



GRASMERE
PARISH
MAGAZINE
2021
JUNE and JULY

**DELIVERED TO EVERY HOME
IN GRASMERE**

MAGAZINE INFORMATION

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Grasmere Parish Magazine is produced bi-monthly by St. Oswald's PCC and is sponsored by Wordsworth Grasmere. The name of the author appears below each item. The views expressed are those of the author 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. Please see the website for our full policy and copyright notice.

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I dared to call him Father

I suspect we're all familiar with the phrase “in this day and age”. I heard it on the news the other day when someone was expressing their disbelief at someone's (allegedly) disreputable behaviour.

Of course, what lies behind those words is an assumption that we (mankind), are progressively getting 'better' - the myth of human progress both material and personal, and we're disappointed when someone lets the side down.

What's intriguing is that we manage to simultaneously recoil at some of the things we see and hear in the news and yet doggedly cling to this overly optimistic view of the world.

All of this got me thinking about how easy it is to use these phrases without examining the assumptions behind them. Another phrase I hear a lot is: “All we can do now is pray”.

I'm the last person to be critical when someone feels inclined to pray - far from it! - but all too often the underlying assumption behind this well-worn phrase is that prayer is a last resort activity. It implies that life is something we get on with and that God, if he has any part to play, is simply there as some kind of spiritual 'backstop'.

What's more, when someone says: “All we can do now is pray”, prayer is diminished to little more than a matter of functionality. It's been turned into just one more means of getting something we want or re-arranging the world according to our wishes. But this is shallow, to say the least.

Just as our dreams of human perfection can't stand much exposure to reality, so the myth of human autonomy is holed below the waterline. The longer we cling on to it the more we deprive ourselves of a true understanding of what faith and prayer are really about.

I'm always encouraged when someone I meet (looking down at their feet) says, “Well I only pray when I need something” because they've realised, for instance, that they wouldn't treat their friends with such 'cupboard love' and that somehow, with God the urge is irresistible. They know something's not right.

Sure enough, our God is gracious enough to understand and accept all of this. The God we see in Jesus is generous beyond our imagining, but perhaps the antidote to this misguided way of thinking and operating is to remember that prayer is a relationship. The question we have to ask is: “What kind of relationship?” Is it some kind of business arrangement or something more intimate?

Some years ago, I came across a book which told the story of how a young woman came to Christian faith. It was simply called: "I dared to call him Father." Maybe, as Jesus teaches us in the Lord's Prayer, this gives us a clue as to where we should start. *Every Blessing, David.*

Grasmere Rushbearing - Saturday 10th July 2021



It has been a long time coming but we have taken public opinion into account and feel that it's still too early to have a full procession in Grasmere to celebrate Rushbearing.

So we are going virtual again for 2021 and you can join in via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram nearer the time. Everything will come together on Saturday 10th July, when Rev. David Wilmot will give some online Reflections in lieu of a service.

We'd love to receive more of the wild and wacky contributions which made last year such a good event and we are looking for somewhere to collectively display them, the Park and Moss Parrock are two such options. Tom at the Co-op is allowing us decorate the outside window space of the shop. We will have a colouring competition for all ages to take part in. They will be participatory tokens for all as well as some trophies – watch this space!

The main thing is that it is full steam ahead – we are anxious to be as inclusive as possible so please encourage everyone to join in, in any way you wish. We welcome ideas or offers of help to any of the five of us - David, Amy Burton, Will Clark, Charlotte Ellwood or myself. *Carrie Taylor*

Music Notes

After a long silence we are beginning to see the possibility of some renewed musical activity in Church and in the wider community. Although organ music may seem a poor substitute for singing, many composers have based pieces on chorales and hymns related to the Church's year. However, provided there are no further setbacks, singing in church should be able to return before long, perhaps after 21st June.

Meanwhile, Kendal Parish Church has revived its series of lunchtime organ recitals, and the organist Andy Plowman has kindly invited me to perform there on **Friday 2nd July at 12.30 pm**. There will be other concerts to attend with **Lake District Summer Music** from **30th July until 8th August**, mainly at Ambleside. In September, the Cumbrian Society of Organists has invited John Robinson to give an organ recital at Grasmere on **Monday 27th September at 7.00 pm**. He was formerly an assistant organist at Carlisle Cathedral and is now the director of music at Blackburn Cathedral.

Fundraising for our organ renovation continues, and it is hoped that Nicholson & Co. will begin work at St Oswald's in October 2022. Every part of the organ will be dismantled, cleaned and repaired as necessary, and the mechanism will be partly electrified, but the range of sounds will remain almost exactly as it was originally conceived by J. J. Binns in 1923. Further donations would be gratefully received by the church treasurer.

Some choir members and others may remember John Rucklidge, who sang with the choir occasionally, most notably two solo performance of The Three Kings at Epiphany. Sadly, soon after moving to Godalming, he has passed away, and I have sent our condolences to his widow. *Ian Hare*

WI News

Our May meeting was a Thai cookery demonstration by Debs and Angela of the Create Escape. It was very entertaining and we are planning to visit them at their cookery school in Milnthorpe in the future.

In June we had an excellent talk and slide show from Bill Powell about his experiences as a tour manager especially in Montenegro, Albania and Mount Athos, Greece.

As restrictions have been easing we are planning to move away from weekly Zoom meetings to a new pattern. We'll continue with our 2pm Thursday slot, with a trip/visit in the first week of the month, our main WI meeting the second week, a Zoom Cheerful Chat in week three and a Grasmere Ramble week four (all welcome, meet outside Sam Reads). All of these events will follow the guidelines in place at the time.

Our 10th June meeting, still on Zoom, is with Sue Allen of the Wordsworth Trust who telling us about our contribution to an exhibition celebrating the 250th birthday of Dorothy Wordsworth. It's an exciting challenge!

By the time of our July 8th meeting we hope that the restrictions will have been lifted. Our meeting is at the Wordsworth Trust, with a tour of the new museum, Dove Cottage and garden, followed by tea and cakes and lots of chatting.

On the weekend of 12th -13th June members Jacky Godfrey and Louise Sykes are taking part in a challenge to climb Scafell Pike in the dark. The event is organised by St. Mary's Hospice and they are joined by Jan Perritt's daughter Jo Evelyn, fundraising in memory of her mum. They have a JustGiving page if you would like to support them: [tinyurl.com/climbing-scafell-for-stmarys](https://www.justgiving.com/parish-climbing-scafell-for-stmarys)
Good luck brave ladies!



On Thursday 24th June we are holding an afternoon tea party in memory of Jan Perritt. This will take place in Pat Taylor's garden at Beck Allans. Jan loved a tea party, and she was one of our star bakers! *Sue Dixon*

Knit and Nat

As I write for this Parish magazine it seems likely that we will be able to meet up again together for our meetings in June and July. These meetings are, as usual, at from 2.00 to 4.00pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month: June 8th and 22nd and July 13th and 27th. I will post information on the notice board outside Barney's to confirm if we are meeting together 'in reality' or 'digitally' on zoom as soon as a decision has been made.

As always, we are happy to welcome anyone who would like to join in with our friendly chat and knitting (or any other crafting project). Let us know if you are interested in joining us; it's always an enjoyable get together.

Currently, we do not have a joint project we are working on, so we are continuing with old favourites that we resort to regularly. These include items for the shoe boxes: hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and toys. Also Baby blankets, cardigans and hats so we have a supply when we receive our next request from one of the local maternity units.

It has been wonderful over the past few weeks to be able to go to a shop for knitting wool without having to order online, life does seem to be returning to normal at last. *Christine Batey*

Protecting the Church Tower for the Future

With the arrival of scaffolding in the first week of May you cannot fail to notice that further work is starting on the Tower.

The Grade 1 listed St Oswald's Church dates from 1250 AD. Its restoration has won the John Betjeman Award for excellence in building conservation. The 2017 work saw the 'un-doing' of the damage caused ever since the original lime render was first removed in the 1890's. The project addressed significant issues with the hard, brittle cement render dating from the 1920s, as well as major structural cracking and a leaking roof. Harmful cement was replaced with a traditional lime mortar, protecting the walls in a way that allowed them to breathe and dry out.

As the body of the wall was so wet after nearly 100 years of water penetration, it has taken a very long time to dry out, indeed drying times in optimal conditions with no rain are estimated at 1 inch per month. The walls of St Oswald's tower are nearly 40 inches thick! Unfortunately, Grasmere is not blessed with 'optimal environmental conditions', and as soon as the scaffolding was removed, Grasmere saw several weeks of continuous rain. The combination of outside saturation and residual damp within inside walls resulted in excess moisture, which froze during harsh winter conditions. This caused localised surface damage in the most exposed areas.



High level inspections



Sample testing

Since the completion of the project, Crosby Granger Architects and the contractor, UK Restoration Services, have been monitoring the render, reviewing the drying-out and assessing whether there has been any long-term damage caused during that initial winter. Now, three years on, there has been enough

data collected to establish that there is residual damage and the render requires patch repairing. These areas are generally on the most exposed south-west corner and south elevation, and where water run-off has led to prolonged saturation, preventing the mortar from setting.

Crosby Granger Architects and UK Restoration Services are leading a short programme of rectification works to address the areas that were badly affected during that first winter, to carry out some maintenance and to add additional protection at high level. The technical research into traditional lime mortars has been a key aspect of this, and continues to be at the forefront of the project.

It is estimated that the work will take 3 - 4 months, allowing time in the late summer and autumn for drying out before the winter. The scaffolding will give easy access to the affected areas, but disruption to the public will be kept to a minimum and the Church will remain open.

Chloe Granger Crosby Granger Architects

Ambleside and District U3A

After the challenges of the Covid restrictions Ambleside and District U3A is slowly beginning to open up its interest groups again in line with Government regulations.

It's an organisation for all those people in that important group in the still lively, mentally active 'third age', folk no longer working full time or raising a family.

Its members, men and women, range from their fifties to their nineties, anyone who still wants to make the most of life, meet people, develop new interests and try new experiences. You do not need any qualifications to join except your life experience, and the membership fee is very modest.

Before lockdown, we have had up to thirty different interest groups: social walking to Spanish, crosswords to climbing and scrambling, table tennis to local history, play reading to geology, ukulele lessons or garden visits, bridge or reading groups.

Many of our groups have kept together by using Zoom, but we are so looking forward to getting going again.

You can find out more, and contact us via our website: u3asites.org.uk/ambleside

Dr Mike Huggins Chair, Ambleside U3A

News from Wordsworth Grasmere

Wordsworth Grasmere is now open! Step into another century as you experience the sights, sounds and smells of Dove Cottage. Stroll through the Garden-Orchard, which is being replanted in keeping with the ‘domestic slip of mountain’ that the Wordsworths lovingly created. Play and explore in The Woodland, a wild and relaxed space. Discover Wordsworth’s radical and creative life in the Museum and take in views of Grasmere vale from the roof-top Viewing Station. From gallery tours to nature journaling, there are guided activities running every day of the week. Our Café serves wholesome, locally sourced (and very delicious!) food and drink.

From 18th May to 28th June we are open Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am to 5.00pm. From 29th June to 31st October we are open 7 days a week. Entry is free to Grasmere residents and employees of Grasmere businesses. You can now book your tickets online in advance, or in person when you visit.

We have two outdoor family events coming up. On 3rd June we are **Walking to Water** with an afternoon of painting, sketching and exploring around White Moss Common. On 22nd July we are playing in **Dorothy’s Summer Garden**, decorating plant pots and making sketchbooks using traditional techniques.

Our 2021 contemporary poetry reading series, “**Go to the poets, they will speak to thee**”, is curated and hosted by poet Kim Moore. We will be listening to what poets have to say about our turbulent times, and how poetry can cross borders to challenge, delight and inspire us. Each event in the series is part reading, part open mic - and the theme of the open mic changes every month! These events take place online with live captions. The next dates are 23rd June and 21st July; visit our website to find out about the featured poets and open mic themes.

Discover Poetry with Polly Atkin, Dove Cottage Poets and our other poetry groups continue to take place on Zoom.

Detailed information and booking for all of our events can be found on our website, wordsworth.org.uk

Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere

Allan Bank

It is wonderful to have opened the front door to Allan Bank house once more. Visitors are appreciating the stunning ‘Three Head portraits’ and we are planning to open more rooms as and when guidelines allow. Many people have spotted glimpses of scampering red squirrels in the garden and woodlands. The birds are

in very good voice and I was thrilled the other day to catch my first sighting of a pied flycatcher in the grounds.

It is with sadness that we waved goodbye to Elaine Taylor, who has loved and cared for Allan Bank for so long. We wish her all the very best in the next stage of her career and we aim to continue the amazing legacy that she has left.

Do remember there is a free garden pass for local residents that can be issued with proof of address.

In order to help us manage capacity and keep everyone safe, we will be asking visitors to book their arrival slot. For further details please check our website: nationaltrust.org.uk/allan-bank-and-grasmere

Katriona Field Welcome Manager Allan Bank

Elaine Taylor writes:

As some of you may know the past year has been hard for me due to family matters, and it is with regret that I have chosen to accept voluntary redundancy.

I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunities the National Trust has provided me over the past nine years I have worked here. It has been a pleasure to work with staff, volunteers and the community to create, adapt and bring about, 'the Allan Bank effect', which has brought so much joy to visitors over the years.

Thankyou to all those who worked alongside me to deliver this project, especially our volunteers who do so much to enhance the offer. I am sorry I will not get the chance to work alongside the new team, but I am sure you will be alright. I can see the team has already come together under Katriona's kindly guidance.

It's time for me to leave "The loveliest spot that man hath ever found, Farewell! -- we leave thee to Heaven's peaceful care." Best wishes, Elaine

University of Cumbria - free online event

Our next event in the *Changing Perceptions of a Cultural Landscape* series will be a talk by Cultural Historian, Dr Sue Allan. The talk is entitled **'Merry Neets and Bridewains: Contemporary Commentaries on Folk Music, Dance and Song in the Lake Counties During the Romantic Period'** and in it Dr Allan will discuss the rich folk history of the Lake District.

This free online event will take place at **6.30pm on Monday 7th June**. You can find out more and register via the event page: cumbria.ac.uk/about/events/

Penny Bradshaw University of Cumbria.

Grasmere Village Society

The month of May brought further easing of the Covid pandemic restrictions and a return of visitors to the village. If you are reading this in your holiday home or let, or in your hotel, then you are most welcome and we are very pleased to see you.

The society held a successful AGM on April 20th, the second and hopefully last to be conducted via Zoom. More than 40 members were in attendance including one who remains stranded in Cape Town, South Africa! The present committee agreed to remain in post and were re-elected en bloc, with Louise Sykes elected to the vacant post of vice chair. Additionally, three new committee members, Andy Astle, Diane Bettington and Simon Hey were elected to the committee. We have a strong, active committee and will move forward to benefit the village in whatever ways we can.

At the moment we are looking at installing traffic calming measures in and around the village as well as the possible installation of additional litter bins. We are also keeping an eye on, various familiar parts of the village infrastructure including the bus shelters, defibrillators, the Wordsworth drinking fountain, the Pinfold and the seats and benches in and around the village. The two benches in memory of the Braithwaites on the riverside walk have recently been refurbished. This work was carried out by Gordon Emery from Ambleside, and I think we may be keeping Gordon busy in the future. Gordon is also a drystone waller and he is voluntarily rebuilding the many gaps in the roadside wall between the Daffodil and White Moss. This is difficult, heavy work (as my back can attest) and if anyone would like to help Gordon please contact me and I will put you in touch.

A very productive litter pick took place on April 24th in conjunction with the Grasmere Wombles. Thirty-four bags of rubbish, plus assorted car parts were collected with special attention being paid to Dunmail Raise and the lake shore. Grasmere Wombles is a WhatsApp group set up by Andy Astle and now has more than 40 members. Litterers beware!

Enjoy the Summer months. Be safe, be careful but most importantly lift your eyes and marvel at this beautiful, unique village of ours.

Next committee meeting on Tuesday June 15th at 8pm.

Nick McCraith (Chairman)

Grasmere Community Food Bank

We are grateful for your continued and generous support for the Food Bank.

As always food donations can be left at Grasmere Co-op, and both cash and toiletry items can be left at Grasmere Pharmacy. Cash donations enable us to buy fresh produce to supplement store cupboard items. This makes a massive difference to the quality and usefulness of our parcels.

Items we are short of include coffee, hot chocolate, squash, tinned meat, tuna, pasta sauce, curry sauce, chocolate biscuits, cheese biscuits, crisps, washing powder, washing-up liquid, cleaning products, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Please continue to give whatever you can, it really makes a difference.

If you could do with a helping hand or are aware of anyone that does please reach out to us in total confidence.

Nicola Ablitt 07725 057153

Will Clark 015394-35070 07435 596596

Vicky Hughes 07960 590531

*Ambleside Parish Centre for support/financial advice 015394-34172 email:
admin@amblesidepc.org.uk*

Grasmere Sports - 29th August 2021



I only wish that I had a crystal ball and could give a definitive message about the 2021 Sports!

Thankfully we had a good spell of weather and the drainage work on the Sports Field has been completed and the area returned to normal – work has also finished on the fellside opposite the Sports Field and the land drains are back in working order over there too.

The Directors remain determined that the 2021 Sports should go ahead if at all possible and planning has been going on with that aim in mind. With the increasing uncertainty at the time of writing, about the roadmap out of lockdown and the regulations that events will have to comply with, we can only say keep an eye on the website at www.grasmeresports.com where we will post all the latest news about the Sports 2021 and any changes that we will have to make to the usual format to allow them to go ahead. We will make it happen if we can!

Deborah Black, Manager, Grasmere Sports

Swifts in Grasmere

By the time you read this, the swifts will be on their way back to us for the summer.

For the last couple of years, volunteers have been recording their numbers.

If you would like to join in with counts, have information about where they are nesting, or would like more information, please contact Jane Cooper via swiftsingrasmere@protonmail.com or on 07763 465 034.



Last year the first sighting was on the 4th May and then regular sightings of groups of 6-10 birds across the valley with a maximum of 13-14 birds in one group at any one time.

There were two confirmed nest sites in the south west facing wall opposite the Daffodil, and suspected nesting in the centre of the village near the Red Lion. Previous nest sites appeared not to have been used in 2020.

Groups seen over the lake were regularly 20+, particularly at the end of the season, when migrating birds seem to use the Dunmail - Grasmere - Rydal corridor.

For ease of identification swifts are all dark birds, without any white on them. They nest inside building walls and roofs, so you can't see the actual nest unlike those of swallows and house martins.

This summer look up to the skies! And enjoy! *Jane Cooper*

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER June 2021

This Newsletter is produced to inform the residents of the Parish about the work of the Parish Council over the last few months and to inform you of the role undertaken by your unpaid Parish Councillors on your behalf. The Parish Council welcome any feedback from this Newsletter and any contributions that people would like to make to the next one.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Annual meeting of the Council took place on Monday 17th May together with the Annual Parish Meeting where the Chairman gave her report on the year [see below]. The next meetings will be on 7th June and 28th June provisionally in Grasmere Village Hall to fulfil social distancing while meeting indoors. The public cannot attend in person due to occupancy restrictions but are welcome to participate using Zoom technology on request to the Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

Lakes Parish Council generally meet twice monthly on a Wednesday evening with meetings beginning at 6.30pm. However this has been problematic throughout the Covid emergency. We hope to get back to some normality in September this year. The Council is governed by Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, adopted from those promulgated by the National Association of Local Councils. Councillors must adhere to these rules and regulations when coming to their decisions. Contrary to television programmes like 'The Vicar of Dibley', the Council is not a talking shop and is not there to further any individual's personal agenda. All Councillors must declare their local interests that will include land owned within the Parish, shares held in Companies, contracts held with Local Authorities and even similar interests held by members of their families. They must also sign the required Declaration form that is then published on the South Lakeland District Council website for all to see. Elected Councillors MUST declare any personal and prejudicial interests at every meeting.

THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Councillor Mrs Louise Waterhouse was re-elected Chairman of Lakes Parish Council. She thanked Councillors for their confidence in her Chairmanship and looked forward to the new municipal year which will hopefully be better than the last one. Councillor Brian Hewitt was re-elected as Vice Chairman. The new Chairman of the Finance and Outside Projects Committee is Cllr Paul Wileman. Cllr Philip Thompson has stood down from his Finance Chairman role which he has valiantly performed for the past 9 years.

Cllr Gilly Hodkinson has replaced Cllr Leslie Johnson on the University Liaison Group.

Charlene Bell, the new Clerk to the Council introduced herself to the Meeting.

Members agreed to co-opt Juliet Cunningham to the vacant Councillor post for Langdales Ward.

There is now a vacancy at Grasmere and anyone interested in being co-opted to the Council should write to the Clerk as soon as possible indicating why they feel they have the ability and attributes to take on the role of an unpaid Parish Councillor.

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Your County Councillor is Will Clark who lives in Grasmere. In Lakes Parish, one County Councillor is elected to serve the community. This is very important as many of the complaints received in the Parish Office relate directly to those services provided by Cumbria County Council.

Included in the list are highways, roadside verges, street lighting, pavements (or lack of them), potholes, education matters, social services and waste recycling. Your County Councillor is invited to every Parish Council Meeting where he is made aware, at grass roots level, of current local issues.

There was due to be an election this year for the County Council but it has been postponed as proposals for the new Unitary Authority for Cumbria are considered by the Government.

LAKES PARISH HANDYMAN

Robin Lees continues his excellent work in the Parish to reach those areas which are overlooked or neglected by the principal authorities. Jobs done recently include litter picking hedgerows from Waterhead to Wansfell Road, Rothay Holme car park, the layby near Skelwith Bridge on the A593, work in Chapel Stile, central Ambleside lanes and hedgerows, visits to Grasmere include litter picking Stock Lane. Litter picking as well in Clappersgate, Nook Lane, pathways Borrans Road to Lake Road, Low Fold car park, Old Lake Road, Compston Street, assessment of Troutbeck Village and clearance of laybys

including three en route to the Low Wood Hotel and Waterhead car park/beach. Robin works from Dunmail Raise to Troutbeck Bridge and out to the Langdales, a huge area of responsibility. There was a significant problem at White Moss lower car park where people discarded full dog poo bags in the hope someone else would pick them up. However, in partnership with Lowther Estates and Glasdon, we have helped alleviate the problem with the installation of two dog poo bins. Glasdon supplied them, Lowther installed them and Robin empties them on a monthly basis. The Handyman only works for 10 hours a week so cannot get to everything immediately. To compliment the work of Robin we have employed a 'Parish Steward' who now works 1 day a week and will undertake heavier work throughout the Parish and will also look after the flower beds and grassed area at Waterhead.

LAKES PARISH TOILET MUSINGS

For the past 9 years the Council has operated a number of public conveniences in the Parish. Not all, but most of them. There have been ups and downs, but generally we

have succeeded after the District Council decided to divest itself of responsibility for this vital public service. At Lakes Parish we have had to balance the budget for keeping these toilets open with a small charge of 20p. The cheapest in the Lake District and even wider afield. We even kept them open throughout the Covid pandemic, the only local authority in the area to do this. Unfortunately Covid has had a major impact on the income received from the toilets and the Council has decided that it is now time to increase the entry fee to 40p. White Platts is the only exception and will remain at 20p. Chapel Stile and Rothay Park will remain free to enter. The Council has also decided that all our public conveniences will now be contactless entry only. There were a number of issues that have brought this into being, not least the use of contactless payment generated nationally throughout the country by the Covid pandemic. Collecting, carrying, sanitising, counting and banking coin is a dirty business and this has also influenced the Council in coming to its contactless decision. A big thank you to the Rollitt family in Grasmere who look after the Moss Parrock toilets in a dedicated and hands on way. Also to Lakes Loos Ltd who look after our Ambleside conveniences and Langdale Estates who clean Chapel Stile toilets.

SO ITS GOODBYE FROM HIM AND HELLO TO HER

Every edition of the Parish Newsletter from the 'Pink Un' to the Parish magazines has been produced and edited by Michael Johnson, the Parish Clerk. Michael was appointed as Clerk in October 2004 and is finally retiring, clocking his 17th year as Clerk at the end of September. This may be his last effort. Unfortunately, due to circumstances, it has to be a much truncated effort but, hopefully he has managed to keep everyone in touch with Parish Council goings on over the years. So its goodbye to him and hello to Charlene Bell from Patterdale, just over the Hill!! Charlene has excellent financial qualifications and is an experienced Clerk to Patterdale Parish Council. I am sure she will take on the job of the Newsletter with her usual professionalism and we wish her and the readers of this newsletter all the very best for the future. *Michael Johnson*

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2020/2021

It is hard to believe two years have passed since our last AGM, but the world certainly changed.

For over a year now we have managed to keep the Council functioning, albeit in an altogether different and challenging form. We have also fulfilled our statutory planning duties submitting planning responses, within the allotted time, to LDNPA.

After the first lockdown, with full Covid precautions in place, we tentatively reopened White Platts for a shortened season and I am pleased to report that the income from this helped to keep our estate of public toilets functioning.

We received praise for being the only Authority to keep toilets open in central Lakes throughout the various lockdowns. These toilets were used by local people and essential workers in the area when nothing else was available due to cafes, pubs etc. being closed.

I must single out two Councillors for special mention.

Councillor Vivienne Rees who has represented Grasmere ward for over 20 years, but who retired recently due to ill health. We thank her for her great contribution to the Lakes Parish community.

Councillor Phillip Thompson whose dedication to Ambleside has been above and beyond the call of duty. Again, many thanks to both of you.

We welcome our new Clerk in waiting Charlene Bell, who lives in Patterdale, and is currently Clerk to Patterdale Parish Council. Charlene takes over from Michael Johnson.

Michael retires officially on the 30th September after 17 years as Clerk to Lakes Parish Council. We shall of course be having an official recognition of his loyal service to the Council when Covid restrictions allow. *Cllr Louise Waterhouse, Chairman, May 2021*

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Grasmere Ward

Cllr Ella Footit 015394 35918

Cllr Paul Truelove 015394 35200

Vacancy

Rydal and Loughrigg Ward

Cllr Gilly Hodgkinson 015394 33516

Cllr Will Clark 07919 298671

Langdales Ward

Cllr Jean Birkett 015394 37237

Cllr Paul Martyn 015394 33165

Cllr Juliet Cunningham

Lakes Parish Council

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Kelsick Road

Ambleside

LA22 0BZ

Telephone/Fax 015394 31656

Email – lakesparish@icloud.com

Webpage www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish

*Upon the Forest-side in Grasmere Vale
There dwelt a Shepherd, Michael was his name
An old man, stout of heart, and strong of limb.
His bodily frame had been from youth to age
Of an unusual strength: his mind was keen
Intense and frugal, apt for all affairs,
And in his Shepherd's calling he was prompt
And watchful more than ordinary men.
Hence he had learned the meaning of all winds,
Of blasts of every tone, and often-times
When others heeded not, He heard the South
Make subterraneous music, like the noise
Of Bagpipers on distant Highland hills;
The Shepherd, at such warning, of his flock
Bethought him, and he to himself would say
The winds are now devising work for me!
And truly at all times the storm, that drives
The Traveller to a shelter, summoned him
Up to the mountains: he had been alone
Amid the heart of many thousand mists
That came to him and left him on the heights
So lived he till his eightieth year was passed.*

From "Michael", W. Wordsworth, 1800

CALENDAR

May 2021

30 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity Sunday - Holy Communion
	12:00		Annual Parochial Church Meeting

June 2021

3 Thu	14:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Poets
3 Thu	14:00	Wordsworth Trust	Walking to Water
6 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 1 - Holy Communion
7 Mon	18:30	Cumb. Univ online	Talk - Folk History in the Lakes
8 Tue	14:00	See notice boards	Knit & Nat
10 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI talk
10 Thu	20:00	Zoom	Book Group
13 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 2 - Holy Communion
15 Tue	20:00		GVS committee
17 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful chat
17 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Discover Poetry
20 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 3 - Holy Communion
22 Tue	14:00	See notice boards	Knit & Nat
23 Wed	19:30	Zoom	"Go to the Poets"
24 Thu	14:00	Moss Parrock	Grasmere Ramble
26 Sat	11:00	St. Oswald's	Wedding
27 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 4 - Holy Communion

July 2021

1 Thu	16:00	Zoom	Dove Cottage Poets
2 Fri	12:30	Kendal Church	Organ Recital
4 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 5 - Holy Communion
8 Thu	14:00	Wordsworth Trust	WI tour
8 Thu	20:00	Zoom	Book Group

10 Sat		Online	Rushbearing
11 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 6 - Holy Communion
13 Tue	14:00	See notice boards	Knit & Nat
15 Thu	14:00	Zoom	WI Cheerful chat
15 Thu	19:30	Zoom	Discover Poetry
16 Fri	12:00	St. Oswald's	Memorial Service Joan Rowe
18 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 7 - Holy Communion
21 Wed	19:30	Zoom	"Go to the Poets"
22 Thu	14:00	Moss Parrock	Grasmere Ramble
22 Thu	14:00	Wordsworth Trust	Dorothy's Summer Garden
23 Fri	11:00	St. Oswald's	School end of term Worship
25 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 8 - Holy Communion
27 Tue	14:00	See notice boards	Knit & Nat
30 Fri		Ambleside	Lake District Summer Music to 8th Aug
31 Sat	12:00	St. Oswald's	Wedding
August 2021			
1 Sun	11:00	St. Oswald's	Trinity 9 - Holy Communion
5 Thu	10:00	St. Oswald's	St. Oswald's day - HC
7 Sat	11:00	St. Oswald's	Wedding

Rotas for St. Oswald's

Sidesmen for July:

4th Jul	John Rickman, Helen Bunfield
11th Jul	David Dodgson, Pat Taylor
18th Jul	June Maddison, Kay Adkins
25th Jul	John Rickman, Sonia Rickman
1st Aug	John Rickman, Helen Bunfield

Joan Rowe RIP

Joan Rowe was for many years a worshipper at St. Oswald's until poor health prevented her from attending. Her memorial service will be on Friday 16th July at 12.00.

Contactless Donation Pilot Project

More than 100 churches have been nominated for a national contactless donation project, which is to be piloted in the Diocese of Carlisle for a year.

Around 115 Anglican churches will receive a free contactless giving unit. Monthly charges will not be charged for the first year, though a small commission will be deducted by the payments processor from each donation. After 12 months, the units would cost around £10/month with an option to return them without charge.

The Church of England's National Giving team will support churches throughout the pilot. The National team's experience so far is that contactless donations are, on average, three times the value of cash donations, which makes this pilot an exciting opportunity for churches as they work towards a fuller reopening of their buildings. *Carlisle Diocese Newsletter, 30 April 2021.*

Grasmere is one of the churches selected for the trial. As we go to press, the unit is expected by the end of May. Eds.



My energy bill really shot up last month. I don't feel like I've been using any more heating or electricity than usual, so I'm worried I'm being overcharged. I've tried to contact my energy supplier for support, but no one ever seems to answer the phone or respond to my emails. I've waited on hold for nearly an hour several times before giving up. What should I do?

It's normal for your energy bills to change depending on the time of year and how much gas and electricity you're using. But if your bills seem strangely high, then it's important to investigate why.

Firstly, check your meter is working properly and your usage has definitely not gone up, even accidentally. Also check what heaters you have and whether you're using them correctly. Night storage radiators and immersion heaters in particular can cause very high bills if used incorrectly.

There are a few things worth looking into. It could be that your bill is an estimate, in which case you need to give your supplier a new meter reading. If it's not an estimate, check your last meter reading to see if it matches the one on your bill. If you still don't have an answer, your supplier might have raised their prices. In any case, you're doing the right thing to contact them.

Customer service varies between suppliers and unfortunately we hear of many bad experiences similar to yours. We also know the problem has worsened during the pandemic. If you're struggling to get through to them, you could make a formal complaint. We offer advice on how to do this and things to consider first.

We publish a comparison table every three months which rates suppliers' customer service, based on things like telephone wait time, email response time and the accuracy of their bills. Have a look for yours to see how they fare against others. If they're low on the list, consider switching to a different one.

If you'd like to talk it through with someone, contact South Lakes Citizens Advice.

Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice on any aspect of debt, consumer problems, benefits, housing, employment or any other problems.

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

Adviceline: 03444 111 444

Submit a request on our website www.southlakescab.org.uk

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

CONTACTS

St Oswald's Parish Church **Church Stile, Grasmere LA22 9SW**

Priest-in-charge: The Rev. David Wilmot
St. Mary's Vicarage, Ambleside Road, Windermere LA23 1BA
Tel: 07305 777113 email: rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals - please contact David

Wardens: Mrs Sonia Rickman, Tel: 015394 35603
email: sonia.rickman@yahoo.com

Mrs Helen Bunfield

Treasurer: Mr John Rickman

Organist: Mr Ian Hare MA MusB 017684 83886 ian.c.hare@outlook.com

Church Website: stoswaldsgrasmere.uk

Other church contacts

Rydal St. Mary's Churchwarden Pam Coates 015394 32449

Methodist Minister: Deacon Maggie Patchett, 1 Applerigg,
Patterdale Road, Windermere LA23 1EW Tel: 015394 42971
Email: deaconmaggie@slakesmethodist.org.uk.

Roman Catholic Priest:

Father Darren Carden, Our Lady's Church, Lake Road, Windermere,
LA23 2EQ. Tel: 015394 33027

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

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Dove Cottage • Garden-Orchard • Café • Museum • Events



Free admission to Grasmere residents

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Be inspired by his words in the very place they were written.

Find out more and book tickets: wordsworth.org.uk

Dove Cottage. Photograph: Gareth Gardner