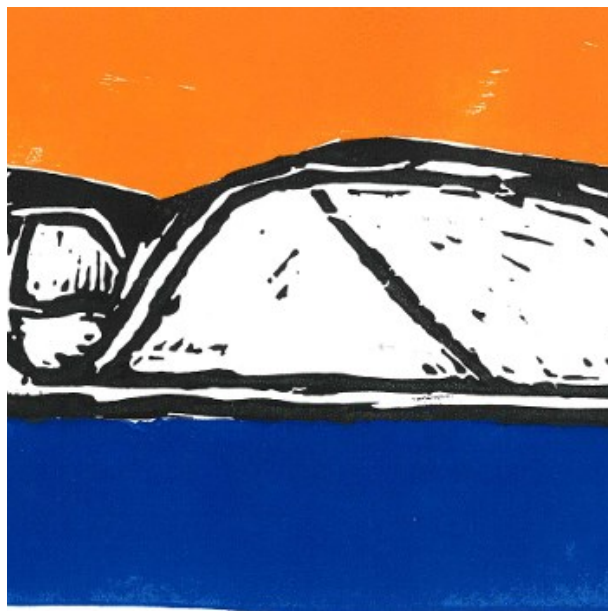


Grasmere and Rydal Parish Magazine



**October - November
2025**

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

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

Advertising in the Magazine

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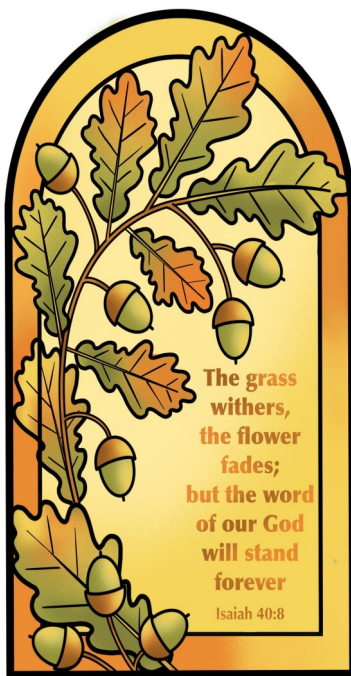
Ann and David Jackman - editor@oswaldparish.news

Apologies in advance for any errors or omissions.

From The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Well, the sunhats are all put away, the ice-cream van is quieter than it was, and if you risk a stroll past the lake without a waterproof, you're braver than me. Summer has slipped gently past us once again. We've had our share of visitors—some here for the beauty, some for the Beatrix Potter souvenirs, and some who simply took a wrong turn off the M6. Grasmere Rushbearing was, as ever, a curious blend of joy, tradition, and trying not to trip over one another in church. Grasmere Sports brought us its usual display of strength, stamina, and the excitement of the hound trails. And school holidays reminded us that children have more energy than the national grid, while parents... don't.



Now we turn towards autumn and winter. The fields are quieter, the fells a little more brooding. Harvest gives us a chance to say thank you—to God, to the land, to those whose work keeps us fed, and perhaps to the inventor of central heating. Then comes Remembrance, where silence speaks more than words can, as we honour courage and grieve loss. And before we know it, Advent arrives: that strange season of waiting for what we already know has come, and yet still long for afresh.

The seasons do something important for us. They remind us that life is not a straight line but a rhythm. We are not machines endlessly producing, but creatures learning to receive, to rest, to rejoice, to mourn. God has stitched into creation a reminder that nothing lasts forever—except love.

And that is the good news at the heart of it all: summer's visitors may go, autumn's leaves may fall, winter's nights may lengthen, but the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.

So as we put away the sun hats and reach for the scarves, let's walk together through these changing times with gratitude, with gentleness, and perhaps even with a smile. After all, if God can work through harvest barns, war memorials, and even Advent calendars, then God can surely work through us, here and now, in Grasmere and Rydal.

With every blessing,

Lawrence

Rota for Sidespersons

5th October	DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON
12th October	SONIA RICKMAN & PAT TAYLOR
19th October	TREVOR & HELEN EASTES
26th October	GERRY & ANNE RAWCLIFFE
2nd November	DAVID & ANN JACKMAN
9th November	DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON
16th November	SONIA RICKMAN & PAT TAYLOR
23rd November	GERRY & ANNE RAWCLIFFE
30th November	DAVID & ANN JACKMAN

Serving God as a Family in Zermatt

This August, the Basham family had the privilege of serving as ICS chaplaincy team in Zermatt, Switzerland. Their time was rich in opportunities to share God's love, not just through services but also through countless encounters in the town.



From the very first evening, they found St Peter's church alive with visitors from across the world. Couples from the UK, Germany, and the US shared stories of faith, while young adults from countries including Italy, Brazil, and the Czech Republic seemed to be searching for God rather than history. Sensing this openness, the Basham's introduced a service of Night Prayer at 7pm. Attendance ranged from 6–9 people each evening, with moving encounters such as praying with a bereaved Englishman, supporting a young climber before his ascent of the Matterhorn, and welcoming locals drawn in simply by the ringing of the church bells.

Sundays were particularly encouraging. On 10th August, 42 attended Holy Communion (including 9 children), followed by fellowship in the sunshine. Visitors included former British PM Theresa May and her husband Philip, honeymooners from California, and a Russian family grateful for hospitality. One English woman wept with joy at receiving communion after many years, while a Dutch couple were profoundly moved when the Bashams' daughter Hope read the Gospel – linking beautifully with the book on hope they were studying. Evening worship that day gathered 12. The following Sunday, 19 attended morning communion and 15 evening worship, with missionaries, hotel workers, and curious tourists all joining in.

It was a season of missional joy: services, chance meetings, and daily conversations all became opportunities to share Christ's love. Above all, it was a vivid reminder that God delights to use whole families in His mission, showing hospitality, hope, and prayer to a world that is searching.

Alongside services, the family offered an “honesty café” with free coffee and a prayer basket. This became a witness in a place where everything is costly: a homeless man came daily for refreshment, tourists left prayer requests, and locals found a place of quiet sanctuary. The Basham children played an important role too – reading scripture, handing out chocolates after the farewell service, and making friends on the basketball courts where language was no barrier. Their presence softened hearts and reminded many that God’s mission is for all generations.

The family also built friendships with locals – praying with Edith and her bereaved neighbour Therese, chatting with shop workers burdened by tourist crowds, and listening to those carrying hidden struggles.

Lawrence



RYDAL

Rydal is now part of the new benefice of Grasmere and Rydal, sharing in worship and community life together. For those new to the area, the parish of Rydal extends the length of Under Loughrigg, across the Rothay river to Ambleside football club, and along the A591 to Nab Cottage/Bannerigg, as well as the immediate area around St Mary's church. This wide and beautiful parish setting gives St Mary's a special role as a place of welcome for both residents and visitors alike.

As we step into this new season at St Mary's, we are excited to share how this cherished place of worship is moving forward in fresh and life-giving ways. Although regular Sunday morning 9.30am Holy Communion services will now take place in the beautiful chapel at Rydal Hall, St Mary's remains very much alive at the heart of our community. The church is open daily as a space of peace and prayer, and continues to be available for weddings, baptisms and funerals—moments where life and faith meet in celebration and in comfort.

We warmly invite you to join us for special services at St Mary's throughout the year—Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost—occasions that bring us together in thankfulness and hope. In addition, our much-loved Taizé evening services will continue at 7pm on the first Sunday of each month (except January and August). For the winter months—November, December, February, March and April—these will be held in Rydal Hall Chapel, returning to St Mary's for the warmer seasons.

Rydal Hall itself also offers quiet days and events that provide wonderful opportunities for reflection and renewal. You can find out more at **www.rydalhall.org/events**.

This new chapter for St Mary's is rooted in tradition, yet open to new possibilities. We are eager to welcome the wider community, friends old and new, to discover or rediscover the joy of worship, prayer and fellowship in Rydal.

If you would like to know more, please call Rev. Lawrence Basham, Rector of the benefice of Grasmere and Rydal and Chaplain at Rydal Hall, on 07891 001592. Come and be part of this new season with us—you will always find a warm welcome.

Jane Robinson, Ruth Yates (PCC members) and Lawrence Basham

SERVICES

Sunday Oct 5th 9.30am **Harvest Festival** St Mary's Church, Rydal

11.00am **Harvest Festival** St Oswald's, Grasmere

Sunday Oct 12th 9.30am Holy Communion Rydal Hall Chapel

11.00am Holy Communion St Oswald's, Grasmere

Sunday Oct 19th 9.30am Holy Communion Rydal Hall Chapel

11.00am Open Church St Oswald's, Grasmere

Sunday Oct 26th 9.30am Holy Communion Rydal Hall Chapel

11.00am Holy Communion St Oswald's, Grasmere

Sunday Nov 2nd 9.30am Holy Communion Rydal Hall Chapel

11.00am Holy Communion St Oswald's, Grasmere

Sunday Nov 9th 9.30am **Remembrance** St Mary's Church

11.00am **Remembrance** Rydal St Oswald's, Grasmere

Sunday Nov 16th 9.30am Holy Communion Rydal Hall Chapel

11.00am Holy Communion St Oswald's, Grasmere

Sunday Nov 23rd 9.30am Holy Communion Rydal Hall Chapel

11.00am Open Church St Oswald's, Grasmere

Sunday Nov 30th 9.30am Holy Communion Rydal Hall Chapel

11.00am Holy Communion St Oswald's, Grasmere

Tuesdays 11.00am Holy Communion St Oswald's, Grasmere

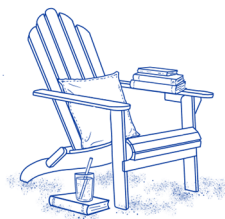
Thursdays 2.30pm Silent Half Hour St Oswald's, Grasmere

Mon – Fri (daily) 9.00am Morning Prayer Rydal Hall Chapel

Weds & Thurs 8.00pm Night Prayer Rydal Hall Chapel

Grasmere and Cumbria Weather

July conditions were more typical of summer, with cool, showery weather either side of a lengthy, warm spell mid month. Pressure was high to the south of the UK. as July began, with depressions crossing Cumbria with a brisk westerly wind. Atlantic fronts brought rain on the 4th. and 6th. and under leaden skies temps .remained below 59.F. in many places. Northerly winds brought further cool weather on the 8th., and under clear skies temps. fell to below 6.C.at some stations, with a minimum of 3.6.C. at Bewcastle. Pressure was high across Cumbria on the 10th. and temps. rose quickly, reaching 82.F. Sebergham and Scotby recorded the months highest temp. with a max. of 90.F. Then easterlies brought cooler air off the North Sea, although it remained dry and sunny.



Low pressure was dominant on the 14th. with 40.8mm. (1.61 in.) being recorded here in Grasmere, the month's wettest day. Further heavy rain fell on the 19th. and 20th. High pressure in the last week brought typical summer weather of sunshine and showers. Mean temps. were above average, with heatwave conditions mid month, more than balancing the cooler weather during the first and last week. Rainfall amounts varied considerably across the county, with above average across the Lake District and Carlisle area, but below average in the Eden Valley. July was our 5th. warmest July on record, thanks to 2 heatwaves in quick succession. July also saw below average rainfall, making it the sixth month this year, with drier than average conditions. It's also the sixth consecutive month with above average. mean temperatures, with only January falling below average. Never a dull moment!

July wettest day, 14th. 40.8mm. (1.61 inches)

July rain days 17. Last year 21

Total for month 145.5 mm. (5.73 inches) Last year 4.46 inches

Rain days to date (end July) 103 Last year 148

Total for year to date (end July) 1110.6 mm. 43.75 inches Last year 62.01 inches.

August started off on an unsettled note, with heavy, thundery showers, interspersed with brief sunny spells. Humidity increased from the 12th. with pressure rising and temps. running into the high 70's, due to the calm, cloudless conditions. .



Hot, sunny days followed for the next 13 days, with no rainfall being recorded. 15 are needed for an absolute drought. Then on the 25th. high cirrus clouds approached from the muck hole (the south-west) and soon the heavens opened with heavy thundery showers and very brief sunshine, until the month's end. Temperatures fell to the low 60's F. However, this summer was officially declared the UK.'s warmest on record, with the mean temp. from June 1st. to Aug.31st. 16.10 C. which is 1.51.C. above the long-term average. That means now, every summer in the top 5 warmest has occurred in this century. However, last year, the UK. experienced the coolest summer since 2015, with temps. 0.22. C. below average. This year, especially in Grasmere, was yet another "mast" year, the last one being in 2022. In a "mast" year, certain trees and shrubs produce a particular abundance of nuts and fruits. The sloe comes to mind in Grasmere. These ideal conditions follow warm, dry springs and hot summers. But due to climate change, the frequency of "mast" years has increased significantly over the past 20 years.

We're still in "drought "mode, in Cumbria, and the big concern now, is the high levels of phosphorus and harmful bacteria, that failed water quality standards in Windermere Lake. A survey saw 350 volunteers collect more than 1000 samples during 10 sessions, that took place over 30 months at more than 100 locations. The advice given -'Do not swim in Windermere'. I've always thought that Scotland had its own climate. On September 3rd. Leeming was the warmest 70.F. Aonach the coldest.41. F. Fort William the wettest 1.05 inches. Fair Isle sunniest. 10.3 hours. Soon, the days will be shorter than the nights!!

August wettest day 3rd. 43,8 mm. (1.72 inches) Aug. rain days 17. Last year 24. Total for month. 190.7 mm. 7.51 inches. Av. 8.01 inches. Rain days to date (end Aug.) 120. Last year 172.

Total for year to date (end Aug.) 1301.3mm. 51.26 inches Last year 78.58 inches. *Peter Bailey*

Music Notes

Having had a series of interesting musical events in church over the summer, it is time to step back and consider what it would best to plan for next year, both in terms of concerts and music at services. I am the first to acknowledge that concerts are not essential to church life, although there are plenty of references to ceremonial music in the Old Testament, less so in the New Testament, apart from the book of Revelation. However, as an historic church in a “tourist hot-spot”, we perhaps have a dual purpose, both for worship and other appropriate cultural activities, of which concerts do attract visitors and some residents, depending on their content. We have a small Music at Grasmere committee, and if anyone would like to be part of this I would be pleased to hear from them as many hands make light work and fresh ideas are always welcome.

As well as Grasmere Glee, we now have the St Oswald Voices, a group of singers who like singing church music, and they will be taking part in the Harvest Festival service on **Sunday 5th October** at 11.00 a.m. and the Carol Service on **Thursday 18th December** at 6.00 p.m. Again, if there are any frustrated singers who would like to join in, please contact me for further details.

Looking more widely, on Sunday 19th October at 4.00 p.m. the Keswick Choral Society will be singing Evensong at St John’s Church, Keswick, and on Tuesday 9th December at 7.30 p.m. will have their Christmas concert there. In addition, on Saturday 13th December Ambleside Choral Society will have theirs in St Mary’s Church, and would no doubt also welcome your support.

Ian Hare

Front Cover

Thank you to James, from Grasmere School, for his artwork entitled,
‘Sunset Over Helm Crag’



Celebrating 400 years of Grasmere School

We are back at school enjoying the start of the new school year. One important date is the **11th December 6:30pm at Grasmere Village Hall**. We will be showing our (short!) film, by the makers of A Grasmere Nativity and A Handy Guide to Cracking the Countryside Code. There will be storytelling, an exhibition, and delicious refreshments. Tickets will be available soon. Please watch out for facebook posts, or email head@grasmere.cumbria.sch.uk

A legacy from our 400th year

We have a flagpole! The base is in and we're waiting for the rain to stop, before erecting it and flying our first flag. Many thanks to our village donor, who has paid for the whole thing.

We are trying to raise money for a new classroom. Herdy notebooks and raffle tickets are helping us on our way. Please email beth.abbott12@gmail.com for raffle tickets.

This will only take us so far... In 1680 the village raised subscriptions to build a school and fund a teacher. In the 1800s the community raised the funds to build our current buildings.

What will be the legacy of our 400th year? Could we build one new eco-classroom? This will enable us to reconfigure our buildings to get a hall and kitchen. Please visit our website: www.grasmereschool.com and click on the 400 to support the future of our village. Can this generation lay down the foundations for the next 100 years of our community school?

Jo Goode, Headteacher

Grasmere Fellowship

Another season gets underway with our opening service on **October 2nd** which will be taken by Lawrence. After the service Ian Hare will give a short demonstration of the workings and possibilities of our church organ.

October 14th is our first meeting in the Hall when Graham Kilner will give a talk based on his book "Pedestrian Pleasures" Graham explores the history of walking for pleasure in the Lake District. He last talked to us about Beatrice Potter's farms

As you may be aware the Hall is closed for refurbishment during November so our meetings that month will take place in the Buff Club before reverting to the Hall in December.

November 6th Chris Wadsworth will give a talk "Pursuing Percy". This is about the eccentric Cumbrian Artist Percy Kelly. Chris ran the Castlegate Gallery in Cockermouth for many years and has been a great advocate for the artist. She has also been organising a selling exhibition of Kelly's works at the Theatre by the Lake.

November 20th. Rob David will talk on "A Hotbed of Communist Activity." Rob who last year told us about Muncaster's care of the Tate collection during the war, tells us the story of two left wing ladies who arrived in Howtown in 1940 and their pursuit by MI5 and Shap police.

Membership fee is now £15. Guests are always welcome at a cost of £5 per meeting which makes membership even more attractive. Tea and cakes are included, as ever..

All meetings start at 2.30pm.

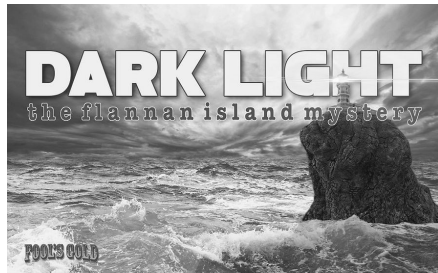
David Dodgson

Grasmere Village Hall

The Village Hall was proud to again host the Lake Artists Society's annual summer exhibition - an inspiring showcase of local talent that drew visitors from far and wide. With the wonderful exhibition now wrapped up, and following the lively and well-attended Voulez Vous ABBA Tribute Night, we have a packed programme of autumn and winter events.

Dark Light – A Musical Mystery by Fool's Gold

Friday 3rd October 7:30 pm (Doors 7:00 pm) The mystery of Flannan Isle featuring live storytelling, song, and stunning visuals on our brand-new AV system. Tickets £12 | Refreshments available or BYO.



Book online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/grasmere-village-hall-co-ltd> or reserve tickets on 015394 35628 or by sending a message through our Facebook page @GrasmereVillageHall

Grasmere Village Hall Cinema – Launch Event

Friday 17th October 6:00 pm We're excited to be launching our new community cinema with a free family film night - complete with complimentary popcorn and drinks. **Free entry!** Film title and further details to be confirmed. www.ticketsource.co.uk/grasmere-village-hall-co-ltd

We are also looking for at least one more person to join our new cinema committee, so please get in touch if you are interested in being involved.

Christmas Fused Glass Workshop

Thursday 23rd October 10.00 am – 12.00 pm, Tickets £35 Create beautiful glass Christmas decorations. Book online at www.highlightsnorth.co.uk or call 015394 35628.

A Year Like No Other – Pictorial Talk by Steve Watts, MBE

Friday 24th October 7:00 pm (Doors 6:30 pm) A powerful and moving presentation celebrating an extraordinary year in the Lake District. With stunning images and stories that capture the spirit of our community. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits. Tickets £10 | Available at Barney's Newsbox, Sam Read's Bookshop, or online at <https://>

The Ghost Train – A Halloween “Radio” Play by Grasmere Players

Friday 31st October & Saturday 1st November 7:30 pm

This vintage drama is performed in the style of a 1930s radio play. More details coming soon. See our noticeboards and social media for updates.



Coffee & Chat

Starting **1st October**, come and enjoy a warm drink, sweet treats, and friendly conversation. Whether you're new to the village or a familiar face, everyone's welcome. ☹ Please note: the hall will be closed for re-decoration from **3–30 November**. Coffee & Chat resumes **3 December**.

Christmas Fair & Grand Raffle

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th December 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

The festive season begins with our annual Christmas Fair - two days of food, drinks, craft stalls, and community cheer, along with Santa's Grotto and the Grand Christmas Raffle Draw. If you are interested in having a table at the fair, please email Sharon Savasi at enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk Raffle tickets will be on sale soon, with all proceeds going towards building improvements at the Hall and the Gras-

New Year's Eve Party: Following last year's fantastic celebration, we're planning another New Year's Eve party to bring the community together and ring in 2026 in style. Details to follow soon - watch this space!

Village Hall Car Park: Over the summer, we've added a card machine to the car park so you can now pay by card as well as via the RingGo app. Parking is free for all hall-organised events; just enter your registration on the tablet inside. There's also a 30-minute grace period for short visits, so you can drop off, pick up, or pop in without needing to pay. All proceeds go towards running costs and making further improvements to the hall.

We're really looking forward to welcoming our community back. As we prepare for the much-needed internal redecoration, your support by attending events means more than ever. Thank you for being part of it.

Pam Moreland

Grasmere Village Hall

Would you like to volunteer with a dynamic local charity?

Would you like to contribute to the local community?

Grasmere Village Hall wishes to recruit additional Trustees to help with our expanding range of activities. Ideally, we are looking for skills in administration, social media, publicity, website management, and building / project management.

If you are interested, please get in touch with the Trustees by **31st October** on enquiries@grasmerehall.org.uk

Grasmere WI

We had a fabulous **August** meeting at Holehird Gardens hosted by Hayley Davidson (GWI member and Holehird volunteer) with a guided tour of the gardens and our very own GWI Gardeners' Question Time.

Also in **August**, we threw some pots at a great pottery workshop in Keswick and our GWI Book and Culture Group had a fantastic evening at Theatre by the Lake to see *Pride and Prejudice* with a pre-theatre dinner too, such a great fun evening. We also filled St Oswald's Church with a wonderful flower display in memory of past GWI members.



Throwing pots at the GWI Pottery Work-

Our **September** meeting was with David Nightingale (Community Action Nepal) giving a brilliant presentation on "High in the Himalaya" and his wonderful charity, we are all now planning a trip to Nepal!

Also in **September**, we threw ourselves into the Westmorland County Show big style as usual. We put in 175 entries, received our highest points score ever and won a prestigious WI Show Trophy. Such an impressive GWI Team win which we are all so proud of, we are looking forward to

next year's show already.

Our **GWI Cumbria Way Challenge** is making great progress with monthly team walks ticking off the different stages. We are now at Hawes End on Derwent Water, just 42 miles to go



*GWI members out on
The Cumbria Way*

Looking ahead.....

Our October meeting is on **Thursday 9 October** 2pm at the Village Hall when our GWI Programme Manager Nicky Oliver and David Johnson will be giving a presentation on their epic winter journey, completing the 214 Wainwrights in a single winter season.

Also in **October** we have CPR and Bereavement training courses and day trips to Hilltop and to the fabulous Kelvin Grove Gallery in Glasgow.

Our November meeting is on **Thursday 13 November** 2pm at Wordsworth Grasmere Learning Centre and is with Diane Hannah telling us the fascinating and inspirational story of the very successful Herdy Company.

In addition to all of this, here's a few of our other extra regular activities. Our monthly Book / Culture Group at Allan Bank is a huge success, with a packed attendance and lively discussion in Wordsworth's study. We also have our very popular monthly rambles, fabulous practical Art Group sessions, weekly GWI Strong kettlebell classes with our local personal trainer Libby Dixon (we're getting stronger every week!), weekly GWI Badminton, GWI Craft and Garden Groups - and the list goes on!

We are all so proud of this action packed programme and this amazing group. A huge thanks to all of our 86 members for making Grasmere WI such a vibrant, friendly and fun group.

Come and join in the fun, you'll be made very welcome. Please get in contact, my details are below.

Louise Sykes

President Grasmere WI

T: 07860 299658

E: clsmailbox@icloud.com

Knit and Nat

Time flies, the year has turned and it's autumn already. Our thoughts naturally turn to the end of the year and with Christmas looming up on the horizon our ladies have decided to spread the love a bit further this year.



On hearing that nearly 400 parcels were distributed in Kendal last year by the Salvation Army to children that may not otherwise receive a present, we have decided to provide some items such as hats and scarves towards this project. Very similar to the Christmas shoe boxes but no gloves, we are allowed to give chocolates, crafting ideas reading matter and toys; new items only.

We are *delighted* to be in receipt of a donation from Grasmere's RAOB which will allow us to buy all the items we need to proceed with the various ventures we embark upon. Our **very grateful thanks** go to the Lodge members. To find future funding; it is proposed that **K&N** do the tombola at the Christmas Fair this year. If you can support us in any way with this, we would be very grateful indeed.

K&N is an informal bi-monthly gathering in the Reading Rooms on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, where Nat is the order of the day and some crafting is done! Refreshments are on hand and company is delightful. Come and join us, if you have a free **Tuesday afternoon** sometime.

For further info please contact Sharon on 07957073255

Thank you for reading this – Carrie 07584036544

Bell Ringing

Coinciding with the one hundredth anniversary of the bells being rehung, sessions for new ringers begin this autumn, on **Thursday evenings** at 5pm.

Get in touch if you'd like to join in and aren't already in the WhatsApp group. If you can't make Thursdays, let me have your details and we'll try and arrange extra sessions next year if there is enough demand.

If you can already ring you're also very welcome, and if you would like to ring on Sundays before the service from 10:30am to 11am that would be splendid. Again, please get in touch.

We're delighted that in the summer Taylor's Bell Foundry, Britain's last remaining bell maker, successfully fitted an adjustment to the ringing chamber to make the bells safer for beginners. Thank you to Lawrence and the PCC for making that happen.

Bell ringing is fun and sociable and no special skills are required, come along and learn something new.

Kate O'Donoghue dizzy_01_dyer@icloud.com



wordsworth

GRASMERE

In October and November we are open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. Entry to Dove Cottage, the Museum, exhibition and grounds is free to Grasmere residents and workers.

Twilight Tales

Are you ready for a spooky Halloween? Join us for hot chocolate, gingerbread, and Halloween crafts in our cosy Learning Space. At twilight we'll all head over to Dove Cottage and listen to some creepy Cumbrian stories. For families with children aged 5+. Booking is essential – don't delay! Watch our social media for announcements about our new series of Twilight Tales for grown-ups...



Families

Join us this autumn in crafting your very own magical memory book at **Make and Play: The Time Lab** and get messy with ink and paint! This free drop-in workshop takes place on **28 October** from 10.30am-12.30pm and is suitable for families with children of all ages.

The **Litcraft** team are at Wordsworth Grasmere for Minecraft family fun! These free half-term events are themed around *The Boy Who Climbed into the Moon* by David Almond. **27 October**, for families with children aged 7-11 years old.

Little Wanderers, our creative play sessions for under 5s, takes place every Thursday morning at 10.15am during term time. Free for all families. We thank Grasmere School & Nursery for supporting this event.

The Time Lab: Exploring a Living Prelude

Inspired by William Wordsworth's explorations of memory in his poem *The Prelude*, our exhibition 'The Time Lab: Exploring a Living Prelude' brings together your stories and Wordsworth's verses and transforms them into a continually changing, interactive artwork.

Step into artist and guest curator Stacey Joy Rossouw's studio laboratory and contribute your own 'spot of time' to the exhibition. 'The Time Lab' runs through to 1 November and will look different every time you visit. There are tie-in creative workshops and events – visit our website to book.

Events

Join **The Poetry Business** on **4 October** to celebrate the winners of the 2025 International Book & Pamphlet Competition. The winners Ian Harker and Annina Zheng-Hardy will be reading poems from their prize-winning pamphlets, alongside runners-up Sally Baker and Ilse Pedler.

Discover Poetry with Polly

Atkin and **Dove Cottage Poets**,

our poetry reading and writing groups, continue to take place on Zoom and as a hybrid meeting respectively.

For more information and to book, please visit **wordsworth.org.uk**

Hannah Catterall, Events Officer, Wordsworth Grasmere



Grasmere Diary - October

1	Coffee and Chat	VH	10.30am
2	Fellowship	VH	2.30pm
5	Sunday Celebration: Harvest Parish Meal	St Oswald's VH	11am 12.30pm
8	Coffee and Chat	VH	10.30am
9	St Mary's Hospice Bereavement Training WI Book Group	VH VH Zoom	10am-1pm 2pm 8pm
12	Sunday Celebration: Holy Communion	St Oswald's	11am
14	Fellowship	VH	2.30pm
19	Sunday Celebration: Open Church	St Oswald's	11am
22	Coffee and Chat	VH	10.30am
23	Glass Workshop	VH	10am -
24	Steve Webb Talk	VH	7pm
26	Sunday Celebration: Holy Communion	St Oswald's	11am
31	Ghost Train	VH	7.30pm

Grasmere Diary- November

<u>1</u>	Ghost Train	VH	7.30pm
2	Sunday Celebration: Holy Communion	St Oswald's	11am
6	Fellowship	VH	2.30pm
9	Sunday Celebration: Remembrance	St Oswald's	11am
13	WI	Wordsworth Learning Centre	2pm
	Book Group	Zoom	8pm
16	Sunday Celebration: Holy Communion	St Oswald's	11am
20	Fellowship	VH	2.30pm
23	Sunday Celebration: Open Church	St Oswald's	11am
30	Sunday Celebration: Holy Communion	St Oswald's	11am

Knit and Nat

Every month 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the Reading Room 2pm

Tuesday Holy Communion at 11am

Thursday Silent Half Hour 2.30pm



Grasmere Book Group

August's book group travelled through space and time, tackling Alastair Reynolds' gothic fantasy *Eversion* (2022). The story follows the crew of a schooner in the arctic circle attempting to find a mysterious object, up until disaster strikes and the crew of a steamship take over the narrative, only to be superseded again by those on an airship. What can be going on? Many found the book an enjoyable read, both innovative and well-written. It's always a good sign when those who don't make the meeting get in touch to say how much they have enjoyed reading a book.

In September we read two different graphic novels ahead of the Lakes International Comic Art Festival in Bowness, where both artists were speaking. Cumbrian Mollie Ray's *Giant* (2024) is a wordless journey through one character's life, where suddenly becoming a giant is used as a metaphor for illness in a family. This is Mollie's first book and the group found it poetic, if oblique, with individual scenes and images really drawing us in. Craig Thompson's *Ginseng Roots* (2025) is a comic book memoir, about growing up in rural Wisconsin where ginseng crops lead to surprising ties to China. Lavishly detailed and essayistic, the group were impressed by the book, with many surprised at how engaging the book makes a seemingly distant topic like the ginseng industry. While some wondered if *Ginseng Roots* was too detailed, many wanted to see more detailed world building from *Giant*, having enjoyed the occasional panoramic scenes that appear in that story.

Upcoming meetings: **OCTOBER 9th** – Alan Hollinghurst, *Our Evenings* (2024) **NOVEMBER 13th** – Chloe Dalton, *Raising Hare* (2024)

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.

Two additional upcoming bookish events ...

Wednesday, **October 8th** 7.30pm at the New Hall – Prof. Sam Rayner from University College London will be giving a talk on “Women Booksellers from the Twentieth Century.” Free and open to anyone interested.

Tuesday, **October 28th** 7pm at Westmorland Hall, Kendal Leisure Centre – Sam Read’s are hosting Rory Stewart in conversation with James Rebanks. Tickets are £11 from betterboxoffice.co.uk
Polly and Will – dr.will.smith@me.com

Cultural Landscapes Lecture

A talk by Dr Polly Atkin

**‘Companions of Nature:
from sickbed consolations to mimic hootings’**

The talk will explore ideas about nature, disability, health and consolation, and how we might learn from disability history about benefitting from connection with the natural world without exploiting it.

Ambleside campus

Tuesday 7th October 6.30 pm

Further details about the talk and a link to book a place at the event can be found here: [https://
www.ticketsource.co.uk/](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/)

Grasmere Players Present

The Ghost Train

Come along to Grasmere Players' autumn production for some seriously spooky fun! This year the Players are performing *The Ghost Train* by Arnold Ridley, first staged in 1925.

A group of mismatched rail passengers find themselves stranded in a dark and isolated station, having missed the last connection of the night.

Tales of superstition prevail as the local station master – unable to persuade them to leave – reveals that very night, twenty years ago, a train crashed leaving a number of passengers dead. Legend has it, that the station is still haunted as the train relives its final moments as it roars through the station to its demise.

The passengers begin to panic as the body of the station master is found on the platform, and a mysterious young lady arrives, foretelling the oncoming of the Ghost Train...

The Ghost Train will be performed as a radio play, with Grasmere Village Hall transformed into the headquarters of Grasmere Broadcasting Company. With a live foley artist creating the sound effects, and our cast of actors in period dress with scripts in hand, you'll certainly feel as if you've stepped back in time to a 1930s radio studio!

For two nights only! We encourage the audience to dress up and join us for an imaginative and entertaining performance.

Friday 31 October & Saturday 1 November,

7.30pm at

Grasmere Village Hall.

Tickets are £12 and can be purchased from Barney's Newsbox or online at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/93114>

GRASMERE PLAYERS PRESENT

THE GHOST TRAIN

BY ARNOLD RIDLEY

Performed as a 1930s live radio play.

A group of mismatched rail passengers find themselves stranded in a dark and isolated station. They begin to panic as the body of the station master is found on the platform, and a mysterious young lady arrives, foretelling the oncoming of the Ghost Train...



Scan the QR code
to book. Tickets
also available from
Barney's Newsbox,
Grasmere.

[https://www.trybooking.com/uk/
events/landing/93114](https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/93114)

This amateur production of
"The Ghost Train" is presented
by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of
Samuel French Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

31 Oct &

1 Nov

7.30 PM

TICKETS £12

Grasmere

Village Hall





As part of Hospice Care Week on the **9th October** we are delivering Bereavement Champion Training in Grasmere Village Hall.

The session lasts for 2.5-hours and is free to those attending. It will focus on having positive conversations, learning how to support, neighbours, friends and colleagues who have been bereaved. It is proving extremely popular, and we have already delivered the sessions to 150 people since April, both in open community sessions and to community groups and local businesses.

Next year, we are launching a train the trainer programme which will support those who attend the initial training to roll out the programme in their own communities or locations.

We hope the next result will be about supporting the development of compassionate and resilient communities.

If you would like to know more or to book a place my contact details are opposite.

Alison Alger

Cross Bay Walk In Memory of David Perrem

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me. In total I raised £2030.05 and St John's raised over £ 23,000 pound.

Amanda Perrem



Be Part of a Compassionate Community: Become a Bereavement Champion

Grief affects us all as individuals, businesses, and communities. Together, we can build a compassionate support network where no one has to face loss alone.



**Thursday 9th
October
10am-1pm
Grasmere Village
Hall**

St Mary's Hospice is offering **free training** and ongoing support to help you or your business become a **Bereavement Champion**. By joining this initiative, you'll help create a community rooted in empathy, resilience, and connection.



For further information please contact Alison Alger
Tel: 07943 015513
Email: alison.alger@stmaryshospice.org.uk



**St Mary's
Hospice**

Grasmere Village Society

As the weather becomes more autumnal we have followed the seasonal trend and had a cabinet reshuffle. The Society is delighted to welcome Maggie Bielawska to the committee as Secretary.

The two village defibrillators may soon be joined by a third. The Village Hall trustees have agreed to the siting of a new defibrillator on the wall outside the main entrance to the hall. This will be funded by the Village Society and maintenance costs and checks will also be the responsibility of the GVS. If you would like to make a donation to help fund this project then please contact either our membership secretary Simon Hey or our treasurer Ian Moreland.



The Society has been busy over the last few weeks, with a few local volunteers clearing Himalayan Balsam from around the village. This is a non-native invasive species which takes over the land and prevents native species from taking hold. The seeds will explode and travel downstream through the water courses infecting large areas below Grasmere where extensive efforts are being made by the South Cumbrian Rivers Trust and their volunteers to eradicate it. It is important therefore that Grasmere is diligent in preventing the spread. More volunteers are needed and would be welcomed by Sharon Savasi and her team if you would like to contact her at savasi@hotmail.co.uk, 015394 35458 or 07957 073255.

You may have noticed that various path gates around the village have been modified to improve safety and access, the most recent being the gate into Broadgate Meadow across the road from Broadgate Orchard. This is all part of a Queen's Jubilee Walkway that we are creating round the village. This has disabled access throughout and is approved by Miles without Stiles.

Following some last minute tweaks we hope to have signage and maps and perhaps even an official opening. Thanks to Andy Astle who has been masterminding this project.

Membership renewals are still coming in, and whilst the Constitution provides that these are required by the end of March they are, of course, still welcome now. Fees are still £1 for adults and 50p for juniors although additional donations are most welcome and help us to maintain and improve village amenities. The easiest way to renew is through our online facility: <https://forms.office.com/r/3EEMvCJFnE> . Alternatively, a printed form is available from our membership secretary Simon Hey (simonhey4@gmail.com or 015394 35067). We welcome all members whether you are a resident, a visitor or just love Grasmere.

The Society has a new Facebook Group, and all are welcome to join this at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/grasmerevillagesociety>. There is also a link there to renew your membership. We will be posting regular updates of our activities and replicating my reports in this Parish Magazine. If any signed up Grasmere Village Society members would like to raise any issues or suggestions, then we shall be pleased to hear from you.

Nick McCraith (Chairman)

Annoyed when we can't accept your generous donations?



Frustrated when we are not open as advertised? We understand completely, we hate being closed to donations and customers.

The simple fact is that we do not have enough volunteers. Can you help by offering 3.5-4 hours a week of your time?

Call in and have a chat, or give us a call on 015394 34487.

Winter Wonders:

How Our Beautiful Red Squirrels Spend the Cold Months



When frosty mornings sparkle and woodlands fall quiet, you might imagine red squirrels curled up in a long winter's sleep. But unlike some woodland neighbours, these fiery-tailed charmers stay active all season—just in a slower, more careful rhythm. No hibernation for Reds Red squirrels they remain awake through the winter, venturing out even on icy days. Their thick, russet coats grow denser and their ear tufts fluff up into striking, frosted plumes—perfect for extra insulation against biting winds.

Living off hidden treasure: the frantic nut-gathering of autumn now pays off. Using a remarkable memory and keen sense of smell, red squirrels dig through snow and frozen leaves to retrieve their carefully buried caches of hazelnuts, pine seeds, and fungi. These secret stashes are vital, as fresh food is scarce until spring.

Quiet days, cosy dreys: short daylight hours and cold temperatures mean conserving energy is key. Red squirrels often spend long stretches tucked inside their dreys—snug, ball-shaped nests high in tree forks—lined with moss, leaves, and feathers. On milder days you might spot them sunning briefly on a branch before retreating to warmth. If you're out for a crisp winter walk, look for those tell-tale tufts and flashes of chestnut fur. Our red squirrels remind us that even in the coldest months, life in the woods continues with quiet determination and charm.

IF YOU SEE A GREY or a sickly looking red anywhere around Grasmere
PLEASE Text: Stuart Dickson 07980 893459,
Stewart Sutcliffe 07817 326524, Trevor Cooper 07884 404794; or email
grasmerersg@gmail.com If you would like to donate, please visit <https://bit.ly/3yX6FC5> to donate via PayPal or Bank transfer: Grasmere Red Squirrels | 63002884 | 01-09-75 |

Follow us on Facebook @GrasmereRed

Kelly Taylor



Harvest Lunch

Sunday 5th October

12.30pm

Village Hall

Tickets from

Barneys

Donations Welcome

BYOB

All Welcome

Gardening

We moved up to Blea Tarn House in Little Langdale in November 2017, from our cosy Edwardian terrace in seaside Lytham. A huge change in many, many ways including the garden.



We looked to have a blank canvas - expanses of lawn front & back and almost no shrubs, surrounded by drystone walls and almost unimaginable natural beauty all around us: Lingmoor, Side Pike, the Crinkles, Bowfell, Blake Rigg, Wetherlam. And, of course, Blea Tarn itself.

I had plans and thought we would dig borders and have a proper Lakeland Cottage Garden. I bought hundreds of bulbs - 4 different types of daffodils, crocuses, snowdrops, tulips, scillas and blue camassias. I set out in our second week with my trusty trowel & bulb planter and within 5 minutes got my first shock. What looked like fertile banks along the beck turned out to be moss-covered slate. Instead of my trowel sliding effortlessly into sandy loam with the occasional pebble, I had to revert to a crowbar or keep going until I found some actual soil. Instead of gardening, I found myself quarrying!

With the determination of the foolhardy, I somehow managed to plant every single bulb. Although 'plant' is an exaggeration because many of them were barely underground. I was not optimistic about their chances. I had brought about 100 pots filled with a selection of all sorts from my Lytham garden - hardy geraniums, a fatsia, various clematis, roses, ferns, arums, buddleias, nepeta, fuchsias, succulents etc. Plus, my Devon granny's precious hydrangea, a laurel cutting from her garden and her 'big daisies'. I arranged these around the garden in carefully thought-out groups

Except in the back garden - I strode purposefully to a bit near the south facing wall which was particularly promising and promptly sank up to my knees in smelly, boggy peat. My husband was out, and I had visions of disappearing without trace but managed to crawl out, although the shoes I was wearing have never been recovered. Bloodied but unbowed, I grandly proclaimed that this would be my Bog Garden.

And then winter arrived. First came the ice - inches of it on the lane and layers of it all over the garden. I rushed out, grabbed all my plants and brought them close to the house. So much for design. This freeze was followed by snow, more ice, rain, ice, and you've guessed it, more snow. And many gales of much vigour, which whistled through our uncarpeted house on their way down the valley. And then the Beast from the East arrived. Our water supply comes under the lawn into the barn and then the house. For the first time in living memory (allegedly) it froze solid. My plants looked as if they'd done the same.

The trauma of the winter was replaced by the surprise that spring arrived at all. And with it, some very welcome flowers. Almost all my bulbs had come up, except for the crocuses and the scillas which bid me goodbye forever. I was thrilled. Sadly, the tulips didn't survive successive winters, but I still have 3 or 4 camassias making an annual appearance.

Meanwhile, roses-in-pots have become a thing in our garden, and we've learned how to get them through the various winter challenges. Granny's plants have also flourished, albeit slowly. The pink hydrangea (which was blue in Devon) is now 6 feet tall, her laurel bush is thriving against a north-facing barn wall and her "big daisies" are hanging on.

I have lost many, many plants for many different reasons - too cold, too wet, too dry, too everything. The ones who like it here tend to really like it, especially hardy geraniums and rambling roses, and fuchsias! You must think differently up here - we solved an overwhelming slug problem with Indian Runner Ducks and chickens, dead bracken is a wonderful mulch and unwanted wool fleece keeps potato plants warm ...

As for the Bog Garden. Well, that's another story.

Sue Needham, Grasmere W.I. Garden Group

Light Up A Life 2025

A special remembrance service for everyone

Honour and celebrate the life of a
loved one this festive season.



Wednesday 3rd December at
6pm
St Oswald's Church, Grasmere



St Mary's
Hospice

*Everyone is
welcome*

Sponsored by

Orsted

Charity No. 517738

www.stmaryshospice.org.uk

Remembrance Sunday

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
(Matthew 5:4)

National and local *memorials* to the casualties were first proposed during the First World War. After the war ended, local committees were set up to plan how to commemorate the sacrifice of their young men's lives. The committees were not usually run by the local churches but often by landowners, employers, and representatives of comrades' groups. Memorials often started as shrines where locals could gather to leave messages or flowers.



Over the next few years, permanent memorials were set up in every village, town and city across the UK. They differ widely in style. Sometimes a stone cross was chosen, other times a plaque or an obelisk. They usually list the names of local men who died, but sometimes all the men from the community who had served. Sometimes they list just names, while others are complete with details of the units they served in. They usually reflect an equality in death – that no-one was more important than another.

In many cases, memorials were not dedicated until well into the 1920s. It took time to decide on the design and raise money. In many cases there was difficulty in tracing the names of all the fallen. Most memorials were paid for by public donations, local fetes and concerts. No-one gave a thought to who would pay for their upkeep in the future. Now, many are in need of repair, cleaning or restoration. Many local authorities, including town and parish councils, have taken responsibility for the upkeep of memorials although there rarely is any legal duty to do this.

Remembrance Sunday, is the **9th November**. There will be a service in St Oswald's starting around 10.45pm led by Lawrence. This will be followed by an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed by refreshments in the Village Hall.

Dementia Support Drop In

Tuesday 21st October and Tuesday 18th November

The Ambleside Parish Centre

10.30 – 11.30

Family, carers, friends and people living with dementia all welcome.

We all have experience of caring for family members living with dementia so why not drop in for a coffee and a chat

Advance notice:

Dementia Hub

More details 015394 34172 barratt573@btinternet.com



South Lakes

- ***Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice How to access:***
- ***Call 015394 46464 (9.30am – 2pm, Monday – Friday)***
- ***Drop in sessions at Wainwright's Yard, Kendal, LA9 4DP (10am – 2pm, Tuesday and Thursday)***
- ***Adviceline: 0808 2787 984 (9am - 5pm, Mon– Fri)***
- ***Email advice via the submission page on our website www.southlakescab.org.uk***

CONTACTS

St Oswald's Parish Church,

Church Stile, Grasmere LA22 9SW

Rector: Rev Lawrence Basham

lawrencebasham@gmail.com 07891001592

Church warden: Anne Rawcliffe

Church Warden Deputy: Jane Robinson (Rydal)

Treasurer: Gerry Rawcliffe

treasurer.grasmereandrydal@gmail.com

Organist: Mr Ian Hare MA Mus B

017684 83886 ian.c.hare@outlook.com

Church Website: A Church Near You

Methodist Minister:

Grace Cauldwell 07341960506 / 01229 583196

Grace.southlakes@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Priest:

Fr. Ajish Kumpukkal, Mater Amabilis Church,

Ambleside 015394 33027

Quaker: Friend In Residence:

Terry Winterton, Glenthorne, Grasmere

Tel: 015394 35389 info@glenthorne.org

URC Minister:

The Rev. Martyn Coe, Carver Church, Windermere

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 Tuesday–Saturday 10am–4pm

Free admission for Grasmere residents
and employees of Grasmere businesses