

Coniston and Crake Valley News



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, Penny Bridge, LA12 7RQ	<i>Brian works for Filling Station on Thursday</i> <i>Brian's rest day is Friday</i>	07505 048736

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To contact any of the Churchwardens, pastoral team, retired clergy or lay ministers please call or email the Administrator, Juliet.
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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**.

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cover photo : Lambing Service at Abbot Park Farm May 14th .

Pastoral Letter from Pam Priestley

Dear Friends,

My greatest fear for my grandchildren, as they grow up, is the effect of social media on them. The plus side is that they are very adept in using technology, so much so that it is their advice I take when I have a problem with my iPad or mobile phone. Our 2 twelve year old grandchildren recently tried to sort out my phone until in the end, after muttering to each other and shaking their heads, told me in sorrowful but gentle tones (as though they were talking to an ill person!) that my phone was too old and couldn't manage the things I had hoped for. The phone obviously resembled its owner!

We all live in a world of instant communication with emails flying about, text messages, WhatsApp telling us what someone has had for breakfast before we reach coffee time and Alexa listening in to every conversation! It can result in a very stressful environment. We haven't got time to think or reflect before the next message comes.

At the festival of Pentecost, which we are celebrating this month, there were no mobile phones, no internet but communication was rapid, miraculous and life-changing. Jerusalem was crowded with people, lots of noise and activity when the disciples, having been left desolate by the death of Jesus were filled with God's Holy Spirit and were able to speak out to hundreds of people, all nationalities, about Jesus. The amazing thing was that all those people understood what was being said, with no translation App needed! Many, many people came to faith that day and encountered God, person to person.

God has always been the great communicator. Right through history He has wanted to make Himself known until He sent Jesus, to speak in a language we could understand. May we today give God space and stillness to speak to us, draw close to us and energise us anew.

Love, **Pam**

From the Editor

Please send in your items for inclusion in the July edition by June 15th.
Your photos of life and work in the parishes would be most welcome.

Juliet Caldwell, Editor 07884 232281
editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk



Church Services for June 2023

4th	Trinity Sunday		
St. Luke Torver	9.00am	Bikers' Breakfast	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Luke Lowick	9.30am	Morning Worship	Richard Wood
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
11th	First Sunday after Trinity		
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Morning Worship	Pam Priestley
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Morning Worship	Pamela Hull
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
18th	Second Sunday after Trinity		
St. Luke Torver	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Brian Streeter
25th	Third Sunday after Trinity		
St. Luke Lowick	9.30am	Methodist Service	Rev Grace Cauldwell
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Joanna Henson
St. Luke Torver	7.00pm	Torver Junction	Rev Brian Streeter

From the Registers

Weddings:

June 3rd: Aimee Suzanne Duff and Mark Shepherd at St Andrew's, Coniston

June 10th: Eleanor Catherine Taylor and Tom Mitchinson at St Luke's, Lowick

Baptism:

June 25th: Elijah & William Marczak at Holy Trinity, Colton

Funeral:

May 16th: Diana Rutherford at Little & Caine's Chapei

Around the Parishes : Colton

Colton Parish News

Our work on the update of the community plan is well underway, including the parish open meeting held on the 20th May where we were delighted to welcome Jonathan Brook, Council Leader of Westmorland and Furness Council to share his vision for the area. We also ran a very enjoyable schools morning with Penny Bridge and Leven Valley schools at Rookhow on the 24th of May to help us develop a young people's manifesto as part of the Community Plan. Look out for more news on the 'Cabinet of Curiosities' project, formally launched at the Open Meeting. This project will celebrate the unique nature of our parish and share stories from the community. If you want to help on this fun project, please email Marion Brown (marion@bestpath.co.uk) to find out more. We will also share more news about our plans for our tent at the Rusland Show in the next newsletter.

The parish again gave generously to Barrow Foodbank for Two Tin Tuesday. Thanks to all who donated and in particular to David Hoyle for organising the collections.

Wonderful celebrations for the King's Coronation were held at both Finsthwaite and Lakeside Village Hall and on Bouth Village Green. Finsthwaite also joined in with volunteer Monday with a spring clean and tidy of the library supported by around 15 volunteers.

Our next meeting is on the 19th of June at Colton Church Hall.

Colton Celebrated!

Thanks to Joanna and Bob Henson who put on a splendid Coronation Tea at their Springfield home. A table laden with attractive tasty tempting food!

The atmosphere was convivial and comfortable – we shared amusing stories, special memories – just relaxing and enjoying each others' company.

Special thanks to Joanna and Bob for arranging a memorable occasion, May 10th 2023 (and they would not accept any assistance with the washing up!!)

Susan King

Egton cum Newland

Parish Council of Egton, with Newland, Mansriggs & Osmotherley

Next meeting is on Tuesday, 4th July at 7pm in Greenodd Village Hall.

Penny Bridge CE Academy

Let your light shine!



The children have enjoyed learning about the Coronation and have shown their artistic flair by producing wonderful coronation artwork in different mediums. They joined in the party celebrations at the 'Coronation Disco' organised by 'The Friends of the School'.

The Robins (4-5 year olds) have been learning about animals around the world and have enjoyed booking holidays in their role play area.

The Starlings (5-7 year olds) have been learning about 'Hot Places' around the world in Geography and how to make maps of the local area. In science, they have researched and investigated the different types of trees around the school fields.

The Kingfishers (7-9 year olds) have investigated light and shadow during Science this term: they have made shadow puppets, periscopes and also studied how their shadows change over the course of a day.

The Ospreys (9-11) have been exploring the novel 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty in English discussing challenging themes including cruelty, injustice, resilience and humanity. Both year 5 & 6 girls and boys have participated in football tournaments.

Many thanks are due to Barbara and Danny Satterthwaite for a kind donation to school, which went towards new art and gardening resources.



Lowick & Blawith

Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council

Matthew Kiziuk has joined the Parish Council! He and his family have lived in the Crake Valley for several years. Welcome, Matthew. Cllr. Ben Cooper from Penny Bridge has resigned, so we can recruit a local resident onto the Parish Council. Thank you, Ben, for being so noble and for giving us all your support. I understand the time constraints you have with the new Unitary Council responsibilities.

The Parish Council met on 9th May and we discussed clearing the path between Blawith and Lowick, It will shortly be attended to. PC Paul Harris the local PCSO attended and briefed us on local crime, Fortunately there was nothing to report, except there seems to be less rogue off-road motorcycling. Finally, we discussed the future of the Parish Council meetings at Water Yeat.

On Coronation day, it was great to see so many people attend the village hall and see it being used as a Community hub. There was a brilliant atmosphere with people of all ages coming together to locally celebrate a national event. This is what community is all about.

Indeed, my last newsletter as a District Councillor, was all about Community and how we must all put effort and time to make the Community strong and function. Parish Councils are the first tier of Government and should remain in that Parish. Unfortunately due to the increasing cost of renting Water Yeat Village Hall, as of June we will be meeting monthly at Lowick Village Hall, who have offered us a good rate for our meetings.

Ian Wharton

Chair, Blawith and Subberthwaite Parish Council.

Coniston and Torver

Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston, April 2023

Total - 141.5mm (5.6ins)

Wet days - 15, More than 1mm on 12 days.

Wettest day - 12th - 27.0mm (1.1ins)

Frost on the 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 15th & 24th.

Windermere and Bowness Community Choir present a Concert

in aid of **St. Mary's Hospice, Ulverston** at

St Andrew's Church, 7.30pm on Friday 9th June

Tickets £10

(includes glass of wine or juice)

available at **Hutchinson's shop, Coniston** or **on the door**.

There will also be a raffle.

Coniston Sports and Social Centre

June Events

3rd June - FA Cup Final

7th June - **Quiz Night** - see below

10th June - Champions' League Final

29th June - **CSSC AGM 7pm**

1st July - **Members Family Fun Day - BBQ, Live music from 3pm, fun & games**

(come and renew your membership to continue getting reduced rates!)



Opening: Friday from 4pm, Saturday from 12 noon and Sunday from 1pm.

If you'd like to book our facilities or have any other enquiries please do get in touch.

Tel: **015394 41812**, email: **Conistonsports@gmail.com**

A huge thank you to all who supported the return of our monthly quiz night – it was a great night and we raised a fantastic amount with a full house of people. £168 has been donated to St Mary's Hospice – chosen by the winning team.



MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT

On the first Wednesday of each month

Wednesday 7th June

Teams of up to six, quiz starting at 8pm - £3pp

If any local charities would like to host one of the monthly quizzes as a fundraiser then please let the Centre Manager or a committee member know.

For regular events see page 30



Reduce food waste with

Coniston Community Larder

The larder is stocked with essentials for anyone who needs them. Please help yourself.

If you have surplus food (unused, unopened) don't waste it, leave it in the fridge or at the back of church.

Larder and Fridge situated inside St Andrew's Church, Coniston.
Open daily. Contact parish@coniston.info for more information.

Join us for a

Coffee Afternoon

Coffee and Cake
Cake Stall
Eco-Craft Stall
Plant Swap/Sale



Coniston Institute Reading Room
Wednesday 14th June 2-4pm

Torver Social with 100 Club draw

Friday June 9th. 6.30 for 7pm.

Torver Schoolroom



Local and Lake District drone photography set to classical music

by Rev. David Bickersteth. Everyone welcome to come along and enjoy seeing our beautiful area and local landmarks filmed from a different angle.

It's a free BYO (bring your own drinks) evening with nibbles and a raffle.

LOW BANK GROUND

SUMMER ACTIVITY CLUB

for 7 - 11 year olds

Supported by the Rawdon-Smith Trust

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS
FROM 1-4 PM**



Water activities

including kayaking,
canoeing, raft building
and paddle boarding



£10 per session

for local residents
within the Coniston and
Crake valley



Must pre-book

26th July

2nd August

9th August

Only 10 spaces available per session



PLEASE

CONTACT lakesadventure@wigan.gov.uk

01942 489844

Women's Institutes



Egton WI

I would like to thank those of you who supported us by coming to our Coronation tea party which we hope you all enjoyed. We had a full house and despite pricing the tickets very reasonably we were still able to make just short of £400 profit which will go to our charity which this year is St. Mary's Hospice. To support this worthy cause further we are planning to hold an autumn event in the form of a coffee morning / soup & sandwich lunch with dessert - so watch this space!



Meetings wise we had an excellent speaker this month - stone mason David Lamb, a local lad who has achieved his ambitions and more. Having been to UVHS and started training locally in what has proved to be his lifetime passion he told us about all the UK cathedrals that he has been involved in repairing, his time employed in Canada and his work on the war graves in both Africa and India right up to the present day where you can spot him working on Conishead Priory. It was a very informative talk and his enthusiasm shone through. We are now looking forward to our meeting next month when apparently we may be having fun with make-up demonstrated by Faye from Eden Beauty Room in Ulverston.

In April you may have seen a few of us one Saturday on a local litter pick on the sides of the A590 and the Greenodd roundabout area. Also several of our members went to the Coronation Hall to hear David Harper give a talk about the Georgians, so you see we pop up all over the place. Do join us ladies and we will ensure that you are made welcome. Call **07519 144799** for further information.

Gill

Oxen Park Cinema

We have our AGM on **Monday 26th June** at 7.30pm at The Carthouse Community Cinema. All are welcome but only members can vote.

If you have never been inside then do join us - these annual meetings don't last long. Just turn up - we are opposite The Manor House pub.

We may even have a very short film to show first

Carol

On Saturday 10th June from 10.30am-4pm, Brantwood Director, Howard Hull, will be leading a field trip around Brantwood gardens and estate. Recent ecology surveys at John Ruskin's former home, Brantwood, have revealed that the 100 hectare estate is remarkably rich in biodiversity with a high number of scarce and protected species and habitats. Howard will lead a guided walk around its historic features, from open fell top to flower rich meadow, through ancient semi-natural woodland and remnants of Atlantic Temperate Rainforest, whilst discussing the varied management techniques for the estate. There will also be a visit to the Treasury, Ruskin's glittering mineral collection. Advance booking for this event is required as space is limited. Tickets are £16, RGS-IBG members £14. Dress for weather, rugged terrain and bring a packed lunch. Please note this event is not suitable for the less physically able. Refreshments available at the Terrace Café afterwards.

On Saturday 17th June we are delighted to welcome Dr Rachel Dickinson who will be giving a talk '*Ruskin, the craft of living well and local linen industries*'. Rachel is Reader in Interdisciplinary Studies & English in the Department of English, Manchester Metropolitan Museum and Master of Ruskin's Guild of St George. This talk traces how John Ruskin used textiles to offer a vision of a happier, healthier society. Then, with particular focus on the Langdale Linen Industry and Ruskin Lace, it traces examples of local, small-scale industries that were inspired by Ruskin 'once more to spin and weave' to help rebuild and reinforce a sense of community. Tickets are £6 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits prior to the talk. Opens at 10.00am with the talk beginning at 10.30am in the Coach House Loft. Please book in advance through Brantwood.

To make a day of it, we also have on 17th June a new exhibition opening in the Severn Studio, '*Art Forms in Nature*' by Mark Butler. On 1st January 2022, Mark started a creative challenge to make a new clay design every day for the first 100 days of the year. He based all the clay designs on the amazing drawings of Ernst Haeckel. On display until 30th July.

Our 2023 Blue Gallery programme of exhibitions continues with '*Tracery – Venice and the Lakes Interlaced*' by Deirdre Kelly. This exhibition that emulates Ruskin's dedication to observation and his love of Venice and the Lakes. Like the lacemakers of the Lakes and those of Burano, Kelly has found ways to tell interwoven stories of lakes and lace and evoke journeys, by marrying new techniques to traditional crafts. On display until 11th July.

If anyone has a bit of spare time (a big ask we know!), we are looking for someone to manage the membership side of The Friends of Ruskin's Brantwood. The Friends have been going since 1991 and have done incredible work in supporting Brantwood through volunteering and funding special projects over the years. For further information please contact us, we would love to hear from you.

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**.

Green Sparks

Launch of new Green Sparks Steering Group Saturday 10th June

Green Sparks is moving on and we are looking for enthusiastic people to form a new steering group to push us forward. We'll be launching our steering group at a meeting on the afternoon Saturday 10th June. We'll confirm the venue once we have an idea of numbers so, please let us know if you're interested by Friday 26th May 2023. At this meeting we'll be working out an outline plan for 2023/2024. If you can't make the date but want to join the steering group, please get in touch.

Solar Made Easy - launch date: Thursday 15th June.

Property owners in and around Ulverston (including the Green Sparks areas) are invited to get involved in the Solar Made Easy project, which can help you install solar panels on your roof.

This initiative is led by Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) and has been brought to the Ulverston area by community groups Mycelium Thinking CIC and Green Sparks, working with Ulverston Town Council.

CAfS can help you decide whether solar panels are right for your home or business. If so, they will introduce you to two local vetted installers, who will provide you with quotes.

Mycelium Thinking CIC has invited CAfS to join their Flourishing Futures solar-themed event "Another Shine Fest" to launch the project. This is taking place on **Thursday 15th June, 6-9pm**, at the Red Rose, Victoria Road, Ulverston, LA12 0BY. There you can meet CAfS, who will explain how the project works and fire your solar questions at the installers. You'll also get a chance to enjoy drop-in art-making for all ages, sunny tunes and community-powered performances.

Greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com

Greenholme Beck Riverfly Survey – A taster session on 19th April.

Conserving Coniston and Crake volunteers arranged a river fly survey for interested new volunteers. River flies are larvae that live in becks. In this case we went to the lower reaches of Greenholme Beck. The 19th April was chosen as being a perfect sunny day for getting the net and sample trays out for counting the eight species of river flies we were interested in. The resulting score of river flies was well above the critical level and therefore the beck was considered healthy.





Westmorland
& Furness
Council

COMMUNITY DROP-IN SURGERY

Hosted by Suzanne Pender, Councillor for
Hawkshead and Coniston

When?

Last Friday of the month starting

- Friday, 28th April
- Friday, 26th May
- Friday, 30th June



Time:

- 10am-11am: Herdwicks Cafe Coniston
- 11.30am-12noon: Under Crag Torver
- 1.00pm-1.30pm: Minstrels Gallery Hawkshead
- 2.00pm-2.30pm: Farmers Arms Lowick



Further information from:



Suzanne.Pender@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
07501 806298

Celebrating the Coronation in 1953

June 1953 saw the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and, like schools across the length and breadth of the country, we at Lowick School held our own pageant, with every pupil playing a part. The playground with its panoramic view of the Coniston valley and range became our Westminster Abbey; my pal Bernice was crowned Queen, while Diana, sporting a policeman's helmet wrapped in silver paper, was Britannia (though she recently confessed that all she really wanted was to to be queen, and so she sulked all day). I was Peace (alas, unseen in every photograph) perched on a very unsteady oil drum, right at the back, dressed in the vicar's voluminous surplice and holding a lily. I was originally meant to have been holding a dove, but when the deputising stuffed seagull - kindly volunteered by Auntie Belle from next door - was released from its glass case into the fresh air - it literally fell off its perch and all its feathers dropped off!) As always, Miss Morton rose to the occasion, sweeping aside all obstacles, and, crimson of face, hammered out the accompaniment to our Patriotic Songs on the piano which the boys had, between them, dragged outside the classroom for the occasion.

Our proud parents and the various other invited dignitaries were suitably impressed with our performance, and many approving comments were later voiced over the obligatory cups of tea.



Wendy Keegan

Queen Bernice, attendants: Anne Hogarth and Margaret Atkinson. Train bearers: Rosemary Rushton, Janet Cragg (partly hidden), Kathleen Newton.

Tottlebank Baptist Church



Tottlebank Baptist Church celebrated the Coronation with a trip to Holehird Gardens, near Windermere on 10th May, followed by a picnic tea and cake.

We are also planning on Sunday 28th May to plant a tree in the graveyard to commemorate the Coronation. It will probably be planted next to the one we planted last year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Open Days

Open Days on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month 10am-4pm.
Tea, coffee and homemade cakes.

Quaker Meetings at Rookhow Meeting House

On the first Wednesday of every month 7.30 - 8pm and 1st and 3rd Fridays 12.30-1pm. All welcome.

Day bookings and Summer Holiday bookings

Rookhow Meeting House can be booked for meetings & day events (Monday-Thursday) and as a base for use of the woodland, or for 3 or 4 nights with exclusive use of the site. We put at least 5% of bookings income into the Retreat Away Fund. Check the website: <https://rookhow.org.uk>

Retreat Away Fund

So far Rookhow has supported 400 individuals from 30 organisations to stay at Rookhow. Round 5 grants have been allocated to 8 groups, including Furness Refugee Support, We Will Youth Mental Health Campaign Maryport and Autus Cumbria.

Relief cleaner at Rookhow

With a busy Summer ahead, we're in need of another relief cleaner at Rookhow for when our two cleaners are away, especially when we have a Sunday turnaround (12noon-4pm). £14 per hour. Contact: **Sue Nicholls**, Rookhow Development Manager Tel **07377 971783**

Email: contactrookhow@gmail.com



I've just had my bathroom re-tiled, but I'm not happy with the work. The tradesperson left to do another job halfway through and I had to chase them to finish the job. The work looks pretty rough around the edges. They also left all the old tiles and plaster for me to dispose of, which I wasn't expecting. I've now got the invoice, but I don't think the price reflects the work done or the service I got. Can I challenge this?

If the work looks unfinished or unsafe, you should be able to get the tiler to come back to fix it. You could also suggest that removing the old tiles is part of finishing the job. You are protected by the Consumer Rights Act 2015, which says a tradesperson should have completed the work with 'reasonable care and skill'. If they haven't done this, they've broken the law. The Act means you're legally entitled to ask the tiler to fix the problem (if they provided the tiles as well as the service) or get money refunded (if they just provided the service and you bought the tiles). They should fix the problem or refund you in a reasonable amount of time, without causing too much inconvenience. Ask them to fix the issue or negotiate a lower price for the work before you pay them anything.

Before you contact them, it's a good idea to take photographs to use as evidence of the problem. Make notes about what happened, including dates and times. You should also gather any paperwork and receipts - was there any prior written agreement about who would dispose of the old tiles? Was the final cost was in line

with estimates or quotes given to you at the outset of the work? If not, there is advice on the Citizens Advice website.

Let the tiler know you understand what you're entitled to. Keep a written copy of all contacts, whether you speak to them, write or email. There are template letters on the Citizens Advice website. If you're still struggling to come to an agreement, there are other steps you can take, including using 'alternative dispute resolution', which is a way of solving disagreements without going to court. There are full details about how to do this on the Citizens Advice website

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. How to access:

Call 015394 46464 - this is being staffed from 9:30 – 2pm

- ***Adviceline: 0808 2787 984***

email advice via our submission page on our website

www.southlakescab.org.uk

Help to Claim (Universal Support): 0800 144 8 444

Rusland Horizons

Past events round up

We've held some great events over the last few weeks and would like to thank everyone that attended and supported Rusland Horizons. A delightful morning was spent learning about the landscape and wildlife along our Greenwood Trails number five route. The Invasive Species Removal Work Party, at the end of April, carried out some much-needed conservation work at Black Beck Woods.

It was back to Hay Bridge again at the start of May for an evening of talks from our local moth and butterfly enthusiasts. Sharing their knowledge on how to start mothing and where the best places are in the Rusland valley to find nationally rare and endangered species of butterflies.

Later in May was the ever-popular Dawn Chorus Walk. A bright and early start was rewarded with a lovely woodland walk filled with birdsong. From robins, cuckoo, tree pipit, wren, chiff-chaff, mistle thrush, willow warbler and so many more! It was definitely worth getting up early, especially as the event concluded with breakfast at the White Hart Inn.

Finally, after this Magazine has gone to print, we explored the Veteran Trees of Finsthwaite Heights. We hoped to record a few special veterans for the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory.

What's On

Full details for all future events, once details are confirmed, will be on our website on the 'What's On' page, where you can also book your place. More events will be added soon!

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**



A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH by Rev. David Gregg

JUNE 4TH : TRINITY SUNDAY

A prison chaplain on his rounds had come to a cell with two prisoners in it, who were arguing fiercely about how high their cell door was. One said 6 feet 3 inches and the other said 6 feet 6 inches. The minister produced his Bible, and showed them a little label inside the front cover. It said, "This Bible is printed on paper measuring 8 inches by 6 inches." So using his Bible he measured the door and pronounced that it was, in fact, 6 feet 6 inches high. Whereupon the one who had said 6 feet 3 inches blurted out indignantly, "Doesn't dat just prove what Oi always say, 'Yer can't believe everytink yer read in de Boible'!!"

June 4th is Trinity Sunday. In my thought for St. Patrick's Day last year, I wrote in particular of the ultimate *MYSTERY* of the Person and Name of the LORD God Almighty – the 'Three-in-one and One-in-three', and of the need to be content with what we *can* understand, and to recognise that the rest is secret.

Perhaps the greatest challenge to getting the Christian message across in our modern western society, particularly among intellectuals, is its so-called "scientific world view". It is the *credibility* of the language and imagery of the biblical writers in relation to the realities of which they speak that is the real difficulty:

"In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth."

"This Jesus, God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses."

"At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

It is the Creationist view, and the assertion of the Resurrection, and the "three-tier" view of the universe that are the problem. So, when I was invited to preach at Gonville and Caius College on Trinity Sunday, I thought I would concoct a modern parable:

A young man was reading English Literature at Gonville and Caius, and was courting a girl from Girton College who was reading Physics. One evening he took her to the Gogs (- two small hills a little way from Cambridge). He began to rave about the beauty of the sunset in eloquent and poetic terms. Much to his sadness, the girl recoiled, and said, "I didn't realize what an ignorant fellow you were. I thought everyone nowadays knew that there is no such thing as 'sunset' – the sun is fixed at the centre of the solar system, and it is the earth rotating on its axis that gives the illusion of the sun "going down"! And as for the 'beauty', well that's just the effect of the sun's rays passing through the dust of the earth's atmosphere in various permutations in the spectrum. Good-bye!"

I tried to explain how foolish it is to object to the parabolic language of the Scriptures. It is called "phenomenological" – that is how things appear to our senses from a human point of view. The principal genre of Scriptures is *story* (parable and proverb and anecdote). The language of modern science is "empirical", i.e. based on observation and experiment. The truth is that, confined as we are by time and space, the ultimate reality of God is bound to be a "mystery". Through His prophet Isaiah, the LORD has said:

"My thoughts are not your thoughts and my ways are not your ways." (Isaiah 55: 8)

We are wholly dependent for *any* human knowledge of God on what He Himself, by the Holy Spirit, has chosen to reveal through the prophets of old, and through the apostles of Jesus Christ, and through the language and (Semitic) world-view in which He has chosen to express it. We should always engage prayerfully, faithfully and humbly in our reading and study of the Scriptures, which witness to God's ultimate revelation of Himself and His truth in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ through the agency of the Holy Spirit – a *dynamic* rather than a *static* process.

Parish Prayer Diary June 2023

1st: Pray sanctity of Christian marriage continues to be celebrated and faithfully upheld; pray also for couples solemnising their marriage in church this month.

2nd: Pray for areas of on-going armed conflict, and for the peacemakers trying to bring resolution.

3rd: Pray for the King and members of the Royal Family.

4th Sunday, the first day of the week: Pray our faithful and unchanging Lord will help us grow in knowledge of His truth and draw us deeper into His love that we may truly worship our Holy God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

5th: Pray for schools returning after the half term break.

6th: Pray for wisdom for those who lead and govern us.

7th: Pray for today's Benefice Staff Team meeting.

8th: On World Oceans Day pray for wisdom to reverse the effects on oceans and waterways of overfishing, chemical pollution, ocean mining and plastic waste.

9th: Pray for students taking GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations.

10th: Pray for today's launch of Green Sparks Steering Group and their plans to protect nature and tackle climate change.

11th Sunday, the first day of the week: May our God of truth help us to keep his law of love, and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may know the true life of peace and joy Jesus alone brings.

12th: Pray for our local farmers, working long hours, often in isolation.

13th: Pray for the church in Eritrea which is growing as people, especially young people, are coming to Christ despite the acute risks that come with following Jesus in Eritrea.

14th: Pray for charities such as Age UK, Age Concern, Counsel & Care, providing advice to older people and their families.

15th: Pray for all who serve the Lord overseas, especially in areas where Christianity is viewed with suspicion.

16th: Pray for Prison Chaplains.

17th: Pray for fathers everywhere especially fathers who battle against poverty to provide for their children.

18th Sunday, the first day of the week: Pray our faithful God, whose mercy never fails, may deepen our faithfulness to him and to his living Word, our Saviour, Jesus.

19th: Pray for Victim Support charity providing specialist support to individuals of all ages affected by crime and traumatic events including domestic violence.

20th: Pray for refugees settling into new communities.

21st: Pray for the millions of unpaid carers giving vital care to loved ones living with an illness, disability or mental health condition.

22nd: Pray for charity Tearfund working abroad with local Christian churches to unlock communities' potential to escape poverty.

23rd: Pray for those who work locally in the veterinary sector caring for both livestock and pets.

24th: Pray for those who served in the Armed Forces and are having a difficult time adjusting to life out of the military.

25th Sunday, the first day of the week: Pray that God our Saviour look on this wounded world in pity and power and hold us fast to His promise of peace that passes all understanding won for us at Calvary.

26th: Pray for healthcare professionals working in hospices.

27th: Pray for residents in supported housing, and for the staff.

28th: Pray for work of The Gideons International, that many people will come to know Jesus through reading Gideon-placed Bibles and New Testaments.

29th: Pray for charities such as Shelter providing practical support to the homeless whilst working to campaign for more desperately needed social housing.

30th: Pray for ordinands on pre-ordination retreat.

Prayer Hour

Monthly opportunity to meet in Penny Bridge church, to pray for items posted on the prayer board, for the churches in our Benefice, for our communities, and for the wider world. Next Prayer Hour will be **Wednesday 7th June, 10am - 11am**



Readings for June 2023

4th 2 Corinthians 13.11 -13

Matthew 28.16 -20

11th Romans 4.13 -25

Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

18th Romans 5.1 -8

Matthew 9.35-10.8

25th Romans 6.1b-11

Matthew 10.24-39

Waterbird Project

Last September, I updated you on the Waterbird Project. This is a team effort by the Lakes Flying Company, to bring a replica of the original plane back to life. 12 years in the making, it is a replica of the first ever seaplane that first flew on Windermere in 1911, 8 years after the Wright Brothers. We first flew the replica in June last year and held a public display last September and had a new display last week, accompanied by two, more modern seaplanes.



The initial flight, on Thursday morning, was a success but at the display on Thursday evening, the engine failed. The pilot, who normally flies Spitfires, landed the plane in a controlled manner without further damage. Waterbird had few static displays over the weekend at Brockhole and the Jetty museum and several thousand people enjoyed the experience.

There will be future displays, we need to get the engine mended first.

Ian Wharton and Ian Gee

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What's On Guide - regular events

Mondays	Knitting and Stitching, 7pm	Greenodd Village Hall
Mondays	Short Mat Indoor Bowling, 7 - 9pm, no experience needed	Greenodd Village Hall
Mondays	Youth Club, year 7 to age 18, 6 - 9pm	Coniston S & S Centre
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
Wednesday	Parent and Toddler Group 9.30 - 11.30am	Coniston S & S Centre
Wednesday	Community Lunch, 1pm sharp	Farmers Arms, Lowick
Thursdays	"Young at Heart" exercise and lunch, 11am	Coniston S&S Centre
Thursdays	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	White Hart Inn (temporary)
1 st Wednesday	Prayer Hour - 10 - 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
Fridays	Indoor Bowling, 2 - 4pm	Coniston Institute

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Fridays: 12.15 - 16.00

What's On Guide - June

3 rd	Concert – Kim Richey, 8pm, see overleaf	Water Yeat Village Hall
7 th	Quiz night, starts 8pm	Coniston Sports & Social Club
9 th	Choir Concert, 7.30pm	St.Andrews, Coniston
9 th	Torver 100 Club video, draw & social see page 9	Torver Schoolroom
10 th	Brantwood Field Trip on the estate, 10.30am	Brantwood
10 th	Green Sparks Steering Group meeting see page 13	
14 th	Coniston WI Coffee Afternoon 2 - 4pm	Coniston Institute
15 th	Solar Made Easy, 6 - 9pm see page 13	Red Rose, Ulverston
17 th	Talk on Ruskin, 10am see page 12	Brantwood
18 th	Fathers' Day	
19 th	Colton Parish Council	Colton Church Hall
21 st	Summer Solstice	
22 nd	Mothers' Union Outing to Morecambe	
24 th	Houghton Weavers, 7.30pm	Greenodd Village Hall
26 th	Oxen Park Cinema Club AGM 7.30pm	Carthouse Cinema, Oxen Park
29 th	Coniston Sports & Social Centre AGM 7pm	Coniston Sports & Social Centre
30 th	Suzanne Pender, Westmorland & Furness Council Surgeries, see page 14	various
1 st July	Members' Family Fun Day, 3pm on	Coniston Sports & Social Centre

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