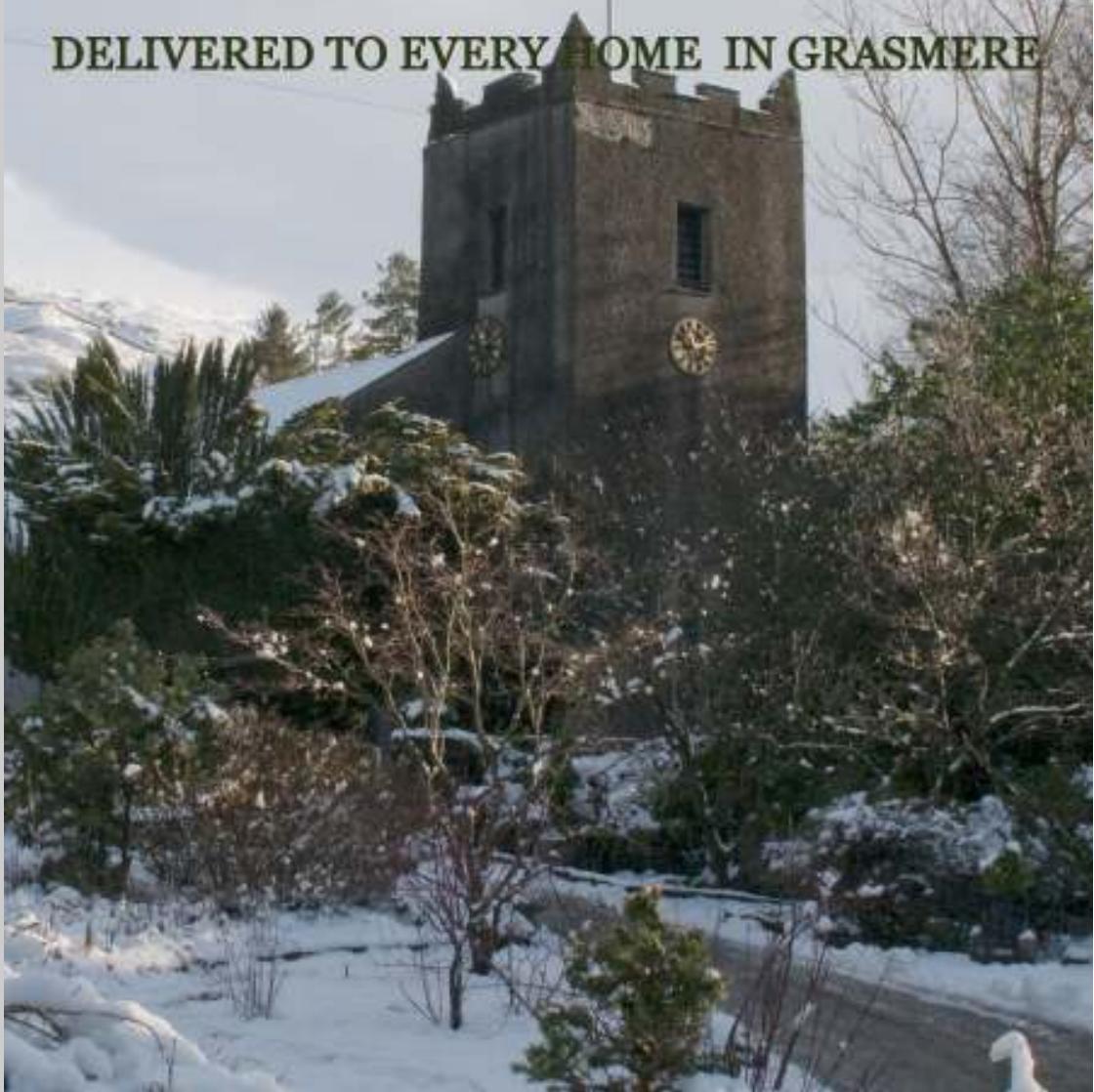


GRASMERE PARISH MAGAZINE

December 2016 and January 2017

DELIVERED TO EVERY HOME IN GRASMERE



MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Editorial Policy

The name of the author appears below each item. The views expressed are those of the author alone and any issues covered reflect that person's views. Having said this, the magazine is produced by St Oswald's PCC on behalf of the community and therefore the Editors and PCC reserve the right to operate discretion in what is acceptable to be included each month.

Copy Date

Copy date for the February magazine is **18th January 2017**.

Please email your copy to the Editors at: **parishmag@willow-bank.net** or send it to Willow Bank, Town End, Grasmere LA22 9QY . You can also upload it via the website.

Grasmere Parish Magazine online

Recent editions of the magazine are now available online at:
<http://parishmag.willow-bank.net/>

You can also use the website to contact the editors or to upload copy.

Advertising in the Magazine

Yearly rates for 1" single column or 2" single column in the small ads, also rates for whole page b/w or colour in individual issues. Contact the Editors on 07010 724095 or email to: parishmag@willow-bank.net

[This page intentionally blank]

A REAL CHRISTMAS?

A favourite story of mine cropped up the other day. I think it was during one of the Home Group meetings I go to in Langdale on a Wednesday evening. "A young Sunday School teacher once asked her class what they would do if there was a knock on the door when they were alone in the house one day, and they found Jesus standing on their front door step. One young lad had his hand up at once, desperate for attention. 'Ask him in,' he said, 'give him a can of beer and send for the vicar!'"

A good story, but seriously, what would you or I do were we faced with a similar situation? How many of us, for instance, would find it hard to meet God 'face to face' with a clear conscience? (Or should I have said, 'How many of us will find it hard - one day?')

For it is so easy to keep Him in the background of our lives, hardly sparing a thought for Him except for special occasions - at Christmas, Easter or Harvest Festival, for instance. Or at baptisms, weddings or funerals. Or particularly in times of emergency - bereavement, disaster or personal tragedy.

I was following this line of thought in a school assembly the other day, suggesting that we must not think of God as a kind of heavenly fire extinguisher. We are only vaguely aware that the fire extinguisher is there, hanging on the wall in the front hall, and day after day, term after term, we ignore it. And then suddenly we need it - urgently, desperately. Only we might not be able to use it because we just don't know how to. Do you treat God just a little bit like that? I suspect most of us do!

In my own school, years ago, carol service readings were not only taken from the Bible. One such reading, from a book, 'Talking to Youth Again' by the great Methodist minister Leonard Barnett, concluded - and it is his final sentence that I want to emphasize particularly. "This Christmas, put the Christ-child in the centre. Make your Christmas around Him. It is His birthday. There is no true Christmas without Him as the Guest of Honour.

And keep Him there, in the centre of your life, the whole year round!"

Best wishes to everyone! *Tony Champion.*

Shepherds' Carol

Three practical farmers from back of the dale -

Under the high sky - On a Saturday night said 'So long' to
their sheep That were bottom of dyke and fast asleep —

When the stars came out in the Christmas sky.

They called at the pub for a gill of ale -

Under the high sky -And they found in the stable,
stacked with the corn, The latest arrival, newly-born -

When the stars came out in the Christmas sky.

They forgot their drink, they rubbed their eyes -

Under the high sky -They were tough as leather and ripe
as a cheese But they dropped like a ten-year-old down on
their knees

When the stars came out in the Christmas sky.

They ran out in the yard to swap their news -

Under the high sky -They pulled off their caps and
roused a cheer To greet a spring lamb before New Year -

When the stars came out in the Christmas sky.

Norman Nicholson

WI NEWS

The AGM in November was chaired by Ann Fawthrop, who read the President' Report prepared by Pat Taylor. Pat thanked everyone for their overwhelming kindness and generosity in response to her recent health problems, and is taking time off from the committee to concentrate on her recovery.

As our centenary year approaches in 2019, Grasmere WI is adopting flexible working patterns and distribution of labour between office holders, to ensure the future of this important organisation which contributes so much to the local community. The Presidency will be shared by Mary Bower and Jennifer Hardisty. Ann Fawthrop will resume the post of Secretary, assisted in her duties by Sue Dixon and Carol Nicholson, who will be invited to attend the monthly committee meetings. Mary Bass will continue her excellent work as Treasurer.

The WI provided refreshments as usual in the Village Hall after the Remembrance Day Service. Thank you to all who supported our efforts, and raised funds for the Royal British Legion.

The date of the annual "GATHER DAY" for the Great Northern Air Ambulance has been set for Tuesday 21st February 2017 in Church. When you receive your new things at Christmas, please collect your unwanted clothes, curtains, bedlinen, handbags printer cartridges and mobile phones and bring them along to us! We have donated £1313 to GNAA during 2016. Our funds have been further boosted by over £200 raised from an initial £10 investment. Members including Mary Bower, Jan Perritt and Nancy Stringer have magically transformed raw materials into craftwork, baked goods and home produce sold at our meetings.

Our Christmas lunch is on Thursday 8th December at 12 noon in the Rothay Garden Hotel, with entertainment afterwards from the schoolchildren. Partners and friends are most welcome. Please book with Sonia Rickman ASAP if you haven't already done so. There is no formal meeting in December.

The first meeting of 2017 is on Thursday 12th January at 2pm. Speaker Shirley Shotton has invited us to meet at her home, Wolvercote (the former Trantunas), where she will display her wonderful collection of American quilts and explain the tradition behind this traditional craft. We look forward

to another successful and productive year of fun and friendship. Why not come along and join us?

Myra Mccraith

Knit and Nat

We will meet only once in December on Friday 9th but will be back to our usual two meetings in January on the second Friday: the 13th and fourth Tuesday: the 24th. Each meeting starts at 2pm and we finish by 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for the afternoon, any part of it, to knit, crochet, chat or bring any other crafty project you might have received as a Christmas gift. We enjoy looking at and chatting about new crafts.

We have knitted and delivered yet more ventilator bonnets for Arrowe Park Hospital; so for now we are calling a halt to this particular project.

During half term we had two new young members join us; they were staying with their Gran (one of our knitters). The girls made a wonderful job of dressing the 41 teddies with the Christmas jumpers we had knitted; the teddies looked festive and Angela posted a photo on the Will Clark Fund Facebook page some were sold immediately. The remainder will hopefully be sold along with the lovely finger puppets some members knitted and crocheted to raise funds.

Our contributions to the Shoe box appeal have now been gathered in ready for the packing of the boxes and delivery to Belarus.

As yet we have not decided on our next project for Knit and Nat but we are sure something will come to our attention and off we will go.

Christine Batey

December and January at the Wordsworth Trust

The decorations and celebrations of the festive season always make day-to-day life at Dove Cottage even more special than usual. This winter we have plenty of events to cheer and brighten the darker days.

Harry Man has recently arrived as poet in residence at The Wordsworth Trust and we are delighted that he will be giving a special lunchtime poetry reading hosted by the Dove Cottage Poets on Thursday 1st December. Harry, and several of the Dove Cottage poets, will read their own work for an hour from 12.00 – 1.00pm and then have lunch together in Dove Cottage Tea Rooms. This event is free and all are welcome to attend, lunch can be purchased from the tea rooms.

Saturday 3rd December is a busy day for us, with two events: A Wordsworthian Christmas, a festive food and decorations workshop with local chef and historian John Crouch at 10.30am, and this month's Saturday talk 'A daily textbook from youth to age': Wordsworth's influence on Ruskin. Stephen Wildman, Director of the Ruskin Library, will talk about the personal and literary connections of these two great Lake District writers from 3.00pm.

The very popular Dove Cottage Tuesday series of talks by the fire in the house take place on Tuesday 6th and Tuesday 13th. This year's trainees will be giving the talks on topics they have been researching and working on during the year: Millie and Charlotte on Romanticism and photography, Simon on local folk music traditions, Megan on the lives of the women in the Wordsworth's circle and Sophie on the artists who sketched and painted the Lakes in the late 1700s. Tickets are selling fast so do remember to call and book a place.

The third of Pamela Woof's literature classes on *The Prelude 1805* takes place on Wednesday 14th. The group are steadily working their way through a detailed reading of the first book, describing Wordsworth's childhood in Cockermouth and Hawkshead. No prior knowledge or reading is necessary and the classes are open to all.

Grasmere Residents' Afternoon will again take place on Tuesday 20th, the 217th anniversary of William and Dorothy at Dove Cottage. We hope to see lots of friends and neighbours to share a glass of mulled wine, a mince pie and maybe even some carol singing. For those of you with children to entertain there will also be an a Winter Wonderland creative crafts and poetry session

taking place in the Foyle Room at the same time.

Dove Cottage and the museum are closed during January but events will continue as normal. Grasmere History Group will be meeting in the Reading Room on Saturday 7th January to share their research and discoveries from the last year, Lucy Crispin will be leading the first session of a new series of workshops on love, life and poetry on Sunday 8th and Pamela's literature class will meet as normal on Wednesday 11th. Finally, to take advantage of the closed period Frank Wood and Jeff Cowton will be taking a closer look at the antique furniture in the museum on Saturday 14th, including an aumbry still owned by the Wordsworth family, in 'Seeing into the life of things'.

More information about each event is available in our brochure and on our website wordsworth.org.uk, please call us on 015394 35544 if you would like to make a booking.

Alice Carthy, Events Officer, Wordsworth Trust

Grasmere Fellowship December/ January

All meetings in the Tithe Barn at 2.30. Non-members very welcome at a price of £2.

Only one speaker in December. On the 1st Michael Johnson, the Clerk to the Parish Council, will give a presentation showing how the council affects us all.

January sees the annual lunch which will take place at the Travellers' Rest on Tuesday the 10th of January. Meet at 12.30 for 1.00 pm. Menus and booking forms will be available at our meetings but if you cannot make a meeting before then, please contact Gordon Footit who will be happy to pass on the information. You do not need to be a fully paid up member to attend!

On January 19th David Jackman will give a talk entitled "Neighbours". David may, or may not be, an expert on soap operas, but he is an expert on how communities function and we look forward to hearing from him.

David Dodgson

Grasmere School News

Henry V

The world feels full of strife at the moment. There is a great desire for wise and competent leadership, and much discussion about the absence of it. So when we were choosing which Shakespeare play to perform this year, Henry V seemed an apt choice. The wild youth, Harry, is transforming into Henry the King. There are factions, prejudices, impossible odds, idealistic dreams...

We split the role of Henry between two children. One played Henry 'the King', as he issued his royal edicts. The other played the man, Henry, who is coming to terms with his kingship, and struggling with loyalties and the loneliness of his new role.

Adam Foster, our new teacher, directed brilliantly. The children performed on the stage at Theatre by the Lake last week. If you'd like to see the play, they're performing again on Tuesday 13th December at 6:30pm in St Oswald's church. The play lasts about 40 minutes.

Christmas...

You are also very welcome to join us on Wednesday 14th December at 2pm for the Infants' Christmas production, and at 6:30pm for the Juniors' Christmas Concert of reading and music.

The School Council would like to invite you to their Christmas Fair at 2pm on Thursday 15th December, in St Oswald's church. All money raised goes to charity. There are some fantastic stalls planned... The children run this fair each year, as a way of embodying the message of Christmas.

Bake-Off

We are SO grateful to Karen and Rob at Greens Café for providing a Bake-Off experience for the children this term. They're learning how to make pastry, bread, cakes... I'm supervising – lucky me! Such fun.

Out and about

The Autumn Sailing School Saturdays were very popular. The boats are now out of the water for the winter. In the meantime, The Lakes School are running climbing tuition for a group, and Running Club are off to Salt Ayre Athletics Track for a professional session on a springy surface. The able swimmers in the juniors are all having life-saving training. Class 4 have a

busy week of work experience planned, on the theme of sustainability. Year 6 have just returned from the annual London residential. We attended the Remembrance Sunday events, and visited Parliament and The Supreme Court, amongst many other things in an action-packed couple of days.

Spirited Arts

Our exhibition in church about the refugee crisis won a national competition for RE teaching and learning. The competition is called Spirited Arts. Its aim is to encourage children to explore the big questions of life. The category in which we entered was Faith and Justice. The children are delighted to have won an award for the work that they did. They are also extremely sad about the ongoing situation in Syria, and in many other places around the globe. If you wish to re-visit the exhibition at any time, the links to the reflective 'prayers' are still on our Facebook page. I know that many people found them helpful and inspiring.

This year's focus in our Spirited Arts work will be 'A sustainable world?' We're using Ashley Cooper's fantastic exhibition in The Heaton Cooper Studio to help us to begin thinking and talking...

See Grasmere School Facebook page for all the news and pictures!

www.grasmereschool.com

Jo Goode

Ambleside & District Choral Society Christmas Concert

Haydn St Nicholas Mass, Holst Christmas Day and other Christmas Music.

St. Mary's Church, Ambleside Saturday 10th December 2016 7.30 pm

Tickets: £10.00 (including a glass of wine) from choir members or at the door (Children under 12 years free) To book in advance: 015394 32060/33944

AMBLESIDE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Lake District Bid for World Heritage status

Thursday, December 8th at 7.30pm at the Percival Lecture Theatre, Ambleside University Campus, Rydal Road, Ambleside.

Speaker: John Hodgson

Grasmere Village Society

Grasmere Emergency Plan and help for emergencies

Nick McCraith, our vice-chairman, has nearly finished drawing up the Grasmere Emergency Plan will soon be publishing it. He has identified coordinators for informing 13 areas of the village in case of emergencies and would welcome more offers of useful equipment such as chain saws or vehicles like 4-by-4s that could be accessed in emergencies.

I will be checking on the flood sheds at the back of the Hall and at the Croft and the grit bins. It is very important to remember that these supplies are **strictly for emergencies**. They are opened during emergencies but generally kept locked as people should not take sand bags or grit unless they really need them. Let us hope that this year we do not need them!

The Grasmere Flood Action Group has had another meeting with the agencies responsible for dealing with the threat of flooding. Amongst other suggestions we again repeated the request for a serious look at the weir and the boulders narrowing the exit of the lake. Last December witnesses observed a tsunami-like wave of water being pushed back from the constricted outlet, towards the village and Daffodil hotel. We are assured that the Environment Agency is modelling schemes for mitigation, but were warned that action is not likely to be taken until 2018.

We also called for monitoring of the maintenance of culverts and drains. This morning before writing this I had a call about the blockage of drains already occurring in the area between the Red Lion, Miller Howe café and Tanner Croft. Please do let me know if there are problems elsewhere.

GVS Winter newsletter

We are hoping to circulate this during the Christmas period. This will confirm the dates of two important events for your new diaries. One is that of the annual dinner, which is planned for Thursday 9th March. The other is the society's AGM. It is intended that this should be on Thursday 16th April. Thanks to David Dodgson, the editor of the newsletter, for his hard work.

There will also be a reminder that annual subscriptions to the Society become due at the end of our financial year, which is 31st December. Subscriptions remain at the very modest sum of £1 for adult members and 50p for juniors.

Our membership secretary, Tony Lawrence has been very successful in building up our numbers in the last few years and at present we have more than 300 members.

Community Consultation

There are some **exciting prospects** for change in Grasmere. GVS is hoping to hold some meetings open to the public, on the proposals to make Broadgate Meadow and Grasmere Village Hall Locally Important Projects. Deborah Clarke, SLDC's Principal Open Spaces Officer, has offered to help us put together an improvement plan and funding strategy for Broadgate play area. She has tempted us with enticing pictures of what has been achieved elsewhere. One possible date for a meeting is 8th December, but we shall be putting up notices once we've got dates and would welcome suggestions.

The Trustees of Grasmere Hall have also been discussing improvements to the Hall and some people have already made valuable suggestions. Please do continue to think about what we can do to improve our village for its inhabitants, young and old, as well as visitors

Next meeting of GVS committee is 10th January.

Please do think about the issues raised in this article and get in touch. All suggestions always gratefully received.

Vivienne Rees (chairman)

Happy Christmas to all and best wishes for 2017 from the committee of Grasmere Village Society!

A hopeful plea

When the Tour of Britain cycled through Grasmere, the Grasmere Business Partnership asked for help with decorating the village. I volunteered to lend some flags, but requested that special care should be taken of two of them: a St. George's flag and a Welsh dragon.

These have a special meaning for me as my husband Jim, who was Welsh, and myself (English) used to fly them together in our garden on special days.

Those helpers who put them up high near the Hall thought they would be safe, but unfortunately the St George's flag disappeared.

If there is anyone who "borrowed" it, I would love to have it back. Thankfully the Welsh dragon remained but it does feel lonely without its partner.

Vivienne Rees

Grasmere Players Christmas Readings

Many people count this as the beginning of their festive season. The joyous combination of prose, poetry and song, both humorous and poignant, brings together long-cherished and unfamiliar seasonal offerings. Old friends meet up and share the delicious festive food and drink. Who can fail to toast Christmas in mulled wine, brandy snaps and mince pies?

The Players charge no entry fee, but have a collection for a local charity. This year the Readings are being held on Monday 19th December. The doors of Grasmere Village Hall will be open to welcome you and your friends at 7.30pm. Hoping to see you there.

Vivienne Rees

Grasmere Players present

Everyone's favourite ghost story

A Christmas Carol

by

Charles Dickens

With a large cast of all ages it will make a perfect start to the Christmas season for the whole family.

Grasmere Village Hall

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th December at 7.30 pm.

Saturday 17th December 2.30 pm. and 7.30pm.

Tickets from Barney's Newsbox £8 - children £4

tel 35627 during shop hours to reserve a seat.

Grasmere Book Group

November 2016, December 2016 and looking ahead to 2017...

November's meeting was our annual encounter with poetry. The group discussed a selection of poems on the theme of love from different time periods and different perspectives. Whilst some poems came from more familiar names, Emily Dickinson, ee cummings and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, other poems and poets were new to the group. Some members were drawn to American poet Jane Cooper's 'Rent' and its account of sharing a home with a lover: 'I want / a radiance of attention'. Meanwhile Gillian Allnut's 'heartnote' conjured vivid images of a wild homeliness.

Amongst a list of Canadian voices, Ralph Gustafson's 'City Song' brought admiration for its musical rhymes and its use of the unusual word 'epithalamium' (a song or poem celebrating a marriage). One of our number was already familiar with the word from school reading! ee cummings' 'IV' also opened discussion 'into the huge disaster of the year' ... although many disasters were in contention for the top spot! Many fondly remembered former book group member John Lagoe's extraordinary capacity for memorising poetry. John's influence lives on in our yearly attention to verse. Polly was only able to offer another slice of ee cummings, 'since syntax is first,' which fitted the romantic theme.

December brings an end to the year's reading with Francis Hardinge's *The Lie Tree*, most recent winner of the Costa Book of the Year. Set in Victorian England, the book is a children's fantasy novel and has gained great reviews from children and adults alike. All are welcome to join us on Thursday December 8th at 8pm in the Dale Lodge Residents' Lounge.

In the New Year, the reading begins anew with our traditional January meeting to choose the year's books. On January 12th, at 8pm at Dale Lodge, suggestions will be sought! So, if there are books that emerge from under the tree, personal recommendations, or the pages of a fine news-organ then please note them down ready to throw them into the hat. It can be useful to email me title suggestions ahead of the meeting so we can check if they are in print and widely available but don't feel you need to know too much about the book! We can be reached at: dr.will.smith@me.com.

Thanking everyone for another year of excellent conversation,
Will and Polly

CALENDAR

December 2016

1 Thu	12.00	D. Cott Tea Room	Poet in Residence: Harry Man
1 Thu	14.30	Tithe Barn	Fellowship
3 Sat	10.30	Dove Cottage	A Wordsworthian Christmas
3 Sat	15.00	Jerwood Centre	Wordsworth's influence on Ruskin
4 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT Holy Communion
6 Tue	11.00	Dove Cottage	Romanticism and Photography
6 Tue	14.00	Dove Cottage	Local Folk Music Traditions
8 Thu	12.00	Rothay Garden	WI Christmas lunch
8 Thu	20.00	Dale Lodge	Book Group
9 Fri	14.00	Reading Rooms	Knit & Nat
11 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT Holy Communion
11 Sun	16.00	St Oswalds	Carols and Lessons
13 Tue	11.00	Dove Cottage	Women of Wordsworth's Circle
13 Tue	14.00	Dove Cottage	Discovering Wordsworth Country
13 Tue	18.30	St Oswalds	School Play
14 Wed	14.00	St Oswalds	Infant's Christmas Production
14 Wed	14.15	Jerwood Centre	The Prelude 1805
14 Wed	18.30	St Oswalds	Juniors Christmas Concert
15 Thu	14.00	St Oswalds	School Christmas Fair
15 Thu	19.30	Village Hall	Grasmere Players - A Christmas Carol
16 Fri	19.3	Village Hall	Grasmere Players - A Christmas Carol
17 Sat	14.30	Village Hall	Grasmere Players - A Christmas Carol
17 Sat	19.30	Village Hall	Grasmere Players - A Christmas Carol
18 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT Holy Communion
18 Sun	16.00	St Mary's Rydal	Carols and Lessons
19 Mon	19.30	Village Hall	Grasmere Players Christmas Readings
20 Tue	14.00	Foyle Room	Winter Wonderland
20 Tue	14.30	Dove Cottage	Local Residents Open Afternoon
24 Sat	18.00	St Oswalds	Family Candlelight Carol Service

24 Sat	23.00	St Oswalds	First Communion of Christmas
25 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	CHRISTMAS DAY Family Communion with Carols

January 2017

1 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	SECOND SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS Mattins
7 Sat	14.00	Jerwood Centre	History Group
8 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	FIRST SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY Holy Communion
8 Sun	14.00	Foyle Room	Affections and Pleasures: Poetry Workshop
10 Tue	12.30	Travellers Rest	Fellowship Lunch
10 Tue			GVS Committee
11 Wed	14.15	Jerwood Centre	The Prelude 1805
12 Thu	14.00	Wolvercote	WI
12 Thu	20.00	Dale Lodge	Book Group
13 Fri	14.00	Reading Rooms	Knit & Nat
14 Sat	14.00	Wrds wrt. Museum	'Seeing into the life of things'
15 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	SECOND SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY Holy Communion
19 Thu	14.30	Tithe Barn	Fellowship
22 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	THIRD SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY Mattins
24 Tue	14.00	Reading Rooms	Knit & Nat
29 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	FOURTH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY Holy Communion

February 2017

2 Thu	14.30	Tithe Barn	Fellowship
5 Sun	11.00	St Oswalds	FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT Holy Communion

Church Cleaning will be on the third tuesday of each month at 9.30am

ROTAS FOR ST.OSWALD'S CHURCH

	Sidesmen / women	<i>Coffee</i>
Dec 4th	Sonia Rickman Ella Footit	<i>Ann Jackman</i>
Dec 11th	John Rickman Trevor Eastes	<i>June Maddison</i>
Dec 24th 6pm	Sonia and John Rickman	<i>Shirley Hill</i>
11pm	John Rickman ...	
Dec 25th	John Rickman ...	
Jan 1st	June Maddison Bob Allen	<i>Tonia Wainwright</i>
Jan 8th	Rosalind de Wesselow Kay Adkins	<i>Ann Fawthrop</i>
Jan 15th	John Rickman Trevor Eastes	<i>Kay Adkins</i>
Jan 22nd	Sonia Rickman Ella Footit	<i>Pat Taylor</i>
Jan 29th	Ann Fawthrop Pat Taylor	<i>Rosalind de Wesselow</i>
Feb 5th	June Maddison Bob Allen	<i>Ann Jackman</i>

Church Notices

We wish to welcome Ian Hare as our Organist and welcome the new members of our choir, and to also thank all the temporary organists and the choir for all their hard work during the vacancy.

Churchwardens.

October 2016 weather

An unusually dry October. On the 1st a shallow depression from the east moved westwards bringing a little rain, but after that it became predominantly dry. High pressure situated over Scandinavia took charge, ensuring easterly winds that brought plenty of sunshine with temperatures near the seasonal average. From the 11th increasing numbers of showers moved in from the east, but it was mainly light drizzle that affected Cumbria. Then from the 16th until the 19th the wind veered northwest, bringing heavy rain on the 16th and 17th accompanied by thunder and strong winds. Dominant easterlies were in charge yet again from the 20th, making it feel cooler with cloudier conditions and drizzle at times. This trend continued until the month's end. Temperatures were a little above average in Cumbria, whilst we enjoyed 117% of average sunshine. October was a dry month with just 38% of average rainfall. Here in Grasmere it was the driest since 1993 (2.08in.) and the second driest since 1974 (2.96in.) This last reading was carried out by Mr Lloyd, who measured the rainfall for four years when head teacher at Grasmere School. In fact in northern Scotland they recorded the sunniest October on record in a series since 1929. In October, in different parts of the country, some people have spotted "moonbows" in the night skies. These are quite a rare phenomenon and happen when light from the moon is refracted through raindrops, producing an arc that looks white to the naked eye, but the colours of a rainbow to a camera lens. Supermoons, larger than average full moons, due to their nearness to the earth, help produce moonbows, and the next one to watch for is December 14th. So keep a look out.

Forecasts suggest we could be in for the coldest winter for five years. Apparently the polar vortex is the name for the 100mph winds that blow in an anti-clockwise direction above the Arctic circle. Sometimes the vortex is split into two. This causes the jet stream to move south which brings cold, dry air from the pole into contact with warm, moist air and creates a dramatic rapid freeze in Europe. Anything is better than what we had to endure for weeks on end this time last year. *Peter Bailey*

Wettest October day: 16th 27.3mm (1.07in.)
October rain days: 11. Last year 16
Total for month: 76.5mm (3.01in.) Last year 5.43in. Av. 10.10 in.
Rain days to date: (end Oct) 182 Last year 187.
Total for year to date (end Oct) 1964.5mm (91.55in.) Last year 84.79in.



“I’m worried by how much money I spend on gas. My home is cold and draughty. How can I cut my bills?”

The good news is that there are a few different ways you can use less energy, and also pay less for what you use.

Start by checking how much you're paying per unit (on your latest bill). Then use Citizens Advice’s online energy price comparison tool at <https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/> to check if a different supplier is offering a cheaper deal.

If you do find a better offer, call or email the new supplier and ask to move to the tariff you’ve identified. They’ll inform your old supplier and switch you over to their supply. This normally takes 17 days.

You should also look into improving your insulation. Your local Citizens Advice can advise you on this, and on whether you are eligible for financial assistance.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice on debt, consumer, benefits, housing, employment and many other problems. We have outlets across South Lakeland and can also give advice over the phone. Telephone 03444 111444 for help - please note new number for new enquiries. 015394 46464 for ongoing enquiries.

WHO TO CONTACT

St Oswald's Parish Church

Rector: Vacancy

Tel: 015394 35326

Website: www.grasmereandrydal.org.uk

Wardens: Mrs Sonia Rickman, 015394 35603

Mrs Helen Bunfield

Secretary: Mrs Ann Jackman

Treasurer: Mr John Rickman

Organist: Mr Ian C. Hare MA MusB 017684 83886

Other church contacts

Methodist Minister with pastoral oversight :

The Revd Les Hann, 3 Applerigg, Kendal, LA9 6EA. Tel: 015397 20416.

Email: peerie_les@hotmail.com

Roman Catholic Priest:

Father Kevan Dorgan, Our Lady's Church, Lake Road, Windermere, LA23 2EQ. Tel: 015394 43402

Mass 9. 30am every Sunday at Mater Amabilis, Ambleside

Quaker - Friend In Residence:

Terry Winterton. Glenthorne Quaker Centre & Guest House, Easedale Rd, LA22 9QH Tel: 015394 35389 email; info@glenthorne.org

URC Minister:

The Revd. Martyn Coe , Carver Church, Windermere, LA23 2BY

Tel: 01539 533223

Home Visiting and Communions

For requests for visits to residents in short or long term need please telephone 015394 35326

Please contact the appropriate Church and member of the clergy or minister in case of need and at times of sickness for Home Communion. Any of the churches would be happy to pray for any individual, please simply let any of us know the name of the person to be prayed for and that they are agreeable to being prayed for in public.



DAFFODIL HOTEL & SPA

This January and February Grasmere locals can enjoy 20% off food served in our lake view Dining Room, Lounge or Lobby Bar from 12pm - 9.30pm.



20% OFF AT THE DAFFODIL HOTEL & SPA

TO BOOK: call - 015394 63550 | visit - DAFFODILHOTEL.CO.UK
(quote Grasmere Parish Magazine)

PLEASE BRING THIS VOUCHER WITH YOU TO CLAIM **20% OFF** YOUR FOOD BILL

T&Cs: one voucher per couple. Drinks not included. Valid until 28th Feb 2017. Excludes 14th Feb 2017. Advance bookings only. No cash alternative, non-refundable, non-transferable, subject to availability.