

Coniston and Crake Valley News

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



January 2022 www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk

The Coniston and Crake Valley Benefice

"To Grow, Witness and Love Like Jesus"

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PASTORAL TEAM LEADER

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CHURCHWARDENS

Holy Trinity, Colton

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St Luke's, Lowick with Blawith

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St. Mary's, Penny Bridge

Barbara Watson	barbara.watson@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	01229 861638
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St Andrew's, Coniston & St. Luke's, Torver

Nick Monk	nick.monk@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	015394 41255
Linda Inman	linda.inman@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	015394 41777

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**.

Spark Bridge Cotton Mill - cover photo

This month's cover photo was taken in 1967 by the well-known local teacher and historian Mike Davies-Shiel. His notes tell us that this is Mrs. Hemer of Lowick Bridge, who started work in Spark Bridge Cotton Mill in 1897 at the age of 10, and later became an outworker. Here she is showing some of her crocheted items which she would have made up at home using cotton from the mill.

The photo has been loaned to us by the Cumbria Industrial History Society (www.cumbria-industries.org.uk) who would love to hear from any readers who knew Mrs. Hemer and can confirm her name and any other information about her and her family. Please contact the Editor if you have any information: editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk or 07884 232281.

February 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 **January 15th**, or phone **07884 232281**.

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.

Pastoral Letter from the Revd. Harry Welch

Dear friends,

George James was a dear friend at the church where Barbara and I came to faith. As well as worshipping together each Sunday, George and I met on the railway station platform each weekday and travelled the five miles into Liverpool city centre to work. On the journey we would talk about Sunday worship, the sermon(s) and other such Christian matters. George was a gentle Christian man and a great encourager, one in whose company it was easy to be Christian. Looking back I can see how God brought us together and, in his gentle way, George encouraged my early years of faith for which I give thanks to God.

Being a Christian is a journey of discovery, the first inklings being the realisation that God may be real/alive/active/present/calling/closer; this in turn creates curiosity. Then follow further revelations from God through Bible reading and prayer, ultimately leading the seeker to Jesus Christ and a commitment to Him and His cause. This then becomes a daily commitment and a way of life.

The realisation that the journey is instigated by God keeps the Christian humble. In our lifetime we have seen many man-made religions, philosophies and kingdoms rise and fall. Some in their search encounter God who is reaching out to them. Others miss the mark and settle for religion rather than a living faith. Throughout, Christianity is the golden thread of truth running through history and will continue to do so until the Lord returns or calls us home.

Christianity begins not in the minds of men but in the heart of God. We are His people, who, led by Him, seek to fulfil His purpose in this generation. The Christian can take heart in this in that God will complete what He has promised. Christianity is no passing fad or trend, nor something we can alter, amend or ignore. Two thousand years have come and gone since the birth, death and resurrection of its Founder and will continue to be present for another two thousand years if God so deems it. Christianity is a living faith, the eternal faith, revealed by God to those whose hearts are open to Him. Society may wish to side-line religion, and may succeed, but Christianity cannot be side-lined for it is alive and lives and reigns in the hearts of God's people and that is a Light the world cannot snuff out, in this generation or those that follow. Let us not take for granted such a gift, nor exchange it for lifeless religion, but live it out faithfully in worship and service, and do so to His glory.

In Him,

Harry

Church Services for January 2022

2nd	Epiphany		
St. Luke Torver	9.30am	Winter Breakfast	Linda Inman
St. Luke Lowick	9.30am	Morning Worship	Richard Wood
9th	First Sunday of Epiphany		
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Morning Worship	Pamela Hull
16th	Second Sunday of Epiphany		
St. Luke Torver	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Morning Worship	Pam Priestley
23rd	Third Sunday of Epiphany		
St. Luke Lowick	9.30am	Methodist Service	Rev Sue Nicol
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Morning Worship	Donald Wroe
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Luke Torver	7.00pm	Torver Junction	Rev Brian Streeter
30th	Presentation of Christ in the Temple		
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
Methodist Church, Coniston	11.00am	Christians Together in Coniston	

From the Registers

Funerals

7 th November:	Dorothy Mary Barton at St Luke's, Lowick	Interment of Ashes
9 th December:	Richard Roblin at Thorncliffe Crematorium	Funeral
13 th December:	Andrew Davie at St Luke's, Lowick	Funeral
23rd December:	Dr. Simon Fisher at St Andrews, Coniston	Funeral

Wedding

13 th November:	Lesley Dawn McCartney and Stephen Ernest Airey at St. Andrew's, Coniston
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Parish Prayer Diary - December

1st Jan: As we begin a New Year, we commit ourselves to God, praying He will guide us through this year and strengthen us for Kingdom service.

2nd January: Sunday, the first day of the week

Give thanks to God, who in the birth of Jesus has revealed the fullness of His love. Pray He will help us to dwell in His light and share His love each day.

3rd Jan: Pray for pupils and students returning to schools, colleges and universities this week. Pray also for all teaching and non-teaching staff.

4th Jan: Pray for Egton with Newlands, Mansriggs and Osmotherley (ENMO) Parish Council meeting this evening.

5th Jan: At 10am join with Christians across the benefice for an hour of prayer at home, praying for family, our community, our nation and the needs of the world.

6th Jan: Pray for doctors and nurses working in hospital, general practice and community settings.

7th Jan: Pray for residents and staff at our local nursing and care homes.

8th Jan: Pray for families experiencing financial difficulties.

9th January: Sunday, the first day of the week

As we come to worship today let us give thanks for Christian fellowship and pray God's word will speak to each of us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

10th Jan: Pray for this evening's Colton Parish Council meeting.

11th Jan: Pray for today's meeting of Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council.

12th Jan: Pray for Refuge, the charity committed to the needs of adults and children experiencing domestic abuse, helping them rebuild their lives.

13th Jan: Pray for people rebuilding their lives after devastating natural disasters.

14th Jan: Pray for those involved in establishing the two new unitary Cumbrian councils and the transitional arrangements.

15th Jan: Pray for The Bible Society, working to translate and distribute Bibles worldwide so people can read God's Word in their own language.

16th January: Sunday, the first day of the week

Give thanks for the freedom we have to worship each week remembering many Christians who do not have this privilege but still faithfully meet when they can.

17th Jan: Pray for Coniston Parish Council meeting this evening.

18th Jan: Pray for migrants and the Government of countries who receive them.

19th Jan: Pray for the Open Doors World Watch List launch today; a unique opportunity for MPs, and the public, to hear from persecuted Christians abroad who are serving the Lord through their churches and communities.

20th Jan: Pray for campaigners at home and abroad bringing to light situations of human injustice and exploitation, often at great personal cost.

21st Jan: Pray for all social workers and carers.

22nd Jan: Pray for families needing to turn to local food banks to help them over a difficult financial time.

23rd January: Sunday, the first day of the week

As we come to worship may we focus on Jesus, give Him all our anxieties and problems and recommit ourselves to His service.

24th Jan: Pray for Christian Aid's *Global Hunger Appeal* to get help to the 41 million people around the world facing extreme hunger.

25th Jan: Pray for those who keep our church buildings well maintained and for those to prepare for Sunday worship.

26th Jan: Pray for those involved in preparing for the Lambeth Conference which takes place later this year.

27th Jan: Pray for all suffering mental health distress.

28th Jan: Pray for St Mary's Hospice in Ulverston, its staff and patients.

29th Jan: Pray for the local Voluntary Social Car Scheme and the drivers who offer their time for this valued local service.

30th January: Sunday, the first day of the week

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: shine in our hearts and help us to so live out our days that we may be signs of Your wonders in the world.

31st Jan: Pray for those housebound because of age or infirmity and are dependent upon Social Services or other agencies to meet their daily needs.

AROUND THE PARISHES

Tree Clearing – Thank you



I wanted to say a particular thank you to Simon and Mitch at Lowick for ensuring the quick and efficient removal of a fallen tree in the churchyard, and for overseeing the restoration of power to the church building. Also to Tom and Barbara Watson for ensuring Penny Bridge churchyard was safe after the tree fall there.

We would want to reassure people that the large tree in Penny Bridge churchyard will be removed as soon as is practically and safely possible, and that the PCC will be reviewing the remaining trees for reduction or removal.

Finally, to also thank the many engineers who have worked extremely hard to restore power in our communities as quickly and safely as they could. And of course, to the many people who volunteered to chainsaw and remove trees.

Revd. Brian Streeter

Colton

Colton Magazine – Thank you



It is with great sadness that I have to announce that the Colton Parish Magazine ceased to be published at the end of 2021.

However, it is my great pleasure to thank **Donald Wroe** for 25 years of editorship – cajoling contributors and writing content. It is quite amazing to think that Donald has published 250 issues over that time period!

We hope to be able to put as many past issues as we can on the benefice website, so that you can continue to enjoy Donald's hard work and handiwork.

Revd. Brian Streeter

James Ashborn and Mary Hodgson, married 14th April 1835

The Vicar has been contacted by Mr. Rob Heap who is researching the life and times of James Ashborn. He states that James married Mary Hodgson at Holy Trinity, Colton in 1835 (they were both Colton parishioners and he was listed as a farmer) before emigrating to America and going on to establish a successful guitar production factory in Wolcotville, Connecticut.

We have no record of any burials at Colton by the name of Ashborn but Mr. Heap would very much like to hear from anyone who knows anything of these families Ashborn and Hodgson. The marriage witnesses were William Atkinson and ?Jervis Robert Cookson.

It is possible that the name Ashborn is derived from "Ashburn" or "Ashburner" - both occupational surnames arising from the mediaeval charcoal burners in our area, or alternatively the placename "Ashbourne" - the river where ash trees grow. If you do have any information please contact the Editor on **07884 232281** or editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk.

Gifts and Talents – Art Group at Tottlebank Baptist Church

The art group at Tottlebank Baptist Church is going well with several ladies finding hidden artistic gifts and talents! The group currently meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month 10.30am – 12.30pm at Tottlebank Baptist Church (LA12 8HY). All welcome. For more information, contact Jane Pape **07789 036909**.



Dick Burrow

We are sad to report the death of Dick Burrow. Our sincere condolences go to his daughters Judith, Gina, Sue, his grandchildren and all their families. We will miss his presence in Oxen Park. Dick was born in 1930 at Lilac Cottage in Oxen Park. He trained in agricultural science and specialised in birds - hens and budgerigars were his thing. He ran a chicken farm down south before returning to Oxen Park with his wife Mary where they moved into Glen View where his parents had lived. In the loft above the garage he bred championship 'budgies' - he knew so much about breeding the best - this showed in the many trophies he won. In later years he would sit outside on his back patio, facing south and looking out for people coming and going. Here he would always enjoy a chat and catch up with village news. Although suffering from memory loss of recent events he could remember so much about the 'old days' and some of these memories are recorded and can be found on the Rusland Horizons website under Oral History (listen): <https://www.ruslandhorizons.org/project/peeling-the-onion.aspx>

Carol McNeill



VOLUNTEERS WANTED - Rescue Team Members

Coniston Mountain Rescue Team is now recruiting new members to join us.

We are looking for people who are willing to give some of their time helping others who need assistance. This could be following an accident on the fell or crags, or whilst on their mountain bike, someone suffering from a medical condition and needs urgent help, walkers could be lost in mist, or simply crag fast. You could find yourself in a position where you are instrumental in saving a person's life, and if you do, there is no other feeling like it.

If accepted as a probationer, you will receive training in equipment handling, rope work, casualty care, search techniques, 4 x 4 driving and the running of the Base etc.

We ask that you are reasonably fit and able to commit some time to the Team. Apart from call outs and training, you will also be expected to help with fundraising and marshalling various events during the year. We are very much a Team and being able to work as part of one is paramount.

If you are interested, please go to our website <https://conistonmrt.org.uk/join-the-team/>

or if you want a chat first then contact the Team Leader:

Janice Hamilton: teamleader@conistonmrt.org.uk, Tel. **07799 001791**

VOLUNTEERS WANTED - Support Group Members

Coniston Mountain Rescue Team are in need of volunteers to join their Support Group.

Would you be willing to spare a bit of your time to help us?

This is a non-fell going role, but it is paramount to the success and effectiveness of the Team. Without the Supporters the Team could not function, so you really are providing an essential service.

Throughout the year, we participate in a number of fundraising activities. These include marshalling local events and running stands at shows, fairs or markets, and we need some extra helping hands to support us with these.

We also need supporters who can help us with other responsibilities such as website design, sourcing and developing potential merchandise as well as other various administrative tasks e.g. looking after the Friends of Coniston MRT's database. As part of the group, you will share these duties and be able to take ownership of those which attract you. A full list is available if you wish to participate.

If you think you can help, please contact our fundraising officer with your details, so that we can add you to our supporters' database.

Many thanks everyone!

fundraising@conistonmrt.org.uk

Coniston and Torver

Parish Magazine – Thank you



For many years, **Jean Johnson** has co-ordinated and helped to produce the Coniston & Torver magazine and latterly the new Benefice magazine.

Jean has now decided to stand back, and so I would, on behalf of the churches and the wider communities, like to say a big thank you to Jean for her hard work and support in this venture.

Revd. Brian Streeter

Coniston Sports & Social Centre – Thank you



I wanted to say a huge thank you to the Coniston Sports & Social Centre for their community spirit and great generosity in making their facilities available for the community of Coniston during the recent power cuts owing to Storm Arwen.

The provision of heating and the availability of hot food was a lifeline and a source of great comfort and relief to members of the community, some of whom were extra vulnerable given the circumstances. So, thank you!

Revd. Brian Streeter

Coffee Plus

There will be no Coffee Morning and Soup Lunch in January.

The next ones will be on **Wednesday 2 February and Wednesday 2 March from 10.30 to 12.30** in the Institute Reading Room.

Thank you

Thank you to all the local heroes who have worked so hard during 2021. Also to the local shops who have looked after us Old Folk and those shielding by supplying us with food this year. A special thank you to the volunteers who have delivered in the rain or sunshine, always with a cheery smile and welcome even during the power cut caused by Storm Arwen. A big thank you to the members of the Fire Service, Mountain Rescue teams and local neighbours checking on us and delivering hot food from volunteers at Coniston Sports and Social Centre. The centre also provided a warm environment with light and hot water, a luxury for those of us without power for over 72 hours. Thank you all.

Kay Shepherd

Mothers' Union

Our small group of MU members began the with the first meeting of the year in a garden in the rain in April. Since then we have met in members' houses looking at various topics from stones in the Bible to faith. Three trips out to local venues have been included ending with a visit to Dalton's MU Christmas Celebration and a Christmas Lunch at Undercrag, Torver.

New members are always welcome, for more information contact Kay, **015394 41559**

Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston, November 2021

Total - 241.8mm (9.5")

Wet days - 20

More than 1mm on 17 days

Wettest day - 30th - 49.5mm (2.0")

Frost on the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 27th & 28th.



Coniston Local History Group

The organizers of Coniston Local History Group would like to reassure all their followers that they will make every effort to commence meetings as soon as is reasonably possible and extend hearty good wishes to all for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Torver Carol Service and Supper

A lovely evening of carols with a traditional and contemporary twist was followed by mulled fruit punch, hot turkey buns and mince pies in the Schoolroom. All very much enjoyed!

The two 100 Club draw results are as follows:

The June draw:

£100- Eoanna Stergiakis

£30 x 2- E.Jopson , H.J.Lace.

£20 x 2- F.Mayvers, N.Cooper.

£15 x 2- L.Thomson, J.Brock.

£10 x 3- H.Harrison, R.Thomson, H.Bowness.



The Christmas draw:

£100- L.Thomson

£50 - E. Jopson

£30 - J.Myers

£20 x 2- A.Blackwell, V.Kay

£15 x3 - A.Hall, J.Halton, N.Kennelly

£10 x 4 - H.Harrison, R.Inman, S.Halton, E.Wilson

Many thanks to all who supported the evening as well as Claire on the organ, Cath Smith who donated home made festive relishes and the 100 Club members whose support for the Schoolroom is very much appreciated.

Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year to you all.
St Luke's PCC and the Schoolroom committee members.

Coniston Institute Presents
An evening with Rod Demick



Sat 22nd January

Rod has had a long illustrious career as a talented musician, touring with acts from The Strawbs to David Essex, Screaming Lord Sutch to Taj Mahal now a long-term member of premier Blues band “Paul Lamb & the Kingsnakes”.

Rod takes time from his busy touring schedule for an intimate unplugged set of songs and anecdotes from his life and excerpts from his recent memoir “My Gap Life”

Tickets £8 e-mail to reserve sam.clarke.5555@gmail.com

Sam , **07789591619** or from The John Ruskin Museum.

Doors 7:00pm. Bring your own drinks.



Coniston Parish Council: We Want You!

Coniston needs people who care about this community, and who want to make a positive contribution. Is that you?

We were sad to lose Josh Airey as a councillor since his decision to step down. We thank him for his service on the parish council and dedication to the village!

This means we have a vacancy for a new councillor and if you are interested please contact the clerk via email: **parish@coniston.info**

Egton cum Newland

Experience Christmas

Bright eyed and bushy tailed - no, not the squirrels in the church yard but years 5 and 6 from Penny Bridge School! Yesterday the children walked up to the church to 'Experience Christmas'. Five different 'stations' revisited the Christmas story using props to retell the birth of Jesus. Children engaged with each other as they sat in small groups and thought again about the birth of Jesus. How Mary was visited by the angel, Jesus' birth in a stable, the prophecies of Jesus' coming, shepherds seeing angels and rushing to see the new baby! Nobody expected the Saviour of the world to be born in a stable - least of all Mary and Joseph! The children were delightful, thoughtful and engaged with all the activities. It was a lovely afternoon finishing with prayer all together around the crib. Thanks to all who came and took part! May we all experience the wonder of our Saviour's birth as we all 'Experience Christmas'.



Pam Woo



Green Sparks in 2022

Here at Green Sparks we are optimistic about 2022; there's so much to be done, but all across our local communities people have demonstrated their commitment to working together when it comes to tackling climate change.

When we launched Green Sparks in September, we were just a small group of friends who wanted to learn more and do more about sustainable choices, reducing our carbon footprints, and actively caring for our environment. We were sure there were lots of other people around with similar ideas, working hard to do the same, and we wanted to connect with them.

We are delighted that in such a short amount of time Green Sparks has become a dynamic community network that people can use to share ideas and resources and to support one another to make a difference.

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather for our December litter pick and to those who came along to the meeting afterwards. Although we all wish it wasn't necessary, there will be more litter picks next year.

We're planning a couple of Green Sparks events for the spring, following up on ideas already shared with us: one focussing on a sustainable approach to gardening; and another about repairing broken items and improving recycling to help reduce waste. Dates have not been finalised yet, but we will get them out to you as soon as we can.

In the meantime, if you have got 'green' activities you'd like us to promote through our network, please get in touch.

If you'd like to join our email list for news of what's coming up, please contact us at: greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com

Rusland Valley Horticultural Society Ltd

POTATO DAY



Sunday 23rd January 2022

GREENODD VILLAGE HALL

10am – 3pm

Sale of 120+ varieties of seed potatoes,
fruit bushes & trees, seeds, onions,
flower bulbs and tubers, and more!

(supplied by Brighter Blooms Nursery, Preston)

HOMEMADE SOUP AND CAKES!

Admission £1 (children free)

See Brighter Blooms website for lists of produce available:

www.brighterblooms.co.uk

St Mary's Church Coffee Morning, December

The PCC would like to give their thanks to everyone who had a stall, helped in the kitchen, donated, gave raffle prizes and those who came to share coffee with us. We are delighted to have raised £500 and hope to see you all again soon.

Lowick and Blawith

Lowick Parish Council have a vacancy! There's 1 seat on the council become available.

If you have an interest in your community, local environment, transport, planning and housing issues, then these are just a few areas you could be involved with. You could help make a real difference to your Parish!

Please contact the Parish clerk for more info ... **lowickpc@outlook.com**

Reports

Haverthwaite 1st Leven Valley (St Anne's) Scout Group

Beaver Scouts Age 6 - 8

Cub Scouts Age 8 - 10½



Update

I am happy to report that the Group will now continue as we now have an Assistant Cub Leader. However, we still require leadership in the Beaver Section.

We meet in Haverthwaite at the Leven Valley Sports and Community Hall.

Training is mandatory for adult leaders but much can be accomplished online. Both sections have leaders who would work alongside those during their training.

More Information? Have a look at www.scouts.org.uk and phone **01229 885498** to chat to the Group Scout Leader, Marguerite Calvert.

Broughton and Coniston District Councillors

Update

It has certainly been a tempestuous year, starting with Covid Delta and finishing with Omicron and Storm Arwen.

However, it has not all been doom and gloom. The Safer Lakes group formed in the midst of Lockdown last year. Made up mainly of volunteers, with Police and Ranger support, the updates gave vital information on what was going on throughout the Park. This led to the formation of the Tactical Visitor Management Group, led by the Police and supported by the Park and National Trust, which in turn led to Visitor Management Plans and greater control of the visitor



Influx this year. This included pop up campsites and parking and more patrols by Rangers and the Police. It looks like the same will happen next year, but plans put in place this year will be modified and adapted for 2022.

Cumbria will become two unitary authorities split diagonally from NE to SW. This will see the role of the District and County Councillor merge and a reduction in the number of Councillors overall from over 160 to 65. There will be more elections next year to elect a shadow council, who will work in parallel with the existing Councils. Broughton and Coniston ward will split into two, High Furness ward and Coniston and Hawkshead. A westwards and eastward divide, with one Councillor per ward.

In May this year there was another election to replace Anne Hall and we were joined by Heather Troughton. Anne is a hard act to follow and worked tirelessly and selflessly in various roles over the years and the area is a lot better as a result of her efforts. I know she will never retire and we still see her around, either litter picking or busy helping others. Thanks Anne.

Summer brought the onrush of visitors and the hospitality industry swayed under the weight of visitor numbers and staff shortages. The Visitor Management plans kicked into place and, whilst not perfect, a lot of chaos was averted.

Autumn came and went with a bang that was Storm Arwen. I was awoken after the storm by the sound of chainsaws and helped locals clear the main road from Penny Bridge to Greenodd. Elsewhere, people were knocking on doors and helping neighbours, no nonsense locals just getting the job done.

Resilience and Community are much loosely coined terms nowadays, but what I saw post Arwen, was how the Communities rallied round to support each other. We are all different people around here but we are tough, we care about each other and we get things done. There is something special here.

Next year will bring more change, uncertainties and challenges, but I know we will deal them pragmatically and with fortitude. In view of the rising risk from the Omicron variant, we wish you all a healthy, happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

If you have any queries/concerns or would like any more information, contact us @

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

Stay Safe, Keep Healthy
Ian, Heather and Tracy

Brantwood 2022

Brantwood will be closed during January 2022, reopening on 2nd February. This will give us valuable time to address essential maintenance work, prepare new exhibitions and displays ready for the new season. We look forward to everyone coming to visit us from February for what we hope will be a great 2022. With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all the staff at Brantwood



Rookhow Quaker Meeting House, Rusland

After our Open events in October, we've been busy with renovation work at Rookhow, helping to make the historic Grade II* 1725 building into a more accessible and sustainable community venue and place of worship. This will include installing an accessible toilet, renovating and insulating the stone floors and adding an air source heat pump and improved loft insulation. This has been made possible with support from Historic England, local and national charities, Bay Winds Energy Community Trust, Lakeland Disability Support and the Lake District Foundation's low carbon grant. We hope the renovation work will be completed by mid-April and that we can welcome people to the Meeting House for the annual Good Friday 11am Quaker Meeting as well as the monthly Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Community groups have already booked to hire the space, in conjunction with the 12 acres of private woodland.



Rookhow's volunteers have planted 600 hedge plants donated by the Woodland Trust. Over 1,500 volunteer hours have been given in 2021 and a strong community of helpers has been established. This is made up of local Quakers and local people from different denominations and none.

The Rookhow Retreat Away Fund, supported by the Quaker Mental Health Fund UK, has enabled mental health groups to stay in the 16 bed bunkbarn, including The Well Communities, Lighthouse Community Mental Health Hub and Family Action Barrow. We are looking for further funding to continue this fund so more people can benefit from Rookhow's simplicity, peace and beautiful woods. Rookhow bunkbarn is also available to hire for family holidays and activity groups and training.

The weekly online Epilogue on Mondays at 9pm has continued through lockdown and beyond, providing a quiet reflection at the end of the day and a chance to make new connections. All are welcome. Details and Zoom link on the Rookhow website.

For more information or to arrange to come and look around, please contact Sue Nicholls, Rookhow Development Manager. Email: contactrookhow@gmail.com Tel **07557 919879**. Website: rookhow.org.uk Rookhow is a registered charity. No. 1188409.

Rusland Horizons Trust News

Building on our partnership with Furness College

We are very excited to share the wonderful news that one of our recently submitted Awards for All bid, with the Heritage Lottery Community Fund, has been successful! We are, therefore, delighted to announce that we again will be partnering with Furness College to deliver an expanded programme that will welcome three groups of up to 15 students to the Rusland valley in 2022. The students will learn about and experience the natural environment and potential careers in the countryside. This expanded programme follows a very successful pilot project that ran last year. If you want to learn more about the pilot you can watch a fantastic video by filmmaker Rachel Capovila on the home page of our website. <https://www.ruslandhorizons.org>

Students will have the opportunity to take part in activities such as bushcraft, traditional woodland crafts including coppicing and dry-stone walling, plus a two-night residential in the heart of the valley at Rookhow.

It is hoped the first term programme will run in conjunction with the University of Central Lancashire's Arts Council 'multi-species' project, providing the opportunity for the students to work with a professional artist.

The Rusland Horizons Jolly January Bash

Due to the threat posed by the new COVID variant in addition to the after-effects of Storm Arwen, which caused significant devastation across the valley, we regrettably had to postpone our Christmas Bash.

We are now delighted to announce that the rescheduled event, the Jolly January Bash, will be held on Saturday 29th January! Join us for a great way to start the new year with a day of conservation activities helping nature, wildlife and the local community. Everyone is welcome! Activities will be at a variety of locations and include hedge planting, dry-stone walling, rhododendron bashing and fun things to do for the kids too. After all your hard work there will be the chance to socialise together over a hearty meal!

More details, locations, timing, activities and how to book will be announced soon. Keep up-to-date through our newsletter, website and on social media.

Polytunnel clear out

On 30th November, we had a clear out day in Tony Wood's polytunnel at Abbots Reading Farm, which has very kindly been donated to us for use until our own polytunnel is established. After a lot of hard work, and the removal of a large amount of brambles, the polytunnel is now ready to be put to good use - look out for further details in the new year on our website, social media and in our newsletter.

Hedgerow planting - Thwaite Head

The hedge planting day at Thwaite Head, on 26th November, was a great success with hundreds of native hedgerow whips planted in some very challenging ground. Thank you to all the enthusiastic volunteers who helped with the planting under the much appreciated guidance of countryside ranger Andrew Wilkinson. It was wonderful to create a new and safe habitat in the valley for our native species, supporting local biodiversity.

Look out for details of our next hedge planting work party in the new year. It will take place at the green lane near St Paul's Church at Rusland, helping to protect the verge from vehicle damage and providing an important wildlife corridor.

Future work parties and events

We've got some fantastic events and work parties planned for 2022 with lots of opportunities for you to get involved. These include dry-stone walling, hedge planting and rhododendron bashing work parties, plus woodland and wildflower walks, a beautiful butterfly stroll and a guided veteran tree walk.

All the latest details and information will be announced in the new year.

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

For any enquiries, including suggestions for events and volunteering opportunities to help support the Trust's activities, please contact **hello@ruslandhorizonstrust.org**

Website - **www.ruslandhorizons.org**

Oxen Park Cinema Club

New films for February are SUPA NOVA on Tuesday 1st and Sunday 6th then BAIT on 15th February. We will soon be advertising a Mini Mountain Festival for 25th 26th & 27th February 3 great mountain films in 3 days.

To book in or make enquiries contact secretary Carol crlmceill@gmail.com We are still following pandemic guidelines – reduced numbers, mask worn, great ventilation, seats well apart for social distancing.

Don't forget the January films – *The Mauritanian* and *The Perfect Candidate* check out the website for details. <http://oxenparkcinemaclub.org.uk/>

Leven Valley Primary School have come to watch films in our special cosy cinema – *2040* about climate change, David Attenborough's *Africa – The Future* about endangered species and *The Stickman* – a fun animation for classes 1 & 2. The Carthouse Cinema is available for hire for films parties: contact Carol for details.

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.



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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Lowick Young Farmers



Following our summer break, Lowick YFC was delighted to start off the 2021/22 club year by hosting an Inter-Club Rounders competition in August for all the nearby Young Farmers' Clubs. This was followed by a trip to Silecroft FootGolf, before the year started in earnest with our first business meeting in September. Ahead of the Cumbria YFC sports competitions in September and October, we made sure to practice our skills which seemed to pay off with the Juniors coming 3rd in the Frisbee, our Ladies coming 2nd in their Hockey, and the Senior Men winning the Dodgeball competition. All our teams now go through to the Northern Area finals in February. So far this year we've already held two StockJudging practices thanks to the Hodgson family at Arklid and the Longmire family at Nettleslack. These were great opportunities for our members to learn what to look for when judging Breeding sheep and Dairy cows at future competitions. The evening was a great success with members relishing the chance to practice their skills and parents enjoying a look around other people's farms.

We've also enjoyed a variety of talks and tours, from Rob Bell introducing us to his Axes and Timber Sports, through to the local Blood Bikes charity, and a look around the work that's underway at the Farmers' Arms in Lowick.

Across the many public speaking competitions, Lowick has had an excellent run of results. Our Senior Quiz team won both their District and County finals, successfully defending their titles. Our Junior Reading team picked up a well-deserved 1st place at their debut Southern District Final, swiftly followed by another victory at the Southern District Junior Member of the Year final, and a 2nd place with our Senior After Dinner Speaking team. The highlight of our year so far has been our Junior Public Speaking teams. Many of them had never spoken in front of a room of people before we started practicing, but thanks to the hard work from all involved, our 3 teams came 1st, 2nd, and 3rd at the Southern District final, which is an amazing achievement. It's also the 11th consecutive year that Lowick has won the Junior Public Speaking at the Southern District final. So everyone can rest assured that Lowick YFC is still going strong and looks to be in good hands for many years to come!

Pictured - the winning Junior Public Speaking team





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

2021 was quite a year for us! We completed the purchase of The Farmer's Arms in April and began what we knew would be a very lengthily renovation programme to bring the building back into use. To date, we've reopened The Stable Bar, transformed the Lounge Bar into a Café and finished work on the dining room. With the workshops in the old restaurant, that means the ground floor is now fully functional, an achievement made possible by the support of our volunteers, the wider community and those who invested in the project. Thank you!

After bringing in the new year, we'll be closing the doors for January as we get some of the nosier renovation works in the upper accommodation wings completed. Although we've opened up a new holiday let in the old staff flat, the old B&B accommodation wings need a lot of work to bring them back into use and make them functional. We'll use January to give some of our staff a break, to recoup and plan the next year in more depth and we'd very much like to you to tell us what you want and need from the project in the next 12 months. We'll be hosting a community surgery with our Parish Council (Egton cum Newland) on the 4 February from 10am in the Stable Bar which will be an opportunity for you to come and chat to us in person.

We are also still on the lookout for new team members to work with us on the front of house offer. If you are interested in good food and drink and would like to support us to develop our offer, then get in touch. You don't need to have previously worked in a commercial kitchen, or behind a bar, as full training will be given. Alongside your core role there will be plenty of opportunities to develop your own skills, getting involved with menu planning, programming and working with us to develop the project. All you need is enthusiasm and a strong work ethic!

If you'd like to support the renovation works, volunteer Wednesdays will still be taking place every week throughout January so please do come along between 10am – 4pm to muck in with the work.

Visit our websites for all the latest updates -

www.lakedistrictfarmersarms.com | www.grizedale.org – or contact Project Manager, Emma Sumner (emma@grizedale.org) | **015394 41050**) who is always happy to hear from you.

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH by Rev. David Gregg
JANUARY 6TH : THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

The gunslinger burst into the Wild West saloon with his hands hovering menacingly over his pistols. Everyone cowered as he demanded "Who painted my horse green?" But one fresh-faced youngster at a corner table with his feet up, calmly tipped his hat up and drawled, "I did, Mister!" "And who do you think you are?" he growled. "I'm Billy the Kid!" came the calm reply. "Oh, well!" stammered the gunman. "I just wanted to let you know that the first coat is dry now, Mr. Kid, Sir, and it's ready for the second coat!"

The revelation of Who someone *really is* lies at the heart of the Feast of the Epiphany. It derives from the Greek word meaning 'Manifestation' and in the Western Church it has become attached to the visit of the Wise Men (Magi) from the East who followed the Star to the house where the holy family dwelt for a while in Bethlehem (although there is no mention of "Three", "Kings" or "Stable" in the New Testament story!) It is interpreted as symbolizing to representatives of the Gentile World (= the Nations) the truth of Who Jesus Christ, the Son of God, *really is*. In the Eastern Church it is the Festival of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ, revealing/manifesting the truth of Jesus as the Son of the Father, anointed by the Holy Spirit into Whose Name the whole world was to be subsequently baptized.

It was Almighty God's intention from the beginning to extend His redemptive covenant to all the nations. The creation story asserts the authority of God over the whole of human kind; the rainbow covenant with Noah is for all (even today the Jews regard it as a vital preliminary for proselytes to enter in to Judaism); Abraham is called the "Father of many nations"; the Covenant with Moses is described by the prophet Isaiah as open to all ("All nations shall stream to the house of the God of Jacob." (ch. 2 v 3); and it is to be the mission of the Suffering Servant the Messiah – "I will give You as a light to the nations that my salvation shall reach to the ends of the earth" ((ch. 49 v 6). All those who answer the call will become the real/true *spiritual* Israel.)

It is generally true, however, that most 'world faiths' are culturally and/or racially specific. Islam has an indispensable Arabic basis, Sikhism is Punjabi, Judaism is Hebraic/Semitic, Hinduism is Indian etc. etc. The early apostles wrestled at great length with the fundamental question of whether you had to embrace Judaism in its entirety to be a *real* Christian, and much of the New Testament is taken up with this. But the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15) and key passages of Paul's writings (Galatians 2, Ephesians 2 etc.) clearly argue *against* this, as a result of which Christianity, uniquely amongst world faiths, is equally open to all races and cultures, and must find its own cultural clothing, so that we have African Christianity, Indian Christianity, South American Christianity, British Christianity (- sometimes inappropriately inflicted upon other parts of our former empire!), Russian Christianity etc. etc. each with their own distinctive features.

God's clear invitation to the *whole* of humankind is to repent and put our trust in the Gospel (= Good News) of Salvation through the shed blood of His Son, Jesus the Anointed One. At the Epiphany juncture of 'Manifestation' to the Gentiles, and the call to Baptism in the Name, and with the Christmas message of the Angel, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for *all the people*", still ringing in our ears, may He give us grace to enter in and to persevere to the end.

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION

I would like to say a big thank you to our army of volunteer delivery people who try to ensure that the Magazine gets distributed as widely as possible to homes throughout the Benefice.

If you are able to offer any help with this, please do let me know. There are quite a few gaps particularly in the more outlying areas and over to the east of the Benefice - and even if you can only take ten or a dozen magazines for your near neighbours it would be very much appreciated.

Thank you again, *Juliet*

editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk, 07884 232281



South Lakes Fitness run regular classes at Greenodd and Spark Bridge. You can contact Ren Brennan on **07866 261344** to book in.

Mondays and Fridays, 9am, Greenodd Village Hall: Kettlercise

Mondays, 10.45am, online: Pilates

Wednesdays, 6.45pm, Spark Bridge Village Hall: Kettlercise and Core

If you run or host a fitness class and would like to publicise it here please contact the Editor on editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk or **07884 232281**

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Prayer Hour - At Home

January 5th, 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 January 5th, 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 - January

1 st	New Year's Day	
4 th	Film: The Mauritanian, 7.30pm	Oxen Park Cinema Club
5 th	Prayer Hour - at Home 10am	
9 th	Film: The Mauritanian, 7.30pm	Oxen Park Cinema Club
11 th	Egton WI: Tales of a Paramedic,	Greenodd Village Hall
18 th	Film: The Perfect Candidate, 7.30pm	Oxen Park Cinema Club
22 nd	Rod Demick Concert, 7pm	Coniston Institute
23 rd	Potato Day 10am - 3pm	Greenodd Village Hall
23 rd	Film: The Perfect Candidate, 7.30pm	Oxen Park Cinema Club
29 th	Jolly January Bash	Rusland Horizons - see page 18

What's On Guide - regular events

2 nd & 4 th Friday	Gifts & Talents: Art Group 10.30 - 12.30	Tottlebank Baptist Church
Monday and Friday	Kettlercise, South Lakes Fitness, 9am	Greenodd Village Hall
Mondays	Pilates online, South Lakes Fitness, 10.45am	Online
Wednesday	Volunteer Day 10 - 4pm,	Farmers' Arms, Lowick
Wednesday	Kettlercise and Core, South Lakes Fitness, 6.45pm	Spark Bridge Village Hall
Thursday	Volunteer Day 9.30 - 3.30pm	Brantwood Gardens
2 nd Tuesday	Egton WI, 7.30pm, new or prospective members welcome	Greenodd Village Hall
1 st Wednesday	Prayer Hour - at home 10 - 11am	at home

J F Hornby & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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It's not just business, it's personal

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