

GRASMERE PARISH MAGAZINE

DELIVERED TO EVERY HOME IN GRASMERE

March 2016



MAGAZINE INFORMATION

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.

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

Magazine Deadline is the 21st of each month.

Grasmere Parish Magazine online

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

Editorial Policy

Please note that the name of the author of each item appears in the magazine. 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.

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A life of science and faith

I blame it all on my dad! He knew the names of all the birds and plants, and through his influence and example I came to appreciate the natural world. When I was about ten, he showed me the beating hearts of unborn baby snails still in their eggs. And soon thereafter it was his old student dissecting kit that I used to investigate the innards of a rabbit. So it was perhaps inevitable that I should study biology and go on to a career as a research scientist in molecular and cell biology. For fifty years, at some of the leading academic institutions in the world, I have been paid to do what I enjoy – finding out new things about life and sharing this knowledge. What a privilege!

While there is much within science to support a belief in God, and while there are many scientists who share my Christian faith, current scientific *culture* is in fact rather hostile to Christianity. In large part, this is a quite natural backlash against anti-evolutionary 'young earth' and 'intelligent design' theories, which fly so strongly in the face of scientific evidence that it has led secular biologists to reject any concept of religion.

In my view, the beauty, complexity and logical predictability of the natural world revealed by everyday experience and through scientific research demonstrates something of the character of God – that he is not capricious or fickle, but rather creative, logical, dependable and trustworthy. Complementing this, the Bible and other spiritual writings focus primarily on relationships, revealing God's love for us, and explaining the apparent contradiction that people are capable both of creativity, beauty and love, and also of unimaginable destructiveness, selfishness and hatred. This duality in human nature is not “just the way things are” – something we're stuck with – but is the result of genuine evil in the world, for which God offers a just and moral solution.

Having grown up in a secular home, it was not until I attended a summer camp in Devon that I first had Christianity explained to me. Down the subsequent decades, I have experienced many things to confirm my Christian faith, which has guided and enriched my life, and has brought me deep long-lasting friendships. I have been blessed with a lovely and loving wife who has opened for me the world of literature and the arts, and with

three wonderful children. But, shortly before our retirement to Grasmere, our twenty-seven-year-old son Joshua died unexpectedly in his sleep, overwhelming us with grief. The medics concluded that a mutation in one of the ion channel proteins of his heart caused it to fail.

Of course, our mortality should not be a surprise. Biology teaches us that the living body is a complex metastable system, and that the only stable equilibrium is death. The miracle is that we have life at all - that we have these wonderful bodies in the first place. Living in them in a physical world in which real dangers exist – car wrecks, diseases, floods, ... – is a risky business, since it makes possible malfunction, injury and death. But God gives us the hope that the wonder of this present life, with all its uncertainties, is just a foretaste of a richer life with him.

What gets me up in the morning is the privilege of living another day, enjoying the beauty of nature, friendships, and the world of ideas, and of having the opportunity to achieve something creative.

David Shotton

**Excerpt from journal of Dorothy Wordsworth on subject of Daffodils
April 1802**

When we were in the woods beyond Gowbarrow Park we saw a few daffodils close to the water-side. We fancied that the lake had floated the seeds ashore, and that the little colony had so sprung up. But as we went along there were more and yet more; and at last, under the boughs of the trees, we saw that there was a long belt of them along the shore, about the breadth of a country turnpike road.

I never saw daffodils so beautiful. They grew among the mossy stones about and about them; some rested their heads upon these stones as on a pillow for weariness; and the rest tossed and reeled and danced, and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind, that blew upon them over the lake; they looked so gay, ever glancing, ever changing. This wind blew directly over the lake to them. There was here and there a little knot, and a few stragglers a few yards higher up; but they were so few as not to disturb the simplicity, unity, and life of that one busy highway.

WI News

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our GNAA Gather Day. The refreshments, produce and tombola raised a total of £525. Together with the full vanload of bags collected, we expect the total sum to reach £1000 in total.

The February meeting moved from business to pleasure when the Town Crier of Kendal called the meeting to order in time honoured fashion with the use of his bell and voice - a very successful way of gaining attention. A fascinating afternoon followed as Richard Mathews described the pre-media history of the Town Crier, how he personally came to hold this position and how very much he enjoys the role with all it entails: from being mistaken for a pirate by a little boy, to being made an honorary member of the WI!

On Thursday 10th March everyone is invited to the Tithe Barn for an open meeting to hear speaker Steve Swithin's talk entitled "Long Days, Late Nights and Hotel Rooms". Steve has spent over 30 years making a living in all aspects of the music industry: as a singer, DJ, roadie, stage manager, tour manager, concert promoter, record producer and publicist. He has worked with many (in)famous rock groups as well as comedy legends Mike Harding and Billy Connolly. Steve's hilarious stories will provide a fascinating insight behind the scenes in the often crazy music business. Come along and join us at the Tithe Barn at 2pm. Husbands, friends and visitors are especially welcome, £3 including tea and raffle.

On 7th April the WI are holding a special event in St Oswald's Church in aid of Marie Curie. Refreshments and home-made produce will be available from 3-5pm, following Malcolm Thorogood's talk at 2pm, introducing "Music of the Lakes" by Vaughan Kennedy (see back cover for details). Please mark the date in your diary and support this "Afternoon Affair in Grasmere". If you can't make it to the talk, do still come and have a cuppa between 3-5pm. Every penny raised will help Marie Curie provide care and support for people living with any terminal illness and their families.

Myra McCraith

Knit and Nat

For 2016 the group has decided to simplify its meeting arrangements. All meetings will commence at 2pm on the second Friday and fourth Tuesday of the month, at the Reading Rooms near the Millennium Bridge.

We continue to enjoy socialising as much as knitting exchanging ideas, patterns and information at a rate of knots. Projects we are supporting are the neo natal knitting with items suitable for those born prematurely. These are destined for Barrow in the near future. I have been asked to help Liverpool's neo natal ward request for 4" breastfeeding squares (pairs: one each for mother and child; to allow for remote bonding when feeding by bottle or tube) The pattern of 25 stitches on number 9 needles with double knitting works very well with four rows of moss stitch followed by rows started and finished by four stitches of moss stitch interspersed by stocking stitch for 24 rows and completed by another four rows of moss stitch. If anyone please has time to complete some I will be very happy to send them all at the same time in early May.

The second part of the year may centre on contributing to the Christmas boxes for children abroad, these items include hats, gloves, scarves and small toys. So all donated wool will be utilised to good effect. We thank you for your continued support in this respect!

While founding member Christine recovers from surgery please keep a weather eye on the notice board at Barney's News Box; if she is unable to attend meetings may be switched to her lounge! Happy Easter!

Carrie Taylor

GRASMERE ALLOTMENTS

Small and centrally located in the grounds of the Wordsworth Hotel, an allotment is an ideal way to supplement the family vegetable requirements.

There are currently two plots available. Please contact me for details.

Jill Morrison

Grasmere School News

Some of you will have heard of the “Forest Schools” educational movement. I’ve heard some people say it’s a gimmick. I don’t think it matters what we call it, and perhaps naming it is unnecessary. Basically, what we’re talking about is allowing young humans to have time in a safe natural environment to explore. At Grasmere School this happens during most playtimes when the weather is good, and when the weather is bad (much scientific investigation of the drains and muddy zones has happened this winter). It also happens as a more structured learning experience in our “Forest Schools” sessions on Fridays, at Allan Bank.

It’s all about investigation and exploration. As A.A. Milne says - “I knew when I met you an adventure was going to happen.” And that’s how it feels every Friday morning - the start of a new adventure... It’s very beautiful and exciting up at Allan Bank - probably the best classroom in the world! The environment is made safe enough for the children to take their own risks and experience activities very different to those in the indoor classroom. The children understand that they can play and explore no matter what the weather. I wish everyone could see them developing their social skills; encouraging, negotiating, helping and working towards a common goal. Their confidence grows and their self-belief blossoms. The children have the freedom, time and space to learn, grow and demonstrate independence.

They also enjoy Katie's wonderful flapjack or gingerbread and hot chocolate!

They explore the wonders of the wood, and develop an increased respect for their natural surroundings, beginning to identify the plants and animals that live there. Science, engineering, geology, geography, music, art and RE are all naturally explored as we work in the woods. Play is work and work is play...

The children are learning how to control their bodies, manage risk and respect the environment. One of the first things they learn is how to dress for Cumbrian weather, and how we keep ourselves warm and safe outdoors.

Gradually the children are introduced to scrambling, climbing and exploring the natural environment. They are encouraged to observe and think carefully before they try anything, and to take things at a pace which feels safe to them. There are lots of wonderfully patient and observant adults watching every move!

The children become skilled at spotting risks and making appropriate rules to keep themselves and others safe. This includes thinking about animals and plants which could get damaged. The risks change with the weather and the activities,

so the children are always thinking and adapting their behaviour accordingly. Skills for life! They feel very proud of their achievements.

We hope that we're preparing engineers of the future. In Forest School sessions, children learn about co-operation/team work, design, innovation and problem-solving. Class 1 (nursery and reception) work with slightly older children (Class 2 - years 1 & 2) with great focus and determination on building dens, making bridges etc.

The most important things the children learn at Grasmere Forest School are

- to be happy and secure in themselves
- to appreciate the wonders of the world.

When they feel happy and secure, they are able to be curious, and to take responsibility.

If ever you feel weary of the world, come and talk to us about volunteering on a Friday morning at Grasmere Forest School. It is absolutely life-affirming, whatever the weather! As head teacher, I am convinced that these are the luckiest nursery children anywhere. I go with them whenever I can. Nicky Steels and her early years team are just astonishing. It is so safe and loving, and yet such an adventure!

The children will be singing and performing poems at the Mothering Sunday service in St Oswald's on Sunday 6th March at 11am.

Jo Goode

We are always looking for volunteers to help out in class 1 and 2. We already have some fantastic volunteers who give up their time to hear readers and help with a variety of other activities. The children love having people in to help and they benefit so much from the additional support.

The activities we are looking for help with include - helping out with our library visit on a Monday, helping the children make snacks and become independent making their own snack, supporting the children in phonics and maths activities, and hearing the children read.

If you are free to give up a few hours to volunteer in either of the classes, or you know of anyone in the community that might like to help we would love to hear from you. Thank you for your help.

Nicky Steels and Heather Davis

Grasmere Book Group

The February gathering of the book group discussed Anne Tyler's booker-shortlisted novel *A Spool of Blue Thread* (2015).

Staggeringly, this is Tyler's twentieth novel. Some of the group had read her previous work whilst others were coming to her anew. Many in attendance were firm fans of Tyler's tale of family secrets. Messages sent from those who couldn't attend also read as glowing reviews of the book. One nameless dissenter found the book a bit pointless, although it should be said they still read it all quite quickly.

Topics discussed included the book's subtle narration, Tyler's observations of human behaviour, the impact of the past revealed and the central role of the vividly realised family home. We laughed about similarities to our own families in the characters and their lives, and the universal relevance of this very American tale.

Our next meeting on Thursday March 10th will discuss Robertson Davies' *Tempest-Tost* (1955). The following month, for those with diaries to hand, will be April 14th when we'll look at Georges Simenon's *Maigret in New York* (1947). All are welcome at the Dale Lodge Residents' Lounge at 8pm.

Polly and Will

Events at the Wordsworth Trust in March

The beginning of March is going to be a busy and exciting time for all of us at the Wordsworth Trust as we open our new exhibition 'Wordsworth Country: Lakes, Mountains and Waterfalls', which will focus on how Wordsworth and the Lake District became synonymous. We are holding an exclusive private view for Friends and Grasmere residents from 5pm on Saturday 5 March before it opens to the public the following day – we do hope you will join us.

On Saturday 5 March we will pay tribute to one of the Trust's founding fathers at 'Wordsworthian Discoverer, Enabler and Publicist: A Centenary Celebration of the Life and Work of Professor William Knight'. Professor Stephen Gill, Professor Nicholas Roe and Tony Reavell, Knight's great

grandson, will speak about his great achievements in editing and publishing comprehensive editions of William and Dorothy's works in the 1880s.

If you have ever wondered about the reality of life in the 19th century then do not miss 'Necessities of Life' on Saturday 19 March. We have brought together experts in the fields of communication, clothes and transport for an informal, hands-on afternoon to give us an extra, more practical insight into the Wordsworths' lives at Dove Cottage.

Also taking place in March are the final two meetings of this winter's Evening Star Poetry Group in Dove Cottage (Tuesday 1 and 29 March) and the final literature class on *Paradise Lost*. Sunday 13 March is a special poetry Sunday; do drop into our pop-up café in the Foyle Room between 10.30am and 1.00pm for poetry reading and homemade cake then join Lucy Crispin for the third session in the *Life, Loss and Literature* series at 2pm to discover how poetry can help us through difficult times in life.

Full details of all events can be found in our current What's On brochure and on our website; please get in touch with us on 015394 35544 to book.

Wordsworth Trust

Grasmere History Group

A dozen people greatly enjoyed Stewart Sutcliffe's fascinating travel through the maps of Grasmere up until 1900 at a recent meeting of the Grasmere History Group. At that meeting, we planned two further sessions, to which everyone is invited. On Tuesday 5th April, Kay Adkins will introduce us to life in Grasmere in the mid nineteenth century as described by Wordsworth's niece, Sarah Hutchinson, in her extensive diaries. Kay created an glimpse of this world in the current exhibition *Shepherds to Char-a-bancs* – come along to hear about Grasmere life in Sarah's own words.

On the 3rd May, Malcolm Thorogood will talk about the history and work he is doing on the Wyke. The history group have always been interested in the history of buildings in the valley – this talk will give an insight into the makeup and restoration of one of its oldest. Everyone is welcome, there is no charge! Both talks take place at the Jerwood Centre, starting at 7.30pm.

Jeff Cowton

Grasmere Village Society

A Rush Bearing for GVS

As announced in last month's magazine we are considering having a GVS rush bearing. This could be a banner or preferably a bearing which could be wrapped in the traditional Grasmere fashion. In spite of the offer of a prize of £25 - so far we have only had two suggestions proposed so we are extending the deadline to 15th March, which is the date of our next committee meeting.

Don't fear, you won't be compelled to wind it yourself! Why not have a go? Let your fancy run free and create something to add to the attractions of our almost unique festival.

Entries should be submitted to the GVS Secretary, Mary Bass or myself.

Working with the community

As usual, members of the committee have been joining with others in a number of initiatives to improve community life. The A591 may not be open yet and the weather has not been brilliant but a good number joined in the Valentine's Day celebrations. Linda Monks demonstrated yet again what a talented singer she is and how lucky we are to have her in the village

Several of us are members of the Grasmere Business Partnership which was formed as a result of the community meeting organised by the GVS in January. Nathan Rye was elected as chairman and members are planning a number of exciting events this year to attract visitors to the village.

We also contribute members to the Flood Action Group, which has been revived in response to the renewed flooding threats. Martin Campbell, who has been elected chairman, will be working closely with our vice chairman, Nick McCraith, who chairs the Grasmere Community Emergency Plan group. Nick has already compiled a useful telephone tree of residents in the 13 different areas of the valley. They will pass on news if there are any emergencies, including flooding..

I am writing this report the day before the Flood group's first meeting with Heather Shepherd, the leader of the National Flood Forum. We will be discussing Grasmere's problems and the actions to be taken to improve the situation. If you have not yet given an account of the issues which affected you, please do let us know about them. The more information we have, the

better we can plan how to improve matters in the future. All suggestions for helping to reduce risk will be welcome. Heather will be organising meetings for us with the different agencies who are responsible for dealing with the problem of flooding.

We are also, of course, working with the First Responders and the Buffs to provide a third defibrillator for the village. And like everyone else we are looking forward to the jollifications on 11th June!

Don't forget these important dates:

Annual Dinner: 3rd March at the Wordsworth Hotel

Next meeting of GVS committee: 15th March 2016.

GVS AGM 14th April in Grasmere Village Hall

Vivienne Rees (chairman)

This item was held over from our last issue.

Grasmere Community and Business Partnership

This was created as a result of the Flood Recovery meeting held on 20th January. The Partnership will be chaired initially by Nathan Rye of Keep's Courtyard. Vicky Hughes was appointed treasurer. It was agreed that ideally the committee should cover the following areas: Accommodation, Catering, Retail, Trades, Attractions, Businesses run from home and Workers.

Priorities for action were agreed;

- Calendar of Events. This would be publicised to show there was plenty for visitors to do in Grasmere.
- More and better publicity (helped by SLDC): Everyone was encouraged to register their events and businesses on Cumbria Tourist Website and the SLDC Explore Lakeland website.
- Better road signs for Grasmere at both at entries and inside village e.g. signs to the lake and signs near Gingerbread shop pointing to shops in the northern area of the village.
- A Reliable Source of Information e.g. Newsletter.

- Individuals to use social media to spread the message that Grasmere is a great place to visit and is now fully open. Pictures help.
- Special offers e.g. Books of vouchers from shops and cafés.
- Integrated website for brand Grasmere

How to become involved

Any individual or business interested in being involved should contact Nathan.

The Partnership meets on the **first Wednesday of each month at 6.00 p.m. in the Reading Rooms.**

Vivienne Rees, Nathan Rye and Melissa Harwood

Grasmere Players

23rd April was a very significant day for William Shakespeare.

It was both his birthday and the day on which he died.

As the second of these was in 1616, this year is being celebrated as a special one - his 400th anniversary in fact. The Players want to make it something special. We are having a social evening and encouraging everyone to think of something to celebrate Shakespeare. But not in a gloomy way. Unless of course that is how you get your fun!

It doesn't even have to be strictly Shakespeare. There are at least 3 popular Broadway musicals which were based on Shakespeare and it could be a number from one of them. Anyone who took part in A Midsummer Night's Dream will remember how much fun the worker's play was in that.

But of course you might fancy doing a serious bit of Shakespeare. And remember, you could follow the example of some of the professional companies where they argue it's unfair to keep so many of the best speeches for men only. Last year there was even a female Falstaff. So girls, if you've always longed to do "To be or not to be" or would like to act a really bloodthirsty villain - "Is this a dagger that I see before me?" why don't you "Brush up your Shakespeare" and come along on **22nd April** and enjoy yourself?

It would be useful if you let me or Moira Rowlinson know your plans beforehand, so that we can get enough food and drink in for the social. Please notice we are celebrating it on Friday evening **22nd April** not 23rd so as not to clash with other events.

Vivienne Rees

Grasmere Fellowship

Our final two meetings of the season in the Tithe Barn at 2.30, subject to the boiler behaving itself.

March 3rd John Sheard will talk about Bess of Hardwick. Bess was one of the most powerful and richest women in Tudor England. Hopefully the talk will inspire you to visit Hardwick Hall if you have not done so originally.

March 17th We are delighted to have Cameron back with us to tell the story of Shackleton's Whisky. This talk was originally planned to open the season but instead provides a fitting conclusion. Before the talk there will be the AGM. Dont be put off this will be as short as possible!

David Dodgson

An early start for your Editors!

On Tuesday Feb 16th we were at the bus stop for 6.15 am. There to welcome the inaugural trip up Dunmail Raise and over to Keswick were five of us, including a student of Traffic Management all the way from Loughborough.

It was very exciting being led by our flashing escort. It felt so good to be up Dunmail Raise on wheels and on the new road made from the forest path over the two bailey bridges Very impressive crash barrier too. Then the single track round Thirlmere.

We arrived to a mini media circus, almost made it on Radio Cumbria but signal was lost. The return bus was quite full, a lady actually on her way to work and at least two walkers.

We would like to thank Martin Campbell for setting up Grasmere Village on Facebook keeping us well informed of the progress. Well done Grasmere folk as well, impressive support including Molly and her letter to people in high places!

Kay Adkins

CALENDAR

March 2016

1 Tue		St. Oswald's	St David's day - Union Flag
1 Tue	18.00	Wordsworth Trust	The Evening Star Poetry group
2 Wed	18.00	Reading Rooms	Grasmere Community & Business Partnership
3 Thu		Wordsworth Hotel	GVS Annual Dinner
3 Thu	14.30	Tithe Barn	Fellowship. John Sheard on Bess of Hardwick
5 Sat	10.30	Wordsworth Trust	Centenary - Professor William Knight
5 Sat	12.00	St. Oswald's	Wedding
5 Sat	17.00	Wordsworth Trust	Exhibition preview for Grasmere residents
6 Sun	11.00	St. Oswald's	Mothering Sunday Family Service with the School
10 Thu	20.00	Dale Lodge	Book Group
10 Thu	14.00	Tithe Barn	Women's Institute Steve Swithin Rock & Roll
11 Fri	14.00	Reading Rooms	Knit and Nat
13 Sun	10.30	Wordsworth Trust	Pop-up poetry café - catching the hail stones
13 Sun	11.00	St. Oswald's	Lent 5 Holy Communion and Baptism
13 Sun	14.00	Wordsworth Trust	The difference to me - Life, Loss and Literatur
14 Mon		St. Oswald's	Commonwealth day - Union Flag
15 Tue			GVS Committee
16 Wed	14.15	Wordsworth Trust	Discovering Paradise Lost
17 Thu		St. Oswald's	St Patrick's day - Union Flag
17 Thu	14.30	Tithe Barn	Fellowship. AGM. Cameron Butland.
19 Sat	14.00	Wordsworth Trust	Necessities of Life

20 Sun	11.00	St. Oswald's	Palm Sunday Holy Communion
22 Tue	14.00	Reading Rooms	Knit and Nat
27 Sun	11.00	St. Oswald's	Easter Day Holy Communion
	16.00	St. Oswald's	Songs of Praise
28 Mon		St. Oswald's	7 days following Easter - St George's flag
29 Tue	18.00	Wordsworth Trust	The Evening Star Poetry group

April 2016

1 Fri	13.00	St. Oswald's	Wedding
2 Sat	12.00	St. Oswald's	Wedding
3 Sun	11.00	St. Oswald's	Easter 2 Matins
5 Tue	19.30	Jerwood Centre	History Group - Sarah Hutchinson
7 Thu	14.00	St. Oswald's	Music of the Lakes

ROTAS FOR ST.OSWALD'S CHURCH

	Sidesmen/women	Coffee
March 6 th	Rosalind de Wesselow Kay Adkins	<i>Shirley Hill, Ann Jackman & Helen Bunfield</i>
March 13 th	Ann Fawthrop Pat Taylor	<i>Rosalind de Wesselow</i>
March 20 th	Bob Allen June Maddison	<i>Tonia Wainwright</i>
March 27 th	John Rickman Trevor Eastes	<i>Pat Taylor</i>
April 3 rd	Sonia Rickman Jonathan Smith	<i>June Maddison</i>

CHURCH CLEANING Volunteer cleaners are required for Church cleaning every third Tuesday of each month at 0930. *Sonia*

January 2016 Weather

January was yet another mainly unsettled month with abundant rainfall, brought by frequent Atlantic depressions, interspersed by a couple of snowfalls mid month, with frost recorded on 3 occasions. The temperatures were above average for the month, as was the rainfall. It was also a relatively dull one, with 80% of the average sunshine.

I'm celebrating over a quarter of a century of daily rainfall recordings, sent to the Cumbria and Lancashire hydrometry team, the Cumbrian weather report, the Environment Agency and last but not least, the Met. Office. I took over from Brigadier Osmaston, who resided at Lakeing, and I began the measurements in October 1990. I would like to thank Ian Ferriday and Dennis Batey, who dutifully carried out the readings in my absences over the many years. They played a vital part in the daily recordings, and can say that not one day was missed, logging them all for future reference.

My, how time flies!

Wettest January day: 26th. 42.5mm. 1.67in.

January rain days: 26. Last year 25.

Total for month: 404.0mm. 15.91in. Last year 18.91in. Av. 10.72in.

Peter Bailey

Why is the Flag flying?

The flag is flown from the Church on various National days and religious days.

As Cameron purchased a Union Flag for St. Oswald's it means we can commemorate more National Days and use the flag of St. George for the celebration of religious days.

For the benefit of the good people of Grasmere and the many visitors thereto, the Flag days will be listed in the Calendar pages.

For more information on flags and protocol visit www.flaginstitute.org

Ian Ferriday



After Storm Desmond

In the weeks and months ahead as our homes dry out, many of us will be trying to repair the damage caused by Storm Desmond. Help is available, so please do use it.

Your local Citizens Advice can help you find out about your options and support you with filling in forms, making phone calls and so on. Apart from housing issues, there might be problems with benefit payments, problems with your job or money worries. Whatever the problem, we are here to help for free and in confidence.

The Cumbria Community Foundation's Flood Recovery Appeal raised almost £5 million in the 6 weeks that followed 5 December and helped more than 1300 Cumbrian families in need. Support is available to individuals or families whose homes have significant structural damage or flooding and employees who have lost work or income because of storm or flood. Grants are also available to voluntary and community group. Check the website for details and forms. www.cumbriafoundation.org. The charity is still raising money and you can donate online or telephone 01900 825760.

The government has introduced several measures to help those hit by the floods. They include a £5,000 repair and renew grant for all affected homeowners and businesses and compensation to local authorities that exempt residents from paying some or all of their council tax because they've had to leave their home. Details of all the measures are available at www.gov.uk.

If you have difficulty getting flood insurance in high-risk areas, information and advice is available on the National Flood Forum website www.floodforum.org.uk or telephone 01299 403055. DEFRA has published a guide entitled 'Obtaining flood insurance in high risk areas' giving information on how to obtain a suitable policy, it can be downloaded at www.defra.gov.uk

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice Bureau 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 015394 46464 for help.

***A Grasmere WI Special Event open to all.
£3 entry... entirely in aid of Marie Curie.
Grasmere Church. 2.00pm Thursday 7th April 2016.***

***An 'Afternoon Affair' in Grasmere!
Wonderful new music, a
short talk and a WI afternoon tea!***

Music of The Lakes

*An Orchestral Journey through the English Lake District.
12 original compositions including: Dance of the Daffodils, As Clouds Drift By,
Concerto of the Lakes and many more.*



Vaughan Kennedy has created a CD masterpiece of 'easy listening' and 'musical drama' by specially composing twelve movie-theme-style orchestral tracks, each capturing a different aspect of the Lake District.... its mountains, its lakes, its wildlife, its history and some of its attractions. It is believed to be the first time in the world (certainly in the UK) that an album has been specially composed to celebrate features of a national park.

Conceived and directed here in Cumbria, Malcolm Thorogood will tell how he met Vaughan and how their collaboration has resulted in 'Music of The Lakes.' The talk will be interspersed with playing the 12 tracks for a fascinating 60 minutes of musical entertainment which you can follow with a WI tea at 3.00pm also in the church (separately charged and again in aid of Marie Curie. The tea can be attended by itself).