

Grasmere Parish Magazine



February - March 2024

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. The Editors and PCC reserve the right to use their discretion in finalising the content. Our policy and copyright notices are available at oswaldparish.news

Copy Date

Copy date for the April- May 2024 magazine is **18th March**. Please email copy to **editor@oswaldparish.news**

Please submit copy in a Word document, using Calibri font with 11pt and in A5 size. Past editions are available on our website: **oswaldparish.news**

Advertising in the Magazine

To advertise in the magazine please contact the Editors, Ann and David Jackman - **editor@oswaldparish.news**

Apologies in advance for any errors or omissions.

From the Vicarage

A Laughing Matter....?

I very much enjoy stand-up comedy but every so often I have to endure some pretty pointed jokes about Christ and Christians. Of course, some of these jokes (especially about the Church), are great fun and the underlying criticisms are well aimed and entirely deserved.

However, others it seems to me, are basically all about riding on a bandwagon. I think it's fair to say that in recent years it has become somewhat fashionable and culturally acceptable to simply denigrate faith in an all too unreflective way.

The upshot, of course, is that some Christians tend to feel beleaguered or on the back foot. However, I'm not entirely convinced that we should be so defensive. In fact, I think the onus is on those who claim NOT to believe, to prove to the rest of us that an apparently `God-less` life really is that much better. Because in my humble opinion, the evidence doesn't stack up. In one of the Psalms (115) an ancient writer takes a well-aimed, comedic shot at the world's idolatry. He pokes fun at the nations' Gods by saying: Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.

They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk;

They make no sound in their throats.

And he witheringly concludes...Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them.

Essentially, this stand-up comic from many hundreds of years ago, was poking fun at the way people can become as deaf, mute, blind and stupid as the God they create for themselves; and sadly, his joke hits home even today.

This reflective season of Lent asks us to acknowledge how far these Gods` that we make are still very much on the scene. Nowadays, their names are things like: Power, Prestige and Possessions. Or, put it another way; control of others, reputation (what others say of us) and whether we have more toys than everyone else.

These are the Gods to which we all too easily give our hearts. It`s never a matter of `whether` we worship but WHAT we worship. And, whether we like it or not, the things we set our hearts on end up shaping the person we are becoming. If it wasn`t so serious... it would be quite a good joke.

Every Blessing, David.

A Personal Note

Thank you so much for your kind messages following the announcement of my appointment to Grange-over-Sands & Field Broughton. It has been a privilege to be with you for these past five years. I expect that 7th April will be my final Sunday at St. Oswald`s. However, in the meantime, work on the new Rectory is going well and I will be working with the Church Council as they begin the process of appointing a new Rector. Please pray for me as I will continue to pray for you. Every good wish, David

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 outdoor Carol Service such a happy occasion.

Ash Wednesday (14th February)

Beginning Lent Together in Worship at St. Oswald`s

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

Sidesman Rota for St Oswald's Church

4th Feb	David Jackman and Pat Taylor
11th Feb	Sonia Rickman and Ann Jackman
18th Feb	Trevor and Helen Eastes
25th Feb	Don Perritt and David Dodgson
3rd Mar	David Jackman and Pat Taylor
10th Mar	David and Ann Jackman
17th Mar	Sonia Rickman and Ann Jackman
24th Mar	Trevor and Helen Eastes

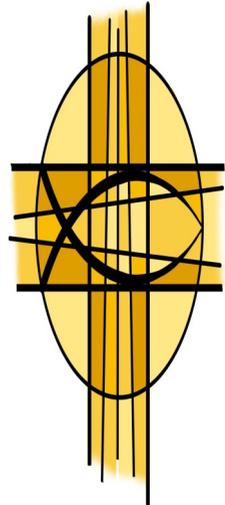
Sunday Church Services

**Weekly Church Services are as follows
unless advertised separately:**

**9.30am Holy Communion at
St. Mary's Rydal**

**11.00am Sunday Celebration at
St. Oswald's Grasmere**

**Taize Prayer is every first Sunday at
7.00pm at St Mary's Rydal**



Music Notes



Christmas is always a busy time from a musical point of view, and we were pleased to be able to muster a choir of 14 singers for the Carol Service, drawn from Keswick, Windermere, Rydal and Grasmere. There was a good sized congregation and enjoyable refreshments afterwards, thanks to Helen and her indefatigable team.

Planning is progressing for some musical events in 2024, which is a good way for St Oswald's to reach out to the wider public. We are grateful to Richard Beskeen, who has acted as Treasurer of Music at Grasmere since 2017, but has now moved on to higher things as PCC Treasurer. If there is anyone else who would like to volunteer to help? There is an Annual General Meeting in church on Sunday 25th February at 12.15 p.m., followed by a committee meeting at Rydal Hall on Wednesday 28th February at 10.00 a.m.

It is good to hear about other musical activities in the village, including Glee's performances at Allan Bank, and the Band which played for Carols at Moss Parrock on Christmas Eve.

Looking ahead, Easter is early this year, so on Sunday 31st March we expect to raise the roof in joyful praise, after the more restrained moods of Lent and Holy Week.

Ian Hare Organist St Oswald's

Thursday 29th February,

7.30 for 8pm start in Grasmere Village Hall.

Raifteiri and the Romantic Age

Presented by the Wordsworth Conference Foundation & Wordsworth Grasmere,

Caroline O'Shea, traditional Irish musician,

A talk with music, poetry and song on the 19th century Irish poet & fiddler Antoine O Raifteriri.

There will a traditional Irish music session after the talk.

No charge for admission.

Grasmere School



GRASMERE SCHOOL

We've been having a wonderful time this week, with much exploration in the snow, and sledging at lunchtimes...

Our latest news is that Tom Palmer's book 'Angel of Grasmere' is soon to be published. We have worked closely with Tom on this book, reading different drafts, and walking with him to some of the locations. It's a fascinating story, made all the more interesting to the children by their involvement in it. Tom has asked for their opinions on plotting, characters, description of scenes, local vocabulary and names. It's been such an incredible opportunity for them. Tom's book is going to be published on 9th May, and we're helping him to launch it, up at Easedale Tarn. More details nearer the time! You can, of course, pre-order a signed copy from Sam Reads.

What is it about? July 1940 – Tarn struggles to come to terms with the loss of her beloved brother in the chaos of the British retreat at Dunkirk and she and her friends scour the hills around their Lake District home, watching for any signs of the long-dreaded Nazi invasion. But as the war drags on, with little good news from the front, the locals become aware of someone carrying out anonymous acts of kindness. With no one claiming credit, the village comes to think of this unidentified stranger as a kind of guardian angel...

In other news, we have been on several educational visits recently. Year 5 have visited the Cabinet War Rooms and Parliament. Classes 2 and 4 have been to Lancaster to learn about Industrialisation, and to see evidence of how the transatlantic slave trade was integral to the early industrial revolution. We went out to Sunderland Point, which was truly beautiful on a wild winter's day. Flocks of lapwings, curlew and egret, wind whipping our hair, and rainbows coming and going over the estuary. We have also visited Quarry Bank Mill, and been to art exhibitions and the theatre. We have had a fulfilling and flourishing couple of months!

Jo Goode, Headteacher Grasmere School



Shrove Tuesday 13th February 2024

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting. So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church still in her apron and holding the pan!

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pan-cakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things : eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

Grasmere Village Society

Christmas and New Year are already a distant memory and even dry January is over! Time passes quickly and as I expectantly await the first snowdrops we are deluged with several inches of real snow and the first GVS committee meeting of the year is cancelled. Such are the vagaries of life in Grasmere.

The Society was delighted to facilitate the Village Hall grand Christmas raffle and pleased that so much was raised for local causes. The hall has been a superb hub for village activities over the winter, hosting a large variety of activities including the panto, parish lunch, Christmas Fair, Fellowship and WI meetings, badminton, table tennis, and the ever popular Wednesday morning warm hub coffee mornings. All of these activities are about community and togetherness, all of which are dear to the Society's heart.

Another important village asset is the Grasmere pharmacy and we must be careful not to take it for granted. For the pill poppers amongst us the repeat prescription facility is great but the pharmacy has so much more to offer and we must use it or lose it.

The Friends of the Lake District are running another Dark Skies Big Switch Off in Grasmere and Ambleside on Friday 9th February from 7pm.

Grasmere Village Society is taking part again and information posters have been delivered to local businesses to encourage participation and highlight the impact of lighting on wildlife, as well as giving us the opportunity to see what a difference it makes to our view of the stars. This will mean that the street lighting in Grasmere will be turned off.

Residents are encouraged to take part again and further information can be found on the Friends of the Lake District website, including the Cumbria Star Count 2024 which takes place 6th to 13th February.



Grasmere Village Society membership renewals were due on 1st January 2024. GVS was set up to secure the preservation, protection, development, and improvement of features of historic and public interest in the village.

The membership fee is only £1 per adult and 50p per junior member under 18, existing and past members will have received personal invitations in December. However if you are not currently a member you can join using the online form at <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/CvmdUw3H8P>. If you prefer a manual form to complete and return, please contact our membership secretary Simon Hey at simonhey4@gmail.com or phone on 015394 35067 or 07785 920316.

Nick McCraith (Chairman)

Thank You

Thank you very much to everyone who donated money for the beautiful cyclamen used to decorate St Oswald's church over Advent and Christmas.

It was much appreciated.

Sonia Rickman



Front Cover

Thank you to **Emma Powell** for capturing the beauty of Grasmere and the Herdwick in the winter months. And of course, thank you to everyone who submitted a photo - you may see them on future covers.

Please keep them coming!

**The deadline is March 18th 2024
for the April - May edition.**



Holy Week and Easter

24th March

PALM SUNDAY

- 9.30am Holy Communion & Blessing of Palms
at St. Mary`s Rydal
- 11.00am Holy Communion & Blessing of Palms
at St. Oswald`s

28th March

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 6.30pm Holy Communion at St. Oswald`s

29th March

GOOD FRIDAY

- 11.00pm Prayers at the Cross at St. Oswald`s
with Procession to Moss Parrock
- 12.00pm Prayers at the Cross at Moss Parrock.

31st March

EASTER DAY

- 9.30am Easter Day Celebration at St. Mary`s Rydal
- 11.00am Easter Day Celebration at St. Oswald`s

Parish Meal

For the past eighteen months we have been running a Parish Meal about every ten weeks.

The meals are for **anyone** to come to, to share food and have a chat. A trusty band of helpers either set up the hall, cook the food or tidy up afterwards. It's a lovely atmosphere and everyone mucks in.

If you haven't been before do come - you will be warmly welcomed! We don't charge for the meal but ask for a donation and people give what they can afford. The money raised pays for the event and any surplus is given to church activities, and a selected charity. Last year we were able to give £500 to the local food bank.

To help with catering, 50 tickets are available from Barneys, roughly three weeks before the event. The meal starts at 12.30 and we are usually finished around 2.30. If you have any food requirements please let me know in advance. The dates for this year:

Sunday 14th April

Sunday 7th July

Sunday 29th September

Sunday 1st December

We do hope you will join us !



Ann Jackman, Churchwarden

Grasmere WI

Happy New Year from all at Grasmere WI (all 73 of us!) We have got a very exciting and action-packed 2024 programme lined up. Do come and join in the fun, you will be made very welcome. Just call in at one of our monthly meetings or contact me. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Our website link is <https://grasmerewi.wordpress.com/>



Here are some **brief highlights of our recent activities....In December** we visited the Country Living Christmas Fair at Harrogate, such a wonderful day trip which turned into an unexpected weekend away and a real adventure when our minibus could not get any further than Kendal on the return journey due to the freak snow storm !!! Opposite are some of the week-enders outside the unplanned hotel stay...

Our other **December** Christmas activities included a festive visit to Townend at Troutbeck, a brilliant GWI Christmas Book Club meeting at Allan Bank and a really fabulous Christmas Party at Tweedies (50 of us!) - see opposite.



In **January**, our monthly meeting was a fun afternoon with Phillip Burley, getting us all involved in his Passion for Puzzles. Also in **January** we had a fabulous day trip to Wensleydale Creamery in Hawes and a pamper day at Kendal College - wonderful!

Looking ahead.....

By popular demand, **February** sees the return of our stepping challenge for our charity the wonderful St Mary's Hospice. It's such a brilliant, good fun challenge(9,000 steps a day) raising much needed funds for St Mary's Hospice. Please do join in and support us, every step and contribution helps! We have a Team Grasmere Supporting St Mary's Hospice Facebook page and a Just Giving page for the challenge. Please look us up or get in contact with me.

At our meeting on **Thursday 8 February 2pm** at the Village Hall, we will be joined by the truly inspiring Paddlers for Life - a group paddling, thriving and surviving after cancer.

In **February**, we are hitting the West End from Fellinis when we go to see the National Theatre production of Vanya. Our Art Club is having a day trip to Glasgow to visit the fabulous Burrell Collection and we are meeting up with Lucy Worsley in Kendal to hear her expert and intriguing talk on the famous author, Agatha Christie.

It's our AGM on **Thursday 14 March 2pm** at the Village Hall when we will be joined by our friends from St Mary's Hospice for a very interesting and uplifting afternoon.

In **March**, we are going on a behind the scenes tour of Theatre By The Lake, we are day tripping to the RHS Bridgewater Garden in Manchester and we are back at Kendal College for yet more pampering.

Our monthly Book / Culture club at Allan Bank is a huge success, with a packed attendance and lively discussion each month. We also have our very popular monthly rambles and Art Club meetings. Amazingly, our Lakes and Tarns challenge continues, with members continuing to tick off visits to Lakeland tarns near and far. We have had a bumper few weeks. We have now visited 111 distinct tarns and have reset our tarn target to 200 tarns.

Finally, a huge thanks to our Committees and all our members for making Grasmere WI such a vibrant, friendly and fun group. Looking forward to a very exciting year ahead!

Louise Sykes President Grasmere WI

Tel: 07860 299658 : Email: clsmailbox@icloud.com

Grasmere Fellowship

We have some exciting talks coming up for the start of this year!

- February 1st** Rowena Pavey will speak about South Lakes Carer Support
- February 15th** Lisa Bennett will lead us the setting up and running of The Westmorland County Agricultural Society and Show.
- March 7th** Friends of the Lake District new chief Executive Mike Hill will share his vision of how the Friends can help the Lake District. Also, Jack Ellerby will talk about the Dark Skies events.
- March 21st** Donald Angus – former National Park Ranger - will regale us with his knowledge of Lakeland's Industrial Past including the Honister Slate Mines.

Do come and learn and enjoy!

Meetings start at 2.30pm in the Hall, followed by tea and cake.

Melissa Harwood

Knit and Nat

We are continuing with our bi-weekly group meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the Reading Rooms in Grasmere between 2pm - 4pm.

We have just celebrated our 9th Birthday and find our numbers increasing. The kettle is always on and everyone is most welcome. There is a small charge of £1.00 to help towards the heating, tea and coffee . There are a large amount of needles and wool available free. We often have requests from different causes to knit for and there is always a good chat.

To find out more call Sharon on 015394 35458.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year



Warm Hub Coffee Mornings



We are delighted to report the Warm Hub Coffee mornings are going from strength to strength.

We are attracting many visitors thanks to the GVS. They kindly supplied the banner to advertise the event and it's now displayed outside the front of the Village Hall.

We are aiming to increase the popular "Table Tennis" game by buying a second table, along with "heavier, better quality ping pong balls"! We hope that competitions could become a regular event!

In addition, we would like to encourage speakers from the community, to talk on issues such as fraud prevention or how to use a mobile phone etc.

If you think you could help please get in touch.

A huge thank you to the ladies for supplying delicious baking treats for us to nibble on, always welcome especially on a cold morning.

Please feel welcome to join in, the more the merrier. We look forward to seeing you !

Each Wednesday morning from 10am to 12:30. Volunteers welcome.

Sharon Savasi Village Hall Committee



Grasmere and Cumbria Weather

November



After the very mild start to Autumn, temperatures were on a downward trend in November. At the start of the month, Cumbria was swept by strong easterly winds, but only light, patchy rain. Temps. we're well above average, with highs close to 14.C.

Another depression followed on the 4th. then westerlies returned by mid month. On the 13th. a small but intense low crossed Cumbria again, with strong winds and heavy rain with 76 mm. 3 inches recorded here in Grasmere. On the 21st. pressure rose strongly as an anticyclone built across the county. However, temperatures dropped rapidly as polar air filtered south. Then it became dry and sunny, with frost at night and many stations recording -7.C. on the 29th. and afternoon temperatures on the 30th were close to freezing. It was notable that the vast majority of the rain fell in the first 20 days. The 13th was the wettest day in the county, with a few stations recording in excess of 100 mm. 4 inches. At Honister 124.2 mm. was noted, the greatest 24 hour fall anywhere in the UK during the month. The total for the month at Honister was a staggering 554.8mm. 21.85 inches. Storm Debi, also on the 13th. brought the strongest winds to Cumbria, and several thousand homes were without power. As usual, the strong winds and heavy rain were caused by the jet stream which was much further south than usual. On Nov 23rd brewing a cuppa during Storm Ciaran left a peculiar taste. The very low atmospheric pressure meant that the boiling point of water was 2.C. lower than normal giving a far less tasty drink. A new November mean sea level air pressure low was recorded in England and Wales, dropping to 953.3 millibars. Certainly this was not a month to remember. Here in Grasmere the figures for November:

Wettest Nov. day 13th 75.7mm. 2.98 inches. Total for month 306.8 mm. 12.08 in. Last year 14.74 inches. Average 10.58 inches.

Nov. rain days 21 Last year 28. Rain days to date (end of Nov.) 232. Last year 219. Total for year to date (end of Nov.) 2660.9 mm. 104.80 inches Last year 87.64 inches. Other readings for Nov. Ambleside 9.48 in. Coniston 14.37 in. Walney 5.96 in.

December



An horrendous month weatherwise with one dry day! December began with a hard frost on the 1st. - 6.C. with rain turning to snow on low ground. Then on the 2nd. the wind veered south easterly, which brings the heaviest of snows, and deposited over 7 inches of snow here in Grasmere. On the 3rd. there was absolute chaos on the major roads, with literally hundreds of abandoned vehicles, especially from Grasmere to Windermere. It took hours to travel very few miles. Fortunately the next day, a good thawing wind helped to get rid of the snow pretty quickly. Then by the 5th most of it had disappeared.

This was followed by another hard frost on the morning of the 6th. down to - 6.C. The second week comprised of dark, dreary days, with long periods of heavy rain and thundery showers. In fact, over seven and a half inches of rain fell during the second week. These conditions continued until the 21st-when Storm Pia arrived, with a yellow weather warning. This in turn brought more heavy rain, with 60 to 70 mph gusts in Grasmere.

In the UK a white Christmas was declared in Tulloch Bridge, whereas in contrast in other parts, it was the warmest Christmas for 5 years. Here, the unsettled conditions continued. The maximum temperature for Dec. is 7.C. whereas 13.2.C. was noted in Somerset. Next, Storm Gerri appeared on the scene with more wind and rain. Giant hailstones fell here on the night of the 27th. There's only one cloud that manufactures these, and that's cumulonimbus, the storm cloud. But one other fact is that they don't last long.

Shap was the coldest place in the UK on the 29th. where the mercury fell to -7.2. Interestingly, Shap was not only the wettest place in the UK, with 2.53 inches being recorded, but unbelievably the wettest in Europe as well. More heavy rain and strong winds followed. With the wind behind you, the low pressure is always on your left hand side. Definitely another month to forget weatherwise. Wettest Dec. day 27th. 71.6mm. 2.82in, Total for month 532.8 mm. 20.98 in. Last year 13.05 in. Dec. rain days 30 Last year 20. Rain days for year 262 .Last year 239

Grand totals for year 3117.9mm. 122.79 inches. Last year 100.69 inches

Greatest fall in one day for 2023. October 5th. 3.16 inches.

Peter Bailey

CALENDAR FEBRUARY

1 st	Grasmere Fellowship	Village Hall	2.30pm
4 th	Open Church	St Oswald's	11am
6 th	Cultural Landscapes Lecture	Ambleside Campus	6.30pm
7 th	Warm Spot	Village Hall	10am
8 th	Grasmere W.I.	Village Hall	2pm
9 th	Dark Skies	Grasmere	7pm
11 th	Sunday Celebration	St Oswald's	11am
13 th	Knit and Nat	Reading Room	2pm-4pm
14 th	Ash Wednesday	St Oswald's	10am
	Warm Spot	Village Hall	10am
15 th	Grasmere Fellowship	Village Hall	2.30pm
18 th	Sunday Celebration	St Oswald's	11am
20 th	Harps North West	Allan Bank	10.30am
21 st	Warm Spot	Village Hall	10am
25 th	Sunday Celebration	St Oswald's	11am
27 th	Knit and Nat	Reading Room	2pm-4pm

CALENDAR MARCH

3rd	Sunday Celebration	St Oswald's	11am
6th	Warm Spot	Village Hall	10am
7th	Grasmere Fellowship	Village Hall	2.30pm
10th	Open Church Mothering Sunday	St Oswald's	11am
13 th	Warm Spot	Village Hall	10am
14 th	Grasmere W.I. AGM	Village Hall	2pm
17th	Sunday Celebration	St Oswald's	11am
21	Grasmere Fellowship	Village Hall	2.30pm
24	Palm Sunday	St Oswald's	11am
26	Easter Trail until 7th April	Allan Bank	10.30am
28 th	Maundy Thursday	St Oswald's	6.30pm
29 th	Good Friday	St Oswald's Moss Parrock	11am 12 noon
	Cumbria Local Arts	Village Hall	
31 st	Easter Sunday	St Oswald's	11am

Grasmere Village Hall

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas period and had a nice break from work (or whatever it is you normally do). Grasmere's Christmas Fair was a great success, despite a rather heavy fall of snow! The Grand Christmas Raffle raised around £3,300 to be split between the Grasmere Red Squirrel Group and purchasing new AV equipment for the Hall. The Trustees would like to thank all the individuals and local businesses who generously donated prizes. It could not have happened without you!

The Hall has had a busy January with the hugely entertaining Grasmere Players' pantomime 'Aladdin' and a Burns Night supper featuring a ceilidh, haggis and whisky!

The weekly Warm Spot coffee & chat sessions are continuing every Wednesday at 10.00 to 12.30. Everyone is welcome to pop in and have a tea or coffee and chat. Try your hand at table tennis too. On 7 February, we will be joined by Claire Keyes from Cumbria Police who will give us a short talk at 10.30 entitled 'Stop, Challenge, Protect – take 5 to prevent fraud' with an opportunity for questions.

Looking ahead, plans are underway to bring another murder mystery to the Hall – date to be confirmed – we will publish details as soon as possible. The Cumbria Local Arts Exhibition will be back over the Easter period, starting on Good Friday, 29 March, until Sunday 7 April.

Looking ahead even further, we would like to have a New Year's Eve party for the village to see in 2025, but we will need some help to plan, organise and run the evening. If you would like to help or know of any music providers (band / DJ) or caterers who might be interested, please contact us: enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk or 015394 35628.

There are much needed repairs and improvements to be made to the Hall, as well as new audio-visual equipment, so your continued support is much appreciated. We will be making a concerted effort this year to raise the necessary funds. Thank you to all our hirers and users; we aim to provide plenty more entertainment in 2024.

Pam Moreland Secretary Village Hall Committee

Grasmere Village Hall

As you may be aware, I will be stepping down as Chair of Grasmere Village Hall. In recent years the building has seen many improvements and also a dramatic increase in the number and variety of bookings.

There is an excellent committee of dedicated and active trustees. At the recent AGM we discussed the need to look to the next phase in the Hall's history. We therefore invite you to consider taking on the role of Chair at this exciting time.

If you are interested, please contact us at enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk for further details and role description. Applications by short letter, stating why you are interested and what you would like to offer as Chair, should be received by 29 February so an appointment can be made at the end of March.

Jeff Cowton Chair, Grasmere Village Hall

Wordsworth

GRASMERE

By the time that you read this Dove Cottage will just have had its annual deep clean – the floors buffed, objects conservation cleaned, and wood paneling cleaned and oiled!

Entry to Dove Cottage, the Museum and exhibitions is free to all Grasmere residents and employees of Grasmere businesses.

Our winter opening hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm.

Humphry Davy's Notebooks: From 16th January to 23rd March, we will be hosting an exhibition in our community gallery that is the result of a project to transcribe Sir Humphry Davy's (1778-1829) notebooks. Davy is, of course, most famous for inventing the miners' safety lamp and isolating sodium and potassium. Davy wrote poetry throughout his life and was a friend of Coleridge and Wordsworth. We will be delving further into Davy's life and work on 25th January when we will be joined in an online webinar by **Profs Sharon Rushton and Frank James and Sara Cole.**

We are continuing our webinars into 2024. Please join **Stephen Gill** on 8th February to explore inscriptions and human stories in the Wordsworth books from his collection that mean the most to him.

On 19th March join **Dr John Lovseth and Professors Nick Mason and Saeko Yoshikawa** for the first of three "Tree Talks" - a series of online discussions about tree-oriented research, interests, and activism in the environmental humanities and beyond.



Voices of Windermere is a poetry collection by Dove Cottage Poets. In 2023 the group worked alongside contemporary artist and sculptor Jocelyn McGregor to explore the untold stories of Windermere and the Jetty Museum. We will be hosting the launch of this collection on 20th February at 7pm in the Jerwood Centre.

When you visit us in January and February our free daily activities will have a special winter theme. Why not write winter-themed poetry in the Café, help create a new rag rug for Dove Cottage, sketch in the Garden-Orchard or craft with your children in the Museum? Our spring and Easter themed activities will begin in March.

On 14th February from 10:30 – 12:30 families are welcome to join our free **Make and Play session** in the Learning Space. We will explore both what William and Dorothy loved most and things we love through card making, landscape painting, making bird feeders and creating 3D paper bouquets!

Little Wanderers, our creative play sessions for under 5s, takes place every Friday morning in the Learning Space. Free for Grasmere families.

The next event in **‘Go to the poets, they will speak to thee’**, our online poetry reading series hosted by Kim Moore, takes place on 21st February with Gillian Clarke.

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

For more information and to book, please visit wordsworth.org.uk We are @wordsworthGras on socials!

*Hannah Catterall, Events Officer,
Wordsworth Grasmere*



45th Annual Cumbria Local Arts Exhibition

Easter is coming so the Cumbria Local Arts Exhibition is here again, now in its 45th year. As always the exhibition is located in the beautiful Grasmere Village Hall from 29th March to 7th April 2024.

Featuring 115 artists from all over Cumbria and the Lake District it shows nearly 600 original artworks in all mediums, sizes and prices.

The majority of the work is shown for the first time. Artists range from acclaimed award-winning professionals to artists that are exhibiting for the first time. The mission of the exhibition has always been to provide a platform to showcase art from Cumbria.

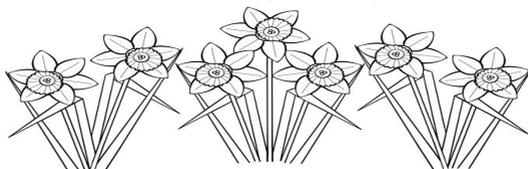
A true celebration of creativity from across Cumbria. This follows on from the record-breaking exhibition in 2023. We received hundreds of lovely comments such as -

"Blown away by the quality and variety of work", "the most serene experience", and "Stunning".

For information visit <https://cumbrialocalarts.com>

Roger Maddison

June Maddison and family would like to say thank you for the cards, letters, flowers and food following Roger's death and a special thank you to Rev. David Wilmot for conducting the funeral.



OPEN CHURCH



11 am

St Oswald's

4th February

10th March

(Mothering Sunday)

Refreshments served after the service.

All Welcome

A service of worship and song

Grasmere Book Group

December's book group met to discuss Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Books*. Much like today's Christmas No. 1's, in the 1840s Dickens decided he enjoyed writing *A Christmas Carol* so much he would continue to write Christmas novellas each year. Whilst the other tales had definite moments of entertainment, we could see why the likes of *The Chimes* and *The Cricket on the Hearth* are less read today. Reading the collection as a whole did give us a way to consider just how strange *A Christmas Carol* is! The main tale's various visitations, hauntings and seasonal cheer were as compelling to those who were rereading as those reading for the first time.

January's meeting was a whirligig of book recommendations and reading ideas. Novels, crime thrillers, graphic novels, biographies, science fiction books and nature memoirs were all thrown into the mix. At the time of heading to press we're still finalising our full year's reading, but we have the first four months organized!

Our first four books are confirmed as follows:

FEBURARY 8th – Amy Liptrot, *The Outrun*

MARCH 14th – Ben Myers, *Cuddy*

APRIL 11th - Helen Rebanks, *The Farmer's Wife*

MAY 9th – EM Ward, *Forest Silver* [a Grasmere novel from the 1940s]

Book group meets online at 8pm on the second Thursday of every month. All are welcome to join... do email us and we can send you a Zoom link. All book group books are available from Sam Read's at 10% discount off the r.r.p.

Thanks so much to everyone who has supported book group in 2023 and we look forward to another year of bookish conversations in 2024!

Polly and Will – dr.will.smith@me.com

Cultural Landscapes Lecture

Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 6.30pm

Grevel Lindop

Margaret Cropper: Rediscovering a Lakeland Poet

Margaret Cropper (1886-1980) is among the finest Cumbrian poets of the twentieth century, yet her work has been scandalously neglected. The lecture will argue that she is an important Cumbrian poet and essential to our revaluation of women's writing.

Percival Lecture Theatre (Langdale Building)

University of Cumbria's Ambleside campus.

Event free booking essential. Tickets from

www.ticketsource.co.uk



Contact us for a chat about your garden and to arrange a free consultation on:

Mike Fearon: 07918 800 248 Holly Bean: 07471 421 153

Email us: info@greenvalleygardeners.co.uk

The Farming Year

Grasmere is, at its heart, a farming community. Farming, especially sheep farming shapes the landscape around us. but how much do Grasmereians know about what our farmers do? In a new series, we follow young farmers, Matthew, and Emma Powell at Brimmer Head, who take us through the farming year.

How long have you both been farming at Easedale?

I was born at Brimmer Head some 26 years ago and Emma has been here for the past 7 years. Having originally come from Patterdale Emma is able to combine being a paramedic with farming. In Patterdale, there are more farms than here in Grasmere and they tend to farm Swaledale sheep but fundamental we face the same issues.

What are the main things farmers must do in the colder months?

The main thing, as you'd guess, is keeping the animals alive and in good health. This includes keeping plenty of feed available and ensuring the cattle are kept clean and dry. We spend time finding things to improve around the farm such as dry-stone walling and fencing before the stock return from the fell to the in-by land.

What are the main problems you face?

Obviously, in the winter the weather can be difficult. Herdwicks spend 90% of their time on the fell so they must be hardy to cope with what the weather throws at them. In general, we find that people's knowledge of the Countryside Code is lacking, so we have to contend with dogs off leads worrying livestock, gates being left open, littering and walking off the footpaths.



Can you explain some of the words relating to sheep farming that we hear but probably don't understand?

Tups and tuppings	Male sheep and the mating season
Gimmers	Female sheep
Shearlings and Twinters	The three years before Herdwicks lamb
Hefting	Where the flock bonds to the farm land
Bullock and Heifer	Castrated male cow and a female cow

By the way, we don't count sheep the traditional way of yan, tan, tether etc!

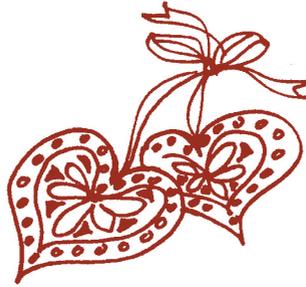
What are you looking forward to in the Spring?

We look forward to calving and lambing in, hopefully, better weather. The livestock shows begin again and we all enjoy going to them.

Do you often look out of your farm and think this is the most beautiful place on earth?

Yes, I think it is on a good day but Emma thinks that it is, most of the time!





14th February St Valentine's Day, a poem

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601):

To-morrow is Saint Valentine's day

All in the morning betime

And I a maid at your window

To be your Valentine.

A more modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue

The honey's sweet, and so are you.

Thou are my love and I am thine

I drew thee to my Valentine.

Happy St Valentine's Day!

ALLAN BANK



Allan Bank is welcoming back visitors from the 13th February, just in time for Valentine's day.

Harps Northwest will be performing for us on the 20th February, and we will be running another lino printing on Saturday 24th February. This will be an introductory workshop from 10:30-12:00. Do join us, it costs £25 per person.



Our Easter celebrations start on the 26th March running until the 7th April. This includes a family fun trail with outdoor and indoor activities, arts and crafts. The trail will be £3 per person and of course, includes a chocolate egg!



Our house exhibition is 'Flower time in Oberland' focusing on Eleanor Rawnsley's (nee Simpson, 1873-1959) holiday watercolours from her time travelling the world with Canon Hardwick Rawnsley and his first wife Mrs. Edith Rawnsley.

Lawn games, tea and coffee will also be available.

Allan Bank is looking for indoor and outdoor volunteers to join our team. If you would like more information on what is available please come up for a coffee and chat with Chris, Alia or Rebecca.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Alia Cruz Welcome Manager



Support Group

For those with dementia, their carers and friends

Ambleside Parish Centre

**Tuesday 20th February and Tuesday 19th March
10.30 – 11.30 am**

Information, Games and Leaflets available

Elaine Ravenhall from Alzheimer's Society will be joining us.

More details 015394 34172 admin@amblesidepc.org.uk

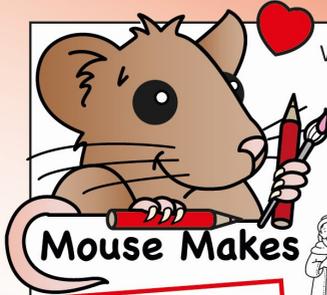
AND

**Save The Date
16th April**

There will be an INFORMATION HUB, with organisations available to provide health and social care information, for anyone seeking help and support for a variety of age-related conditions, including dementia.

A full list of attending organisations will be available before the meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and find the support you need.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?
_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE
Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

You've probably seen the advice to reduce your thermostat (not below 18°C while you are at home). But switch your heating off completely when leaving the house for a few hours. It's cheaper to reheat your home than keep your heating on low when you're out.

And you'll have been told to insulate your home. But how? Fitting draught-proofing strips to your windows and doors is a quick DIY job and can save around £45 a year. A hot water cylinder jacket is easy to fit, typically costs under £30 and can save roughly £50 a year on energy bills. And if you have an unused chimney, installing a chimney draught excluder could save you around £65 a year.

Another free tip is to keep furniture and covers away from radiators and heaters. Blocking the source of heat keeps you cold, overworks your system and wastes money.

In addition to turning off lights and appliances you're not using, you can also make savings by using your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle instead of higher temperatures. Ditch the dryer to save even more money - dry your clothes on racks inside or outside in warmer weather to save up to £60 a year.

And have you heard of ECO? (Energy Company Obligation) This scheme obliges energy companies to support households to install energy efficiency measures such as insulation and new, more efficient heating systems. Contact your supplier.

If you're still struggling to afford your energy bills, the first step is to get in touch with your supplier. But if you are already in debt, contact South Lakes Citizens Advice without delay.

How to access:

- ***Call 015394 46464 - this is staffed from 9:30 – 2pm***
- ***Adviceline: 0808 2787 984***
- ***visit our website www.southlakescab.org.uk***
- ***Help to Claim (Universal Support): 0800 144 8 444***

CONTACTS

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

Rector: The Rev. David Wilmot

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

Tel: 07305 777113 rev.grasmererydal@hotmail.com

Church Warden: Ann Jackman

07899733104 jackmanae@icloud.com

Treasurer: Richard Beskeen 015394 35131

treasurer.grasmereandrydal@gmail.com

Organist: Mr Ian Hare MA Mus B 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. Ajish Kumpukkal, Mater Amabilis Church, 015394 33027

Quaker: Friend In Residence: Terry Winterton. Glenthorne,

Tel: 015394 35389 info@glenthorne.org

URC Minister: The Rev. Martyn Coe, Carver Church 01539 533223

Central Lakes Mission Community Rev. John Dixon

015394 36301 jjcedixon@btinternet.com

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Dove Cottage • Museum • Woodland
Garden • Café • Shop • Family Activities



Open Tuesdays - Saturdays

Don't forget that admission is free for Grasmere residents
and employees of Grasmere businesses