 'J'

"We love our days volunteer gardening at Brantwood, a beautiful garden, set in absolutely wonderful scenery, and working with our lovely friends and colleagues." 'K&R'

"Volunteering at Brantwood is my day off from life. The solace and balm of the beautiful gardens and kind relaxed company." 'C'

"My volunteer experiences at Brantwood have made me richer. Not in money of course but in terms of Ruskin's idea of true wealth. I have learnt a lot about horticulture which has opened my eyes to a whole world of plant life. Education, sociability and mindfulness all add to our store of goodness. I am so glad to be part of this friendly team." 'T'

"Approaching Brantwood is like a sigh of relief. It lets me switch off from the stresses and strains of everyday life and just be content in nature..." 'E'

As well as in the Garden and Estate, there are volunteering opportunities in the Museum (i.e. Ruskin's house) too. If you'd like to learn about what goes on behind the scenes and help care for the historic artefacts or welcome visitors then we'd love to hear from you. In all volunteer roles we will work alongside you, train you and make sure you have everything you need to do the job.

John Ruskin was a truly inspirational thinker and the history associated with Brantwood is wonderfully rich. We would love to hear from people who can help us care for his legacy. Please get in touch to find out how you can get involved. Contact bethan@brantwood.org.uk or **015394 41396**.

Brantwood

Since re-opening in May this year, the House has welcomed visitors old and new – it has been wonderful to be back and buzzing again. Our team of gardeners and volunteers have continued to keep the gardens looking their glorious best during the Summer and there are still plenty of plants and flowers to delight. Don't forget we have a Season Ticket which allows you to visit the house and gardens as many times as you like for a year (£12 individual, £23 joint). Please note that house visits are on a timed ticket basis.

On display in the Severn Studio we have 'Gardens of Persephone' an amazing exhibition of mixed media artworks by Kendal artist Mike Healey. While not directly influenced by Ruskin's art, Mike's work explores parallel aspects of the natural world that Ruskin loved and captured in his etchings, drawings and watercolours. However, as a latter-day Surrealist, Mike brings to his contemporary landscapes and plant forms a surreal, sometimes bizarre quality that is not only deliberately provocative but also, hopefully, occasionally beautiful. Exhibition runs until March 2022 (open during house opening hours). Our dedicated exhibition of Ruskin's mineral collection is also on display in The Treasury.

Anthony Hewitt, internationally renowned pianist and Director of the Ulverston International Music Festival will be giving a lunchtime concert on 12th December at 1.30pm in the Drawing Room on our newly acquired Steinway. Tickets £14. Booking details can be found on our website shortly.

The Terrace Café has a gorgeously mouthwatering Festive Brunch menu throughout December including "Cran Brie" Fondue, Christmas Croque Monsieur and



Turkey Toasts. Perfect for crisp winter days followed by a walk round the gardens. Open every day during December 10.30-4.00pm.

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Front of House Manager to lead our dedicated, friendly Cafe team. Roles include day-to-day running of the Terrace, coordinating weddings, groups and events catering. Applications for front of house staff also welcome. If this sounds like the dream job for you, please contact fiona@brantwood.org.uk.

House and Garden Winter opening hours Wed-Sun 10.30am-4.00pm. (Closed during January – for full opening times and information, please check our website.)

www.brantwood.org.uk / **015394 41396**.

Rusland Horizons

It's time to order your Rusland Horizons Trust calendar!

We were delighted with the number of entries we received for this year's photograph competition, over 80 stunning photos were submitted! With such a high standard of photography and beautiful imagery capturing the theme of *Rusland Woodlands*, choosing just 13 to feature in the 2022 Rusland Horizons calendar was a challenge!

The decision was finally made by Tim Dove, our independent judge, that the winning honours for the front cover should be given to David Kidwell. Congratulations!

You can see all 13 photographs that feature in the calendar in our November newsletter, which can be viewed and ordered via the website www.ruslandhorizons.org

Hedgerow planting - Thwaite Head

A date has now been confirmed for our next hedgerow planting work party - Friday 26th November. Volunteers will help plant a completely new line of hedgerow, under the helpful guidance of countryside ranger Andrew Wilkinson, that will support local biodiversity, providing a new and safe habitat for our native species. This hedgeplant supports general nature recovery and climate change resilience in our precious Rusland valley.

Polytunnel work party

A date will be finalised for the polytunnel work party very soon and is likely to be in early December. The polytunnel, which we will be making use of until our own is established, is at Abbots Reading, thanks to the kind offer from Tony Woods. We will need some work and removal of brambles before it can be put to good use for wildflower cultivation and growing of saplings.

We will be looking for up to four volunteers to help with tidying and clearing out. If you would like to be involved, please keep checking our website, social media and newsletter for updates.

The Rusland Horizons Christmas Bash!

We are busy working on our Christmas bash, to be held on Sunday 12th December. Get the date in your diary now and keep checking our website, social media and newsletter for the latest updates. Everyone is welcome so come and join us for the perfect way to feel festive and start your Christmas celebrations!

Get involved with Rusland Horizons Trust

The volunteer Trustee Directors are working hard designing new projects, developing funding bids and managing the contracted staff. There is, however, so much more we need to do to make the charity's vision a reality!

There are a number of ongoing tasks that would benefit from additional support. Could you help? The time commitment for each would not be great. We are looking for volunteers to help with updates to our website, data analysis, fundraising admin and / or writing fundraising bids, ongoing general admin and also someone to take on the role of treasurer.

If you are able, and interested, in joining the Rusland Horizons team we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch for more details about each of the task areas or to offer your help. Email us on hello@ruslandhorizonstrust.org we look forward to hearing from you.

For the latest updates and details of the above events, and all others, please keep checking our 'What's On' page on our website, follow us on Facebook and Instagram or email hello@ruslandhorizonstrust.org.

Oxen Park Cinema Club

As well as the advertised films in December – Minari (30th Nov & 5th Dec) and Sound Of Metal (14th & 19th) - we have chosen our January films: *The Mauritanian* on 4th and 9th January and *The Perfect Candidate* on 18th and 23rd. Bookings (with Carol: crilmcneill@gmail.com) being taken now. These are both films worth watching and unlikely to arrive at your local multiplex.

All films start at 7.30pm and we are sticking with the mask wearing and cash in a named envelope. Number limit has increased to 18 (from 15). Still £5 and £3 members.

If you haven't been before come and enjoy the comfy armchairs and settees; bring a drink over from The Manor and have a memorable night out.

Oxen Park

The Manor will be closed from around 7th January for a few weeks while the new kitchen is sorted; so make the most of it while it is open – every day apart from Christmas Day.

South Lakes Citizens Advice



South Lakes Citizens Advice is still here to help, via a telephone and digital advice service.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice on any aspect of debt, consumer problems, benefits, housing, employment or any other problems. South Lakes Citizens Advice, your local charity, is here for you.

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Young Farmers

Young Farmers held their Annual General Meeting on Friday 5th November and it was an opportunity to reflect on a difficult 2 years and the ways in which the Young Farmers have contributed to the community.



Neil Curr, Cumbria YFC County Chairman, gave his Annual Report reviewing a year which is beginning to get back to normal.

Unfortunately, the efforts to stop Newton Rigg College from closing were unsuccessful, and we were forced to re-home our important County Office Base to Civils Store at Edenhall.

The YFC competitions year started off with the English Winter Fair, this time held virtually. NFYFC did a brilliant job of organising a very different competition to normal. We then held our own Virtual Christmas competitions where there was a selection of competitions for all ages. All competitors put a lot of effort in and Lowick came out on top winning by over 200 points.

The speaking competition County Finals were all held virtually again this year; there was a good mix of clubs among the prize-winning positions, however Lowick always managed to be up there, often in the top 3 positions. Northern Area weekend was hosted virtually by Northumberland, and as we were placed in the top three in most of the competitions, Cumbria won the overall trophy and also many Cumbria members qualified for the NFYFC finals. Ruth Cooper from Lowick YFC won the Junior Member of the Year at Northern Area and then won at the NFYFC Final becoming National Member of the Year (18 and under).

We held our virtual Field Day for the second time; Grayrigg won the overall trophy, with Lowick coming a close second. This took our members onto Northern Area Field Day, hosted by the Northern Area committee virtually, and at the Westmorland Show Ground. Cumbria members made the most of these competitions earning Cumbria the overall Northern Area Field Day trophy too.

Northern Area Stockman was hosted by Cumbria this year, the Longmire family kindly allowing us to use their farm, organised by Will Longmire and Charlotte Wilson. The day couldn't have run any smoother and Cumbria again won the overall Northern Area trophy.

Cumbria YFC remains a very strong competitive County, and this is reflected in the results we receive throughout the year at all levels - for that, we have to be proud of ourselves.

Cumbria Quiz

Back to normality and the beginning of Cumbria YFC traditions, the Quizzes. 88 Teams from across the two districts competed against each other to get down to the County Final at the George Hotel Penrith. Results Seniors 1st Lowick (pictured) 2nd Drigg, 3rd Drigg, 4th Crook and Juniors 1st Penrith, 2nd Sedbergh, 3rd Sedbergh, 4th Greysouthen.



Grizedale Arts: Updates from The Valley and The Farmer's Arms

The Farmer's Arms renovation programme continues at a good pace and in November, we opened phase 2, our new tearoom which was the old Lounge Bar. A great space for families and friends to gather during the day, we serve a variety of home-baked cakes from our kitchen and others in our Consortium of Crake Cake Makers (a grand title for their very delicious cakes) and great variety of tea (including blends we make ourselves) and coffee. Pop-on down and try for yourself!

Over the month of December there's lots for you to get involved with. Our Wednesday Volunteer days continue each week with a bunch of friendly and dedicated locals who have all contributed hugely to our renovation programme. For those not able to graft through the grime with us, we've now expanded the offer to include a Wednesday Community lunch at 1.00pm in The Stable Bar. Open to anyone in the Crake Valley community (or surrounding areas) and passing visitors, we ask for a contribution of £5.00 per person for two-courses. Our lunches are a great chance to hear more about the project and enjoy lively conversation with friendly locals and staff.

If you haven't already booked your annual Christmas Party and looking for somewhere unique to celebrate with work, club or friends and family, why not let us take the strain! From Wednesday 1st - Saturday 18th December we offer group bookings at reasonable rates for a celebratory lunch or dinner in our private dining room, with hand-crafted decorations, a seasonal menu using local produce from our growing network of suppliers, we promise an unforgettable celebration!

Over Christmas we'll be open on Christmas Eve (Friday 24th) from 12.00 (midday) - 10.00pm for wood-fired pizzas and more. On Christmas Day (Saturday 25th) we'll open briefly from 12.00 (midday) - 3.00pm for drinks and mince pies only and open on Boxing Day (Sunday 26th) from 12.00 (midday) - 8.00pm for food and drinks. To give our staff a short break, we'll close from Monday 27th - Thursday 30th inclusive before opening on New Year's Eve (Friday 31st) at 12.00 (midday) until late with a ticketed event from 7.30pm which includes a set three-course menu and entertainment. To help you all get 2022 off to a good start, we'll be open on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd January from 12.00 (midday) - 8.00pm before closing for a few weeks to get some of the noisier renovation works completed between 3rd - 20th of January. We'll re-open on Friday 21st January at 12.00 (midday) with a special Burn's Night menu alongside our usual seasonal dishes that weekend.

If you'd like to join us for New Year's Eve, please do get in touch with our Project Manager, Emma Sumner (emma@grizedale.org | **07930 651889**) who will be able to share more information with you and details on how to book tickets.



DECEMBER 6TH: THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

An amusing misprint once appeared in a Carol sheet:

“To save us all from *Santa*’s power, when we had gone astray”

It reminds me of the story of two choirboys discussing the Vicar’s sermon on the Devil. “Do you really believe there *is* such a person as the Devil?” asked one. “No” said the other, “It’s like Father Christmas, it’s your Dad really!” “What!” says the first. “My Dad goes all round the world on Christmas Eve dishing out presents?!!!”

The original “Santa Claus” was a Christian Bishop, Nicholas of Myra (in Asia Minor). In the 11th century his remains and relics were “acquired” by the Roman Catholic cathedral of Bari in Italy, where they have now become a focus of ecumenical reconciliation. During the Middle Ages he became a great cult figure – a sort of ‘pop idol’ of the day. His pictures and statues turn up everywhere – at the back of the main altar in Strasbourg Cathedral, in the porch of St. Thégonnec’s church in Brittany, you name it! And he got saddled with a lot of responsibilities, being patron saint of sailors, children, pawnbrokers, repentant thieves, Russia, Greece etc.

Two of the four medieval churches I served in when I was Vicar of Haddenham were dedicated to him, as were the churches in two of the adjacent villages. When Chearsley School was amalgamated with the Church School in Cuddington, the PCC of St. Nicholas’s, Cuddington offered the PCC of St. Nicholas’s, Chearsley the opportunity to nominate one or two governors, in return for a per capita contribution to the Governors’ Fund. The nominations soon turned up, but the money didn’t. So I jokingly suggested that the Treasurer wrote to them and said, “We of the Church dedicated to the Patron Saint of Children greet you of the Church dedicated to the Patron Saint of Thieves, and want to know where our £24 is?” (It was, of course, “in the post”!)

St. Nicholas is most famous for the tradition, (via a legend that he provided three bags of gold, as dowries, for three poor girls in Myra, and the possibility that, on becoming bishop, he gave away his family fortune to the poor) that he mysteriously brought gifts to children on his feast day (December 6th). It was this that inspired two enterprising New York businessmen of Dutch origin, to invent “Santa Claus” in 1802, from the Dutch version of the Saint’s name, “Sinte Klass”, and turn him into “Father Christmas”! So Christmas time has become very closely associated with the giving and receiving of presents. So it is most fitting that it should mark the giving of the most precious gift of all. “God so loved the world that He gave His only son”, says the apostle John. But gifts have to be received and opened and accepted. Elsewhere, John says, “To all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God” and “Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” We, like Paul, can only marvel at this stupendous generosity, and imitate *his* “Thank You” letter, “Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!”

(2 Corinthians ch. 9 v. 15)

December is here, our Christmas planning is well under way and a central part of that is deciding on presents. What shall I give to that special person? Something equally special, something appropriate, something they'll enjoy and value.

And the reason behind our giving at this time is that God gave everyone that gift that was and is appropriate, enjoyable, valuable and so very special, the gift of Jesus, His Son. A baby, born into poverty, away from home and soon to become a child refugee, destined to love and be loved, giving his life for the good of all people in all time.

So, we feel bound to ask what gift could I ever give to reflect that wonderful present and the love that prompted it. A difficult problem but I think that this year there is an answer we can all share in.

As I write this, the COP26 meeting has just finished and the analysis of its achievements has just begun. It seems that a lot has been achieved but not as much as we might have hoped for. Phasing down the use of coal and other fossil fuels means much less than phasing it out but, on the other hand the agreement to put an end to mass forest destruction and even some restoration of those vital organs is good news. Assistance to those already suffering from Climate Change must be welcomed but only if the words are transformed into action. One important aspect of COP26 has been the close attention being paid to the Crisis the world faces, unless all take it seriously and commit to make big enough changes to put a stop to it and even, in time, start a reversal. And none of that will happen unless we maintain the close focus and all nations work towards further action. The commitment to review and take further steps in twelve months' time is important for time is limited. The UK has been seen to take a lead and we as its people must ensure that does not fade away as our country moves out of the spotlight.

So, what about that present I mentioned earlier?

Well, continuing the pressure and the action is something each one of us needs to be part of, to be involved in, for the good of everyone, our neighbours nearby and faraway. And the present we can give to everyone is to commit ourselves to reducing our own use of fossil fuels and all other forms of energy. It could be using our cars less, turning down the thermostat a degree or two (jumpers work just as well), using the dishwasher less, turning off unnecessary lights or using energy-hungry equipment less intensively. Use of power in the home is a major contributor to global warming and it is something we all do and something we can all change.

So, as God in the first place, gave us the world to live in and look after, let's give Him and everyone living and yet to be born, a special present this Christmas by taking a few simple steps to make a better, more sustainable world.

Happy Christmas to you all.

PS If you don't get round to it before Christmas Day, make sure it's in your New Year Resolutions!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Friday 10th: **Carols and Candlelight** at Lowick, 6pm
- Saturday 11th: **Carol Service and Community Supper** at Torver, 5pm
- Sunday 19th: **Carol Service** at Penny Bridge, 11am
- Sunday 19th: **Carol Service** at Colton, 3pm
- Sunday 19th: **Carol Service** at Coniston, 6pm
- Christmas Eve: **Children's Service** at Lowick, 3pm
- Christmas Eve: **Christingle** at Coniston, 4pm
- Christmas Eve: **Holy Communion** at Coniston, 11pm
- Christmas Eve: **Holy Communion** at Penny Bridge, 11pm
- Christmas Day: **Holy Communion** at Colton, 9.30am
- Christmas Day: **Holy Communion** at Coniston, 10am
- Christmas Day: **Holy Communion** at Lowick, 10.30am

Note from the Editor:

I hope you are all enjoying this bumper December edition of the Coniston and Crake Valley News. It's great to be back in print and getting lots of copies out to households all over the Benefice.

I'd particularly like to say a massive "thank you" to all the advertisers and donors who have contributed to the print costs of Magazine during the year, and thank you also to everyone who sends in items to make this such a great and varied read.

Our volunteers have been out delivering the Magazine as far as we can but if you can help with this, even if just to a few houses near your own, please get in touch - we do struggle with the more sparsely populated areas.

Thank you and Season's Greetings to all, Juliet

editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk



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January Magazine

Please can all items, news, advertising enquiries and "What's On" events for this Magazine be emailed to the editor at editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk by **December 15th**, or phone **07884 232281**.

This month's cover photo is Seedheads at Brantwood by Bethan Pettit - read her article about the Brantwood gardens on page 13.

Please continue to send your images of life and work in the parishes to editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk. We also have a gallery of contributed seasonal photos of our beautiful area on the website: www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk.



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Prayer Hour - At Home

December 1st, 10am – 11am

Our prayer fellowship continues as we pray in our own homes, each at the same hour, on the first Wednesday of each month. If you can, join us at 10am on December 1st, using this format to guide your prayers as we pray together.

Settle into this hour by reflecting on the opening verses of Psalm 5

In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice;

In the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly....

And as we begin our time together, we say the prayer Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us today day our daily bread

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

During this quiet hour.....

hold before the Lord, the matters that weigh heavy on your heart, situations you have seen in the media, items or issues from the prayer diary which especially speak to you;

pray for your family, your neighbours, your community contacts;

the Christian fellowship in the Benefice of Coniston and Crake Valley;

the Church across its national and international denominations;

pray for our Country and the Nations of the world.

Take time also to be still, to listen to the gentle whisper of God.

Finally, we close our prayer hour with the words of The Grace:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.



What's On Guide - December

1 st	Coffee Plus, 10.30am - 12.30pm	Coniston Institute
2 nd	Friends of X112 Lunch 11.30am	Rampside Village Hall
3 rd	Bingo, 6.30pm	Coniston C of E Primary School
5 th	Film: "Minary", 7.30pm	Oxen Park Cinema Club
5 th	Handel's Messiah, 7.30pm	Ulverston Parish Church
6 th	Coffee & Mince Pies, 10am - 12noon	Coniston Methodist Church
8 th	Just for Ewe open evening, 2-6.30pm	Just for Ewe, Coniston
9 th	Christmas Play, 2pm and 6pm	Coniston C of E Primary School
10 th	Concert: Ranagri, 8pm	Water Yeat Village Hall
10 th	Carols and Candlelight, 6pm	St Luke's, Lowick
11 th	Church Coffee Morning, 10am - 12 noon	Greenodd Village Hall
11 th	Carol Service and Supper, 5pm	St Luke's, Torver
11 th	Norwegian and British Music night, 7pm	Coniston Institute
12 th	Piano Concert, 1.30pm	Brantwood
14 th	Coniston WI 80th Party 7.30pm	Coniston Institute
14 th	Film: "Sound of Metal" 7.30pm	Oxen Park Cinema Club
19 th	Film: "Sound of Metal" 7.30pm	Oxen Park Cinema Club
19 th	Carol Service 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
19 th	Carol Service, 3pm	Holy Trinity, Colton
19 th	Carol Service, 6pm	St Andrew's, Coniston
24 th	Children's Service 3pm	St Luke's, Lowick

What's On Guide - regular events

Wednesdays	Volunteer Day 10 - 4pm, Community Lunch 1pm - all welcome	Farmers' Arms, Lowick
Thursdays	Volunteer Day 9.30 - 3.30pm	Brantwood Gardens
first Wednesday	Prayer Hour - at home 10 - 11am	at home

J F Hornby & Co

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