

Coniston and Crake Valley News



December 2023 www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk

KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE - CUMBRIA YFC

The Cumbria Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (Cumbria YFC) are honoured and delighted to be included in the first cohort of voluntary organisations to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2023 for

the outstanding work of their volunteers. The Award is the equivalent of the MBE and is the highest accolade that a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

William Longmire, County Chair of Cumbria YFC said "We couldn't be more proud of this award and of our volunteers. For Cumbria YFC to be recognised in this way is an incredible achievement and means so much to us all. The commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers is what makes Cumbria YFC so special and we are grateful for their dedication and support which has helped us achieve so much as an organisation."

Founded in 1937, Cumbria YFC had two main principles; to help those working in agriculture to develop the skills to represent themselves and their industry and to help combat the loneliness of rural life. These principles still ring true today and it is only through the commitment and hard work of hundreds of volunteers over the last 86 years that Cumbria YFC has been able to develop and thrive.

Young Farmers in 2023 can take part in a whole host of competitions including public speaking, debating, performing arts, traditional rural skills such as hedging and walling, sports, stock judging, fence erecting, field days, cookery and floral art to name but a few. A democratic organisation, members are encouraged to take on officer positions and to mentor younger members within their clubs. The young farmers are prolific fundraisers, raising almost £400,000 over the last 12 years for both local and national charities. Members also take part in the annual Club Community Challenge, carrying out good works in their local communities.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. Recipients are announced annually on 14th November, The King's Birthday. Award winners this year are wonderfully diverse and include volunteer groups from across the UK. Representatives of Cumbria YFC will receive the award crystal and certificate from Mr Alex Scott, Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria. In addition, two volunteers from Cumbria YFC will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May and June 2024, along with other recipients of this year's Award.



The Coniston and Crake Valley Benefice

"To Grow, Witness and Love Like Jesus"

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

Revd Brian Streeter	vicar@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	01229 861668
The Vicarage,		07505 048736
Penny Bridge.	<i>Brian works for Filling Station on Thursday</i>	
LA12 7RQ	<i>Brian's rest day is Friday</i>	

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Juliet Caldwell	safeguarding@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	07884 232281
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To contact any of the Churchwardens, pastoral team, retired clergy or lay ministers please call or email the Administrator, Juliet.

Churches in Coniston and the 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. The church building is usually open daily 10am – 4pm for visitors and for private prayer. Our moderator is Rev. Andrew Dodd. For further information contact Chris and Margaret Hamps, hampsc@outlook.com

Coniston Methodist Church, Coniston LA21 8ER

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**.

Church Services for December 2023

3rd	First Sunday of Advent		
St. Luke Torver	9.30am	Winter Breakfast	Linda Inman
St. Luke Lowick	9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
10th	Second Sunday of Advent		
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Morning Worship	Pamela Hull
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Harry Welch
St. Luke Torver	5.00pm	Carol Service	Rev Brian Streeter
17th	Third 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	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	6.00pm	Carol Service	Rev Brian Streeter
24th	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)		
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
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 Grace Cauldwell
Holy Trinity Colton	11.00pm	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
25th	Christmas Day		
St. Andrew Coniston	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Grace Cauldwell
St. Mary Penny Bridge	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
31st	First Sunday of Christmas		
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Harry Welch
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Joanna Henson
At Greenodd Village Hall			

Tottlebank Baptist Church (LA12 8HY) are holding a **Carols by Candlelight** service on **Sunday 17th December** at 4 pm. Led by Richard Amies
 Followed by mulled wine and mince pies
 All welcome

Or join us via Zoom – Meeting ID: 860 2853 8940 Passcode: 416 424

Pastoral Letter from Brian Streeter

LIGHT

From the time I was a young boy, I have always preferred there to be a light on when it is dark. Not that I am afraid of the dark – and I have walked through more than my fair share of churchyards at night – but that a light reveals what is there. When it is dark you are relying on memory, and/or the little natural light that may be available. When I go into a storeroom or another cluttered space it is always good to have a light to illuminate the room and to shorten the search for whatever it is I am looking for. When walking outside in the dark it is so much easier to walk without stumbling if I can see the path or at least my own feet!

As we know this time of year is the darkest, though not necessarily the coldest – that honour belongs usually to January. But as well as being a time when it is physically darker, recent events around the globe have given many a sense of moral and spiritual darkness descending upon the world, including upon our own nation. The war in Ukraine continues to be fought, with a very heavy cost being exacted upon the people of Ukraine. The terrorist attack in southern Israel and the inhumane slaughter of Israeli citizens on 7th October has also cast a very long and dark shadow. There are tensions with other nations, a migrant crisis, and injustices abound – it all appears very dark, and undermines our confidence in the future.

And yet, as we approach the Christmas season this month, we also begin to hear the carols and the story of Christmas is retold. For example, in Luke 2.7, we hear the familiar line:

“And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn”

The birth of Jesus was a miraculous event that Christians remember and celebrate each year. It was miraculous because God Himself chose to be born as a human being. It is what the name Immanuel means – God with us. God came into a very dark world when Israel was occupied by the Roman Empire and was being brutally subjugated – remember, you could be crucified for stealing!

But we should remember that Jesus was not just the Son of God, but also Mary and Joseph's son, their firstborn. In that dark stable, the arrival of Jesus was like a light being switched on, to reveal what? A happy couple, proud parents, and the greatest love – that of a family in the first moments after childbirth. There was light in the darkness, and good in their world.

And the same is true of our world this Christmas. The darkness of events will not overcome us, there is love shown daily, hourly, in billions of homes – remember that and remain hopeful for the future.

.Blessings in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Brian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Around the Parishes : Colton

Saint Nicholas Day at Bouth Village Hall

6th December 10am – 1pm

Free hot drinks, biscuits and mince pies to start the festive season.

Come and have a look at the newly renovated hall and take some 'time out' before the Christmas rush begins.

Coffee mornings will then continue in the New Year 11am – 1pm every third Wednesday of the month, donation £2.00

Colton Parish Council

Winter Preparation

As part of our winter preparations, we've been checking the grit bins and heaps around our local lanes. If there's one near you that needs topping up or you've identified a spot where a grit heap would help the local community if the weather turns icy, please report it to Westmorland and Furness Council.

To report a salt heap or salt bin that requires a refill:
·Find out the What3Words location or nearest postcode
·Go to the Westmorland and Furness Council website. On "Streets Roads and Pavements" select "report a problem" then type in salt bin/salt heap in the search box and follow the instructions.

You can use this service to report other problems such as potholes, flooding and other hazards.

Autumn is always a busy season for our lengthsman Archie. He has been out on a regular basis clearing drains of leaves and dirt as well as keeping our lanes debris free. Through the contract that the Parish Council has with Westmorland and Furness Archie is permitted to work on minor roads, where it is safe for him to do so. If you notice a problem on a minor road or lane you can contact the clerk at Colton Parish Council. We will then work with Archie to assess if the work is something within our scope and can be safely undertaken. If not, it can be reported to WFC.

Community Plan Consultation - The Business Voice

Thank you to everyone who completed a questionnaire as part of our community plan consultation. We are now seeking local business views via our Business Consultation. We want to find out more about the priorities for businesses based in the Colton Parish Council Area. If you run your own business – however small or large in any sector – please scan the QR code here to let us know your views. The closing date for this part of our consultation is 7th December 2023.



Our first parish council meeting of 2024 will be at 7pm on Monday the 8th of January at the Rusland Reading Room.

Egton cum Newland

The next meeting for **Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council** will be held on **Tuesday 9th January** at 7pm in Greenodd Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



COFFEE MORNING

On **Saturday 2nd December**, Greenodd Village Hall
from 10am to 12 noon.

We will be raising money for the Church. Come along and relax over coffee and cake with friends. Always a lovely event and lots of stalls to support, we look forward to welcoming you.

Admission £2 to include coffee and cake.

Jean and the team

Jack James

Is making a welcome return to Greenodd with his **Christmas Show** on **9th December** at Greenodd Village Hall. Doors open 7.30pm, show starts 8pm. Bar.

Tickets £8 or £10 on the door, call **01229 861638** to book.



At Greenodd Village Hall

Thursday 28th December

7 for 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50, please call

01229 861638 or

079490587710

Or see Greenodd Village Hall on
Facebook

Rusland Valley Horticultural Society Ltd

POTATO DAY

Sunday 21st January

Greenodd Village Hall, 10am - 2pm, admission £1

See website for lists of produce available: www.growvegandfruit.co.uk

Coniston & Torver

Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston, October 2023

Total - 233.9mm (9.2 ins)

Wet days - 23

Frost on 11th, 15th and 16th

More than 1mm on 19 days

Wettest day - 5th - 56.5mm (2.2ins)

Coniston CAMEO would like to welcome residents over the age of 60, from Coniston and Torver parishes, to our weekly meetings.

We meet at 2pm in the Reading Room at Coniston Institute every Tuesday. After tea, biscuits and a catch-up we play whist, dominoes and triominoes. We arrange other social events including an annual post-Christmas lunch and recently a trip on Steam Yacht Gondola, and a fish and chip lunch at the Crown Inn. Come along and give us a try – the subscription is just £5 per year, no weekly charge for meetings. Any enquiries please phone **Liz** on **015394 41633**.

Coniston Methodist Church would like to thank everyone for supporting the visit of the Barrow Male Voice Choir. The concert was enjoyed by all and raised £245 for St Mary's Hospice.

The Annual Coniston 14 Road Race

There's still time to get training for the 42nd Annual Coniston 14 Road Race to be held on Saturday 23rd March 2024. There are already over 400 runners from across the UK booked onto this community-organised event.

The run starts at John Ruskin School in Coniston and makes a 14-mile circuit of Coniston Water with stunning views over the lake to the Coniston fells. There will be the usual short road closure between Coniston and Torver for the start of the race and along Lake Road, Coniston for the finish.

It is a great community event and over 80 volunteers help on the day. We are always pleased to have extra marshals to help. Please contact the race director, Janette Braithwaite: janettemaude@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer. We are also keen to attract new members of the committee.

Each year the Coniston 14 Committee raises some £20,000 from the race and this is donated to about 30 local charities, good causes and clubs in the communities around the lake.

Geoff Cooper

COFFEE and MINCE PIES with MUSIC

Coniston Methodist Church will hold our annual **Christmas Coffee morning** on Friday 15th December, starting at 10.00 am. As has become our custom we shall be joined by pupils from the Primary School to provide tuneful entertainment. Donations will go the Red Cross to help the people in Gaza. Do come and join us.



The Coniston Institute Christmas Fair

Saturday 16th December from 10am until 5pm

Stalls selling gifts, home-made goods & crafts

Also a very special visit from Santa (pre-booking required)

Please book Santa via our website **www.conistoninstitute.uk**

Coniston Community Lunch Christmas Special

Monday 18th December 12.00noon (note earlier time)

Coniston Institute Reading Room

Come and enjoy some yummy Christmas Fare in the good company of friends.

All ages welcome.

No payment expected, any donations towards the cost will be gratefully received. Numbers are limited so please contact Helen to let her know you are coming. Also, get in touch if you have any dietary requirements, &/or need any help with transport.

Tel: **015394 41277** or **07583 371275**

Email: **e.glaister013@btinternet.com**

Please spread the word to anyone you know who may enjoy coming along.

Thank you

We would like to invite you to our

Just For Ewe

Christmas Shopping event

On **Wednesday 6th December** 12 noon – 6:30pm.

10% discount on every sale plus lots of special offers.

We offer a large selection of toys, cards, books, gifts,

Including Wrendale, Alex Clark, Envy handbags, DCUK, Harris Tweed, Dartington, Bree Merry, Blade and Rose, Light House, Orchard Toys, Lua, House of Puzzles.

We are situated in the centre of Coniston.

015394 41206

Christmas 2001 – from Margaret Procter's papers

It's the middle of December in the year two thousand and one
Our dancing party's looming and our thinking caps are on.
We must compose a little ditty, preferably in rhyme
But as our brains get older it gets harder every time.
What to write about this year has us both perplexed,
We haven't got a single clue about what's coming next.
Arthur's not been skiing, he went off to Oz instead
And now can manage all the dances standing on his head!
Our Playford Ball went off quite well, so Linda wants another,
I think she just likes dressing up (or working under cover!)

It's been a pretty quiet year; foot and mouth had us bossed.
We hope that's all behind us though we're keeping our fingers crossed.
But that's enough of things not nice, for at the end of May
We celebrated James and Diana's Golden Wedding Day.
We had a brilliant party with band and caller too
So Jackie got to dance instead of telling us what to do.
The food as usual was good, the champagne kept on flowing,
With lots of friends and family there, time passed without us knowing.

We've had occasional visitors – Alice came from France
And once she'd done a few of ours she taught us a French clog dance;
Not that we could do it – our feet got in the way.
(That's a pretty good excuse, it's what we always say!)
Especially when Joan starts wanting "Unrequited Love"
We must be getting better; Diana came one night
And went home disappointed because we got things right.
There's just no pleasing everyone, but still we've got to try
Even if it means we end up laughing till we cry.

Next year we've got a birthday, it's our Silver Jubilee.
We're going to have a party and we won't be drinking tea!
There'll be food and wine aflowing and doubtless champagne too
'Cause we find we all dance better when we've had a drink or two!
For now the dancing's over, we wish you all good cheer,
Have a Happy Christmas and we'll see you all next year.

This is a poem found in the late Margaret Procter's files. Margaret always took part in village affairs and this brings back memories of the very popular Country Dance club that ran over many years in Coniston. Margaret was a keen rambler, artist, potter, baker, writer and wool spinner among many other interests. This poem tells of much fun that was had at dancing and how the group did prefer at times to get instructions wrong - which gave such times of laughter. The dancing, started originally by Mrs Bibby at Brackenbarrow, Torver followed by Diana Armstrong in Coniston - shows the value of community clubs but this one unfortunately is no longer in operation.

Anne Hall

Coniston WI: President's report for 2022-23

Coniston WI this year has enjoyed a very varied year. Our numbers have increased and our activity levels are at an all time high. Members enjoy different aspects of life and as President I like to encourage us to put on evenings, workshops, and meetings to represent the diverse membership we have. The Committee have been brilliant at organising and suggesting how we can provide such a varied programme.

We have Teams for Walking, Events, the over 70's summer trip, the Over 70's Christmas Meal, The Environment, the County Show, and the Diary Team. These teams provide members the opportunity to meet up and discuss what we will do next. It would be wonderful if each and every member was part of one of these very diverse teams, or our WI Committee.

We started the year with the Mountain Rescue and ended the year Crafting for the Shoeboxes. We tasted Gin, Travelled Route Sixty Six, learnt all about the Women's Refuge in Barrow, the wildlife and trees in our County and had a wonderful evening in the potting shed. The laughter coming out of a spruced up shed, whilst eating a five star buffet, just showed it does not take much to have fun.

WI members continue to swim in the lake, walk the paths and enjoy evenings out at the Theatre. We have visited the Coronation Hall for a Night at the Musicals and also had a very enjoyable evening watching a play at the Old Laundry. We took part in the massive project to make 10,000 daffodils which raised £320,000. Our trip to Lowther to see them, enjoy an ice cream and a visit to Cranton's was a highlight of the year.

The Coronation in May provided a platform for us to celebrate with the community. Members enjoyed taking part in a community event at the Sports and Social Centre to showcase all the village groups and clubs. We also ran the children's sports and held a Tea Dance in the Institute and provided 40 boxed Afternoon Teas for the housebound.

We have held a very successful Coffee Day for the Environment and enjoyed huge success at the County Show where we were awarded a double Gold for our model of Life in the Lakes. This has been donated to the Ruskin Museum is now on display for everyone to admire for many years to come.

We had two plaques awarded for the model and for the overall average number of points awarded for each entry in the craft section. Seven members attended a superb Harvest supper where all the trophy's were presented.

The trip for the Over 70's to Carlisle was loved by all, and the Christmas meal that was provided for them at the Sports and Social Club was a triumph. We ended the year with another Jacobs Join, a Secret Santa. Bring on 2024.

We look forward to welcoming new members to enjoy the friendship and fun at Coniston WI.

Egton WI

We are certainly ending 2023 with a busy spell, it has been full steam ahead for a couple of weeks now and won't ease up until after our December meeting. Our existing committee was re-elected in November and their catering skills will continue to be in operation at a pace. We were one if the WIs asked to host the county quiz early in November so that gave us the joy of making up ninety picnic boxes and filling them with homemade goodies to consume. One of our teams even came third from the twenty entries! We also held our AGM and ended the evening with a beetle drive which gave us all a good laugh and set us up for what we hope will have been a successful fundraising event the following Saturday. More on that in the next magazine.

Committee are planning the Christmas entertainment (which may need several rehearsals) and of course will be providing the Christmas party food for our December meeting as it literally went down well last year. It's all fun and games at Egton WI.

We are looking forward to an exciting and varied program of speakers in 2024 more of that next time, but hope you will be tempted to come and try us out for yourselves.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year from all of us at Egton WI.

Coniston Mothers' Union

Coniston Mothers' Union members' October meeting was based on Peace.



Their worship included prayers for peace throughout the world in countries where there are wars, strife, and disasters including our own floods.

They then attempted to make Origami Peace Doves using just one sheet of paper, to display during The 16 Days of Activism, 25th November to 10th December.

Their next meeting takes the form of a Christmas lunch at the St Mary's Hospice Café.

They close the year by joining the rest of Furness Deanery at their Carol Service on December 4th at the Parish Church, Ulverston.



Community Drop-in Surgery

Hosted by Suzanne Pender, Councillor for Hawkshead and Coniston

Last Friday of the month **Friday 26th January**

10-11am Herdwicks Café, Coniston

11.30-12 noon Undercrag, Torver

2pm The Manor, Oxen Park by appointment

2.45pm The Farmers Arms, Lowick by appointment

Contact: Suzanne.pender@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Tel: 07501 806298

Winter hours are now with us with the house and gardens closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Opening times Wednesday-Sunday 10.30am - 4.00pm. The Terrace Café will remain open every day 10.00am - 4.00pm.

It may be Winter, but we still have plenty to offer our visitors. After the success of Wild Wednesdays during the Summer holidays and Go Wild workshops at October half term, we now have **Festive Family Fun** on Saturday mornings throughout December. 10.30 - 12.30 on **2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December**. The perfect time to move slowly into the festive season – these free sessions will be filled with cosy crafts, magical music and twinkling lights – all by a roaring fire in The Terrace. A great opportunity to purchase some of the Café's Christmas treats from their festive menu.

In the first of our 2023-2024 Concerts, Pianist Mark Viner will be performing in Brantwood's Drawing Room on **Saturday 9th December**. Performance begins at 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. Seating is limited to forty so booking early is recommended (**bookings@brantwood.org.uk** or tel: **015394 41396**). Tickets £25 (includes an interval drink). Pre-concert supper will be served in the Terrace Cafe from 5.30pm. £16.50 per person, booking essential (**theterrace@brantwood.org.uk** or tel: **015394 49025**). More details on our website.

For full details of all our exhibitions and events, please visit our website **www.brantwood.org.uk**. Box office: **enquiries@brantwood.org.uk** or call **015394 41396**.

A decorative border of stylized evergreen trees and holly leaves surrounds the central text.

Coffee Morning and Christmas Crafts with Rosie Taylor
Saturday 16th December 2023 10.30am-12.30pm

'The Friends of Ruskin's Brantwood would like to invite you to join us for a lovely opportunity to spend a relaxing morning in the Loft. Using a variety of hand tools we will be creating unique and beautiful festive decorations made from natural materials found in and around the Brantwood gardens and estate

A warm welcome awaits for Friends and neighbours, old and new (and festive refreshments too!)

A circular logo with 'TAYLOR MADE' at the top, a stylized tree in the center, and 'GUEST LEAFETS' at the bottom.
Book your free place at
bookings@brantwood.org.uk
or call 015394 41396

A logo with 'Friends of Ruskin's' in small text above a stylized 'B' and 'Brantwood' in a large serif font.

Green Sparks news

A big thank you to everyone who came to our River Crake Noticeboard consultation event. We're working hard to pull all the ideas together. Watch this space!

Eco Christmas Fair, 12-5pm Sunday 3rd December at the Red Rose Club Ulverston – organised by Ulverston based Community Interest Companies Mycelium Thinking and People Planet Pocket. The afternoon will include environmentally friendly activities, music and stalls. Free entry. All welcome!

Cumbria Wildlife is offering work experience days to teens interested in finding out about careers in conservation. The next one takes place on **16th December** in Coniston see <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2023-12-16-conservation-careers-work-experience-teenagers>

To join the Green Sparks Email list contact greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com



The Farmers Arms, Lowick

6th Dec — Soup Talks: John Hodgson on Restoring Hardknott Forest: 6.30pm / £5 talk only / £10 w/ soup

13th Dec — Silver Stacking Ring Workshop: 11am–4pm / £80

16th Dec — Winter Fair, 10am - 10pm / free

21st Dec — The Stable Bar Presents: Freyja Evelyn: 7.30pm / Free

31st Dec — New Year's Eve at The Farmer's Arms: 7pm / £30

Booking closes 18th Dec — Gardening School 2024: In fun, hands-on sessions, you'll be guided by local head gardener Karen Guthrie through 12 monthly sessions exploring all the fundamental seasonal garden tasks.

Booking closes 8th Jan — Green Fingers: The Complete No-Dig Edibles Course: Join us in our fields for a dynamic new edibles initiative aimed at new gardeners or anyone who'd like to learn easy no-dig growing. Students will be assigned their own small plot to work on through the year.

Opening hours over the festive period:

Christmas Eve: 2pm – 10pm

Christmas Day: 12 – 4pm

Boxing Day: Closed

27th Dec: Closed

28th – 30th Dec: Open as normal

31st Dec: NYE Party 7pm – 1am (Pre-booking required)

1st Jan: Closed

To contact our friendly team, email hello@lakedistrictfarmersarms.com or call **01229 481160**.

OPEN FOR FOOD & DRINK, THURSDAY - SUNDAY

Cafe, 10am - 5pm | Stable Bar, 12noon - 10pm

Oxen Park Cinema Club

We continue to fill up and have been able to have 2nd showings on the following Sunday. These go up on the website the week before.

December films are: **5th - A Man Called Otto.**

16th - Are You There God? It's Me Margaret

27th - family Christmas film. Arthur Christmas 4.30 start. Members £3, non-members £4, children £2.

2nd January - Polite Society

Why not think about hiring the cinema - £125 includes hire (£20) and licence - contact Carol - a great party or group gathering especially combined with a meal at The Manor.

Carol



RUSLAND HORIZONS 2024 CALENDAR IS READY TO ORDER!

We are delighted to announce that the 2024 Rusland Horizons Calendar is now available to order!

There are 12 beautiful images within the calendar, plus a great front cover photo, all showcasing brilliantly the theme of 'Life in the Rusland Valley'.

Treat yourself, your family, friends, neighbours and anyone you know. All proceeds, after cost of production, go towards supporting the work and activities of The Rusland Horizons Trust.

Take a look at all the featured photos, plus details of how to order your calendars, on the Rusland Horizons website here <https://www.ruslandhorizons.org/latest-news.aspx>

NEXT RUSLAND HORIZONS EVENTS

We still have places on the last couple of events this year:

Invasive Species Removal Work Party: Saturday 9th December

Dry Stone Walling - Initial Training: Sunday 17th December

Furness Bach Choir and Ensemble Laus Deo present

Bach Mass in B minor

Saturday 2nd December 7.30pm at Ulverston Parish Church

tickets £15

Book online at furnessbachchoir.co.uk

Or tel 01229 587757 or 01229 837680

ROOKHOW SUPPORTS VULNERABLE GROUPS

Rookhow, the Quaker charity in the Rusland Valley has allocated over £8,000 to 12 community groups for subsidised stays at Rookhow in the 6th Round of its Retreat Away Fund for vulnerable groups. The groups include refugees, domestic abuse support, drug and alcohol addiction recovery, rape and sexual exploitation support, workshops for young black people and activities for families from deprived communities. Individuals report huge benefits from having time away in nature away from the stresses of daily life. They find Rookhow a safe place of simple calm and beauty. Rookhow puts 5% of its booking income into the fund and local Quaker Meetings, visitors and guests support it too.

WINTER 'QUAMPING'

While the Bunkbarn is closed over the Winter for renovation work, we'll be offering 'Quamping' (a Quaker version of glamping or champing) in the 300 year old Grade II* listed Quaker Meeting House and yurt in the woods. 2 nights minimum. £200 per night (or £150 for just Meeting House). Up to 12 people (or 8 for just Meeting House). See the website for more details. Availability over Christmas and New Year if need overspill accommodation.

OPEN DAYS

Rookhow continues to be open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Fridays 10am - 4pm throughout the Winter. Come over for a look around, have a cuppa and homemade cake and hear about Rookhow's history and current work. Several people have attended Quaker Meeting for the first time (12.30 - 1pm). Quaker Meetings for Worship are also held on the 1st Wednesday of every month 7.30 - 8pm. Just turn up. All welcome.

Website: rookhow.org.uk Contact **Sue Nicholls**, Development Manager,
Tel **07377 971783** Email: contactrookhow@gmail.com



Spare time on your hands?

Voluntary Social Car Scheme

Volunteer drivers needed in Coniston, Hawkshead, Ambleside

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Journey to Bethlehem - the real Christmas Story!

We have a new Christmas film out this year which is actually about the real Christmas Story! We will be showing the new family friendly (PG) musical, "Journey to Bethlehem" at the Roxy on the following dates:

Wednesday 20th December at 5pm, Thursday 21st December at 5pm.

www.nm-cinemas.co.uk

Cumbria Young Farmers



The Tom Allan Tractor Run

12 months ago, Tom Allan died in a road traffic accident, he was 18 years old. He worked for the family business as a Welder and Fabricator and attended Lancaster College one day a week honing his trade. A past Student of Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale, Tom was a keen tug of War participant and early last year travelled with the Upper Eden Team to Amsterdam to represent England as a junior and brought home the team bronze medal. As a member of Sedbergh YFC, Tom's interests were varied and numerous and lived his short life to the max. He was following his Dad's passion for rural sports and enjoyed gamekeeping and shooting. Tom's short life had touched on so many and representatives from all parts of his life took up the mantle and became part of this memorial day.

With a massive 218 tractors, it was Tom that we remembered on Sunday, but what the tractor run stood for turned out to be much more. It was the opportunity for the rural community to come together, to talk, the swap stories, to compare tractors, the take in the beautiful scenery of South Cumbria.

Ruby, Tom's cousin and the organiser of the tractor run said "The last 12 months has been the longest and shortest years, all rolled into watching the minutes tick by to waking up and realising that we've spent a full year already without Tom, the loss of a young life is tragic in any circumstances, but when the local community steps up it is overwhelming and truly heart-warming to see the support that is out there." Tom's elder sister, Abbie, as a newly qualified NHS Physiotherapist decided on North West Ambulance Service as the chosen charity. The tractor run has currently raised around £7000 with money still coming in.



A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH by Rev. David Gregg

DECEMBER 26TH : ST. STEPHEN'S DAY

Actually it's more of a *train of thought* this month. It started with one of my frequent bouts of frustration with the internet, when the following story came to mind.

General de Gaulle reportedly had no time for computers. He regarded them as a monstrous artificial challenge to the superiority of the human brain. But, as President of the Republic, he was required on one occasion to go and open a brand new multi-million-franc computer system for the French government. Determined to demonstrate the pre-eminence of man over machine, he asked what its area of expertise was supposed to be. When told, he dreamt up what he thought was an impossibly erudite question for it, and ordered that this be fed in. It was in the days when information was stored on giant magnetic tapes. After an impressive whirling of wheels and flashing of lights a very short read-out appeared. It simply read, "NON." De Gaulle was incensed, and ordered that a further question be fed in. It read, "Seulement, 'Non'?" (= Just 'No'?) There was a further whirling of wheels and flashing of lights, and then a marginally longer message appeared. It read, "Ah, Pardon! NON, *MON GENERAL*"

I went on to recall a visit to Charles de Gaulle's burial place at Colombey les Deux-Eglises - a simple grave with an epitaph recording his primary role as President of the French Republic, but festooned with tributes from a vast array of military units who had served under him in his military career overthrowing the evils of Nazism in World War Two. And towering over all this, on the nearby hill, is a huge (200 foot high) Cross of Lorraine.

And this brought me on to think of St. Stephen's Day (26th December) – the Second Day of Christmas. As we begin to celebrate, with thanksgiving, the glories of the birth of the Saviour of the World, with it's themes of peace and joy and light and love, we are confronted almost immediately by the truth that the Messiah was 'born to die', and that His Sacrificial death on the Cross of Calvary was the atoning cost of *our* Salvation. It was *this* to which Stephen bore witness (see Acts ch. 7) and led to his martyrdom. In addition Stephen was the appointed leader of the seven deacons (= servants) who headed up the social work of the church in Jerusalem. (Hence "Good King Wenceslas"!)

Stephen is counted as the first "martyr" of the Christian Church. The word actually simply means "witness", but has come to indicate someone who, like Stephen, has persevered in their witness (very often, as with Stephen, focussing on God's condemnation of evil and evil-doers) to the point of death. (Interestingly, Stephen's own name is Greek for "Crown".)

As to his rôle as chief "deacon", this is a reminder that the "good works" that Christians are called on to do in imitation of Jesus are not meant as a *means* to earn God's favour, but as practical evidence of the change of nature that comes with the new birth/life that faith brings. The story of Wenceslas was attached to St. Stephen's day a long time ago to remind us of this.

I have a particular *personal* interest in St. Stephen's Day – it is my birthday! (I might well have been *called* Stephen, but I was two weeks premature, and my name "David" had already been chosen, in honour of my father's best friend, a Jewish companion named after King David! If you are a fellow Christian believer, whatever your name, you are called on to bear witness to the Saviour Who bore

our sins upon the Cross, no matter what it costs, and to produce “good works” as evidence of the truth of a new life – of being ‘born again’.

Parish Prayer Diary December 2023

1st: Pray for all whose lives are torn apart by violence and death.

2nd: Pray for *Samaritan's Purse* charity, transporting and distributing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

3rd: **Sunday, the first day of the week**

At the beginning of a new Church year, we recommit ourselves to the service of Jesus, that we may be ready to meet Him who is our Lord, our King, our Saviour, when He comes again or calls us home.

4th: Pray for the staff and children at Casa Maria, a hospice near Bucharest for children with complex needs, praying especially for Robert sponsored by the Crake Valley community through the *Children in Distress* collections.

5th: Give thanks for volunteers who selflessly give time and skills to help others.

6th: Pray for the Benefice Staff team meeting this afternoon.

7th: Pray for medical missions sending emergency teams to disaster areas to serve in refugee camps; praying for protection and emotional strength to keep working in distressing situations.

8th: Pray for the work of The Samaritans, their counsellors and callers

9th: Pray for *The Children's Society*, working with children who run away, are abused or battling mental health.

10th: **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.

11th: Pray the *Experience Christmas* events for primary school children will help them grasp something of the real wonder of Christmas.

12th: Pray for the NHS especially the challenges of staff shortages and increasing demands for its services.

13th: Pray for individuals and families in serious debt and experiencing the fear, suffering and insecurity this causes.

14th: Pray for persecuted Christians in India as they stand strong in their faith and show God's love and character to their local communities. Pray especially for the protection of local pastors and their families.

15th: Pray for local Food Banks and Pantries: organisers, volunteers and clients.

16th: Pray for carol services across the nation: that familiar words will proclaim the awesome wonder of The Word made flesh.

17th: **Sunday, the first day of the week**

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

18th: Pray for refugees fleeing from war and famine and for all who work to help and support destitute people.

19th: Pray for schools as they break for Christmas: that pupils keep safe in all their activities and that teaching staff have opportunity for rest and recharge.

20th: Pray for chaplains, especially those who minister in prisons and hospitals.

21st: Pray for the bereaved experiencing deep sadness and depression because of their loss of someone they love.

22nd: Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces far from home this Christmas.

23rd: In the busyness of final gift preparations, may we, and all seeking a better way, take time to reflect on God's greatest Gift to us: Jesus, our living hope.

24th: Sunday, the first day of the week

At the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus, may we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, that we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our Judge.

25th: Christmas Day

May our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth, accept our heartfelt praise as we worship Him, our Saviour and eternal God.

26th: Pray for those who having explored the Christian faith and coming to the point of personal commitment, have received Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

27th: Pray for those who stand for truth and integrity against the corruption which undermines social and economic development in all societies.

28th: Pray for our local farming community.

29th: Pray for Archbishop Justin Welby.

30th: As 2023 draws to a close, reflect on the Lord's past provision and, assured of His faithfulness for today and tomorrow, offer Him your present concerns.

31st: Sunday, the first day of the week Praise our God who came to share in our humanity and to wonderfully restore us. Give thanks for the Kingdom fellowship to which we now belong and pray for opportunity to share with those who do not yet know the Lord Jesus.

Readings for December 2023

3rd	1 Corinthians 1.3 - 9	Mark 13.24 - 37
10th	2 Peter 3.8-15a	Mark 1.1 - 8
	Isaiah 9.2, 6-7, Luke 1.26-35, 38, Luke 2.1-7, Luke 2.8-16, Matthew 2.1-11, John 1.1-14	
17th	1 Thessalonians 5.16 - 24	John 1.6 - 8, 19-28
	Isaiah 9.2, 6-7, Luke 1.26-35, 38, Luke 2.1-7, Luke 2.8-16, Matthew 2.1-11, John 1.1-14	
24th	Romans 16.25 - 27	Luke 1.26 - 38
	Titus 3.4 - 7	Luke 2.8 - 20
25th	Hebrews 1.1 - 12	John 1.1 - 14
31st	Galatians 4.4 - 7	Luke 2.22 - 40



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From the Editor

****early deadline for January's magazine**** please send items in by December 14th to help us get the Magazines before the printers' holiday shutdown. Thank you.

Juliet Caldwell, Editor 07884 232281

editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk



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2 nd & 4 th Friday	Tottle-Art: Art Group 10.30am - 12.30	Tottlebank Baptist Church
Tuesday	Coffee and Chat, 9.45 - 10.45am	Greenodd Village Hall
Tuesday from 9th Jan	Coniston CAMEO 2 - 4pm	Coniston Institute
Wednesday	Parent and Toddler Group 9.30 - 11.30am (term time only)	Coniston S & S Centre
Wednesday	Beginners Pilates, 4.30pm	Greenodd Village Hall
Wednesday	Lowick Parent & Toddler Group 9.30 - 11.30am (term time only) £1.50	Lowick Community Hall
Wednesday	Community Lunch, 1pm sharp, £7.50	Farmers Arms, Lowick
1 st Wednesday from 4 th Oct	Dominoes and Lunch, 12.30pm	Coniston Institute
Thursday	"Young at Heart" exercise and lunch, 11am £5	Coniston S&S Centre
Thursday	Volunteer Day 9.30 - 3.30pm	Brantwood Gardens
2 nd Tuesday	Egton WI, 7.30pm, new or prospective members welcome	Greenodd Village Hall
3 rd Tuesday	Coniston WI, 7.30pm, new or prospective members welcome	Coniston Institute
1 st Wednesday	Quaker Meetings, 7.30pm	Rookhow
1 st & 3 rd Friday	Quaker Meetings, 12.30pm	Rookhow
2 nd Wednesday	Bouth WI, 7.30pm, new or prospective members welcome	Bouth Village Hall
1 st Wednesday	Prayer Hour - 10 - 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
Fridays	Indoor Bowling, 2 - 4pm	Coniston Institute

What's On Guide - December

2 nd	Church Coffee Morning, 10am	Greenodd Village Hall
5 th	Film: A Man Called Otto	Oxen Park Cinema Club
6 th	St Nicholas Day Coffee Morning, 10am	Bouth Village Hall
6 th	Just for Ewe Christmas event, see page 9	Coniston
6 th	Talk: Restoring Hardknott Forest, 6.30pm	Farmers Arms, Lowick
7 th	The Chosen: Episode 3, 2.00pm	Greenodd Village Hall
8 th	Little Arrow String Band, 7pm	Coniston Institute
9 th	Jack James concert see page 7	Greenodd Village Hall
9 th	The Elderly Brothers, 7.30pm	Water Yeat Village Hall
9 th	Concert: Pianist Mark Viner, 7pm	Brantwood
10 th	Torver Carol Service, 5pm	St Luke's, Torver
15 th	Christmas Coffee Morning, 10am	Coniston Methodist Church
16 th	Winter Fair, 10am - 10pm	Farmers Arms, Lowick
16 th	Christmas Fair & Meet Santa - booking required, see website	Coniston Institute
16 th	Children's Christmas Party, 12 noon	Coniston S&SC
16 th	Brantwood Coffee Morning see page 13	Brantwood
16 th	Film: Are you there God? It's me Margaret	Oxen Park Cinema Club
17 th	Penny Bridge Carol Service, 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
17 th	Colton Carol Service, 3pm	Holy Trinity, Colton
17 th	Coniston Carol Service, 6pm	St Andrews, Coniston
17 th	Tottlebank Baptist Church Carol Service, 4pm	Tottlebank, Colton
18 th	Coniston Community Lunch, see page 9	Coniston Institute
21 st	Live Music: Freyja Evelyn, 7.30pm	Farmers Arms, Lowick
24 th	Children's Christmas Service 3pm	St Luke's, Lowick
24 th	Christingle 4pm	St Andrews, Coniston
27 th	Film: Arthur Christmas, 4.30pm see page 15.	Oxen Park Cinema Club
28 th	Houghton Weavers, 7pm see page 7	Greenodd Village Hall



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