PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. GEORGE, KENDAL ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GRAYRIGG www.beaconteam.org.uk









December 2025 & January 2026

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Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal 2025

Make a real difference in someone's life this Christmas

In Kendal we provided presents for local children last Christmas and this year the number in need is likely to increase again

For each child we try to provide a main present, and a selection of other presents, so that if they don't receive anything else at all, their Christmas is ok. Each child receives:

a chocolate selection box, something to read, something to do (art/craft/pens/colouring book) something to cuddle, something to wear (hat/scarf/socks) something to play (board game/jigsaw) something smelly (bubble bath/soap) We also provide wrapping paper and sellotape for the parents.

Look out for collection points popping up around Kendal in churches and supermarkets. Donations can also be taken to the Salvation Army shop on Highgate, or contact Captain Hilary Borthwick at

kendal@salvationarmy.org.uk or on 07795 007821.

Thank you for making a real difference.

We have people who donate to our appeal because they remember that, as children, their only gifts came from the Salvation Army.

<u>Letter from Rev Michelle Woodcock</u> Priest-in-Charge of the Beacon Team Churches

Dear Friends,

As we approach the joy and wonder of Christmas, I have found myself reflecting on Bishop Rob's recent visit to our Deanery and the vision he shared for his new ministry among us here in the Diocese of Carlisle. His words have stayed with me—not only because they were full of warmth, gratitude, and encouragement, but because they carried the unmistakable heartbeat of the Christmas gospel: *God is with us*. God comes close, in real places, at real times, to real people. Bishop Rob spoke of wanting to be present—truly present—in the life of our churches and communities. His desire is to wander among us, to visit, to listen and to learn, so that diocesan decisions grow from the wisdom and experience of our local churches. He wants to know us and to be known, and in doing so to thank every one of you who keeps the life and worship of our churches alive. To all who read, pray, sweep, sing, ring, pour, lead, welcome, mend, give, and help—especially our volunteers—thank you. Your labour in the Lord is never wasted.

As he begins this new season of ministry, Bishop Rob asked a simple but searching question: What is God calling us to? His answer was equally simple—though endlessly profound: To help people meet Jesus. To help people know Him more closely. To seek the kingdom of God. To help people grow in faith. He longs to see as many praying, worshipping, serving communities as possible. Communities rooted in the truth of the Incarnation—that Jesus came to a particular village, at a particular time, among ordinary people. Our faith has a postcode. God knows and loves this place, this valley, this parish. And into it He brings hope.

Bishop Rob reminded us that we are the people God has called for this time and this place. Our village church—ordinary as it may sometimes seem—is the bride of Christ, God's chosen way of blessing the world. It is meant to be a wide-open space of welcome: a place where everyone, young and old, churched and unchurched, tidy and messy, can stumble in and discover grace. He also spoke of the wider diocesan priorities: growing younger, nurturing vocations, new ministry in Barrow and Carlisle. But above all these, he said, stands one overarching call: to raise the spiritual temperature of our county.

And how do we do that? By remembering who we are—and whose we are. By deepening our life of prayer.

By bringing the needs of our communities before God.

By allowing prayer not to be a list, but a place of shaping and transforming.

By going deeper together rooted in prayer, rooted in God.

Bishop Rob spoke of the vision of Ezekiel 47, where a river flows from the temple, becoming deeper, bringing life, healing, and hope wherever it goes. *That*, he said, is what the Church is meant to be: a life-giving river flowing from the presence of God into streets, workplaces, schools, farms, care homes, and families across Cumbria. As we flow outward, we carry Christ's hope into unexpected and thirsty places And he ended with Mary's response to the angel in Luke's gospel: "I am the Lord's servant... let it be to me as you have said." A response framed by those familiar words spoken by angels repeatedly: Do not be afraid. One for every day of the year—leap year included! Nothing is impossible with God.

As we draw near to Christmas, may we echo Mary's courage and trust. May we be shaped by prayer, formed by knowing God more deeply, ready to say, individually and together, "We are the Lord's servants. Let it be to us according to Your word." My prayer is that God will shape us and use us in the year ahead—that through us His love and blessing, His hope and healing, may flow like a river into our community. May we truly be bearers of the Christmas message: that Christ has come, Christ is with us, and Christ brings life.

With every blessing for a joyful and hope-filled Christmas,

Michelle x

Beacon Team Advent Course "Someone to Believe In" Skelsmergh Vicarage @ 7pm



The Beacon Team Advent course at Skelsmergh Vicarage is based around the film "Miracle on 34th Street" and is titled "Someone to believe in". Over 4 weeks we are exploring the themes of: our walk of faith; responding to challenges in our faith; what does faith mean when common sense tells us not to believe; and understanding the gift of miracles. There will also be a chance to watch the film in the weeks leading up to the course if you haven't seen it recently. Do come along and explore the questions with us.

Week 1: MONDAY - 24th November Week 2: WEDNESDAY - 3rd December Week 3: Wednesday 10th December Week 4: Wednesday 17th December



St John the Baptist, Skelsmergh:.

Sunday 7th December - Morning Worship 11.00am Saturday 20th December - 4pm Puppet show "The Animals Christmas" Wednesday 24th December - Carol Service 6.30pm Sunday 28th December— Join a service at Kendal or Grayrigg

St John the Evangelist, Grayrigg

Sunday 7th December - Holy Communion 9.30am Sunday 14th December - Morning Worship 9.30am Sunday 21st December - Carol Service 2.00pm Wednesday 24th December - Midnight Holy Communion 11.30pm Sunday 28th December - Beacon Team Evening Worship 4.00pm

St George, Kendal

Sunday 7th December - Holy Communion 11.00am
Sunday 14th December - 4pm Worship @4 Carol Service
with Burneside Brass Training band

Sunday 21st December - Morning Worship 11.00am Monday 22nd December - Blue Christmas Service 10.00am

Nonday 22nd December - Blue Christmas Service 10.00an

Sunday 28th December - Carol Service 11.00am Christmas Day 24th - Holy Communion 11.00am

Sunday 28th December - Beacon Team Holy Communion 11.00am

St Oswald, Burneside

Sunday 7th December - Evening Worship 4.00pm Sunday 14th December - Holy Communion 11.00am Sunday 21st December - Carol Service 11.00am Christmas Day 24th - Holy Communion 11am

St Mary's Longsleddale

Sunday 7th December Abbey Service 10.30am Monday 22nd December - Carol Service 6.30pm Wed 24th - Christmas Eve - 'not quite Midnight' Holy Communion 9pm



St Thomas, Selside

Sunday 7th December - Morning Worship 9.30am
Sunday 14th December - Holy Communion 9.30am
Thursday 18th December - Selside School Christingle Service 9.30am
Sunday 21st December - Light Up A Life service 4.00pm

Every Tuesday 6.00pm Short Evening Prayer

at St. Oswald's Church, Burneside

Every Wednesday 9.30am: BCP Holy Communion

at St. Oswald's Church, Burneside

Online Worship is available throughout the week via Zoom

Please contact Revd Jean Radley for details of how to join in Regular weekday Zoom services include :

* Mondays 8.30pm : Compline

* Fridays 8.30pm : Celtic Evening Prayer

Revd Michelle: "Now that I live next door to St John's Church, Skelsmergh, I have decided to say my daily office in the church itself on **Tuesday** and **Thursday mornings**. I'll be there at **9 am** for around 15-20 minutes. It would be really lovely if you felt able to join me there.

<u>Longsleddale "Not midnight" Christmas Eve Communion 9pm, 24th December</u>

Just before the busy day, in that Iull where the anticipation is building, why not join us in the beautiful setting of St. Mary's Longsleddale? We will share a reflective Christmas Communion service with thoughtful readings, traditional carols and space to be quiet and calm before the hustle and bustle of Christmas Day.

Readings for December 2025 & January 2026

First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025

1st Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 2nd Reading Romans 13:11-end Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

Psalm 122

Second Sunday of Advent eading Isaiah 11:1-10

December 7, 2025
Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

1st Reading Isaiah 11:1-10 2nd Reading Romans 15:4-13

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent 1st Reading Isaiah 35:1-10 2nd Reading James 5:7-10

December 14, 2025

Psalm 146:4-10 or *Magnificat*Gospel Matthew 11:2-11 Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

2nd Reading Romans 1:1-7

December 21, 2025

Psalm 80:1-8, 18-20

Gospel Matthew 1:18-

Gospel Matthew 1:18-end

First Sunday of Christmas December 28, 2025

1st Reading Isaiah 63:7-9 2nd Reading Hebrews 2:10-end

Psalm 148 Gospel Matthew 2:13-end

Celebrating The Epiphany

1st Reading Isaiah 60:1-6 2nd Reading Ephesians 3:1-12 January 4, 2026

Psalm 72 Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

First Sunday of Epiphany

1st Reading Isaiah 42:1-9 2nd Reading Acts 10:34-43 January 11, 2026

Gospel Matthew 3:13-end

Second Sunday of Epiphany

January 18, 2026

1st Reading Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Gospel John 1:29-42

Third Sunday of Epiphany

January 25, 2026

1st Reading Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1-11 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

The Beacon Team Mothers' Union



A Committee meeting was held to plan our next year's programme, and members were to contact possible speakers.

The Christmas dinner is to be at the Riverside Hotel on 3rd December 2025, 12 noon for 12.30pm

Invites have been received from Bolton (Appleby) and Natland MU's. Our October meeting sadly had members missing due to illness but also two members on holiday. Also, our speaker, Ian, was sadly unable to attend due to illness.

Sue led us, following a service in the MU book, Eileen read from the Bible, and Mo read the prayers. We then spoke the MU hymn.

After notices had been given out, members divided into two teams, completing questions about television and radio programmes, which everyone enjoyed.

A time of fellowship and refreshments was then enjoyed.

Thank you to all members for supporting the Bring and Buy.

Please remember Georgina, Jennie, Ann and all our indoor members in your prayers.

Subscriptions for 2026 will be £29.

Please see the MU magazine for 150 year celebrations, dates etc.

Upcoming meetings:

Wed 3rd Dec.- lunch at Riverside Hotel 12 noon for 12.30pm.

Mon 8th Dec. - 2pm Advent Service at Windermere

Wed 28th January - 2pm AGM in the Radley Room, St George's.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year,

Mary Atkinson (Branch Leader)

Our cryptic crossword this month is **Christmas-themed**, with a seasonal flavour to nearly every clue or answer (or both)! Answers can be found on the inside back page.

Once again, many thanks to Andrew Stewart for compiling this. He would appreciate feedback on the crosswords, so please pass this on to him or to Lynne in the office.

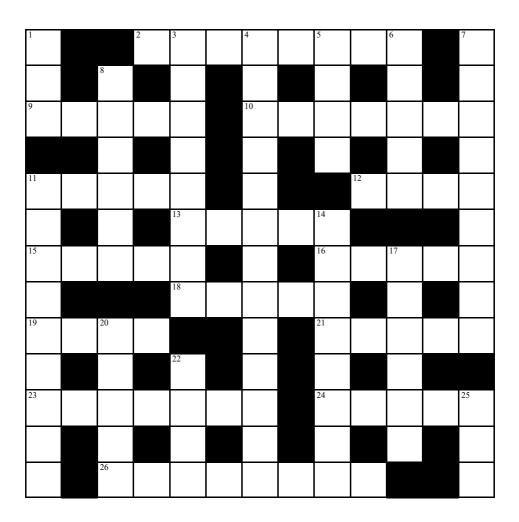
Across

- 2. Nuts, biscuits or another seasonal treat (8)
- 9. For ages Mary hears, suffering no harm (5)
- 10. Small boat takes toffee-nose back to get pretty ties (7)
- 11. Not much weight from the star (5)
- 12. Parisian beauty doesn't finish seasonal decoration (4)
- 13.Men follow the little King one we learn from (5)
- 15. Sages run westwards partly to see what young mother does (5)
- 16. Resident of No.17 leads visitor from afar to something valuable (5)
- 18. Bees point to roughly what Mary lost in 9 (5)
- 19. Angels praising, shepherds excited, starting at back of church (4)
- 21. We hear part of the angels' message (5)
- 23. This endless game about trapped travellers (3,4)
- 24. One of two other girls Carol tells us about (5)
- 26. Unbounded, Ms Streep now mixes these under the tree (8)

Down

- 1. A great thing the first angel announced (3)
- 3. Wander to this humble hut, but the shepherds finally get winners' badges (8)
- 4. Strangely, I met its charms in this season (13)
- 5. German runner at the heart of what the angel began to say (4)
- 6. What star did in school Noel, oddly (5)
- 7. Join here by arrangement with most elite? (9)
- 8. Heartless boss makes temporary bed (6)
- 11. Maybe nativity players in alley run into town (9)
- 14. Batter can do this and stop harm spreading (4,4)
- 17. Not entirely beastly about place of birth (6)
- 20. That woman has an uncanny sense of some who heard the angels (5)
- 22. Sweet treat to start Christmas and kindred events! (4)
- 25. You heard often in the churchyard (3)

Bonus (trick!) question: What's the missing number in 1, 5, 6, ..., 18? The key is someone missing from the puzzle.

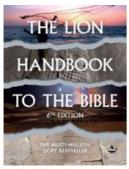


Daily Reading Notes

Order your daily reading notes for 2026 now via Lynne in the Beacon Team Office 01539 720018

Daily Bread; Encounter with God; New Daylight; The Upper Room; Day by Day with God: Lucas on Life; Guidelines; Fresh from The Word 2026.

BOOK REVIEWS



The Lion Handbook to the Bible – 6th edition By Pat Alexander, £24.99

With over three million copies sold and translations into more than 30 languages, the Lion Handbook to the Bible has earned an unrivalled reputation as the most readable, reliable, and richly illustrated companion to Scripture. Continuously in print since 1973, it remains the essential guide for anyone

eager to deepen their understanding of the Bible's message, history, and relevance today.

- * Over 100 maps, charts, and timelines, helping you trace the people, places, and empires that shaped biblical history.
- * A fascinating overview of how the Bible came to us, plus a comprehensive Rapid Fact Finder with concise information, references, and Bible verses.

For this 6th edition the Handbook has been completely reset and redesigned in a larger format, making it even easier to read with new photographs that help to enrich your appreciation of the text. In addition there are nine new special articles for readers looking for insight into topics such as the origins of evil, the first churches, slaves and slavery, and aspects of biblical prayer.



The Grumpy Owl and the joy of Christmas by Jonathan Maltz and Christopher Poch Church House Publishing, £4.99

Something wonderful is about to happen in the old, lonely, empty barn. A very special baby is going to be born. But the grumpy owl who lives there just wants to be left alone. Can any of the other animals

help him change his mind? Or will he miss out on the amazing joy of the first Christmas? The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas tells the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of an owl who seems determined to miss all the excitement. This charming re-telling of the nativity story has been beautifully illustrated by Jago, award-winning illustrator of The Jesus Storybook Bible.

Available through South Lakes Christian Resources and Lynne Magee.



CHRISTMAS TEA SERVICE

At Kendal Parish Church

Thursday 11th December 2025 at 2pm

(please note the earlier start)

With Children from Vicarage Park School, Sedbergh Songsters & Mr Tim Farron MP All Welcome.

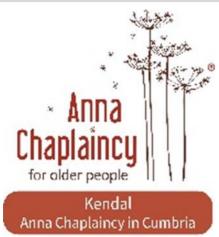
Tea, cakes and warm mince pies, and a good old Singalong.



Blue Christmas - 22nd December 10am. St. George's Church, Kendal.

Christmas can be a very challenging time for us at different stages of our lives. Maybe you have experienced a recent bereavement, a relationship break down, a loss a long time ago that still causes you pain at this time of year or maybe you are struggling to find joy amidst the darkness and chaos of this world and the pressures of daily life. Perhaps celebrating Christmas this year is the very last thing you want to do.

On 22nd Dec there will be a relaxed, quiet and reflective service at 10am which you are welcome to come to. There will be no requirement of you to do anything other than be there and the intention is to acknowledge our sorrow, whatever that looks like for you through readings, prayers and some time to reflect. We will bring it all to the God who loves us. No one will ask why you are there and you will be treated with love and care. Our hope is that you will find some peace here.



Everyone is welcome to the

KENDALTEA SERVICE

BRINGING PEOPLE
TOGETHER

A short service with a Bible reading, 3 **traditional** hymns and prayers Followed by Tea and Cake

Thursday 15th January 2.30 pm at Kendal Parish Church For more information about the Tea Service or Anna Chaplaincy in Kendal please contact Beverley Moore 07507 749238 or bevmoore.annachaplaincy@gmail.com

From The Registers



31st October - Skelsmergh - Henry Gilles (Harry)

12th November – Beetham - Peter Kershaw (BSO)

13th November - Kendal - Sandra Barker

25th November - Burneside - Susan Mary Gilchrist



16th November - St George's Kendal - Indie-Mae Rigg



Grayrigg Church and Community News

"The Soupa Saturday held at the end of September raised the magnificent sum of £553.20 for church funds. This was the largest sum ever raised at this event and thanks are due to all those who supported it so very generously. Thanks are also due to Kath and her team of helpers who always work so hard to make the event the success that it was."

"The next Soupa Saturday will beheld on 31st January 2026 starting at 11.30am.

Why not come along for a bowl of soup with a roll, or soup and sandwiches? It is an ideal time to chat with you friends and neighbours and catch up with local news. There will also be a raffle and proceeds will go to St John's Church."

Advance Notice 22nd February 1pm Sunday Lunch with Kath.

Chicken in a creamy leek sauce with roast potatoes & veg (veggie alternative available), followed by Sherry Trifle. £15 per head by ticket only limited to 45 people.

Proceeds for St. John's Church

Contact Kath on 07736 125236 or email:

kath.dickinson@btinternet.com

The Grayrigg Good Neighbours

Join us every second Tuesday in the Coronation Hall for a get together and talks or craft activities. All welcome.

9th December — **7.30pm** Flower Arranging Demo with Katie from Made-in-Flowers

There will be 9 monthly meetings: Annual Membership £12 £3 per visit for non-members.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN GRAYRIGG

5th Dec. Pub night Pool, Darts & Dominoes Xmas Knockout (Bacon & Sausage butties available) in the Coronation Hall 7.30pm onwards

12th Dec. FOGS Christmas Crafts in the Coronation Hall 3.15/3.30pm onwards

15th Dec Carol Singing in the Church - for over 60s fund. 7.30pm

16th & 17th Dec. School Nativity in the Church 2.30pm & 6pm both days

21st Dec. Church Carol Service in the church at 2pm

24th Dec. Midnight Communion in Church 11.30pm

31st Jan 2026 Soupa Saturday in Coronation Hall - 11.30-2pm

6th Feb 2026 Pub Night with food 7.30pm onwards

Grayrigg Table Tennis Club - holds matches in the Coronation Hall from September to May. Anyone who would like to play in a team please contact Kevin Hunter on 07813 133507

The Animals Christmas – Puppet Show and Carols at Skelsmergh Church

Come and join us on **Saturday 20th December at 4pm** for a Puppet Show and carols at Skelsmergh Church. The event will last around 30 minutes and is suitable for all ages. Come and hear the story of Christmas told by Monty the Mouse and Debbie the Donkey and sing some favourite carols along the way. There will be refreshments following the service in the Community Hall opposite.

Two weeks ago in the Diocesan eNews I saw an article about the Revd David Newlove in a Young Farmers Podcast

I don't listen to many podcasts, but I was intrigued and started to listen whilst preparing the weekly pew sheet.

Revd David Newlove is a Methodist Minister who transferred to Carlisle in 2018 after 23 years of rural ministry in Lincolnshire. During his



time in Carlisle David led the formation of Carlisle Methodist Church, was active in the villages and towns around the city and developed a role as Agricultural Chaplain, supporting farmers in the busy Borderway Auction Mart.

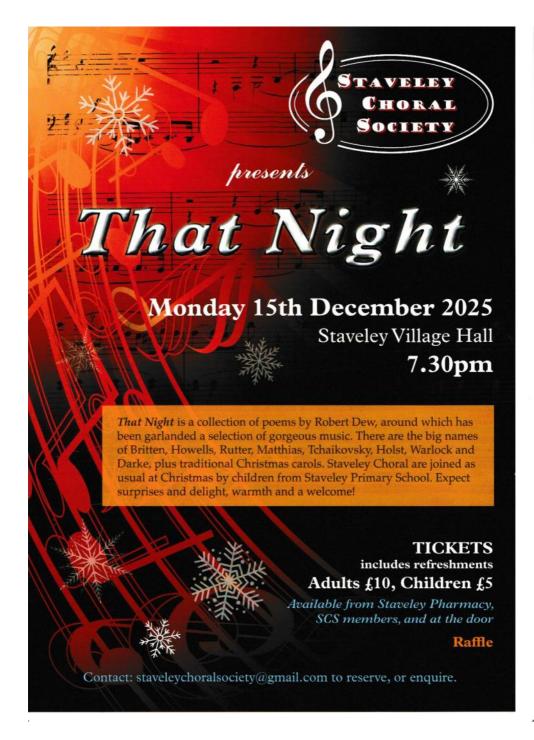
Earlier this year he moved to Penrith as Superintendent Minister of the newly created North Cumbria Circuit.

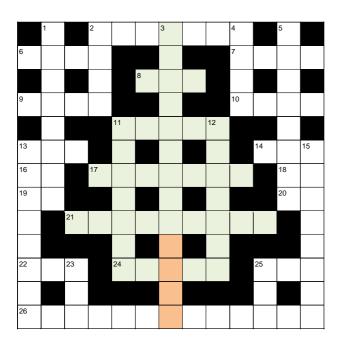
In the podcast David shares his own first hand experiences of growing up around farming. He also shares his own personal encounter with suicide, having lost his son 18 months ago, and how this has impacted his passion and purpose but also how he was able to navigate through these challenges and come out the other side.

WeCan Talk with Young Farmers is a bi-monthly podcast to support young farmers with their mindset and overall wellbeing. It is supported by Young Farmers Club Cumbria, The Farming Network, H&H Auction House Cumbria & Field Nurse.

Although the subjects raised in the podcast were serious, the style was easy to listen to and kept me attentive. I would encourage anyone to listen to this episode and to share the podcast details with friends and family in the farming world.

Lynne Magee





Many thanks to Andrew Stewart for compiling our seasonal cryptic crossword. Have a go before checking out the answers on the last page.

Across

- 2. Holds nuts, or jokes and hats (7)
- 6. One seen in a leading role (4)
- 7. United Nations act to open (e.g. a present) (4)
- 8. What 11ac didn't do, according to Carol (3)
- 9. Maybe taken to birth in a local ambulance (4)
- 10. (See 14)
- 11. The one at the centre of it all (5)
- 13. Stable gate swings back for a time (3)
- 14 & 10. Were any abroad a week after Christmas? (3,4)
- 16. Be guiet: slaughter starts at Herod's capital (2)
- Consume mince and hay mostly on Santa's way in (7)
- 18. Negative covered in snow (2)
- 19. Coincides with party intermittently (2)
- 20. Bit of mistletoe shows the way (2)
- 21. I leave male juries resolving wise men's enquiry point (9)
- 22. Holly's sister? (3)

- 24. Short hymn about car reversing into Christmas gift (5)
- 25. Bad to waste much of promised goodwill (3)
- 26. Dance round madly as one of ten my true love gave is vanishing (13)

Down

- 1. Direct starlight right up, left out (8)
- 2. Start catching robin in bush, or bed (4)
- 3. I charm streets erecting seasonal symbol (9,4)
- 4. Polish Yuletide's first jewel (4)
- 5. Nearby, little Mr Frost gets in a hole (8)
- Old King Joe who Omri aims occasionally to reveal (7)
- 12. Joseph, say, briefly on earth changing sides in secret movement (7)
- 13. When 11ac lived in Nazareth (2,1,5)
- Bend in distress holding spoiled Christmas gift used by carpenter (4,4)
- 23. Positively happy time, Christmas at last! (3)
- 25. Where 18 rooms were available (3)

Bonus question: Every clue has at least a slight seasonal reference either in the clue itself or in the solution – except one. Which one?

Celebrating 450 years since Kendal was granted its Charter of Incorporation

Kendal Choral Society **CHRISTMAS**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Featuring the premiere of
FANTASIA ON OUGHTIBRIDGE CAROLS
& THE HOPE REQUIEM
by our director, Duncan Lloyd

Saturday 20th December, 7:30pm St. George's Church, Kendal

Director: Duncan Lloyd • Keyboard: Shaun Turnbull with The Amici Ensemble, led by Julian Cann £15 (pay on the door or ring 01539 725093)

Registered Charity 1038259 Supported by the Westmorland Arts Trust, Cumbria Community Foundation and Kendal Town Council





St George's **Community Hub**

This came in to being after the storms of 2015, but will end this month.

Next Thursday **4th December** we will hold a short service in church at 12 noon to mark 10 years since Storm Desmond and also the end of the Hub. It will last around 15 mins and then there will be the usual soup/fellowship.

The last Hub will take place on Thursday 11th December with its usual refreshments.

Christmas Organ Recitals

Not one but *two* opportunities to hear wonderful organ music played by Graham Toft, Music Director at Christchurch, Lancaster.

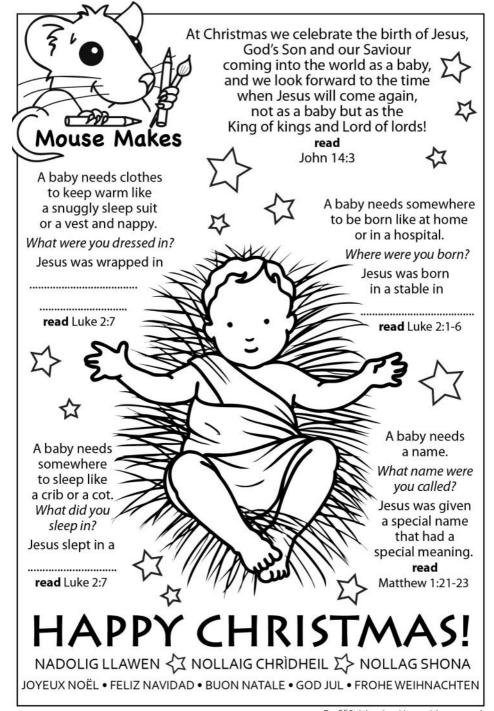
Tuesday 16th December 12-1pm
St John the Baptist Church, Skelsmergh
Wednesday 17th December 12-1pm
St George's Church, Kendal,
Free Admission with retiring collection.
Light refreshments

St George's Church **Chatter and Natter**

All are welcome to join us on the last Friday of every month in the Radley Room for Tea/coffee, cake and meet up with friends. For further information ring Sue Whittaker 07866341554

There will be no meeting in December Looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year - January 30th 2026 from 10am to 11 30am







"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Churches Together in Kendal and District will be

Carol Singing at the Bird Cage on Saturday 6th December from 1-3pm.

Please wrap up well and join them for as long as you would like



Answers

Across

2.Crackers; 9.Years; 10. Ribbons;

11. Light; 12. Bell; 13. Tutor; 15.

Nurse; 16. Asset; 18. Swarm;

19.Apse; 21.Peace; 23.The Magi;

24. Holly; 26. Presents.

Down

1. Joy; 3. Rosette; 4. Christmastime; 5. Elbe; 6. Shone; 7. Mistle-

∎toe; 8. Manger; 11. Lancaster;

14. Ramp shot; 17. Stable;

■20. Sheep; 22. Cake; 25. Yew.

Bonus question - 25: Jesus isn't mentioned in the puzzle and the answers to clues 1, 5, 6 and 18 start with J, E, S and S, so the missing number corresponds to "U". And the answer to clue 25 is ...?

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Prepayment Funeral Plans Arranged

