

Grasmere Parish Magazine



February - March 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 by 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. View the website <https://oswaldparish.news> for our policy and copyright notices.

Copy Date

Copy date for the **April 23 –May 23** magazine is **18th March**

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 half-page ads in the main pages of individual issues. Colour printing is an option. If you would like to advertise, please contact the Editors.

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

From the Vicarage:

God's Invitation

LENT is a season of invitation. God's word to you and I is: "Come back to me, with all of your heart". At our best we might respond "Yes" but preoccupied as we are, the time never seems quite right. On top of this, whenever his words hit home, something makes us want to squirm, evade or avoid.

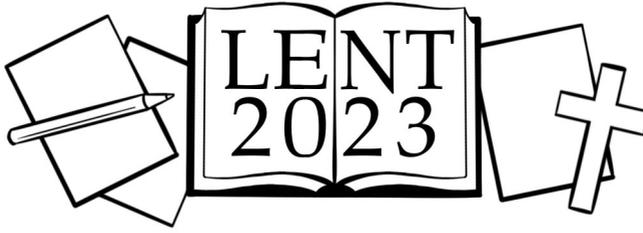
Yes, of course we want to have a deeper relationship with God, we might tell ourselves earnestly. But we know our souls are not yet perfect. It seems we are not ready for God to love us. Yes, we'll come. Soon. One day. "When I get my life sorted out".

But God will have none of this. God calls to us again: "Come back to me, with all of your heart". "Ok, ok, I really will. Just a few more things to do at work. Let me spend a little more time in prayer first. Let me clean my oven, tidy my shelves". Or as Jesus described in one of his stories: "Let me sell my yoke of oxen. Check a field I have purchased..." And so it goes.

So, Lent contains this extraordinary invitation to each one of us; to me in a personal, individual way. God invites me to drop the defences that I hold up between myself and God. All God wants is for me to realise that my standards, my way of judging and loving are so very different from God's way and so much smaller. God offers an entire Lent season, an entire lifetime, of loving me unconditionally; no matter what I have done or how much I think I have hidden from God.

From the first day of Lent, the Ash Wednesday readings make God's call to us clear: "Come back to me, with all of your heart,"

"Create in me a clean heart, O God," says the Psalm. "Give me back the joy of your salvation." Well, that is exactly what our loving God wants to give us, "the joy of salvation". The joy of knowing that we are truly his beloved son or daughter.



“Our only desire and our one choice should be this:

I want and I choose what better leads
to the deepening of God's life in me”.

St. Ignatius of Loyola,

from the beginning of the Spiritual Exercises

The word LENT comes from an ancient word meaning `Spring`. This season of the year is given to us as a springtime for our faith; an opportunity to consider prayerfully how we may become more open to the good work which God has begun within us.

At the Ash Wednesday Service, we are given the following charge: “Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord’s passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy word.”

As we begin to think about the special ways through which we might enter into the Lenten season, you may wish to consider the following which are available this year:

Ash Wednesday (22nd February)

Beginning Lent Together in Worship at St. Oswald`s

10.00am **Holy Communion** (*with the imposition of Ashes*)

1 to 1: Through Lent with the Rector

Beginning a new discipline or making new resolutions can sometimes be quite difficult and it can help sometimes to have someone alongside to encourage and guide us- even if it`s only with a fellow sufferer! During Lent the Rector is offering to accompany a few people through this important season in the church`s year. The commitment required would be to take out a short time each day for prayer and reflection (guidance would be given) and to meet once a week with the Vicar for short while to reflect on how things have been going. We would also undertake to be present at the Ash Wednesday Service and the significant moments during Holy Week. Do give this some thought and perhaps have a chat with David if you think this might be for you.

Tel: 07305 777 113 or E-mail: rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

Holy Communion at Home

If you would like to host a simple communion service in your home one morning or afternoon during Lent and invite members of the congregation & neighbours to join in; David will be happy to arrange something with you. Tel: 07305 777 113 E-mail: rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

Quiet Days at Rydal Hall

Saturday 18th February 2023 **9.30am - 4.00pm**

Theme: **Beginning Lent: `Finding our place in the Gospel story`**

Leader: **Revd David Wilmot**

“In the final analysis, specialized theological knowledge can take us only so far, we need to know the story”. - Fleming Rutledge

This Quiet Day at the beginning of Lent is an opportunity to revisit the fundamentals of our faith and a time to get our bearings. In His sufferings, we may share His risen life” (from Lent, Holy Week & Easter) This day is a moment to pause and prepare to enter more fully into the events of Holy Week.

Saturday 1st April 2023 9.30am - 4.00pm

Theme: Consider Him: `Entering into Holy Week`.

Leader: Revd David Wilmot

“Christ enters His own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die and to rise again. Let us go with Him in faith and love, so that, united with Him in His sufferings, we may share His risen life” (from Lent, Holy Week & Easter). This Quiet Day is a moment to pause and prepare to enter more fully into the events of Holy Week.

Our Quiet Days are free of charge but Donations are welcome. Booking is required, please. Tea/Coffee provided. You are welcome to bring a Packed Lunch or alternatively, you may wish to visit our Tea shop.

Free Car Parking: permit available from Reception.

Music Notes

Work on the organ renovation is continuing at the workshop of Nicholson & Co in Malvern. For further information see www.nicholsonorgans.co.uk

For those who like choral services, there are some arrangements in the pipeline for choral evensong by the choir of The Queen’s College, Oxford and the more local Herdwyck Ensemble, but dates have yet to be finalised.

There are no plans to hold concerts while there is scaffolding in the Langdale Aisle, but at the moment we have arranged a piano recital by Jill Crossland on Friday 18th August and an organ recital by Dr James Lancelot on Saturday 30th September. The Music at Grasmere society will hold its AGM on Sunday 19th February after the morning service.

Some enthusiasts may care to know that I will be giving an organ recital in Crosthwaite Church, Keswick on **Wednesday 8th March** at 12.30pm. This is in preparation for a recital which I am due to give in Hull City Hall (one of the largest organs in the country) the following week.

Ian Hare



Advent & Christmas

Thank you to all who decorated St. Oswald's so beautifully for Christmas and to all, not least our Village Band, who helped make our Christmas Eve Carol Service such a happy occasion (in spite of the rain!).

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on **Sunday 26th March** at 12.15pm in the Church. Do come along and hear about all that has been going on in the life of our Parish Church during the past year and of our plans for the future. Copies of the Minutes of last year's meeting, the Reports and Agenda will be available at Church on the preceding Sunday.

Revision of the Electoral Roll

This will take place during February. If you would like to add your name to our Church Electoral Roll, please complete one of the forms available at Church and return it as soon as possible. Thank you.

Thank You

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Plant scheme.

Also thanks also to all who have brought books for the Book Table. If anyone has any unwanted books to contribute please bring them to Church and leave them by the Font.

Sonia



Goodbyes

In December we said, Goodbye to Kay and Paul Adkins. They will be sorely missed! Over the years they took an active role in village life, be it helping to project manage the restoration of the Church tower, helping in school, singing in Glee and being a member of the WI. And not forgetting the stalwart job they did as editors of the Parish Magazine. Thank you! We wish them every happiness in their new home in Cirencester. I think some of us are already planning a visit!

Sidesman Rota for St Oswald's Church

29-01-23 Sonia and John Rickman

05-02-23 Ann Fawthrop and Pat Taylor

12-02-23 Trevor and Helen Eastes

19-02-23 Ann and David Jackman

26-02-23 June Maddison and David Dodgson

05-03-23 Sonia and John Rickman

12-03-23 Ann Fawthrop and Pat Taylor

19-03-23 Trevor and Helen Eastes

26-03-23 Ann and David Jackman



AMBLESIDE FRIENDS OF GUIDING

We are a group of people with an interest in Girlguiding who support and maintain the guide hut.

We need a few more volunteers to help out.

Meetings are only once a year with a few fundraising events.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact Kath on:

Ambleside Friends of Guiding
c/o Kath Travis, 4, Hill Top Rd.,
Ambleside, LA22 9EQ Tel 01539433534



Grasmere Fellowship

Another season draws to a close which at least means I can relax a bit. Our four remaining meetings are as follows:

February 2nd Alison Sauer Re-creating history through enactment.

Alison is a member of the Red Wyverns an historical re-enactment group who have performed at Muncaster Castle and many other places (look them up on the web!). Alison makes a lot of the costumes and may well wear one on the day.

February 16th Pru Bliss Mediaeval Stained Glass in Cumbria.

Cumbria has many examples of fine stained glass which are often overlooked. Pru will enlighten us.

March 2nd David Jackman Saving the World, from Grasmere.

David will take us through the ways in which communities are being encouraged and developed with some help and inspiration from Grasmere.

Be prepared to contribute as this will be an interactive session and you could have your say in future developments!

March 16th Nick Hallam Medicine and Ministry

We may have to postpone our AGM which was scheduled for today as our treasurer will be away and unable to complete the accounts for the year. I am sorry to disappoint you, but the good news is that Nick Hallam will still give his talk on Medicine and Ministry. Many of you will have heard Nick preach in Grasmere, what you may not know is that he has had (and in fact is still having) a distinguished career as a consultant physician. He will tell us how he managed to do both jobs.

As always we would be delighted to hear of suggestions for next year. We could also do with one more tea-maker and possibly new officers on the committee so do not hold back if you wish the Fellowship to flourish.

David

GRASMERE VILLAGE SOCIETY

January certainly threw a variety of weather extremes at us and although the thought of widespread flooding in the village does not bear thinking about we do at least have a comprehensive and robust emergency plan in place now to help us to deal with such an eventuality. Although nobody can deny the beauty of the snow-capped fells around us on a cold, blue sky day, I am looking forward to the snowdrops and daffodils that will herald spring. The weather has slowed progress on our village walk to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; although several gates have now been moved and improved around Easedale Road and Butharlyp How. Many thanks to Jonny Perrem for his sterling work.

Two committee members, Diane Bettington and Tegan Sharp, have stepped down. Thanks are due for all their hard work. I am delighted that we have two new members: Sam Dixon and Ian Moreland. I hope that both appointments will be ratified at the forthcoming AGM. This will be held on **Thursday 16th March** in the village hall at 7pm. As in recent years the formal meeting will be short and sweet, followed by a social evening with input from various local groups. Refreshments will be available. Details will be published nearer the time.

Hopefully, you will have renewed your society membership but if you have not yet had the chance or if you are not yet a member then please contact our new membership secretary, Simon Hey, (simonhey4@gmail.com) Your membership fee of £1 (with any additional voluntary contribution) will be used for the benefit of the village and those who live here.

A dark skies night is being held on **February 23rd** from 7pm to midnight. Street lights will be dimmed. Individual householders, businesses and hotels are asked to dim as many lights as possible. Let's hope for good weather so that we can marvel at the universe around us. The next committee meeting is on **Tues 21st Feb** at 8pm in the Reading Room. *Nick McCraith (Chair)*



GRASMERE SCHOOL

Grasmere School Needs You!

Before Covid we had lots of lovely volunteers who came into school regularly, and were such a wonderful part of our school community. We're still the same happy, friendly, life-enhancing place, so please come back! Or if you haven't helped out in school before, but would like to, please get in touch.

When I retire, if I ever do, I think that I will try to volunteer in a 'before school club'. It will get me up, wake my brain up and give me some very happy social interaction at the beginning of the day... However tired I am in the morning, and however many January blues are flooding the news, a few minutes spent playing a board game with these children, or joining in with their play, always sorts me out. I do understand that (apparently) associating with children doesn't do this for everyone!

If you have any specific interests / knowledge which you could bring into school ...

If you would like to help with displays or exhibitions...

If you would like to help out at before or after school clubs...

If you would like to support art, sport or other practical lessons....

Please get in touch.

Jo Goode – head@grasmere.cumbria.sch.uk

Negotiating a Cultural Landscape

The third lecture of the series *will take place on:*

Tuesday 7th February at 6.30pm.

Dr Lizzie Fisher (Northumbria University) will talk on:

'High culture in the high fells: Helen Sutherland and her "magic circle of friends" at Cockley Moor, 1939-65.'

The Percival Lecture Theatre (Langdale Building)

University of Cumbria's Ambleside campus.

Further details about the talk and the booking link can be found
at www.eventbrite.co.uk

Support Group



For People with Dementia, Carers, Families and Friends

Ambleside Parish Centre

Next Meetings:

Tuesday 21st February and Tuesday 21st March

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Come along for a coffee and a chat

Details: 015394 34172 admin@amblesidepc.org.uk



CAVED IN

Derwentwater Drama Group

A dramatic line of events that will blow you away as Charlie comes over the fells. A rollercoaster of a story not to be sniffed at!

7pm - Saturday 11th February 2023

Grasmere Village Hall

Please book tickets in advance from
David Marshall on 07710 198948

Order your cheese or charcuterie deli
boards for 2-3 to share after the play:
£25.00

Only 100 tickets available. Seating around
tables.

Kindly prepared by Freda + Ray Café

“Pay what you decide” on the evening.
All proceeds to Manna House.

Order by Tuesday 7th February through:
info@manna-house.org.uk

Can't make it? Donations still welcome.

Please bring your own drink and glasses. Note: **Suitable for Adults only.**

GRASMERE WI NEWS

Our year got off to a great start, with a talk by Melissa Harwood and Gill Henwood about their recent visit to Uzbekistan. It was very informative and enjoyable, with beautiful photos. Before the meeting we re ran the slide show of our year completing all 214 Wainwrights. Thanks to David Johnson for organising this, and to the large number of guests who came along to see what we had been up to! They were impressed!

At our meeting on **February 9th**, Trevor Cooper will be talking about the Grasmere Red Squirrels. Our meeting on **March 9th** is our AGM, followed by a talk from Christine Knipe, the Chief Executive of The Westmorland Show. Both meetings are 2pm in the Village Hall. Guests welcome (£5 inc tea and cakes)

In addition to our monthly meeting, our new Events and Outings Committee has come up with lots of great ideas. We'll be doing something new every month. There are Pamper Days at Kendal College, Boat trips, Theatre visits and days out. We are also starting a regular WI book group. Our monthly rambles continue, starting at 2pm on the **third Thursday** of the month outside Sam Reads. Join us for a walk, or just meet up at the end of the walk, which always finishes with tea and cakes. Our art group also meets regularly. Our Squatting Challenge raised £2,400 for St Mary's Hospice. Fantastic!

In **February** we'll be running our next challenge- the 3rd Annual Team Grasmere Step Challenge. Do 9,000 steps every day of the month- whatever the weather. Just make a donation via our Just Giving page to St Mary's Hospice to join. Keep your score on our Step Counter. Share your photos on Facebook. Everyone anywhere is welcome to join in. Details on our website and social media.

GWI now has over 50 members! If you'd like to join us, come along for a free taster to one of our meetings. You'll be made very welcome. The annual WI fee for the year 2023-24 is £46, due at the end of March. It's a bargain! Our website is <https://grasmerewi.wordpress.com/>. You can also follow Grasmere WI on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Sue Dixon

Grasmere Parish Councillors Drop In Sessions

The first drop in session for a chat and a brew with Grasmere's Parish Councillors was treated to a typical Grasmere downpour, with non stop rain all morning.

Whilst not the busiest of mornings, there was lots of discussion on subjects as diverse as potholes, flooding, food banks, footpaths, planning, speed limits, air ambulance, facilities for teenage residents and of course the non stop rain!!

A few people mentioned that it would be good if we could include more local organisations representing village life at our next event. We think this is a great idea and have started to organise but given the timescales we have decided to delay our next meeting until **Saturday March 4th** 10:00 - 12:00 in the village hall. More details will follow over the next few weeks. Thanks for your support. *Sharon, Will & Andy*

Warm Spot - Coffee and Chat

Pam and I are delighted with the Residents of Grasmere who have been attending our Warm Spot on Wednesday between 10:00 -12:30pm. We are looking forward to many more villagers and tourists coming to join us.



We love hearing the buzz around the room as people chit chat, reminisce, and meet new people. Just what we need on these cold grey wet days!

On the 1st February we are being treated to a demonstration and or a chance to take part in activities; like quill and ink writing and sketching, all inspired by William And Dorothy's letters. Susan, The Wordsworth trust Outreach Officer is in charge. If it is successful we maybe able to repeat it! *Sharon Savasi*

For further information contact Sharon on 07957073255

Knit and Nat

Knit and Nat has continued to meet the **Second and Fourth Tuesday** of the month in the Reading rooms between 2 -4 pm, We welcome all, even if you just want to have a drink with us and a chat. No need to knit or crochet.



In the last few month we have been knitting for Christmas Shoe Box's. Grasmere joins up with Hawkshead Brownies who hold Afternoon teas throughout the summer to raise funds to buy items to fill the shoe boxes, also with the items knitted from the various knitting groups and helpers. The Brownies raised over £4K this year. We sent a total of 1283 shoeboxes including our 20 home boxes to Ukraine, Moldova , and Macedonia. The boxes are then sent to " Teams4U" based in Wrexham, who collect from many other areas. Anyone wanting to help towards next year's please get in touch.

We also knitted approx. 15 baby blankets, which are needed for the babies in Barrow in Furness hospital, who are premature or not very well. But we do knit items for ourselves of course.....and if anyone knows of a deserving cause do let us know!

Sharon Savasi

SILK PAINTING COURSE

On the **18th March 2023 at 10am - 4pm** Margaret Wilmot is hosting a painting on silk course, in the learning centre at the Wordsworth Trust.

Not only do you learn how to paint on silk but Margaret teaches you all the History about Silk, the origins, the different qualities and it's importance.

For more information and to book a place contact Sharon Savasi on 015394 35358 or by email savasi@hotmail.co.uk.

Grasmere and Cumbria weather: November 2022.

A very wet month with only two dry days

The mild wet weather continued throughout November, resulting in a very wet Autumn and one of the warmest on record. The depressions crossing Cumbria continually throughout the month, brought on mild westerlies. On the 12th. and 13th. even warmer winds reached us from the Azores and North Africa, bringing sunny skies and temperatures rose to record levels for the time of year reaching 54.C. at Seaton and Bridgefoot. From then on heavy rain and strong winds crossed daily bringing more downpours. Then towards the end of the month, pressure rose, the weather settled down and by the 30th. colder south easterlies blew in from the continent, setting the scene for very different weather in December. Rainfall amounts were above average, particularly in West Cumbria, where St. Bees and Walney recorded over 160% above normal. Seathwaite again recorded the highest monthly fall, 493.0 mm. 19.41 in. and also the wettest 24 hour fall, 46.4mm. 1.83 in. In Grasmere on the 29th. there was a temperature inversion, most common in winter, where the air gets warmer as you go higher, trapping the cooler air underneath. Thick mist and fog shrouded the valley bottom, whilst on the tops above 1000 ft. it was beautiful, not a cloud in sight. Brampton recorded the most sunshine, 53.8 hours, Ambleside 31.8 and Shap 36.2.

All in all, a month to forget weatherwise.

Wettest Nov. day 6th. 44.1mm. 1.74in.

Nov. rain days 28 Last year 21

Total for month 374.3 mm. 14.74 in. Last year 8.04in.

Rain days to date end Nov. 219. Last year 200

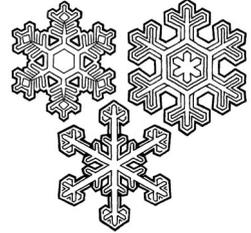
Total for year to date end Nov. 2225.6 mm. 87.64 in. Last year 97.90 in.

Peter Bailey.



December - A month of two halves

December started cloudy, foggy and damp. On the 2nd. a large anticyclone became established off the North Sea, with the wind flowing from Scandinavia, bringing colder and drier air than normal. Incidentally on the 3rd, 3 dry days had been recorded in the last 68. A north easterly then set in, with virtually cloudless skies and hard frost by night. The first snowfall of the winter fell on the 9th. with temperatures of -9.C. the norm at night, and on some days not rising above-2.C.. The severe frosts left many people without heating and hot water due to gas condensers freezing up. Snow fell again on the 16th. and on the 17th. freezing rain overnight made hazardous conditions underfoot the next day. Then it was all change again with south westerlies returning for the remainder of the month. Health wise, at this time of year, respiratory viruses such as flu are commonplace. A new study has shown that it only takes a 5.C. drop in temperature inside our noses to kill off 50% of the useful, good bacteria that fight viruses. Doctors used to believe the very opposite and that cold air was ideal for boosting your immune system. Overall, December has been the coldest start to the month since 2010, with a provisional average temperature of 0.9.C. It has also been the driest first half of December in more than a century. Also, the average annual temperature in Britain exceeded 50 degrees F. for the first time in 2022. The new record comes despite seeing temperatures plummet to- 17.3C. in Braemar, Scotland.



Britain has seen a swing of almost 30 degrees in less than a week, as the country defrosted from a record low of -17.3 C. in Scotland to the mid teens temperatures in England. Never a dull moment weatherwise.

Wettest Dec. day 29th. 48.6mm. 1.91 in.

Dec. rain days 20 Last year 24

Total for month 331.4mm. 13.05 in. Last year 9.62 in.

Rain days for year 239 Last year 224

Grand total for year to date 2557.0mm. 100.69in. Last year 107.55 in

Looking forward to an early Spring, after this horrendous start to January .

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2023

- 1 W 10am Coffee and Chat +Activity -Village Hall
- 2 TH 2.30pm Grasmere Fellowship- Village Hall
- 5 S Third Sunday before Lent**
- 6 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
7.00pm Taize Prayer at St. Mary`s Rydal
- 9 TH 2.00pm WI Meeting
- 11 S 7pm Caved In -Derwentwater Drama -Village Hall
- 12 S Second Sunday before Lent**
- 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
- 16 TH 2.30pm Grasmere Fellowship - Village Hall
- 18 S Lent Quiet Day at Rydal Hall
- 19 S Sunday next before Lent**
- 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
12.30pm Grasmere Music Meeting
- 22 W ASH WEDNESDAY**
- 10.00am Holy Communion in Church
- 26 S **First Sunday of Lent**
- 27 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s

MARCH 2023

- 1 W 1.10pm School Assembly in Church
- 2 TH 2.30pm Grasmere Fellowship- Village Hall
- 4 S 10.00 Parish Councillors -Village Hall

- 5 S Second Sunday of Lent**
 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
 11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
- 9 TH 2.00pm WI Meeting
- 12 S Third Sunday of Lent**
 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
 11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
- 16 TH 2.30pm Grasmere Fellowship- Village Hall
 7pm GVS AGM - Village Hall
- 19 S MOTHERING SUNDAY**
Fourth Sunday of Lent
 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
 11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
- 26 S PASSION SUNDAY**
Fifth Sunday of Lent
 9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary`s Rydal
 11.00am Sunday Celebration at St. Oswald`s
 12.30pm St. Oswald`s Annual Meeting
- 27 M 2.00pm St. Mary`s Annual Meeting
- 31 F School Term ends

APRIL 2023

- 1 S Quiet Day for Holy Week at Rydal Hall
- 2 S PALM SUNDAY HOLY WEEK**
 9.30am Passion Reading
 11.00am Passion Reading
 7.30pm Happy Place Village Hall

Grasmere Red Squirrels

We carried out the annual red population census in the autumn. Very few reds were visiting feeders, we think due to the large amount of natural food available so we extended the survey into October. The number of reds was down on the previous year at 64. 2021 was our best ever year for reds, in the last 20 years anyway, with 74 recorded. Greenhead and Brackenfell were particularly badly affected, also there were far fewer sightings in the central village. The squirrel pox cases at the end of 2021 were a significant setback. No red road kills reported in 2022, 2021 (4).



We are currently assisting the Government's Animal Plant & Health Agency with research projects related to the long term future of UK red squirrel conservation. Thank you to the homeowners who kindly hosted the red squirrel "weighing feeders" on their properties.

Do send your red squirrel stories and any photographs to Sam Dixon at Grasmereredsqirrels@gmail.com or message via Facebook Messenger. The number of greys coming to Grasmere in 2022 was again very high - 207 in total. That is slightly fewer than 2021 (220) but many more than in 2020 (130) and 2019 (90). This is despite both our rangers doing some work beyond our border. In June we had our largest ever influx of greys, August and September were lower than usual, followed by a lot in October and many more than usual in November. The change in arrival pattern could be explained by the abundance of natural food.

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 our 2 Rangers David Birkett on 07775 904236 or Text Stuart Dickson 07980 893459, Phone Trevor Cooper on 015394 35502, Jane Cooper 35589 or Stewart Sutcliffe 35263 and 07817 326524.

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

If you have a feeder, give it a good clean with Angene disinfectant. It is free of charge, so if you need a supply, please message or email us. This mixture will last for 3 months in the bottle.

We are pleased to hear from anyone who wants to sponsor the group, monitor local woodlands, or offer other types of help. We are keen to hear from local businesses and we already have several schemes up and running. By contributing to the group, you are helping the red squirrels to survive. All contributions are most welcome – thank you.

To encourage people visiting Grasmere to donate to the conservation of our red squirrels we have created a poster and flyers. The flyers can be used with collection boxes at retail outlets or without boxes at hotels, B&Bs, holiday lets, cafes, etc. The posters can be placed in public places, shared accommodation, or shop windows. If you have any ideas on how we could use them, please get in touch.

Thank you to everyone who has made donations. People's generosity will enable us to continue through 2023. The Forest Side Hotel have collected a very significant contribution for the last 4 years. The Grasmere Business Partnership Grand Christmas raffle raised £1592. A big thank you to the organisers, the donors of the prizes and the people who bought the tickets. The local National Trust are our largest contributor and they have renewed their commitment for five years. **We accept online donations:**

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=NMWH9FQLN77MQ
and our PayPal Giving Fund can accept payments from your Paypal account
<https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/4390415>.

Direct bank transfers can be made to our bank account for larger gifts. Help us raise more by signing up at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/c.../grasmereredsquirls/>. Supporting Grasmere Red Squirrels doesn't have to cost you anything!

There are collection boxes at: Sam Reads, Heaton Cooper, Regatta, Post Office, Mountain Warehouse, Trespass, the Garden Centre, Glenthorne Guest House, the Chocolate Box and the Daffodil Hotel. Also follow us on Social Media.

Grasmere Business Partnership Grand Christmas Raffle

We were overwhelmed with the generosity of local businesses and residents this year in donating the most amazing prizes to our Grand Christmas Raffle, which was drawn at the Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall at the end of November. Obtaining a lottery licence and printing tickets meant we were able to sell tickets in advance and reach a much wider audience. We are extremely grateful to everyone in the village who helped to sell tickets and to everyone who bought them. We had an incredible sixty-three prizes and it was great to see several of them go to local residents. The top prize was won by a couple from Stockport, who nearly didn't bother to buy a ticket, as they said they never win anything! They were astounded to hear they had won and are eagerly looking forward to returning to Grasmere to redeem their voucher for their overnight stay and eight-course dining later in the year.

The total proceeds for the raffle, after expenses, came to an incredible £3,184.40! Sharon Savasi and Pam Moreland met with trustees from the Grasmere Village Hall Charity and Grasmere Red Squirrel Group earlier this month to present them with their cheques. The money will help with upgrading the Village Hall, so that it plays a greater role as a community hub, and to support the conservation of Red Squirrels around Grasmere.

Thanks again to everyone who supported us. The full list of prizes and businesses that donated can be found on the Grasmere Village Hall Facebook and Instagram accounts <https://www.facebook.com/GrasmereVillageHall>

<https://www.instagram.com/grasmerevillagehall>

Sam Dixon, Sharon Savasi and Pam Moreland



Presenting the cheques to Grasmere Village Hall and the Red Squirrel Group.

Parish Meal

The second Parish Meal took place on 22nd January. Around 50 people sat down for a meal of Beef Casserole and vegetables followed by cake and coffee. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and perhaps more importantly the good company! Pencil April 16th in your diary for the next one when we shall be treated to curries!



Grasmere Village Hall

Grasmere Village Hall was delighted to host the highly successful panto “Robin Hood” in January. The Grasmere Players staged a fabulous show with full houses for every performance and much laughter and jollity. So, we’re glad to be hosting some further events this Spring. See the photos opposite.

Saturday 11 February, 7.30 pm: Derwentwater Drama Group presents “Caved In” by David Marshall. A dramatic line of events that will blow you away as Charlie comes over the fells. See page 14 for full details.

Following the popularity of last year’s events, we will be bringing you some further entertainment from Highlights Rural Touring Scheme. Tickets are available from www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Sunday 2 April, 7.30 pm: “Happy Place”

Forget About the Dog theatre company - a comedy play.

Sunday 14 May, 7.30 pm: “The Mystery of the Blue Moon Saloon,

Ragged Edge Productions - a comedy play with audience participation.

Wednesday 24 May, 10.00 am: “Wings of Wire” –

a full-day wire sculpture workshop.

Robin Hood In Photos



Grasmere Book Group

For the final book group of 2022, the book group read a selection of classic crime stories, *Murder on a Winter's Night*, edited by Cecily Gayford. The anthology includes a mix of bigger names and niche writers from Arthur Conan Doyle and Dorothy L. Sayers to Margery Allingham and Edmund Crispin. The stories range from slight wintery puzzles to longer mysteries. Most members were puzzled by the selection's presentation, with no dates, or reasons for their selection beyond the season, and it was difficult to detect a pattern between them. Nevertheless, most had a favourite story from the collection.

Our January meeting was a well-attended celebration of books we love, books we liked the look of and books we'd had recommended to us. Bookshelves full of possible reading were discussed and based on the suggestions put to the group we've settled on the following books for the year ahead...

FEBRUARY 9th – Monica Dickens, *My Turn to Make the Tea* (1951)

MARCH 9th - Elizabeth Strout, *My Name is Lucy Barton* (2016)

APRIL 13th - Lee Schofield, *Wild Fell* (2022)

MAY 11th - Arkady Martine, *A Memory Called Empire* (2019)

JUNE 8th - Shehan Karunatilaka, *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* (2022)

JULY 13th - Barbara Kingsolver, *Demon Copperhead* (2022)

AUGUST 10th - Toshikazu Kawaguchi, *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* (2019)

SEPTEMBER 14th - Sarah Thomas, *The Raven's Nest* (2022)

OCTOBER 12th – Ruth Ozeki, *The Book of Form and Emptiness* (2021)

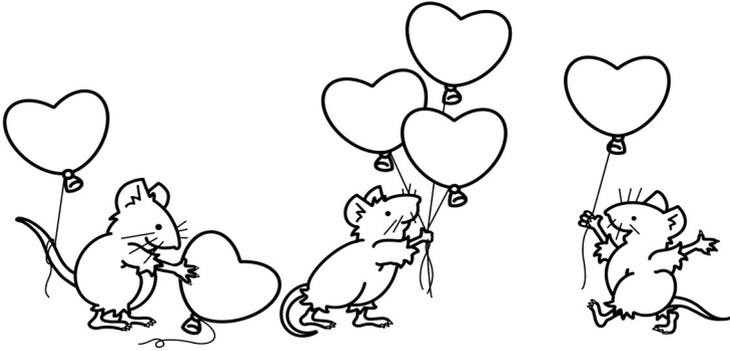
NOVEMBER 9th - Bonnie Garmus, *Lessons in Chemistry* (2022)

DECEMBER 14th - Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Books* (Oxford World's Classics) (2008)

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 to join in, if and when it suits. All book group books are available from Sam Read's at 10% discount off the r.r.p. We look forward to another year of bookish conversation!

Polly and Will - dr.will.smith@me.com

Valentine's Day mystery



There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century – one a priest martyred, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love?

By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day - 14th February – the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving tradition of the Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the festival. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

What's on at Wordsworth Grasmere

Thank you to all who joined us for conversations, carols and Christmas cheer at Grasmere Residents Afternoon in December. It was a lovely occasion, and we look forward to the next one.

Our new exhibition, '**To the Lakes!**', explores the experience of visiting the Lakes during the lifetimes of William and Dorothy Wordsworth. It invites today's visitors to experience the Lake District through the words and images captured by tourists 200 years ago – the things they did, the places they would stay, the equipment they needed and the clothes they wore. The exhibition opens on **18 February**, and entry to the exhibition, as well as Dove Cottage and the Museum, is free to Grasmere residents and employees of Grasmere businesses. We are currently open from **10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday**.

We are excited to introduce **Helping Hands**, a brand-new volunteering project for Cumbria. Together with 45 countywide partners, Helping Hands aims to improve your access to volunteer opportunities within arts and heritage organisations across Cumbria, including at Wordsworth Grasmere. Whether you are looking to try something different, enhance your skills, start a new career or meet new people, Helping Hands will get you there with 1-2-1 support and volunteer opportunities shaped around your needs. Find out more here: <https://cumbriamuseums.org.uk/helping-hands/>

We are looking forward to an online event with Professor Stephen Gill and Professor Saeko Yoshikawa in early March. Stephen and Saeko will be discussing Wordsworth's **Guide to the Lakes** and other early guidebooks, as well as our new exhibition. Additionally '**Go to the poets, they will speak to thee**', our online poetry reading series hosted by Kim Moore, will begin again in March after a break in February. Keep an eye on our website and social media for further announcements about both events.

Little Wanderers, our creative play sessions for under 5s, takes place on Friday mornings. Sessions are free for Grasmere families. On **21 February** drop in from 10.30am-12.30pm for **Winter Make and Play** half-term family activities, including crafts and storytelling.

On **18 March** the winners of the 2021 and 2022 **Poetry Business International Book and Pamphlet Competition** will give a performance of their prize-winning work in the Jerwood Centre Reading Room. The poets include Dean Browne, Jim McElroy, May C Popa, Anastasia Taylor-Lind, Karen Downs-Barton, Jon Miller, Zoë Walkington and Luke Samuel Yates.

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

All our events need to be booked in advance on our website,

wordsworth.org.uk

Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere

ALLAN BANK



Here at Allan Bank, we're busy preparing the house for the year ahead. We reopen on the **18th February**, and will be open on-Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday for the duration of half term. Into March, we return to our off-peak times of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

The art room will be open as usual with free activities out to enjoy, and we will be lending out watercolour supplies to anyone who fancies trying their hand at painting. Our tea and coffee offer will be available as usual, and our second-hand bookshop is freshly replenished with plenty of new books to read.

Do remember that we offer free entry to the house and garden for local residents. If you would like this year's local entry card, please bring a utility bill with you for proof of address. Please check our website: nationaltrust.org.uk/allan-bank-and-grasmere

We look forward to welcoming you back!

Elaine Reed - Welcome and Service Assistant



The cost of things just keeps going up. I've made cut-backs and, at the moment, I'm just about managing but I'm really worried about how I'll cope as it starts getting colder. What should I do?

Remember you're not alone. **South Lakes Citizens Advice** is here to help. ***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.*** Simply call **015394 46464** – leave a message and we will call you back or **0808 2787 984** someone will be there to provide advice. You can contact us via our submission page on our website **www.southlakescab.org.uk** – we will contact you.

We can work with you to make sure you know what money you have coming in and out. We help you to budget and prioritise bills, see if you are eligible for additional benefits and advise on reducing living costs.

There is help with rising energy bills. From October 1 2022, there's a limit on gas and electricity prices for most households - this is called the Energy Price Guarantee and will be in place for two years. From October you'll also get £400 off your electricity bill. This is called the Energy Bills Support Scheme. You don't need to do anything to get the money and you won't have to pay it back. The money will be paid in six instalments, £66 in October and November followed by £67 in December, January, February and March.

You should automatically receive the energy discount if you pay by direct debit, standard credit or payment card. If you have a prepayment meter that isn't a smart meter, you'll get the discount via vouchers or as an automatic credit when you top up at your usual top-up point. Your supplier will let you know how they will issue it. If you have a smart prepayment meter, the credit should be automatically added to your meter. If you can't pay your bills, speak to your energy supplier as they have a responsibility to help you come up with a solution.

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

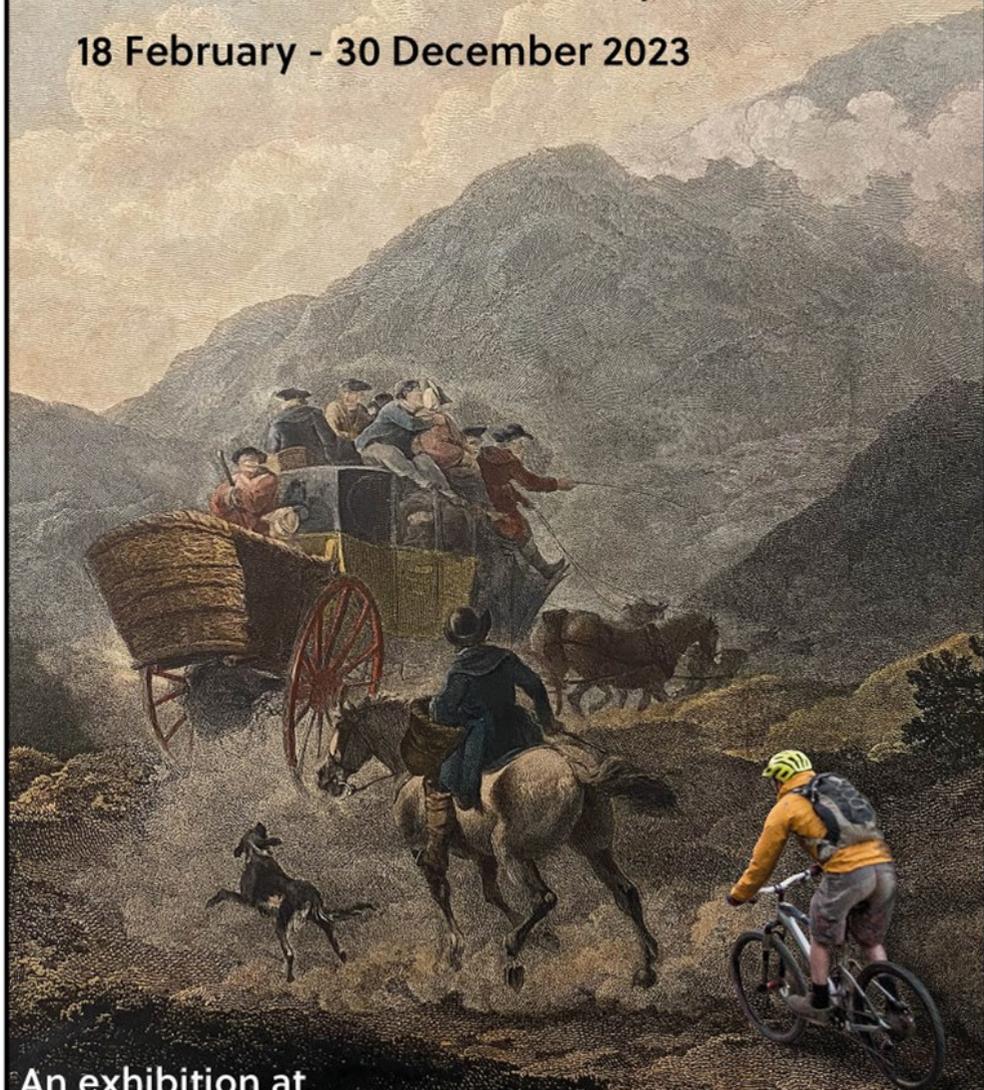
Rev. Beverley Lock 33205 reverend.beverley@gmail.com

Rev. John Dixon 36301 jjcedixon@btinternet.com

'To the Lakes!'

Join the first tourists in their
search for adventure and escape

18 February - 30 December 2023



An exhibition at

Wordsworth
GRASMERE



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

