

GRASMERE

PARISH

MAGAZINE



December 2022-January 2023

MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Editorial Policy

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 and the views expressed are those of the author. The Magazine is produced by St Oswald's PCC on behalf of the community and the Editors and PCC reserve the right to use their discretion in finalising the content. Please see the website <https://oswaldparish.news> for our policy and copyright notices.

Copy Date

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Please email your copy to the Editors at: editor@oswaldparish.news

Copy should be submitted in Word usually in *Calibri 11pt A5 size*

Past editions are available on our website: <https://oswaldparish.news>

Advertising in the Magazine

Yearly rates for single column ads up to 2" in the back pages. We can also take one or two half-page ads in the main pages of individual issues. If you would like to advertise, please contact the Editors.

The new Editors are David and Ann Jackman. Apologies in advance for any errors or omissions, we will learn!

FROM THE VICARAGE

Don't be afraid.

In a memorable phrase, the old Christmas Carol has a wonderful way of recounting the story of the angels' appearance to the shepherds: "Fear not", said he, "for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds". Clearly, when God turned up, they were startled and frightened. We might say that's understandable! But, this insistence that we shouldn't be afraid is one of the key themes of the Christmas story. The angels seem to go to great lengths to calm the Shepherds. And Gabriel memorably told Mary, "Don't be afraid, Mary for you have found favour with God". My point is that this is such a familiar theme that I rather think their words are meant for a wider audience, one which includes the likes of you and me.

After all, fear seems to haunt the steps of so many of us these days. There's the fear of what others will think of us; the inflated fear of going out late at night, fear for the future, fear for loved ones, fear for our job, fear of death. We seem to carry a million and one worries. And what makes it worse is that all too often our image of God is one based on fear.

Our attitude towards Him is so often reminiscent of those times when your-teacher went out of the room and as they were coming back, someone said "Sssh!" And it's all reinforced by this notion that 'He's somehow looking down on us' as the song says, "From a distance".

I wonder whether the time has come to appreciate that the Christmas story is actually an antidote to all of this fear! The Christmas story, it seems to me, offers us a very different picture of God from the fear-ridden caricature many of us live with. He is one who comes among us in a totally unthreatening way. His messengers say, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good News, of great joy, for to you is born a Saviour" (Luke 2). Yes, the child Jesus of course grew to manhood and challenged us profoundly to begin to live our lives with God. But His first words to us are "Don't be afraid". His first words are about an end to all the fears we carry.

This is indeed the season of Peace and Good will. But first and foremost is the season of *God's* peace and *God's* good will to a frightened people. As another Christmas Carol puts it: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" Happy Christmas!

David

You, your family and friends
are warmly invited to
Worship this Christmas
at
St. Oswald's Grasmere and
St. Mary's Rydal



Luke 2:14

Tuesday 20th December

7.00pm Christmas Carol Service at St. Oswald's, Grasmere

Friday 23rd December

7.00pm Christmas Carol Service at St. Mary's, Rydal

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christmas Carols at Moss Parrock
with the Village Band

11.00pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity (St Oswald's)

Christmas Day

9.30am Family Eucharist - with Christmas Carols (St. Mary's)

11.00am Family Eucharist- with Christmas Carols (St Oswald's)

NEWS

Community Parish Lunch

St Oswald's congregation have started a quarterly Parish Meal for anyone who would like to come to share a meal and conversation. There is no charge but a donation is welcome. The Autumn lunch was very successful with 48 sitting down for Sausage Casserole followed by Apple cake.

Come and join us at the next one, a **New Year's Parish Lunch** in the Village Hall on **Sunday 22nd January at 1pm**. Tickets will be available from Barney's from 8th Jan 2023.

Books Needed

Are you keen to have a sort out this Spring? Anyone with unwanted books in fair condition? St Oswald's Church has a book table that sells unwanted books for Church Funds. Please leave your books at the back of Church. Thank you!



All Good Wishes!



The Rev Canon Cameron Butland, Chaplain to the Bishop of Carlisle, has announced that he will retire in January 2023. He will step back from the role he has held since October 2015, having served as the Rector of Grasmere and Rydal parishes from 2003.

Whilst moving to the Peak District, Cameron will continue to work part time in support of the Bishop and his team.

We wish Cameron and Alison a very happy retirement in their new home.

Grasmere Village Hall

At the time of writing, the diary for Grasmere Village Hall for November shows only one day without a booking, with some days having more than one. The uses are varied - physical activity, regular meetings (such as WI, Fellowship), Grasmere Players rehearsals, POGS, to name a few. It provided a quiet place after Remembrance Sunday services; and will soon welcome local Beavers for a less quiet overnight stay! The recent Halloween party saw 63 costumed children and parents enjoying games and a 'scary corner'. Not to forget Wednesday morning coffee!

The very idea of the hall being a place for people to come to keep warm in winter would have been considered absurd just a few years ago, but the new heating and kitchen, lift- enabled access and accessible toilet make the hall a very attractive and welcoming space.

The hall is a registered charity managed by a group of local people acting as volunteer trustees, and as the Chair I can tell you they are dedicated and hard-working people, giving their skills and time freely. At present, the trustees are Andy Astle, Sam Dixon, Stephen Dodd, David Johnson, Andrew Leech, Graham Magennis, Pam Moreland, Paul Mosey, Sharon Savasi, Carrie Taylor and Steve Watts. A recently joined trustee said to me: 'I would just like to say how happy I am that I am a Trustee of the hall! Especially a member with such a bunch of lovely people ...amazing!' There are many ways to become involved - and not just as a trustee. Please get in touch if you're interested, or if you have a comment to make on what we are doing. Our wish is to see people using and enjoying the hall - we're delighted by the busy November. For the first time, the trustees have organised evenings of music and theatre and a craft workshop, and hope to do so again in the spring.

Finally, words of thanks. A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated so very generously to the Christmas raffle. Thank you to the people who support the hall, especially the regulars. I'd also like to thank Carrie Taylor for managing the hall bookings. We are soon to launch an online booking system which whilst efficient, will lack the warmth and personal touch that is uniquely Carrie's.

Jeff Cowton, Chair enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk | 015394 35628

MUSIC NOTES

As can clearly be seen, work on the organ has begun, and most of it has been taken away to Nicholson's workshop for cleaning, repair or replacement of parts, as required. Although my predecessor, Stephen Mott, had assembled a file about possible improvements to the organ, it was in November 2017 that the distinguished organ consultant Paul Hale visited Grasmere and compiled a detailed report. Estimates were obtained from three reputable organ builders, and Nicholson & Co. Ltd. were selected, as offering the best quality and value. Meanwhile we have a Viscount Prestige IX digital organ to tide us over for the next few months.

Plans are in hand for our Service of Lessons and Carols, which will take place this year on **Tuesday 20th December at 7.00 p.m.** A voluntary choir will be in attendance, and I would be pleased to hear from anyone else who would like to take part.

Recently, a faithful member of the church choir, Tony Champion, has passed away, and his contribution, both musical and personal, will be greatly missed.

A Tribute:

Tony

Champion



This is a very personal record of Tony Champion, his life, his gifts, and his personality. I may say that I count it an enormous privilege to do this.

The most important feature of his life was his Christian faith; this doubtless was his 'guiding light' that made him the person he was. He was a regular worshipper in the Church of England; this fed and sustained him throughout his life.

He was fortunate in receiving a Public School education at Shrewsbury School and then going on to pursue this further education at the University of Oxford. He was to be involved in academia most of his life.

His career was in Education, serving as a school Master. Even in his retirement, he maintained his link in taking school assemblies. He had this remarkable gift of really communicating with children. The kids just loved him! Furthermore, he served as chairman of the board of governors of Ambleside school.

The feature that figured most prominently in my memory was his role as a communicator. In all my life as a clergyman, I never heard anyone read the lessons in public worship better than Tony. His concerns were for our Understanding and his Clarity. As for understanding, he would preface his reading by giving a brief introduction as to what the passage was all about. As regards clarity, he had grasped the 'mechanics' of speaking in public either by training or by second nature; speed, pitch, articulation, emphasis, incisiveness (no dropped consonants) etc; in this he had it all.

He was a great lover of classical music; his knowledge of the subject was wide-ranging and quite profound. He had, I recall, a large CD collection. Indeed, he occasionally conducted seminars about music, two of which I well remember. He made it all so interesting. His great love of music found expression in choral music; he was both a member of Grasmere Church Choir and the Ambleside and District Choral Society.

Tony was a great lover of the mountains, of our Lake District, often fellwalking alone, which seem to indicate something of his personality. This love of mountains extended as far afield as the Swiss Alps. It may not be generally known but he made at least three major Alpine ascents; the Schreckhorn (4078 m), the Finsteraarhorn (4273 m) and that awesome giant, the Matterhorn (4478 m).

I never felt that I got really close to Tony as a friend. There remained that very private part of his personality, which I never reached. He never knew this but secretly, I always looked up to him and admired him. Such was his humility; he would never have dreamt of this possibility. As, I look back across his life, I chiefly remember him as a man of Faith and - a Communicator.

Reverend Derek Hall

Grasmere Book Group

Grasmere book group's recent reads have been remarkably different. In October, the group read Alison Bechdel's Eisner-award winning comic book memoir of childhood and coming of age in rural Pennsylvania at the family funeral home, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. This was timed to tie in with the Lakes International Comic Art Festival (LICAF). The group discussed how realistic drawings might make an account appear more explicit, with some very good debates on when something was inferred or needed less deduction! November's meeting tackled a Scandinavian thriller by Finnish artist and writer, Tove Jansson (best known for creating 'The Moomins'). Jansson's *The True Deceiver* is set in the winter snows of a Nordic hamlet, where a strange young woman fakes a break-in at the house of an elderly artist to persuade her that she needs companionship. The group enjoyed and were puzzled by this cleverly crafted tale, where it's hard to pin down who is deceiving who. Our final meeting of the year is on 8th December when we're reading *Murder On A Winter's Night*, a collection of classic crime stories with a seasonal theme. Edited by Cecily Gayford, it contains stories from Dorothy L. Sayers, Margery Allingham, Arthur Conan Doyle and many more.

In the New Year, the group begins anew, with our traditional crowd-sourcing of future reads. On 12th January, we'll hold a zoom meeting all about gathering reading suggestions for 2023. If there are books you've always wanted to read, good reads you've wanted to share or things you've heard good reports about then do let us know, either on the night or by emailing: dr.will.smith@me.com . The only thing we try and focus on is that the title is in print and in paperback. All suggestions will be considered and then whittled into the eleven slots.

Book group meets online at 8pm on the second Thursday of every month. If you'd like to join us for a meeting, do email and we can send you a Zoom link. All are welcome and do feel free to join in, if and when it suits. Members often join in from Easedale to Ottawa and from Hawkshead to Kendal.

A reminder, all book group books are available from Sam Read's at 10% discount off the r.r.p. Polly and Will – dr.will.smith@me.com

GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE COLLECTION - UPDATE

Please may we pass on our grateful thanks to all those who gave to our recent Great North Air Ambulance Service clothes collection. You gave 250 bags of preloved items which weighed in at a magnificent 1212 kg. Thanks also to Laura Firth for offering Ambleside Parish Centre as the collection point on November 9th.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service depends solely on charitable donations. Each life saving flight costs £5000. In 2021 it cost £6.7m to run this charity; next year it will be closer to £8 million. Your 250 bags raised an amazing £1200 for the vital work of GNAAS so thank you so much!

The next collection will be on **Wednesday 25th January** at Ambleside Parish Centre or drop bags either at Banerigg or in Will's car port before then. Once again we will be looking for clothing, bedding (not duvets or pillows please), curtains, belts, towels, mobile phones, ink cartridges and shoes tied in pairs. Sadly no books DVDs or brick-a-brack.

With our thanks, Will Clark 07435596596 Angela Clark 07548251235

Ambleside Brownies

We enjoyed a wonderful 100th Birthday celebration in September and ex-Brownies and Leaders gathered together to enjoy a presentation and photos of all the activities we have undertaken.

We now look forward to the next 100 years! If anyone would like to join us at Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers please look on the Girlguiding website or contact Kath on 07792861020.

We would also like to thank the members of the Co op who helped Rainbows and Brownies raise massive amounts for use by the units therefore allowing us to enjoy a range of activities and outings.

Kath Travis

GRASMERE VILLAGE SOCIETY

As 2022 staggers to a close we reflect on a tumultuous year. The war in Ukraine has been devastating and has affected us all. We have also lost our Queen, the only monarch most of us have known in our lifetime and the Platinum Jubilee festivities were a fitting celebration of her life.

Closer to home the Society, and Simon Hey in particular, has been working hard to finalise the Grasmere village emergency plan. This should be completed soon and a leaflet to every property in the village will give important details. Some members of our community may be at greater risk of harm in an emergency due to location of dwelling, age or health. We decided that the single most important thing within the village is neighbourliness and no amount of planning can replace this.

Negotiations with the National Trust to plant trees in and around the village are ongoing and hopefully some planting will begin soon. Some funding is in place and the village Co-op has accepted us as one of its charities for the forthcoming year. If you are a Co-op member please consider going online and requesting that a contribution from your purchases goes to this cause.

Bonfire night was celebrated with a bonfire, fireworks, and refreshments. The GVS was pleased to be a co-sponsor of the event which, as ever, was splendidly organised by the Buffs.

I am writing this before the Christmas Fair takes place but by the time you read this I'm sure that we will be reflecting on another successful event thanks to the hard work of a lot of people. This year the raffle has some amazing prizes donated by businesses and individuals. I hope you are one of the lucky winners! Finally, on behalf of the Society I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year. *Nick McCraith* (Chairman)

The next meeting: **Tuesday December 6th at 8pm** in the Reading Rooms

Getting to Know Our Parish Councillors

Do you know the name of our parish council?

Do you know the name of our parish councillors?

Do you know what they can do for our community?

**Next year, on the first Saturday of
January, February and March
between 10:00-12:00 in Grasmere Village Hall,
your Parish councillors,
Sharon Savasi, Will Clark and Andy Astle
will hold a drop in “surgery” where you can ask
questions about what we do, any concerns you may
have about our community and any suggestions how
we can help improve it.**

Please join us for a chat, tea, coffee and biscuits.

Sharon, Will & Andy

Knit and Nat - Apologies for non inclusion in the last edition.

Perhaps you will realise that I had a bit too much to contend with at the time! The drop-in sessions continue twice monthly in the Reading Rooms from 2-4 pm every second and fourth Tuesday. So, **Dec 13th and Dec 27th** (watch the notice board on that one!) and **January 10th and 24th**. Hot drinks and a nibble are to hand. Donations towards the Reading Room for heating are encouraged.

Our production levels have not been quite so prolific this year, but we have enjoyed helping Allan Bank and other Village Societies to create displays, together with our annual contributions to the Christmas shoe boxes and premature baby necessities. We continue to miss Christine Batey, never a session goes by without mentioning her, always with a smile. Sharon Savasi will be coordinating with others the next five months so please do get in touch.

Grasmere Players Present:

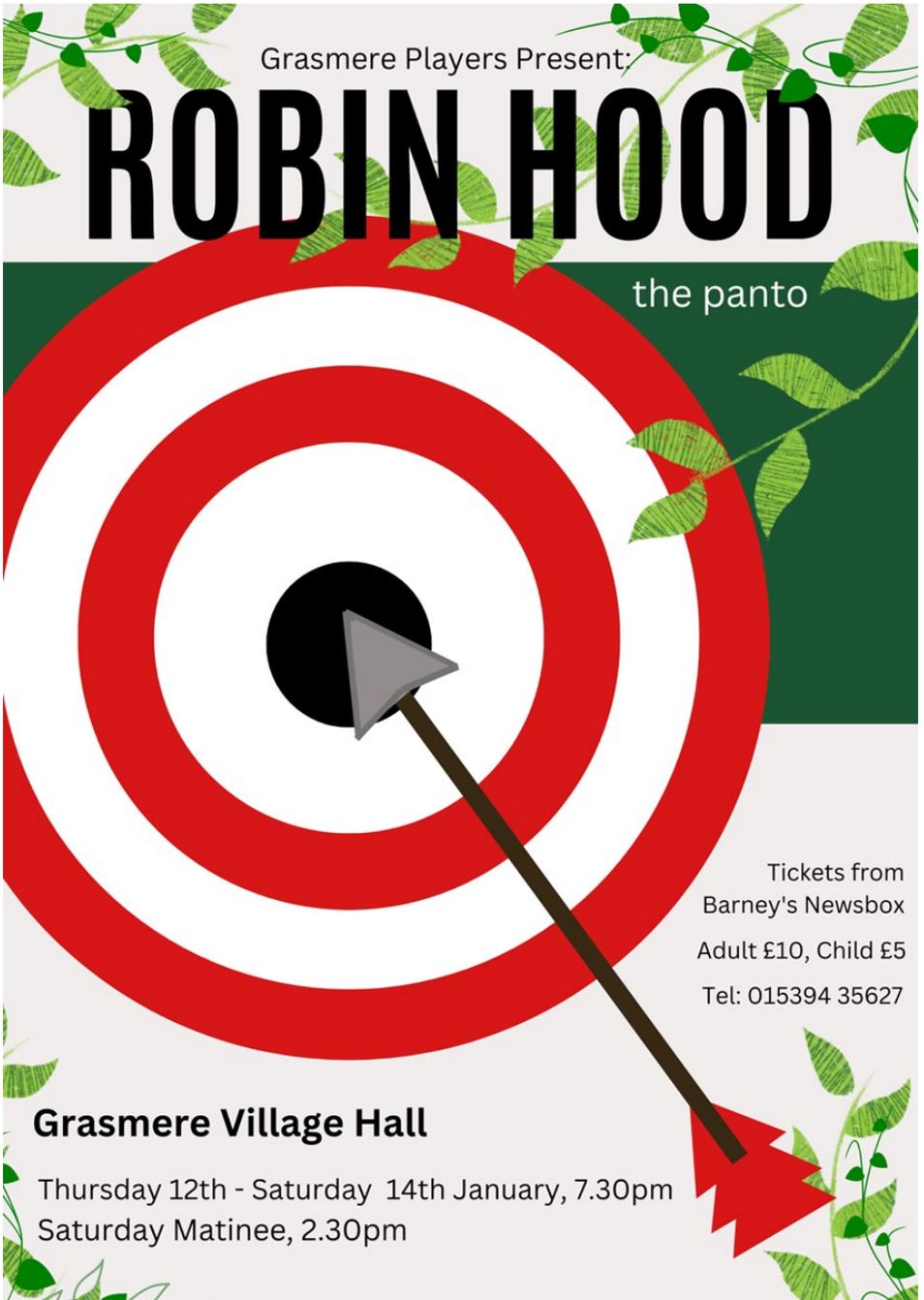
ROBIN HOOD

the panto

Tickets from
Barney's Newsbox
Adult £10, Child £5
Tel: 015394 35627

Grasmere Village Hall

Thursday 12th - Saturday 14th January, 7.30pm
Saturday Matinee, 2.30pm



Ambleside Choral Society

Christmas Concert at 7.30pm in St Mary' Church on Saturday December 17



Both the joy and poignancy of the Christmas story have inspired musicians down the ages to compose carols, combining some of the loveliest words and melodies ever written. Ambleside & District Choral Society's Christmas Concert at 7.30pm in St Mary' Church on **Saturday December 17** reflects both ancient and modern, with Benjamin Britten's Celebration of Carols (1942) including the joyous and evocative 15th century traditional carol, 'Wolcum Yole'. By contrast, Austrian Joseph Haydn expressed Christmas within the classical formality of a Latin Mass in 1772 in celebration of the feast of St Nicholas, to please his patron, Prince Nikolaus. Finally, celebrating tradition once more will be Gustav Holst's 1910 'Choral Fantasy of Old Carols', Christmas Day.

There will be also be carols for choir and audience. Led by the Society's new Music Director Marco Giudici, the Concert encapsulates all the forthcoming joy and excitement of Christmas time. Marco's predecessor, the much-loved Jolyon Dodgson, will be returning as a vocal soloist and the concert will also feature harpist, Anna Kate Pearson.

Tickets are £15 including refreshments (under 12 free) from Fred's Bookshop or from Choral Society Members.

Coffee and Chat In the Village Hall



The Wednesday gatherings are set to continue. Hurray! The Cumbria Community Fund has awarded us £1,000 to support the *Warm Hub*. We are very grateful for their support. Over the winter Sharon Savasi will be Chief Host, but we are looking for others to host and assist with this growing event in the Hall. Think - if twenty five houses attend each week then 25 less houses are drawing from the National Grid!

I have to thank and applaud the Trustees of the Hall for the courage to trial it for a month to evidence the real need! Let's hope for a possible extension of use in a similar way. For further information contact Sharon.



GRASMERE SCHOOL

School News

All is well at Grasmere School! We are very busy and very full. This year began with 81 children on roll – very healthy numbers. The class sizes are still small, in comparison with national averages, and we have great staff. After some staff changes in the last couple of years, it's been lovely to welcome more local residents into the school team. Our governing body is also flourishing. Several new keen governors joined us in September, all are wonderfully committed, and ambitious for our school.

Our most recent arrivals are a Ukrainian family. I have always appreciated the diversity of our school population. About a quarter of our children have a parent born outside Britain. This diversity is incredibly helpful at the moment, as we can draw on both Russian and Ukrainian speakers to help us out. Thank you so much to these parents and staff members. We've great parent helpers who are supporting trips (this term to Jodrell Bank, Wordsworth Grasmere, The Lindisfarne Gospels at The Laing Gallery, Woodmatters, football tournaments... etc) and clubs.

If anyone else in the community would like to help out, please let us know! It would be particularly good to get a couple more clubs going. Knitting? Cooking? Art? There is nothing more life-affirming than being around young children. Being part of a primary school 'team' may be exhausting, but it involves a great deal of smiling, laughing and wonder. They're amazing, these children, and watching them grow and learn is a privilege.

School lunches have been tricky since Covid. We are indebted to Karen and Rob of Green's Café for having 'plugged the gap' for us when we couldn't find anyone to make lunches. They are two of the kindest people I have ever met. And now we're having an exciting new adventure, going to The Inn for our lunch every day. It's a wonderful experience for the children. The gallop there and back, the comfy chairs, the variety of food they're trying, the interactions with the very kind serving staff, all contribute to a great learning experience. It's been awful weather, but we've found that some of us particularly enjoy the walk on wet days. And the food is delicious! Thank you so much, Chris and the team at The Inn.

We're busy preparing our Christmas nativity production. If you would like to see some Christmas costumes and hear some Christmas music, please come along to **St Oswald's on Tuesday 13th at 2pm**. We're going to have a little concert with teas, coffees and cakes, to say thankyou to everyone in our community. Our actual nativity play is a week later, and I'm afraid that the audience will have to be limited to the families of our children now that we have so many children on roll. Hence the concert on 13th for everyone else! Please do come along.

If you want to keep informed about what we're up to, please keep an eye on our social media, and have a look at our calendar:

<https://www.grasmereschool.com/calendar/>

Plea: We need a clerk to governors. It's not an onerous job, and you get to work with some great people. Please get in touch if you're interested, or have a look on the school website, www.grasmereschool.com.

GRASMERE WEATHER

STOP PRESS. One important meteorological occasion occurred on July 19th this year. Cumbria's *hottest ever day* was recorded in Brampton, with a high of 35.4 C (95.72 F) beating the previous record of 33.1 C at Penrith in 1901. The warm dry weather of August continued into Sept. for several days, but pressure fell between the 5th. and 9th. with heavy, blustery showers. Thunder was noted on the 7th and Levens recorded the highest temp. of 24.2 C. on the 5th. More showers followed from the 10th to the 12th with pressure rising again mid month. The first frost of Autumn was noted at Shap on the 17th, a low of - 1.7. C. Pressure remained high for the 3rd. week, with sunshine and isolated showers. On the 22nd active fronts swept south, bringing a chill to the air. Many weather stations recorded between 60 to 80 mm of rain, as gales moved in on the 30th. Honister recorded 3.74 in on the 30th., but this fell in only four hours, with dramatic results. Wettest Sept. day 30th with 68.5mm or 2.70 in. Total for month 204.8mm or 8.06in. Sept rain days were 18. Last year, 20. Rain days to date 163, Last year 151. Total for year to date 1479.4 mm or 58.26in. Last year 66.24in.

Grasmere and Cumbria Weather Oct. 2022

Oct. was a typical wet, unsettled month in Grasmere, with only one completely dry day on the 18th. The previously driest day after this was Sept. 24th. Statistically in Oct 35% of the winds are south-westerly, 25% are north-easterly and 20% are south-easterly and north-westerly. This is because Atlantic depressions are usually dominant this month. Also the jet stream allows moisture laden winds to be brought here on a regular basis. Periods of heavy rain were the norm, with plenty of thundery showers and brief sunshine mid month. The Met. Office has confirmed that the period from January to September was the hottest first nine months of the year since records began in 1884. This year was another "mast" year, the last one being 2020, although historically this event happens every 5 to 10 years. In a mast year, certain trees and shrubs produce a particular abundance of nuts and fruits, which follow warm, dry Springs and hot Summers. But due to climate change, the frequency of mast years has increased over the past 20 years. Thunder was noted on the 15th and 19th. Writing this on Nov. 8th, this wild weather carries on from Oct. with continual wind and heavy rain. On a positive note, the shortest day isn't that far away.

Wettest Oct. day 4th. 41.8mm or 1.65 in.

Total for month 371.9mm or 14.64in. Last year 23.62 in.

Oct. rain days 28. Last year 28 . In Oct. 2020 also 28

Rain days to date (end Oct.) 191. Last year 179.

Total for year to date (end Oct.) 1851.3 mm or 72.90 in. Last year 89.86in.

Peter Bailey

GRASMERE WI NEWS

In October, Melissa Harwood talked to us about *Eurythmy*, and we tried some moves. In November, Margaret Wilmot demonstrated painting on silk. Thanks to both for really interesting afternoons. The tea and cakes were great too!

Members have really enjoyed visits to Threlkeld for a pub supper and theatre night, and to The Belsfield, Bowness for a superb Federation lunch and talk. We've hosted a quiz afternoon in the Village Hall for the Federation which was a huge success.

With the Wainwright Challenge behind us, some members were asking "What's next?" Jacky Godfrey suggested "Squatting for St Mary's" - 50 squats every day in November! Around 50 people joined in. Photos have been shared of people doing squats on mountains, in Dove Cottage, at Zeff's, the Belsfield and other iconic locations. All good fun and over £2,000 raised for St Mary's Hospice. Challenges are open to everyone. Why not join our Facebook Group "Team Grasmere Supporting St Mary's" for news. Next up—we are looking forward to the return of the February Stepping Challenge!

On **Tuesday 2 December** we are meeting for lunch at Lakeland followed by the Federation Carol Concert at Kendal Parish Church. Our Christmas lunch is **Thursday 8 December** at Tweedies.

Calendar Organiser Myra McCraith has organised an excellent programme for 2023. On **Thursday 12 January** Gill Henwood talks about her recent visit to Uzbekistan. On **Thursday 9 February** Trevor Cooper from the Grasmere Red Squirrel Group will speak. Both meetings start at 2pm in the Village Hall. All visitors are welcome (£5 including tea and cakes).

Our monthly Rambles continue on the 4th Thursday of the month. Meet 2pm outside Sam Reeds. Everyone welcome. The Art group continues but has moved indoors until spring.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. New members very welcome.
Sue Dixon

DECEMBER 2022

- 1 TH 2.30pm Grasmere Fellowship -Steve Watts
2 F 2.00pm WI Kendal Carol Concert

4 Second Sunday of Advent

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
7.00pm Taizé Prayer at St. Mary`s Rydal
6 T 8.00pm GVS Committee Meeting
7 W 10-12pm Coffee and Chat Village Hall
9 F 2.00pm Close Up with Manuscripts at Dove Cottage

11 Third Sunday in Advent

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
11 -3.30 Music & Carols at Allan Bank
13 T 2.00pm School Concert in St. Oswald`s
14 W 10-12pm Coffee and Chat Village Hall
16 F 12.00pm School Christmas Lunch at Rydal Hall

18 Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
20 T 2.00pm School Nativity in St. Oswald`s
2.00 pm Dove Cottage Residents Afternoon
7.00pm St. Oswald`s Christmas Carol Service
23 F 7.00pm St. Mary`s Rydal Christmas Carol Service

24 Christmas Eve - Nativity of the Lord

- 4.00pm Christmas Carols at Moss Parrock with Village Band
11.00pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity at St. Oswald`s

25 **Christmas Day**

9.30am Family Eucharist -Christmas Carols
St Mary's Rydal

11.00am Family Eucharist- Christmas Carols
St. Oswald's

JANUARY 2023

1 First Sunday After Christmas

9.30am Holy Communion St. Mary's Rydal

11.00am Sunday Celebration St. Oswald's

3 T 1.00 pm Grasmere Fellowship Annual Lunch

8 Epiphany of our Lord

9.30am Holy Communion St. Mary's Rydal

11.00am Sunday Celebration St. Oswald's

10 T 2.00pm Knit and Nat

12 Th 2.00pm WI Meeting Gill Henwood

7.30pm Robin Hood

13 F 7.30pm Robin Hood

14 S 2.30 & 7.30pm Robin Hood

15 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Services same as of 8th January

1.00pm St. Oswald's PCC Meeting

16 M 2.00pm St Mary's Rydal PCC Meeting

19 Th 2.30pm Grasmere Fellowship– Maggie Mees

22 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Services same as of 8th January

1.00pm Grasmere Parish Lunch - Village Hall

29 Candlemas

Services same as of 8th January



Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking on the Feast of Stephen... ever wondered who on earth he was? This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a murder in Bohemia. For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor.

But he had enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935. But that was not the end of his story. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, shaping in the High Middle Ages the idea of the 'righteous king'; a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria's envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale. Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the 'Duke' into a 'King', as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas. The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26th December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the King's footprints, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good for the poor.

Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his murder, is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.

GRASMERE REGISTER

Funerals:

We give thanks for the lives of:

John Gordon Footit 11th October

Tony Champion 23rd November

Marriage:

Our congratulations to:

Abigaile Highcock and Liam Walsh

GORDON FOOTIT

I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to everyone for the caring support shown to myself and my family over the last, very difficult, 12 months and the ongoing support I am still being blessed with. The number of mourners at St Oswald's was heart warming as were the abundance of flowers and over a hundred condolence cards I received - a testimony to Gordon's popularity. He will be missed by so many, not only in Grasmere but also in the wider community. I would like to extend a special thanks to my neighbour, Sonia Rickman, who in her own inimitable way acknowledged the help we needed at the appropriate times.

Thank you to you all.

Ella

Dear Friends Remembered

Several members of our village community have passed away during the last year. Some were life-long residents, others of long residency. As the year closes it seems appropriate to think of them all. Apologies for any names that may have been omitted in error.

It was a great shock to us all when **Debbie Brown** passed away in January after a short illness. Her husband Adrian was from Langdale but many years ago they happily settled in Grasmere, at Benfield. Debbie's friendly greetings and cheery nature are much missed by many in the parish.

On the same day we also lost **Malcolm Rylance**, husband of Andrea (nee Reekie). Malcolm was brought up in Rainford, Merseyside. He moved to Grasmere about 35 years ago and was employed mainly in hospitality with many years at Dale Lodge and Tweedies. He died after many years of poor health.

David Perrem at Barney's, who died in March, had served us newspapers from dawn to dusk. David's friendly manner helped us in many ways. A Devonian by birth and a keen runner, David and his family came to Grasmere many years ago and soon became well-known and respected in the village community.

Ann Dalzell died in April just three months short of her 100th birthday. Part of an old Grasmere family, she was born at Roundhill and died in Highfield. Ann was a great athlete in her teens and an ardent walker for most of her life. Being an excellent cook, Ann was persuaded by Neville and Muriel Meats to become their head cook at Moss Grove Hotel for many years.

We lost a real village stalwart in **Christine Batey** who passed away in May. She came to Grasmere around forty years ago when marrying Dennis. A well-respected teacher at Grasmere School she also ran the Sunday School in the Tithebarn. She and Dennis were loyal Church Bellringers and for many years provided joyful bells ringing around the valley.

She was a valued trustee for the village's Great Cross housing trust as well as being quietly active in several village organisations.

Eleanor May Wilson, Maisie to those who knew her, died in May. She came to Grasmere after the war as the 19 year old bride of John Wilson of the family ironmongers business. Maisie, always a shy person, worked in the Ironmongers for some years until her two daughters were born. She died aged 96 at Winterseeds which had been her home with John for over sixty years.

Graham Taylor also passed away in May. He was perhaps best known for opening, with his new wife Carrie, Outdoor World, one of the village's first outdoor boot and clothing shops. Graham learnt his trade in Ambleside where he was born. He returned to the village of his maternal ancestors about 50 years ago and became valued in many village functions over the years.

We lost **Gordon Footit** in September after a brave battle with ill health. A lifelong resident of Grasmere and pupil of the village school he went on to become a talented designer of woodwork turning machinery. Gordon was a quiet supporter of many aspects of Grasmere village life from choirboy, Boy's Club, Darts and Dominoes, Royal Observers and was a dedicated worker for the Rushbearing, which he held close to his heart. He was active in the Fellowship, and with Ella, the Age UK lunches.

We have also just lost **Frank Clarkson** in November. He and Anne moved here from Dalton, first living in a small flat at the crumbling Rothay Hotel, now The Wordsworth. They moved up to Score Crag around fifty years ago. Frank has been carrying out his fine plastering skills in many houses in the district for many years. We'll miss his cheerful greetings and his happy smiles.

Christmas is a time when loved ones are especially missed.

Thoughts and condolences are with all the bereaved and their families.

R. Hardisty

GRASMERE FELLOWSHIP

We have had a very good start to the season with excellent speakers and very good attendances. If you have not yet re-joined it is not too late as the subscription still remains the best buy. However, casual attendees are very welcome at the bargain price of £2. Where else in Grasmere can you get tea and cake for that price? Do think as well of the saving on your heating costs!

All talks are held in the Village Hall starting at 2.30pm

December 1st Steve Watts will show us his account of the Lakes during Covid in a talk entitled "A Year Like No Other"

Tuesday January 3rd Our annual lunch is at the Wordsworth Hotel at 13.00. At the time of writing we have not had details of cost or menu. Information will be given out at the next meetings. It is not an exclusive event, friends are very welcome. So if you cannot make it to our meeting and would like to come please ask for a menu as we will need to book before Christmas.

Thursday January 19th Maggie Mees, Chairperson of the Lakeland Horticultural Society, will give an illustrated talk on Holehird Gardens through the Seasons.

David Dodgson

Ambleside Parish Centre Support Group

Support group for people with Dementia, Carers,

Families and Friends

3rd Tuesday every month

Next Meetings:

Tuesday 20th December & Tuesday 17th January



Ambleside & District Choral Society

Christmas Concert

Haydn - St Nicholas Mass
Britten - Ceremony of Carols
Holst - Christmas Day
Carols for choir and audience

Laurie Ashworth - Soprano
Sarah Jillian Cox - Mezzo
Nicholas Hurndall Smith - Tenor
Jolyon Dodgson - Bass

AnnaKate Pearson - Harp
Charles Edmondson - Organ

Conductor
Marco Giudici

St. Mary's Church, Ambleside
Saturday 17th December at 7.30pm

Tickets - £15.00 Children under 12 free
from choir members, Fred's Bookshop or at the door

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN ST OSWALD'S

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

Once again we are choosing to display cyclamens, not only beautiful but also hardy in cold conditions!



Please fill in the slip below and return to:

Sonia at St Oswald's or leave in the church letterbox no later than the 21st December.

Each plant will have a label with your dedication printed on it.

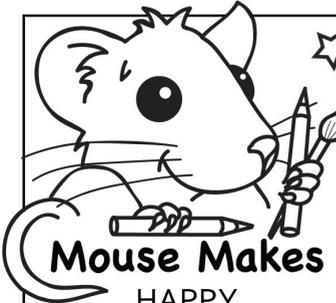
You are most welcome to collect the plant from church after Sunday 8th January

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

.....
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Minimum donation of £8 per plant please. Cheques payable to Grasmere PCC

Name..... Tel No:.....



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

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ALAI DRWHEOH
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What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?



ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE



National
Trust

ALLAN BANK

We are busy getting ready for Christmas and we hope you will join us for our festive activities. The house is now beautifully decorated for Christmas with trees and greenery. In addition to our tea and coffee offer we now have warm Mulled Cordial for all of the festive season.

On the **11th December** we will be having a wonderful day of music; with the Saxophone Quartet playing in the morning, and then in the afternoon Grasmere Glee will be visiting to sing carols from 1.30-3.30pm. On the **18th December** Harps North West will be playing a selection of Christmas Carols from 11am until 12.30pm.

If you are looking to enjoy some Christmas crafting we have Christmas Craft Bags to buy and in the Art Room there will be a free festive activity. We open in December on: **Friday, Saturday, Sunday and the Twixmas period, 27th-31st December - all from 11am to 3.30pm.** Allan Bank will then be closed until the 18th February. We wish you a very Merry Christmas!

WHAT'S ON AT THE WORDSWORTH GRASMERE

Join us on **20 December** from 2.00-4.00pm in Dove Cottage for our annual **Grasmere Residents' Afternoon**. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and carols. All are welcome, and we are pleased to host this in Dove Cottage for the first time since 2018. No booking needed, just turn up!

Visit from now until 31 December to see *Refuge from the Ravens: Wordsworth re-written by homeless Britain*. This new exhibition showcases a contemporary retelling of *Lyrical Ballads*, created by people with experience of homelessness, and other vulnerable people through poetry, art and song. Don't forget, entry to Dove Cottage and the Museum is free to all Grasmere residents and employees of Grasmere businesses.

We have plenty of family fun this winter. On **22 December** why not come along to one of two Georgian Christmas events, in which children can try out traditional crafts, decorate gingerbread and learn a traditional Cumbrian step dance (booking is essential). On **2, 9 and 16 December** join us for Little Wanderers, our regular early-years sessions encourage your little ones to be creative and playful.

Our online talks continue. On **9 December** join Dr Hannah Britton, Lewis Roberts, Dr Alexis Wolf, and Jeff Cowton for Close-up with Manuscripts as they explore some of the stories of the Wordsworths' and their friends through their handwritten letters and notebooks, with William and Mary Wordsworth's love letters.

'Go to the poets, they will speak to thee' is a contemporary poetry and open mic series hosted by Barrow based poet Kim Moore. On the **14th December**, Greta Stoddart reads from *Fool*, a collection that explores grief in a way that is electrifyingly alive.

On **25 January**, Holly Hopkins reads from *The English Summer*, in which she confronts the illusions and paradoxes of history.

Monthly poetry reading and writing groups continue on Zoom. Discover Poetry with Polly Atkin takes place on **15 December**, and Dove Cottage Poets takes place on **1 December**.

We are open Tuesday-Saturday, 10.00am-4.00pm up to and including 23 December. We are then open 27-31 December. In 2023 we are open from 17 January onwards. All our events need to be booked in advance on our website: **wordsworth.org.uk**

Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere



Sidesman Rotas for St Oswald's Church

11-12-22 Ann and David Jackman

18-12-22 June Maddison and David Dodgson

25.12.22 Sonia and John Rickman

01-01-23 Ann Fawthrop and Pat Taylor

8-01-23 Trevor and Helen Eastes

15-01-23 Ann and David Jackman

22-01-23 June Maddison and David Dodgson

29-01-23 Sonia and John Rickman

05-02-23 Ann Fawthrop and Pat Taylor

09-02-23 Trevor and Helen Eastes



CONTACTS

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

Rector: The Rev. David Wilmot

St. Mary's Vicarage, Ambleside Road, Windermere LA23 1BA

Tel: 07305 777113 rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals - please contact David

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

and 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: Grace Cauldwell 07341960506 / 01229 583196

Grace.southlakes@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Priest: Fr. Bernard Partington, Mater Amabilis Church,
015394 33027

Quaker - Friend In Residence: Terry Winterton. Glenthorne,

Tel: 015394 35389 info@glenthorne.org

URC Minister: The Revd. Martyn Coe, Carver Church 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



Grasmere Residents Afternoon

20 December 2022, 14.00 - 16.00

Join us at Wordsworth Grasmere for our annual Grasmere Residents Afternoon, where we will have mulled wine, mince pies and carols. For the first time since 2018, we are pleased to host Residents Afternoon in Dove Cottage.

All Grasmere residents welcome. No booking needed.

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Georgian Christmas

22 December, 10.30 - 12.00 & 14.00 - 15.30

Have a go at some Georgian Christmas crafts, including making pomanders and garlands, decorate some gingerbread people and even take a turn at a traditional Cumbrian step dance.

For families with children of all ages.



@WordsworthGrasmere