

A photograph of a winter landscape. The scene is dominated by snow-covered trees and a hedge. The trees are mostly bare, with their branches heavily laden with snow. Some evergreen trees are visible on the right side, also covered in snow. In the foreground, a dark green hedge runs across the frame, also covered in snow. The ground is a mix of snow and dark earth. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

Grasmere Parish Magazine

**December 2018
and
January 2019**

MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Editorial Policy

Grasmere Parish Magazine is produced bi-monthly by St. Oswald's PCC and sponsored by Cumberland Building Society. It 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 **February - March 2019** magazine is **18th January 2019**.

Please send your copy to the editors at: **editor@oswaldparish.news** (please note new email address!) or send it to Willow Bank, Town End, Grasmere LA22 9SH. You can also upload copy via the website.

Grasmere Parish Magazine online

Past editions of the magazine are available online at:

<https://oswaldparish.news>

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: **editor@oswaldparish.news**

*Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas!*

Dear Friends

December brings Advent calendars, Christmas fairs and preparations once again, bucking the trend of dark midwinter. The great festival of light coming into darkness dates back into prehistory, marked in extraordinary monuments designed to illuminate a theatrical, sacred space with the midwinter sun (Maes Howe in Orkney and Newgrange in Ireland) or a tallest stone aligned with the sunset (Long Meg at Little Salkeld, near Penrith and Stonehenge). The coming of the new light into the world underlies our Christmas celebrations, with the birth of Jesus, ‘the Light of the World’.

William Wordsworth was inspired by ‘The monument commonly called Long Meg,’ writing in 1822:

A weight of Awe not easy to be borne
Fell suddenly upon my spirit, cast
From the dread bosom of the unknown past,
When first I saw that family forlorn;
Speak Thou, whose massy strength and stature scorn
The power of years – pre-eminent, and placed
Apart, to overlook the circle vast.
Speak Giant-mother! tell it to the Morn,
While she dispels the cumbrous shades of night;
Let the Moon hear, emerging from a cloud,
At whose behest uprose on British ground
That Sisterhood in hieroglyphic round
Forth-shadowing, some have deemed the infinite
The inviolable God that tames the proud.

However we interpret the poem, nearly 200 years after it was written, it conveys something of the mystery throughout time when humankind encounter ‘the infinite’. Maybe for Wordsworth, Long Meg was ‘forth-shadowing’ the God of the Abrahamic scriptures, where taming the proud was the prophets’ role, as messengers of God.

Mary, when she hears she will bear a child, sings (in the Book of Common Prayer version, ‘The Magnificat’ sung at Evensong):

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm.
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things.
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
as he promised to our forefathers Abraham, and his seed forever.

The evangelist Luke gives her this song, in the Jewish tradition of Miriam the sister of Moses the patriarch, and Hannah the mother of Samuel the prophet. Women's songs of joy in tradition celebrated God who tames and scatters the proud, rescues the lowly, humble and meek to bring justice and mercy.

From time immemorial, people have sensed a presence, a possibility of 'the infinite', source of life and loving, bringer of justice and equity. The birth of Jesus brings the infinite into human being, born among us, embodying life and love, justice and equity. Through Jesus, a world in darkness discovered light and hope, despite execution and death. In our world today, people experience darkness, as individuals within ourselves, in our families and communities, in warring nations and the injustice of proud leaders.

Christmas is our focus for hope, that in this tiny baby, this human being, dwells the infinite – *Emmanuel* – God with us, now and always. God within us, the indwelling Spirit (also translated 'breath') shared by Jesus, aiding us to live and love, to seek justice and peace. May our song be the angels tidings of joy this Christmas:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all people.

May God bless you and yours this Christmas and in the coming year. Gill

WI NEWS

Our October meeting was held in the Foyle Room, where Peter Logan gave us a fascinating illustrated talk called “Inside North Korea”, which he has visited twice.

Also in October, we hosted five neighbouring WIs at our Group Meeting, which took place in the Village Hall. The theme was a celebration of 100 years since the first votes for women, the end of WW1, and the formation of Grasmere WI. The hall was decorated in Suffragette colours- purple, white and green coloured bunting and flowers. Supper was cottage pie and pickles, followed by fruit salad and purple and green jellies. Grasmere Glee entertained us with songs from the period, and everyone joined in. A fiendishly hard quiz set by Rydal WI was won by a table of Grasmere Glee members. Mary Bass read a piece written by President Jennifer Hardisty about Grasmere 1918-19 which can be found below. It was a very successful evening.

Our November AGM took place in the Rotunda, Wordsworth Trust. Jennifer Hardisty stood down as President , but remains on the committee. Sue Dixon was elected President. Mary Bower stood down from the committee and Louise Sykes was elected to the committee.

Remembrance Sunday saw us back in the Village Hall serving coffees from the “new” kitchen. What a transformation! We’ve posted lots of photos on our Facebook page.

As a rather turbulent 2018 draws to a close, we would like to thank Jennifer Hardisty for all her hard work and inspiration as our President. Mary Bower has been a member since 1966 and has spent many of those years as President and on the Committee. We’re very grateful for her contribution and look forward to seeing her at many more meetings in the future.

We would like to thank Jeff Cowton and all at the Wordsworth Trust for providing our meeting venues for three months following the sale of the Tithe Barn.

We meet for our Christmas lunch at the Rothay Garden at 12 for 12.30 on Wednesday 5th December. If you would like to come but haven’t got your ticket (£20) please contact Sonia.

From January 2019 our permanent home will be the Village Hall. Huge

thanks are due to all those people who have given their time and expertise to transform our very cold, rather drab hall into a warm and welcoming venue . You've done a wonderful job for the village.

Our first meeting of the year takes place at 2pm on Thursday 10 January. If you think you might like to join us, please come along for a free taster session. You would be made very welcome.

Sue Dixon

Grasmere Women's Institute - 1919

A hundred years ago great changes were happening. The war had ended and men were returning home to the valley from a life of fighting in France. The Women's Rights Movement was gathering force and many women were reluctant to give up their newly found freedom.

The founders of the Grasmere Women's Institute were the Badley sisters who lived at Winterseeds and their friends. These ladies were instrumental in keeping the Home Fires Burning. One particular task they organised was the collection of sphagnum moss for surgical dressings for the wounded. Ample supplies were available on the fells, especially in bogs such as Blind Tarn. Many villagers assisted them in the gathering of this moss. The ladies knitted and sewed for the soldiers, organised food parcels and other comforts and were constantly thinking ahead to the time when the men would return. They were also making provision for the needs that would then arise. Grasmere Citizens Social events began as it was felt that the returning men would be in need of some entertainment following their years spent away in France.

The sisters, Mary and Laura Badley recognised that homes would be needed for the families of the returning servicemen and embarked upon their own programme of cottage building. They put up funds for the houses built at Grandy Close. John Wilson, the owner of their home Winterseeds was a well known local builder who provided the land where he built the homes. He is still remembered by the first tenants as he collected the rents.

The Chance family also provided new homes when they built the first two Great Cross houses as a memorial to two of their sons lost in the War. The Village community then saw to the housing needs themselves. These two far

seeing ventures were probably providing the very first affordable housing in the valley.

By 1919 the world was in the grip of an influenza pandemic which was to claim more lives than had been lost in the war. Not all the men had arrived home. Some were still away in France or were still held as prisoners of war. The winter was recorded as particularly cold with heavy snow storms.

The Badley sisters had long been committed to the Women's suffrage movement. They were also aware of a new movement. The National Federation of Women's Institutes which gave women increased freedom and the chance to meet others socially across class boundaries. Women had a new confidence gained by their efforts during the war when the men were away fighting. They had demonstrated their ability to cope and nationally, the time was right for this new movement to blossom.

As the war drew to its close and with the imminent return of the men, Mary Badley judged that the time was right for the women of Grasmere to have the opportunity to belong to this movement with its joint aims of education and social action. The Women's Institute would empower them to take on new roles and responsibilities. Grasmere WI was born. The first ever meeting was held in Winterseeds kitchen, the Badley sisters home at the time. They met with a group of their friends and neighbours, as we all have done ever since.

Jennifer Hardisty

Events at the Wordsworth Trust

As the nights draw in we are welcoming winter with a season of lively talks and community events – even more notable for the fact that this will be the last chance for Grasmere residents to experience Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum in their present forms before our Reimagining Wordsworth project gets underway in the New Year.

Our Dove Cottage Tuesdays talks are back for the festive season, and on Tuesday 4th, 11th and 18th December we will be having tea and toast by the fire while staff from the Wordsworth Trust give four short, informal talks on topics connected to Wordsworth and Romanticism: Poppy on the work and legacy of Robert Southey, Jen on Thomas De Quincey and opium addiction,

Amy on Wordsworth's childhood experiences, and Ellis on Romantic writers and stereotypes of the 'Orient'.

Grasmere Residents' Afternoon, our annual celebration of William and Dorothy's arrival at Dove Cottage in 1799, will take place on Thursday 20th December. Grasmere residents are invited to escape the winter chill in Dove Cottage with roaring fires, mulled wine, mince pies, and carols by candlelight.

Our special talks continue throughout the colder season. On Saturday 1st December we welcome Simon Bainbridge of Lancaster University to talk about pioneering women climbers and their adventurous ascents in 'Active Climbers of the Hills': Women in the Mountains, 1787-1829. On Saturday 19th January we are joined by Prism Arts for New Views for a New Year, where we invite emerging and developing artists working in Cumbria to spend time with our collection and share their thoughts and discoveries with us.

Pamela Woof's ever-popular literature classes on Wordsworth's great autobiographical masterpiece return on Wednesday 19th December and 16th January with Further Explorations of The Prelude 1805. Even if you have never been, you are very welcome to come along – and copies of the book will be provided.

Our regular groups meet as usual throughout the winter. On Tuesday 4th December Grasmere History Group meet in the Jerwood Centre for a session on book conservation with Victoria Stevens, on Thursday 6th December Dove Cottage Poets meet in the Foyle Room, and on Tuesday 18th December the Discover Poetry group led by Polly Atkin will gather by the fire in Dove Cottage. All three groups are free, and newcomers are very welcome.

In January 2019 our Reimagining Wordsworth project begins in earnest: the museum will be expanded and modernised, Dove Cottage will be conserved and interpreted through recent research, there will be new outdoor spaces for people to enjoy and explore, and the café and terrace will be redesigned. During this work we will run an exciting programme of events and special guided tours, and we look forward to sharing more about this with you in the New Year.

If you would like to book on to any of these events or find out more, please visit our website, give us a call on 015394 35544, or pop in to our shop. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Trust

School News

“He who saves a single life saves the world entire...”

“In honour of the individuals and nations who demonstrated the power of goodness and saved innocent lives.”

Some people do change the world for the better, just by acts of kindness. November, this year, has been a season of mourning, in remembrance of those who have given their lives in attempts to keep their countries safe, and those whose lives have been cruelly lost to warfare. Our children led a very poignant and beautiful Remembrance Service on 9th November in St Oswald’s Church. It was in three parts:

- Recognition of the terrible pain and sorrow
- Thankfulness for what was given for our sakes, and for the lives we live today
- Hope for the future, and a pledge to work towards creating a peaceful world

Looking back at wars, it can sometimes feel as if chaos or evil is overwhelming society. But even in those times, there were good people working tirelessly, and changing the world.

In all the nations of Europe, and across the world, there are memorials to loss. They are full of love for those who have gone. This year, in our Remembrance Service, we were supported by Dave Higson and Eleanor Knowles. Dave is our brass teacher, who learnt his musical trade in military bands. He served extensively in the army. As a key member of our school community, it was important to all of us that he played the music for our service. And he did it perfectly. Thank you, Dave, for being so brave, open and honest. Thank you, Mrs Knowles, for putting in hours and hours of practice to add to the perfection.

You both helped us to understand why it is so important to remember:

- So that we don’t let it happen again
- Out of respect for those who have suffered in war; recognizing their suffering and helping them a little to bear their grief.

Jo Goode Head Teacher

Knit and Nat

We knitters and natters have now returned to knitting baby clothes again after all the hustle and bustle of poppies and shoe boxes. Recently, we have been asked if we had any baby cardigans to sell; after some discussion we have decided this would be a good idea and with any funds we make we will be able to buy more wool for future projects. If anyone is interested in buying a baby cardigan, hat or blanket do contact me, or any others from our group and we will be able to arrange for you to see our collection of knitted items.

We will only meet once in December on the Friday 14th, then in January on Friday 11th and Tuesday 22nd. We meet at 2pm and bring our meetings to a close at around 4pm, anyone is welcome to come and join in with us either with or without knitting! At our first meeting in November we had a wonderful surprise when some of the children from school called in to see us when they were walking back from a visit to the War Memorial, we chatted about poppies and complemented each other on the work we had on display in the village.

In last months' magazine we mentioned the teddies for the Police, Bobbie buddies, some of our group have knitted them and delivered them to the Police station. Looking online it appears the appeal has had an excellent response. *Christine Batey*

Grasmere Fellowship

For our final meeting of the year on **December 6th**, Stephen Henwood talks about the task of decommissioning a nuclear power facility.

The **Fellowship lunch** will take place on **January 8th** at The Wordsworth Hotel at 12.30 for 13.00 The cost is £23.20 (3courses plus tea/coffee). Menus have been distributed, if you have not had one and would like to come please ask for one. Replies would be appreciated by December's meeting. Please feel free to join us; it is not an exclusive members only event.

The first talk of the New Year will be on **January 17th** when Paul Lusted will talk about his life in the fish industry.

Both talks will take place in the Hall at 2.30. Non-members welcome at a cost of £2 although at this stage a subscription is still a better buy!

David Dodgson

Grasmere Book Group

October's book group discussed local resident Malcolm Thorogood's recent spiritual memoir *The Soul Must Go On*. Thorogood's book prompted a great deal of discussion on the nature of scepticism, belief and grief.

November's meeting focused on Kosovan-Finnish writer Pajtim Statovci's debut novel *My Cat Yugoslavia*, originally published in Finnish in 2014 and translated into English in 2017. Seldom do we ask the question, 'but would it be the same book without the talking cat?' Statovci's hybrid narrative of immigration, alienation and generations prompted just such thoughts. The book also brought broader conversations about perceptions of the former Yugoslavia and migrant journeys.

An additional thank you to all who came to Emma's Dell in October and November to hear American dry-stone waller Whitney Brown and local debut-novelist Amy Arnold discuss their work. Look out for further author events in the new year.

Our final meeting of 2018 is at 8pm on **Thursday December 13th** at the Wordsworth Trust's Foyle Room, where we turn our attention to gaslight crime and Scottish-Canadian writer Robert Barr's collection of detective stories *The Triumphs of Eugène Valmont* (1906). Barr was a friend of Arthur Conan Doyle and the collection includes a parody, 'The Adventures of Sherlaw Kombs'.

In the New Year, we regather our bookmarks and ask the question 'what shall we read next?' This first meeting is a good opportunity to reflect on things we've been reading, things we'd like to read next and to share recommendations we've heard over the holidays. We try to cover a broad range of genres and subjects, across fiction and non-fiction, so if there's anything you think we should be looking at then either come along on **Thursday January 9th** (8pm at the Wordsworth Trust), or drop us an email ahead of the meeting at dr.will.smith@me.com. All suggestions are considered as we whittle down to the eleven monthly slots.

Thanks for another excellent year of reading and conversation. We hope to welcome both returning and new readers in the year to come.

Polly and Will

Music Notes

It has been an active few weeks for St Oswald's choir. The inaugural service of the Central Lakes Mission Community at St Mary's, Ambleside on 7th October was well attended and the combined choirs gave a lively rendition of 'For the beauty of the earth' by John Rutter. The 'Come and Sing' Messiah attracted over 100 singers from as far afield as London and Edinburgh. The Remembrance Day Service during which the choir sang two anthems was a

moving occasion, and musical support was provided by the talented Grasmere bell-ringers. Thank you, Dennis, John and Graham.

As we prepare for the carol service on **Sunday, 23rd December**, we can reflect on a vibrant year of music at St Oswald's. 8 concerts, 3 choral evensongs and regular Sunday services have given immense pleasure to locals and visitors alike. Sincere thanks go to all members of the church choir and concert helpers, whose hard work has enabled us to raise over £2,000 towards the Organ Renovation Appeal.

We are sorry to be losing David Shotton from the choir as he and his wife move to Cambridge to be nearer their family. We wish them both well.

An exciting programme of music is already in the pipeline for next year including a 'Come and Sing' Mozart Requiem. We look forward to welcoming you at our musical events and would be delighted to hear from you if you are keen to sing with the choir.

With best wishes for the festive season, *Richard Beskeen and Ian Hare*



Ambleside Choral Society Christmas Concert 2018

Bach: Christmas Oratorio parts 1-3

Ambleside Parish Church Saturday, 8th December 2018, 7.30 pm

This year we are delighted to be singing the very popular Christmas Oratorio by J S Bach and will be supported by some wonderful soloists and the South Cumbria Ensemble. The second half of the concert will also include a number of wonderful Christmas carols, several with audience participation so come along and join us at the start of the Christmas festival period.

Tickets £12 (including a glass of wine) on the door

Carole Drury Membership & Publicity, Ambleside & District Choral Society

Grasmere Village Society

Broadgate Meadow Playground

Currently we have more than £61,000 available for this project. Will Clark's heroic "push up the Hill" raised £450, as well as money for Ambleside. Also Paul Truelove has since arranged a grant of £500 from the Lakes parish council. We are still awaiting decisions from other sources of funding.

It is unlikely that the scheme will be ready to open before May, but you will be informed when the grand opening of this important project will take place. Nick McCraith has headed it ably, supported by so many people in the community they cannot all be named here.

Remembrance Day

The ceremony at the war memorial was well attended and the refreshments afterwards were very welcome. The improvements in the Hall and its new kitchen were much appreciated. We'd like to thank the Village Hall trustees for donating the venue as well as the WI for manning the tea urn and the Coop for their donation of biscuits.

The occasion reminded us of the sterling work performed by Liz Harrison whilst she lived in the village. Unobtrusively she tidied up Broadgate meadow, sweeping away leaves, grass cuttings and litter as well as looking after the War memorial. The area around White Bridge had become very untidy before she set to work on it, revealing its historic position in Grasmere's past. She was always on the lookout for ways in which our environment could be improved and her contribution will be greatly missed

Parking

This still presents problems. Stuart Fawthrop has obtained some figures of parking fines that indicate that Grasmere parking is not enforced as well as in some less busy areas. Will Clark has been working hard as county councillor to improve matters and it is hoped that 3 more traffic wardens will be appointed. The County Council is amenable to the introduction of disc parking but the costs mean nothing will be done for at least a year. The long line of cars parked on the grass verge at the north end on the A591 is particularly obtrusive.

The Hall trustees are happy for villagers to park for a short time in the Hall car park to do their village shopping, when there is room but do expect them

to be sensitive to the time factor and not to encourage their visitors to do the same or to abuse the privilege.

Health matters

The local GPs arranged a meeting to discuss the problems over the Grasmere surgery. Unfortunately this was poorly attended but GVS would like to thank them for arranging it and also for the care they provide. This also applies to the pharmacy where the whole team is doing a sterling job. GVS would like to emphasise the importance of supporting the Pharmacy and taking advantage of the work it can now carry out, such as providing flu jabs and advice and treatment of minor ailments

Planning Applications

Members expressed concern at the loss of tranquillity, affecting an unspoilt woodland, if the application for camping pods at Lancrigg were to be granted. It was agreed (with Alan Riley dissenting) that GVS should raise an objection with the planning authorities. Individuals were also requested to make their views known as a count is made of the numbers objecting.

Grasmere Food Bank:

A reminder that items can be deposited at the Co-op and the Pharmacy for the Food bank organised by Will Clark and Vicky Hughes. These will first distributed to Grasmere and any surplus donated to the Windermere food bank.

The next GVS committee meeting: Tuesday 8th January 2019

Vivienne Rees

Village Hall Update

The Grasmere village hall Trustees would like to say thank you to all members of the community and hirers who have helped over the last year in getting the hall to the to the standard it is today. Together we have achieved a lot this year but there is still more to do.

The bookings have increased as a direct result of this, and a reminder of the new pricing structure is below. The commercial hirers subsidise the local usage and we would like to politely ask that when hiring the hall you include time for your setting out and tidying up after. We are more than happy to allow for 5/10 mins either side of the booking if nobody has booked the previous or following session.

Session Times:

Morning: 9am – 1pm
Afternoon: 1pm – 5pm
Evening: 5pm – 11pm
Full Day: 9am – 11pm

Local Use (Grasmere Area)

2 Hour Session: £25.00
One session: £45.00
Two sessions: £70.00
Full Day: £100.00

Commercial:

2 Hour Session: £35.00
One Session: £70.00
Two Sessions: £140.00
Full Day: £170.00

Non-Commercial, Non-Local

2 Hour Session: £30.00
One Session: £55.00
Two Sessions: £85.00
Full Day: £120.00

Bookings are no longer being taken via the Pharmacy and the Trustees would like to thank Trevor, Helen & Jenny for all their help. We are at present reviewing the booking system, but in the interim, bookings can be made by email to **grasmerevillagehall-bookings@outlook.com**, please be patient for a reply as the running of the village hall is done entirely by volunteers who all have full-time jobs as well! Payments now need to be made by BACS or put in an envelope and posted through the village hall letterbox, this is checked regularly.

We have decided due to the increased use the hall is now getting we would benefit from a paid caretaker/cleaner, who would be available to clean, check on toilet rolls, and deal with any on site issues with hirers, this would be around 200 hours per year. If you think you might be interested in this, could you either speak to one of the Trustees or email **grasmerevillagehall@outlook.com**.

The Grasmere Village Hall Trustees are Vivienne Rees as Chair, Jeff Cowton, Andrew Leech, Stephen Dodd, Paul Mosey, Graham Magennis, and Lisa Mosey as Secretary & Treasurer. Over the last few weeks along with some of the Trustees, Stephen Hebson and Jack Mosey have been refurbishing the kitchen, by the time you read this it should be finished and will include new wall coverings, ceiling, cupboards, worktops, a wider hatch, a new water boiler (funded by the

Parish Council – thank you Ella) and cooker. Our vision is to continue improving the facilities, we hope you like it, and thank you to all those involved in this project.

And finally, we have been approved for community funding through the Co-op and we would like to ask if you could log on to the following link:

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/> signing in using your co-op membership card and select local causes and back the Village hall for your community project, this will ensure funding goes to the Village Hall, and will be available until October next year. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Lisa Mosey on behalf of the Grasmere Village Hall Trustees.



Grasmere Players present

Treasure Island -the panto

In response to popular demand Doctor Davies will again be donning his red stilettos!

Grasmere Village Hall

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
December 13th, 14th and 15th at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday matinee December 15th at 2.30 p.m.

Tickets from Barney's Newsbox tel. 35627

Price £10 Juniors £5

Ambleside Natural History Society

Wild Ennerdale: into the Future Natural

Speaker: Tom Burditt (General Manager, National Trust, North Lakes)

We are now into our 16th year delivering Ennerdale as a wild valley, relying on natural processes to shape its landscape and ecology. This talk will look at why the Wild Ennerdale partnership was formed, how we work, some of our achievements to date, and look forward to our ambitions for the future.

Ambleside Campus 7.30 p.m. 6 December 2018

Ambleside Natural History Society.

Red Squirrels Update

Reds: Our reds have done well so far this year with a family of 5 seen in the churchyard in September and very young squirrels being seen around Grasmere in October. The annual population survey has shown an increase in numbers to 68 (60 in 2017). However, the unprecedented number of greys this autumn means that the reds are likely to contract the squirrelpox virus in the coming weeks. We must all be vigilant and look for signs of lesions on eyes and lips and general lethargy.

Greys: 2018 has been the worse year for greys since 2009. David Birkett our part time ranger has been kept very busy. We are very pleased to announce that Stuart Dickson joined our small group of volunteer shooters at the beginning of September. He has had great success, especially in the Lancrigg area. There has been an exceptionally high number of greys in the Northern part of the area especially in Easedale with a total of 50 greys in and around Lancrigg this autumn!

IF YOU SEE A GREY (or a sickly looking red) ANYWHERE AROUND GRASMERE PLEASE TELL US IMMEDIATELY *with an exact description of the location and the time it was seen* – Don't leave it till tomorrow!

Text **David Birkett**

and Text **Stuart Dickson** or **Phone Trevor Cooper** or Jane Cooper or Stewart Sutcliffe.

If still no response email Stewart and we'll pick it up when we look at the photos from the cameras.

Funding

If you would like to donate to the conservation of the red squirrels in Grasmere, please send me a cheque or use a collection box, they are located in these shops in Grasmere: Beck Steps Gift Shop, Cunninghams, Heaton Cooper, Post Office, Mountain Warehouse, Regatta, Sam Read bookshop and the Daffodil Hotel. Many thanks to everyone who has donated.

How you can help us

We are pleased to hear from anyone who wants to sponsor the group, offer help, purchase their own equipment or are willing to have a collecting box in your hotel or business. By contributing to the group you are helping the red

squirrels to survive. All contributions are most welcome – thank you.

We would welcome anyone who is willing to share the effort involved in monitoring traps in local woodlands (mainly White Moss and Red Bank) – this just involves walking round, morning or evening when you are available, and phoning someone if action is needed. We'd also like people to walk through woodlands from time to time looking for squirrels. Please do get in contact with me if you can help with these activities.

Many thanks to everyone who has contacted us with local sightings – especially greys! – they are really helpful.

Stewart Sutcliffe, Grasmere Red Squirrel Group

Grasmere Community Food Bank

As we move into the winter months your councillors Vicky Hughes, Vivienne Rees and myself (Will Clark) have teamed up with Grasmere Co-op and Pharmacy to collect for Grasmere food bank.

As new councillors Vicky and I have observed individuals in the community fall on hard times through no fault of their own and we have really wanted to help. Through village generosity in the first week alone we have managed to provide the first three parcels, many more I'm sure by the time you read this.

The idea behind the Food Bank is that you can donate any non-perishable products which can then be parcelled up and delivered to those in need. It is not just food we are collecting. Grasmere Pharmacy will be collecting toiletries and sanitary products and they have kindly agreed a 10% discount on all products purchased for the benefit of others.

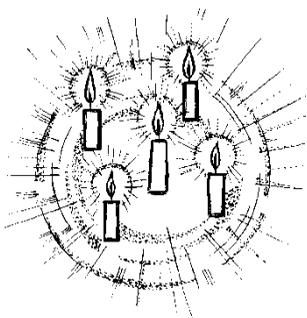
The initiative is not in competition with the Trussell Trust foodbank in Windermere. We will be working together with the Trust to ensure we can support all those in need in the locality. Please continue to donate through the church if you are already doing so.

Recommendations/requests for parcels can be made to Vicky Hughes and Will Clark using the contact information below. Alternatively you can write your name and address and leave it in the box at the front of the Pharmacy. All recommendations/requests will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Vicky Hughes 07960590531 usey78@yahoo.co.uk

Will Clark 07435596596 will_clark@hotmail.com

Christmas Services at St Oswald's, Grasmere



Carols by Candlelight

**4.00pm Sunday 23rd December
at St Oswald's**

**The traditional Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols led by St Oswald's Church
Choir, Director/Organist Ian Hare**

An unforgettable evening of mystery, in the timelessness of mid-winter, as we count down the last week before Christmas.

Recommended for adults and children of junior age upwards, who enjoy traditional worship based on the King's College Cambridge readings, singing the carols and listening to the choir's anthems. With candlelight.

Christmas Eve (24th) Carols by the Crib

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

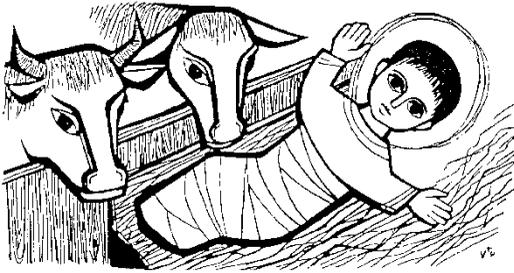
6.00pm St Oswald's

As dusk falls for Christmas Night, everyone gathers together to re-tell **the Nativity story.**

With Crib figures carried by children who come, while we sing our favourite carols. The Christmas tree and all the decorations will be in place, with candlelight.

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





Christmas Eve
11.00pm at St Oswald's

Midnight Christmas Eucharist of the Nativity

Join with the angels across the country and world in the traditional welcome for the birth of the Christ Child. *Christmas Communion – All most welcome!*

Christmas Day Jesus' birthday

11am Festival Communion
St Oswald's Church



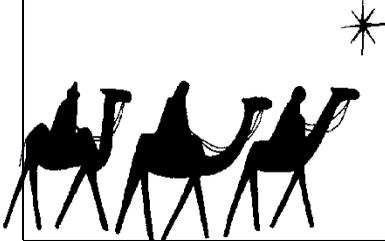
Join the shepherds in the 'stable' to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. The 11 a.m. Christmas Communion is suitable for everyone. With carols and a short talk. Children are very welcome to bring something from their stocking to show.

Bring along your guests and celebrate together. Everyone welcome!

The Epiphany: Arrival of the Three Kings

11.00am Sunday 6th January
**Festival Communion at St Oswald's
Church**

The kings (Magi, or wise men) bring their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. After their long journey, the visitors arrive from afar with gifts for the new baby.



CALENDAR

December 2018

1 Sat	15:00	Jerwood Centre	Women in the Mountains
2 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Advent Sunday - Parish Communion
4 Tue	11:00	Dove Cottage	Rediscovering Robert Southey
4 Tue	14:00	Dove Cottage	de Quincey and Opium
4 Tue	19:30	Jerwood Centre	Grasmere History Group
5 Wed	12:00	Rothay Garden	WI Christmas lunch
6 Thu	14:30	Foyle Room	Dove Cottage Poets
6 Thu	14:30	Village Hall	Fellowship
6 Thu	19:30	Ambleside Campus	Ambleside Nat. Hist. Soc.
8 Sat	13:00	St. Oswald's	Wedding
8 Sat	19:30	Ambleside Church	Ambleside Choral Soc. concert
9 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Advent 2 - Parish Communion
11 Tue	14:00	Dove Cottage	Wordsworth & Childhood
13 Thu	19:30	Village Hall	Treasure Island
13 Thu	20:00	Foyle Room	Book Group
14 Fri	14:00	Reading Room	Knit & Nat
14 Fri	19:30	Village Hall	Treasure Island
15 Sat	14:30	Village Hall	Treasure Island
15 Sat	19:30	Village Hall	Treasure Island
16 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Advent 3 - Parish Communion
18 Tue	11:00	Dove Cottage	Romantics & the Orient
18 Tue	19:30	Dove Cottage	Discovering Poetry
19 Wed	12:00	St. Oswald's	Wedding
19 Wed	14:15	Jerwood Centre	The Prelude 1805
20 Thu	14:30	Dove Cottage	Grasmere Residents' Afternoon
23 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Advent 4 - Parish Communion

23 Sun	16:00	St. Oswald's	9 Lessons & Carols service
24 Mon	18:00	St. Oswald's	Crib service
24 Mon	23:00	St. Oswald's	Midnight Eucharist
25 Tue	11:00	St. Oswald's	Christmas Festival Communion
30 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Christmas 1 - Parish Communion

January 2019

5 Sat	12:30	St. Oswald's	Wedding
5 Sat	15:00	Jerwood Centre	An afternoon with History Group
6 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Epiphany - Festival Communion
6 Sun	12:30	Rydal Hall	Parish lunch
8 Tue	12:30	Wordsworth Hotel	Fellowship lunch
8 Tue			GVS Committee
9 Wed	20:00	Foyle Room	Book Group
10 Thu	14:00	Village Hall	WI
11 Fri	14:00	Reading Room	Knit & Nat
13 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Baptism of Christ - P. Communion
16 Wed	14:15	Jerwood Centre	The Prelude 1805
17 Thu	14:30	Village Hall	Fellowship
19 Sat	14:00	Jerwood Centre	New views for a New Year
20 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Epiphany 3 - Parish Communion
22 Tue	14:00	Reading Room	Knit & Nat
27 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Epiphany 4 - Parish Communion

February 2019

3 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Candlemas - Parish Communion
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ROTAS FOR ST.OSWALD'S CHURCH

	Sidesmen / women	Coffee	Elements
2nd Dec	John Rickman	<i>June Maddison</i>	<i>Pat Taylor</i>
9th Dec	Ann Fawthrop Pat Taylor	<i>Kay Adkins</i>	<i>June Maddison</i>
16th Dec	June Maddison Kay Adkins	<i>Shirley Hill</i>	<i>Ann Fawthrop</i>
23rd Dec	John Rickman Trevor Eastes	<i>Helen Bunfield</i>	<i>Pat Taylor</i>
24th Dec 6 PM	Ann Fawthrop John Rickman	<i>No coffee</i>	
24th Dec 11 PM	John Rickman Helen Bunfield	<i>No coffee</i>	<i>John Rickman</i>
25th Dec	John Rickman Sonia Rickman	<i>No coffee</i>	<i>John Rickman</i>
30th Dec	Ann Fawthrop Pat Taylor	<i>Helen Bunfield</i>	<i>June Maddison</i>
6th Jan	June Maddison Kay Adkins	<i>Helen Bunfield</i>	<i>Ann Fawthrop</i>
13th Jan	John Rickman Trevor Eastes	<i>June Maddison</i>	<i>Pat Taylor</i>
20th Jan	Ann Fawthrop Pat Taylor	<i>Kay Adkins</i>	<i>June Maddison</i>
27th Jan	June Maddison Kay Adkins	<i>Shirley Hill</i>	<i>Ann Fawthrop</i>
3rd Feb	John Rickman Trevor Eastes	<i>Helen Bunfield</i>	<i>Pat Taylor</i>

New general manager for Rydal Hall

The Rydal Hall Board is delighted to announce that Amanda Fogg, at present Acting General Manager, has been appointed as permanent General Manager of Rydal Hall.

Richard Pratt, Archdeacon of West Cumberland, said: “Amanda has brought a wealth of experience to the post of General Manager; we are really grateful to her for all she has done so far, and look forward to all we will continue to do together in the future.

“The Board would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the team and community at Rydal for all their work and commitment: they make Rydal what it is – a wonderful and welcoming place!”

Carlisle Diocese newsletter 18.10.18

Thanks

The Church would like to thank Miss Pamela Clark from Southend who kindly left a donation for St. Oswald's Church in her will.

Miss Clark visited Grasmere every year and enjoyed visiting Church and attended services while here.

Sonia Rickman

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.

GH

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 Sonia at 16 Benfield, Grasmere, LA22 9RD 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 6th 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 16 Benfield, Grasmere, LA22 9RD by 20 December.

Thank you.

CONTACTS

St Oswald's Parish Church

Church Stile, Grasmere LA22 9SW

Priest-in-charge (part time): Revd Gill Henwood MA

Rydal Hall, Rydal, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9LX

Tel: 07712 270933 Email: grasmererydal@hotmail.com

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

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: deaconmaggie@slakesmethodist.org.uk

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

Central Lakes Mission Community

Rev. Beverley Lock 33205 reverend.beverley@gmail.com

Rev. John Dixon 36301 jjcedixon@btinternet.com

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The Cumberland 

Your mortgage is secured on your home. Think carefully before securing other debts against your home. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.