

Grasmere Parish Magazine

December 2017 / January 2018



MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Editorial Policy

Grasmere Parish Magazine is produced monthly by St. Oswald's PCC and is edited by Paul and Kay Adkins. 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 the 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 next magazine is **18th January 2018**.

Please send your copy to the editors at: **parishmag@willowbank.net** or send it to Willow Bank, Grasmere LA22 9QY. You can also upload it via the website.

Grasmere Parish Magazine online

Recent editions of the magazine are 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

Waiting to welcome the Light of the World

Waiting isn't a popular activity in our era. Information is available at the touch of a few keys via Google (for those with computers, tablets and



smart phones). Grocery supplies can be ordered online for home delivery and, as for the great warehousing chains, it seems that almost anything can be sourced through the giants (based in Luxembourg). Waiting is December's key theme, in the season of Advent. We're '*coming towards*' the great day when the Light of the World comes into our darkest night, to bring hope for peace and goodwill to all people at last.

A priest in Ireland (RC) has advised Christians to give up the word '*Christmas*' as having been taken over to become a completely secular commercial spending spree with associated feasting, nothing to do with the coming of Jesus, Light of the World. So far he hasn't come up with an alternative name, but his plea is for respect that, for some people, the gift of the Christ-child is a deeply momentous event, not just in the stable two millennia ago, but born in us as we receive God's gift of love today. The meaning of Christmas is still there for us to find, however hard the advertisers try to distract us.

During December in St Oswald's, we hear scripture readings of longing for God to come among us and save all people from the disasters of our times. Throughout history, communities and people have longed for peace and goodwill to prevail, especially in dark times of oppression and conflict. There are families and communities all over our world today who continue to long for peace to come to them. *Longing* characterises the season, hearts longing for love and peace and justice. We are called to pause in Advent, to come towards God who is always coming towards us (*advenio*, Latin).

Among our preparations may we find time to pause and reflect on the deepest gifts we can possibly receive, among them love, peace and harmony. As we enter the darkest months of the year, the contrast with light is more obvious. Our preparations can help us to treasure the Light of the World and welcome the Christ-child once again. Against the grain of commercial Xmas, we can

still our hearts and wait with longing for a deeper gift, God's gift to us of Love and Light.

Mary and Joseph were waiting this month for the birth of their baby. The shepherds were out in their fields by night watching over their flocks, waiting as usual for dawn. Little did they expect the choir of angels to sing on Christmas night. Wise men were scanning the skies for something significant. Maybe they didn't know what to expect either, but a comet blazed to lead them to the cradle. In our waiting, we can open our hearts anew, without knowing how God will come to us, yet trusting the promise of Love to come down at Christmas.

In our Christmas giving this year, may we be able to share love, peace, a profound joy, and goodwill in our turn, joining the angels singing *Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all people on earth*. May God bless you and yours this Christmas.

Gill

*What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him:
Give my heart.*

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

From the carol: In the bleak midwinter

Mission Community Update November 2017.

The Wesley Room at Ambleside Parish Centre was full and bringing in extra chairs seemed like an endless job.

After an opening prayer from Methodist Deacon Maggie Patchett the meeting began with Helen Hoyle (Lay Chair, Windermere Deanery Synod) speaking to a short document outlining the nature of Mission Communities. Helen outlined the 'Pilgrimages' that she, Sue Barr and others have been working on that would link all the communities in the Mission Community area together. She asked for volunteers with information about their area to

contribute. She reminded the meeting of some references from the Bible about the need to share our faith with others.

John Dixon (Vicar of the Hawkshead benefice) described how he saw the Mission Community working out in the area of Hawkshead, Rusland, Satterthwaite and Sawrey. He made the point that he believed in God first and in the effectiveness of the local church. He said that whereas when the group of churches in the area came together for fairly pedantic reasons it had been difficult to see it as exciting, it had proved to be a good and sustainable way of supporting the churches over time. The Kath Dodd (Baptist Minister, Hawkshead Hill) has been involved in the initiative at County level since its inception and was able to give a 'Companion churches' perspective.

Beverley Lock (Vicar of Ambleside/Loughrigg churches) emphasised that building small but sustainable communities – possibly around buildings but not always – was the way to keep the rumour of God alive. That we need to do all we can to keep the Christian faith available for the future generations.

There will be another open meeting to answer the many questions that arose, in Brathay Church Hall early next year. All welcome – date to follow.

Gill Henwood

Chaplaincy to the Tourist Industry

What is it? What are we aiming to do? The Tourism Chaplaincy Project is about organising small teams of people to reach out to, and get alongside people involved in the tourist industry.

A chaplain is a person who is: “among people, with people, for people, providing a caring listening ear”. A chaplain is a person who gets alongside others, in their daily life, workplace, or in our case, also places of rest and relaxation, listening to the stories people want to share - about their work, their families, their life, maybe their worries, and even sometimes about God. It's about being present, being available, being where we are invited, not imposing our ideas on others in any way, just showing love and care towards all.

The project aims to develop this type of 'listening presence' for those who work in the tourist industry. We are looking at how we might reach beyond the walls of our church buildings, to engage in new, exciting but relevant ways

with those who work in and visit this beautiful, but challenging, part of the world.

As part of this project, you are invited to following event:-

‘Chaplaincy Project Exploration Forum’

On Thursday 25th January

3:00pm and repeated at 7:30pm

At Ambleside Parish Centre

where we will share a little more about the project, and listen to how YOU think this project might work, and how we can develop it.

This meeting is for you if you:

- work in any way in a hotel, restaurant, or other tourist outlet
- are connected to any church of any denomination, and are interested in this project
- are a B&B or hotel (of any size) manager or owner
- connected to the hospitality and tourism industry in any other way
- are just interested in what we are hoping to do
- might even consider volunteering as a member of a chaplaincy team

If you can't make it, but would like to know more, then please contact me, Maggie Patchett, deaconmaggiep@gmail.com tel: 015394 42971, or via Ambleside or Windermere Methodist Church.

Church Tower Update

Hooray, the tower restoration is complete. Scaffolding, site hut and portaloos have all gone. Although the workmen have returned to Burnley, they have left a lasting legacy that we in Grasmere can be truly proud of. St Oswald's Church tower is magnificently and authentically restored. Its newly created cream render is almost certain to bring a smile to your face whether you be in Stock Lane, Red Bank Road or on the summit of Silver How.

The re-rendering and other repairs have been carried out with loving care and attention. Contractor and architect have taken a genuine pride in their work. During the past six months or so, the cheerful, polite lads of UK Restoration have become part of village life. They will be much missed in local shops and cafes.

Two years ago, with no idea of what might be in store, I inherited the tower paperwork from Cameron Butland. One couldn't have imagined the final outcome - it seemed so far away. Throughout the project, a loyal team of Paul Adkins, Lin Allen, Melissa Harwood and John and Sonia Rickman have been extremely supportive. Thank you, all. I'm also very grateful to David Jackman, a source of enthusiasm and great encouragement when he was PCC Chairman, Cameron Butland, who had the arduous job of seeing through the early five years of initial negotiations, and latterly, Gill Henwood.

This project wouldn't have got off the ground without the generous funding we have received from Friends of St Oswald's, The Alene Hackett bequest, Church Care, All Churches Trust, The Headley Trust, Jill Franklin Trust, Grasmere PCC and numerous individual donors. Thanks go to Ian Hare and Hilary Beskeen for their hard work in organising fundraising concerts.

Richard Beskeen

Music Notes

The Church Choir has a busy month ahead, with the Celebration Evensong on Advent Sunday, 3rd December at 4.00 p.m., and the Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17th December at 4.00 p.m., to which all are warmly invited.

We recently had a visit from a distinguished organist, Paul Hale, Organist Emeritus of Southwell Minster, a professional consultant who came to inspect our organ. In his draft report he describes it as "one of the finest instruments in the entire Lake District", and we look forward to working with him towards the organ's full renovation in good time for its centenary in 2023.

The Music at Grasmere committee has had a busy year and will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 7th January in church after the morning service. All are welcome to comment on the year's activities and plans for the future.

Independently, the Northumbrian Music Festival has arranged some further concerts in St Oswald's on Tuesday 23rd January (An Opera Gala Evening) and Wednesday 24th January (An Evening of Sacred Music) presumably at 7.30 p.m.

Ian Hare (Director of Music)



Ring out, wild bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson



WI News

Grasmere WI held its AGM on 9th November. Joint President Jennifer Hardisty (with Mary Bower) reported that the experiment of job sharing had worked well, and all officers and committee members were happy to continue in post.

She thanked Past President Ella Footit, who is retiring from the WI, for all her support over the years. A review of 2017 reminded members of the wide variety of interesting speakers and events enjoyed during the year. The 2018 calendar is now being planned, and everyone looks forward to another successful year leading up to Grasmere WI's 100 birthday in February 2019.

Several members are attending the Cumbria Westmorland Federation carol service in Kendal Parish Church on Friday 8th December at 2pm. Please contact Ann Fawthrop for ticket and transport arrangements.

WI members will contribute food as usual for the children's Christmas Party organised by the Buffs on Sunday 17th December. Jennifer Hardisty is co-ordinating who takes what!

There is no formal WI meeting in December. We will meet instead for our Christmas lunch at the Rothay Garden Hotel on Monday 18th December (12 for 12.30pm). Partners and friends are most welcome to join us for this celebration lunch and some carol singing. If you have not already done so, please pay £20 per person to Sonia Rickman (35603) ASAP.

The speaker at the next meeting on Thursday 11th January at 2pm is local pharmacist Garry Webster, who recently retired after a long career at Boots. His talk is entitled "Pharmacology: what drugs do". It will be very informative, give plenty of food for thought, and also dispel some misconceptions. Members are reminded that annual subs (£41) are due to be paid by the January meeting. Visitors and non-members are always welcome, £4 including refreshments.

Myra McCraith

Will Clark Fund

Hello!

I have taken on responsibility for managing the collecting boxes for the Will Clark Fund. Please let me know if yours needs collecting and replacing or if you no longer need one. On behalf of the WCF committee, I would like to say a huge thank you to Chris Carss, Carrie Taylor, Sarah O'Neil, Mel Brood and Paul Hebson who have given so generously of their time and have recently stepped down from the committee.

Lucia Nelson lucylu_nel@hotmail.com

Grasmere Fellowship

For our last meeting this year on December 7th, Alex Kirby of Oakhill Vets gives us a talk on how he came to be a vet and how it worked out in practice. Members should have received menus for our Christmas lunch which will take place on January 9th at the Swan hotel. Lunch will be served at one

o'clock, so arrive in good time if you want a drink beforehand. If you would like to come and have not received a menu please contact Gordon or myself. Our first talk will be on the 18th of January when Ambleside Oral History Group will give one of their most recent presentations "Earning a Crust" which shows how the nature of work has changed over time in this area. All the talks will take place in the Tithe Barn at 2.30 followed by tea. Non-members are very welcome (for a small fee!)

David Dodgson

Grasmere Allotments

There are six small Allotments in the grounds of the Wordsworth hotel, towards the river walk. At the moment one of them has become vacant. They are reasonably easy to maintain and can provide super fresh vegetables for the family. Crops that grow well are potatoes, cabbages, beans, spinach, beetroot, sprouts and kale. If you have a little time and energy to spare and would like more details, please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from a vegetable lover in the near future.

Jill Morrison (35507), jill@any-web-address.co.uk

Knit and Nat

In December, we will meet only once, on the second Friday the 8th in the Reading Room from 2pm until 4pm. As usual, we welcome anyone, any age, to join us for the afternoon, or any part of it.

As this is the last magazine for 2017 I thought I should bring everyone up to date on the charity knitting we have done in the course of this year.

We have not been able to deliver the baby clothes to Barrow hospital; when I called to arrange our visit they were in the process of packing up ready for the move to their new, purpose built, state of the art baby unit. With that in mind we decided we would postpone our visit until January.

Our knitting for the shoe boxes included: 51 sets of hats, scarves and gloves, 9 head bands, 5 pairs of booties, 50 pairs of mittens, 8 knitted toys, 22 glove puppets and 10 blankets. Ann Dixon along with other ladies from the village began work on November 20th in Hawkshead packing up the shoe boxes

which will be delivered to Romania. This year one of the organisers, Judith Myers, will go out to help deliver the boxes to the children.

Thank you very much for all the donations of wool we have received over the year. Many thanks to everyone who brought buttons to me. I have delivered them to the Lakes School and am awaiting news of how they will display them. Unfortunately I didn't count them all but there was an impressive carrier bag full!

In January 2018 we will meet on Friday 12th and Tuesday 23rd; we look forward to seeing anyone who feels inclined to join us, perhaps a New Year resolution could be to start knitting!

Christine Batey

Allan Bank Christmas Music

Come and relax with a cup of tea and enjoy the festive decorations in the house whilst musicians entertain you.

December 3 1.30- 3.30 pm Take 4 Saxophone Quartet

December 9 1.30- 3.30 pm Guitar & Harp duets

December 16. 1.30- 3.30 pm Grasmere Glee. Carols around the tree.

Normal National Trust admission charges apply. See website for further details:

www.facebook.com/pg/NationalTrustAllanBank/events/

Grasmere School News

Presumably the point of education is to prepare children for adult life. This is a wide-ranging aim, including preparing them for future family life, leisure and employment. There's been a survey of children's employment ambitions this month. Without discussion or debate, we asked the children what job(s) they would like to do when they are older. We explained that this was for a national piece of research - to find out how children are thinking about work. This national survey aims to find out more about children's career aspirations and gain a better understanding of the factors that may be influencing their choices. A number of other countries are also taking part.

So what did the children of Grasmere School say? Astronaut (2), archaeologist (3), zoo keeper, famous painter, singer, spaceman, marine biologist (2),

youtuber (2), PE teacher, actor, journalist, vet (5), teacher (7), footballer (4- 3 boys, 1 girl), guide-dog trainer, animal rescue, deep-sea diver, movie maker, car seller, inventor, shop worker (2), bus driver (2), dentist, paramedic, website designer, mountain-climber teacher, police (3), mountain rescue person, NASA, McLaren, artist (2), story writer, hairdresser, dog trainer, train driver, diver that takes pictures, farmer, rugby player, film maker, bookseller, builder. Interesting... Blue Planet seems to feature, as do many friends of our school and our community. I'm impressed. I'm also curious about some of the missing professions... Isn't it interesting that so many of the jobs include animals, and so few include technology? I think the children assume that technology is just a part of life, like breakfast and school uniform.

On a different subject: Christmas!

Classes 1 & 2 are performing a nativity in St Oswald's Church on Monday 18th December at 2pm.

The juniors are performing a celebration of bells, in celebration of the renovation of the tower, and a commemoration of 'The Christmas Truce', on Tuesday 19th December at 4:30pm.

There will also be a Christmas Fair, raising money for refugee children, on Monday 18th December at 1pm.

Please come along to all or any of these events! *Jo Goode (Headteacher)*

Events 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 lots of lovely events to brighten the darker days.

The very popular Dove Cottage Tuesday series of talks, where we have tea and toast by the fire, will take place on Tuesday 5, 12 and 19 December. This year's trainees will be giving the talks on topics they have been researching and working on during the year: Katherine on **Wordsworth & Social Reform**, Eleanor on **The Literary Context of *Lyrical Ballads***, Sophie on writers notebooks **The Art of Commonplacing**, Becky on **Wordsworth & the Modernists**, Poppy on the growing popularity of tea and coffee in '**We all drank tea!**' and Dean on **The Immortal Dinner: The Arts and Social**

Networking in Regency England. Tickets are selling fast so do remember to call and book a place if you would like to join us for any of them.

This month's **Discover Poetry** session promises to be a wonderfully cosy evening of tea, conversation and festive poetry. Polly has picked some great poems, now available on her website if you want to have a look at them in advance of meeting on Wednesday 7 December. All are welcome.

Pamela Woof's next literature classes on ***The Prelude 1805*** takes place on Wednesday 13. The group are working through a detailed reading of book five, describing Wordsworth's thoughts about learning and childhood. No prior knowledge or reading is necessary and the classes are open to all.

Grasmere **Residents' Afternoon**, our annual celebration of William and Dorothy's at Dove Cottage, will take place on Wednesday 20. We hope to see lots of friends and neighbours there 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 a creative crafts and poetry session titled **A Georgian Christmas** taking place in the Foyle Room at the same time. The final event before we shut for Christmas will be a festive edition of **Rucksack of Rhymes** on Thursday 21.

Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum are closed from Christmas Eve until the end of January but Grasmere History Group's annual celebration afternoon will take place on Saturday 6 January as usual and Pamela's literature class will meet on Wednesday 17 January.

As always, please visit our website or contact us on 015394 35544 for more information about any events or activities. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Alice Carthy Events Officer The Wordsworth Trust

Grasmere Village Society Remembrance Sunday

This was particularly memorable this year. The church looked great, with its brand new cladding and a large congregation all singing away lustily. It was the first time many had been to a service conducted by our new priest in charge and she made everyone welcome in a very positive way. There was

also a large attendance at the war memorial, which Liz Harrison had, as always, ensured looked at its very best.

The tea, biscuits and coffee provided by the WI were very welcome on such a cold day. The Hall itself, however, was certainly anything but cold. Luckily after innumerable delays, and thanks to hard work by Graham Magennis, British Gas had installed the last elements of the new heating scheme 2 days beforehand. One person told me that it was too warm! I found it just right and very comforting after the bitter cold outside. There was only one snag. Everyone was so comfortable they stayed on chatting to friends until finally the WI team had to warn them it was time to go home by turning off the lights!

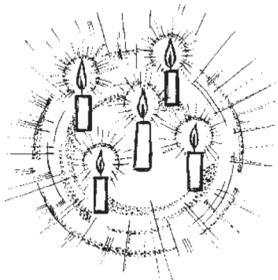
Changes in Grasmere.

Last December I reported that there were some exciting prospects for change in Grasmere. As promised then GVS held an Open Social Evening for the community to come along and find out more about them. The groups that took part, such as the Wordsworth Trust said how much they appreciated the opportunity to show people what they were hoping to do and also to hear the comments of locals and discuss possibilities with them. This was very successful and we hope to hold something similar before too long.

The two **Locally Important Projects** highlighted at the Open Evening continue to progress well. The first 5 pieces of equipment for adults have already been installed in Broadgate Meadow. SLDC officers have been very helpful and will continue to help with the later phases including funding. The next priority is the infrastructure.

Unfortunately the amount of rain we get here plus drainage problems make it difficult to deal effectively with areas under and between pieces of equipment.

Christmas Services at St Oswald's, Grasmere 2017



• Carols by Candlelight

4.00pm Sunday 17th December
at St Oswald's
The traditional Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols led by St Oswald's Church
Choir, Director/Organist Ian Hare

With the blessing of the Christmas tree with lights, and hundreds of candles. An unforgettable evening of mystery, in the timelessness of mid-winter.

Recommended for adults and children of junior age upwards, who enjoy traditional worship and listening to the long-cherished readings and anthems.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CRIB SERVICE

*with children who come invited
to carry the Crib figures*

6.00pm St Oswald's

As dusk falls for Christmas Night, everyone gathers together to re-tell the Nativity story, with Crib figures carried by the children as we sing our favourite carols. The Christmas tree and all the decorations will be in place, with candles too.

Suitable for all children and all ages – a great way to begin Christmas together. *The service last about 45 minutes.*

grasmererydal@hotmail.com | St Oswald's Church, Grasmere, Ambleside LA22 9SW





CHRISTMAS EVE
11.00pm at St Oswald's
Midnight
Christmas

Eucharist of the Nativity

Join with the angels and choirs across the country and world in the traditional welcome for the birth of the Christ Child. Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS DAY
JESUS' BIRTHDAY

11.00am

St Oswald's Church

Join the shepherds in the 'stable' to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. The 11a.m. Christmas Eucharist is suitable for everyone.

With carols and a short talk. Children are very welcome to bring something from their stocking to show.

Bring along your guests and celebrate together. Everyone welcome!



THE EPIPHANY: ARRIVAL OF THE THREE KINGS



11.00am Sunday 7th January
at St Oswald's Church
President: Archdeacon Vernon Ross

After their long journey, the visitors arrive from afar with special gifts for the new baby.

grasmererydal@hotmail.com | St Oswald's Church, Grasmere, Ambleside LA22 9SW

Grasmere Village Society (cont)

The Parks and Open Spaces officers are installing bark as a temporary measure. Some of the money we put together for the project is still available for this and generous local donations are helping. There will be other equipment to buy if we are to cater properly for all ages so we probably need another £15,000. But it is worth celebrating the fact that we are the first area in this part of South Lakeland to have any outdoor activity equipment for adults.

Grasmere's other **Locally Important Project**, the Village Hall, is also going well. Inevitably, when dealing with a building dating back to 1904, some aspects do not meet modern standards. As a result the Trustees decided to close the balcony for public use until they can make some major changes. It is, however, incredible how much has already been done. The appearance of the Hall interior has been transformed and it is WARM!

It will be some time before all the desirable improvements are in place but already indoor activities like badminton and table tennis are under way, with more space resulting from tucking away the heaters. Helen and Trevor Eastes and their dedicated team at the pharmacy and Lou the cleaner have made it much easier to book and run events at the Hall. The village is very lucky to have such an asset and people prepared to devote so much of their time and energy to it.

Litter

It is too late to inform you that Stuart Fawthrop has organised a litter pick on 25th November. Thanks if you responded to the notices he put up round the village. So much litter is dropped that we hope everyone picks up at least some whenever they come across it. We have bought new equipment so you are welcome to borrow it if you want to organise your own litter pick (perhaps as an innovative stag or hen party?)

Christmas Market

The monthly Farmers' market has been such a success that it is great to hear it will be expanded for 1st December and there will be an indoor sale, hamper raffle and Father Christmas grotto in Grasmere Hall.

The village certainly does seem to be full of ideas and people who help in many different ways whether with time, effort or money. Thank you all.

GVS Winter newsletter

We will circulate this during the Christmas period. It will confirm the dates of two important events for your new diaries. One is the annual dinner in March. The other is the society's AGM, probably Thursday 19th April.

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.

Due to the hard work of membership secretary, Tony Lawrence at present we have more than 300 members. This can be useful when we are writing about matters like trying to save the village pharmacy, which is still under threat, also the GPs' practice.

Next meeting of GVS committee is 9th January.

Please do get in touch about any concerns. All suggestions always gratefully received.

**Happy Christmas to all
And best wishes for 2018
From the committee of
Grasmere Village Society**

Chairman: Vivienne Rees

Grasmere Book Group

In November, a rather select gathering of book group members discussed Colin Cotterill's *The Coroner's Lunch*: the first of a series which revolve around the exploits of Dr. Siri Paiboun, the national coroner in the People's Democratic Republic of Laos.

There may have been only three of us (due to unforeseen circumstances on many fronts) but we still found much to talk about, particularly around the historical backdrop to the book, which opens in October 1976. We all felt we learnt a lot about the shift of power in Laos to communist rule, and all found ourselves compelled to look up more information about the country and its history. Two of the three galloped through the plot and enjoyed the twists and turns. One found themselves snagging on undigested clumps of historical information and character backstory, and on the description of characters (not being 'prettily oval' themselves) but we were all intrigued by the setting and the people, particularly Dr. Siri. Painted as a cantankerous old rebel who

has, in his seventies, nothing much to lose by questioning the authorities, Dr. Siri is an unusual hero for a crime drama.

A quote from a *Sunday Times* review on the cover compares *The Coroner's Lunch* to Alexander McCall Smith's *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, which we all found a bit misleading: they are very different books in tone and style. It did draw attention to an uncomfortable colonial angle of the book however: Cotterill may have lived and worked in the area he writes about, but it reads very much like a book by a westerner for westerners, so that the historical and geographical setting might seem reduced to a quirky unique selling point. The same was discussed of the supernatural element to the plot. We decided that we could stomach Dr. Siri seeing ghosts of the people in his morgue, but making him the incarnation of a powerful mythic Shaman was pushing the notion a bit too far.

December brings a seasonal end to the year's reading with George Mackay Brown's *Winter Tales* (1995). These short stories promise reflections on the light, the dark and winter in Orkney. All readers are welcome to join us on Thursday December 14th at 8pm in the Foyle Room at the Wordsworth Trust (opposite Dove Cottage) for a festive gathering.

In the New Year, the group reseeds with our traditional January crowd-sourcing of future reads. On Thursday January 11th, at 8pm in the Foyle Room at the Wordsworth Trust, suggestions will be sought! So, if there are books that sally forth from under the tree, books you've always wanted to share, or books you've thought you might like to try, jot them down and let us know. In the past we've read novels, comic books, biographies, classics, poetry and short stories so don't let genre hold you back. This meeting is always a great chance to find out what people are reading, and what we might share next. All suggestions are considered and then whittled into the eleven slots. Ideas can also be emailed to us ahead of the meeting: dr.will.smith@me.com.

Thanking everyone for another year's excellent conversations,
Will and Polly

ROTAS FOR ST.OSWALD'S CHURCH

Sidesmen / women *Coffee*

Dec 3rd 11am Rosalind de Wesselow *Ann Fawthrop*
 Kay Adkins
 4pm Sonia & John Rickman

Dec 10th Ann Fawthrop *Shirley Hill*
 Pat Taylor

Dec 17th June Maddison *Ann Jackman*
 Bob Allen

Dec 24th 11am John Rickman
 Trevor Eastes
 6pm Sonia & John Rickman
 11pm John Rickman

Dec 25th John Rickman

Dec 31st Ann Fawthrop *Kay Adkins*
 Pat Taylor

2018

Jan 7th June Maddison *Helen Bunfield*
 Bob Allen

Jan 14th Rosalind de Wesselow *Pat Taylor*
 Kay Adkins

Jan 21st John Rickman *Tonia Wainwright*
 Trevor Eastes

Jan 28th Ann Fawthrop *June Maddison*
 Pat Taylor

Feb 4th June Maddison *Ann Jackman*
 Bob Allen

CALENDAR

December 2017

1 Fri	09.00	College St/Village Hall	Christmas Market
	14.00	St Oswald's	Memorial Service for Ken Hodgkinson
3 Sun	11.00	St Oswald's	Advent Sunday Eucharist
	12.30	Rydal Hall	Parish lunch
	16.00	St Oswald's	Celebration Evensong for Tower
	19.00	St Mary's, Rydal	Taizé Service
4 Mon	18.30	Rydal Hall	PCC meeting
5 Tue	11.00	Dove Cottage	Talk with tea/toast
	14.00	Dove Cottage	Talk with tea/toast
7 Thu	14.30	Tithe Barn	Fellowship
	19.30	Dove Cottage	Discover Poetry
8 Fri	14.00	Reading Rooms	Knit & Nat
10 Sun	11.00	St Oswald's	Advent 2 Eucharist
12 Tue	11.00	Dove Cottage	Talk with tea/toast
	14.00	Dove Cottage	Talk with tea/toast
13 Wed	14.15	Dove Cottage	Literature class: The Prelude
16 Sat	13.30	Allan Bank	Grasmere Glee: Carols around the tree
17 Sun	11.00	St Oswald's	Advent 3 Eucharist
	14.30	St Mary's, Rydal	Carols by Candlelight
	16.00	St Oswald's	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
18 Mon	13.00	School	Christmas Fair
	14.00	St Oswald's	School Infant Nativity Play
19 Tue	11.00	Dove Cottage	Talk with tea/toast
	14.00	Dove Cottage	Talk with tea/toast
	16.30	St Oswald's	School Junior Christmas Play
20 Wed	14.30	Dove Cottage	Residents' afternoon
24 Sun	11.00	St Oswald's	Said Eucharist
	18.00	St Oswald's	Crib Service with Carols
	23.00	St Oswald's	Christmas Eve Eucharist

25 Mon	11.00	St Oswald's	Christmas day Eucharist
31 Sun	11.00	St Oswald's	Eucharist

January 2018

6 Sat	14.00	Dove Cottage	Grasmere History Group
7 Sun	11.00	St Oswald's	Festival Eucharist
9 Tue			GVS Committee Meeting
11 Thu	14.00	Tithe Barn	WI
12 Fri	14.00	Reading Rooms	Knit & Nat
14 Sun	11.00	St Oswald's	Eucharist
17 Wed	14.15	Dove Cottage	Literature class: The Prelude
18 Thu	14.30	Tithe Barn	Fellowship
21 Sun	11.00	St Oswald's	Eucharist
23 Tue	14.00	Reading Rooms	Knit & Nat
28 Sun			11.00 St Oswald's Candlemas Eucharist

The Ambleside and District Choral Society's Christmas Concert

is on Saturday 9th December at 7.30 pm in Ambleside Parish Church. The main work is the *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* by the seventeenth-century French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier, a charming work based on traditional French carol tunes. The programme also includes the very popular *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Vaughan Williams and other Christmas works for choir (and for the audience). Tickets are £12 (including a glass of wine) and are available from choir members or at the door, or by ringing 015394 33944/32060. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge.

Everyone is welcome to attend the next meeting of the

AMBLESIDE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Title of talk:

Lakeland Architecture through the centuries

Speaker: Andy Lowe (retired Lake District National Park Buildings and Conservation Officer) **Date:** Thursday, December 14th, at 7.30pm

Location: Percival Lecture Theatre, Ambleside University Campus, Rydal Road, Ambleside. Andy Lowe will look at the detailed design of buildings from medieval times to the 20th century and how they contribute to make the Lake District such a splendid place.

WHO TO CONTACT

St Oswald's Parish Church

Priest-in-charge (part time): Revd Gill Henwood MA
Rydal Hall, Rydal, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9LX
Tel: 07712 270933

Parish: Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. Weddings and Funerals by arrangement. Email and phone checked daily.
At university Tuesday and Thursday.

Wardens: Mrs Sonia Rickman, 015394 35603 Mrs Helen Bunfield
Secretary: Vacancy
Treasurer: Mr John Rickman
Organist: Mr Ian C. Hare MA MusB 017684 83886

Other church contacts

Methodist Minister: Deacon Maggie Patchett, 1 Applerigg, Patterdale Road, Windermere LA23 1EW Tel: 015394 42971
Email: deaconmaggiep@btinternet.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

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.

Christmas Flowers in St Oswald's Church

We would be delighted if you would like to sponsor a plant that will be used to decorate the church over the Christmas period.



As in previous years we will be decorating the church with cyclamens that have proved very popular and have survived the cold weather! If you would like to dedicate a plant for whatever reason please fill in the slip below and return to the Rectory by 20th December.

Each plant will have a label with your dedication printed on it and you are most welcome to collect the plant from church after Sunday 7th January. Thank you for supporting the church in this way.

I/We would like to donate £ for a plant with the following dedication: (max 50 words)

Minimum donation of £8.00 per plant please.

Cheques payable to St. Oswald's PCC or cash.

Name:

Tel No:

Please return to Sonia at The Rectory by 20 December.

Thank you.