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3rd Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall Soup and pudding lunch 12—1.30pm  
6th Skelton Toppin Hall pub night 6.30pm to 10.30pm  
9th Armathwaite Old School Hall—Live music Brooks Williams  
13th Cuppa and Cake Low Heskett Village Hall 2pm all welcome  
27th St Mary's High Heskett Coffee Morning  
27th Eden Valley Flix Ainstable Institute—I Swear 7pm  
28th Planned Exercise at Toppin Memorial Hall

7th	Preloved Book Fayre St Mary's High Hesket
9th	Memorial Hall AGM—Toppin Memorial Hall 7pm
21st	Old School Hall, Armathwaite— Live music Soul Junction
21st	Toppin Memorial Hall Ceilidh 7pm.
21st	Ivegill village hall - Soup & Puddings 12—2pm
27th	St Mary's High Hesket Coffee Morning
27th	Eden Valley Flix Ainstable Institute— The Choral 7pm

19th Old School Hall, Armathwaite—Spring Fayre  
 24th St Mary's High Hesketh Coffee Morning  
 24th St Mary's High Hesketh Flower demonstration - David Ryland  
 25th Old School Hall Armathwaite—Live music Arthur Coates and Kerran Cotterell

16th Old School Hall Armathwaite— Live music—The Hoo

6th Old School Hall Armathwaite— big lunch  
14th Afternoon teas in All Saints Church, Calthwaite.  
27th Armathwaite Open Gardens  
28th Armathwaite Open Gardens

**December** 18th St Mary's High Hesketh Christmas singalong

32

The Parish news and notes is produced for the community by  
THE INGLEWOOD GROUPS OF CHURCHES  
In the Diocese of Carlisle.

**Vicar:** Rev'd Dr Allison Fenton  
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**Reader:** Mike Hall, 017684 84719 [michaelhall20@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelhall20@btinternet.com)

#### Churchwardens:

Ainstable	Fiona Macaskill	07941939594		
Armathwaite	Ken Bonsor	016974 72054	Jenny Roscoe	016974 72383
Calthwaite	Pat Ivinson	017688 85205	Alison Snaith	07808349749
Hesket	Alma Littlefair	016974 73998	Jill Campbell	016974 73183
Hutton	Lord Inglewood	017684 84500	Myles Walker	017684 84193
Skelton	Jim Mills	017684 84446	Rachel Jones	017684 84170
Plumpton	John Harris	07775 755680		

**Anna Chaplains:** Jim & Kathryn Mills (Skelton): 017684 84446  
Carol Smithers (Ainstable and Armathwaite) 07584 257870

**Associate Priest:** Canon Brian Dawson: 016974 73069

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Thanks to Alison Birkett who designed last month's cover, and apologies for omitting  
that acknowledgement.*

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## Notes from the Vicar....

Although by the beginning of February, Christmas may seem a distant memory, I wanted to say how much I've enjoyed my first Christmas with you - my estimate is that about 2000 people across the benefice engaged with our churches in one way or another over the season. That is a phenomenal number of people: it has been a joy to welcome you. DO come back - you're always welcome.

February 1<sup>st</sup> is the day when the church celebrates Candlemas – the time when we make a deliberate turning from Christmas and towards Lent. Its also the first half equinox of the year: halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, the beginning of the end of winter: we might spot some early spring flowers and notice the days getting a bit longer.

It is a season of thresholds– a time to pause, look again, and step forward with intention. Candlemas, brings the Christmas season to its close and reminds us that the child of the manger is revealed as light for the world. The bible story tells us that when Mary and Joseph brought the baby to the Temple, he was recognised as the Messiah by both Simeon and Anna - both very old, holy people who lived in the Temple. Simeon's words which are remembered in the ancient prayer the *Nunc Dimittis* are both beautiful and challenging. The light that is Christ comforts, but also exposes; blesses, but also asks something of us. Candlemas gently turns our faces away from the crib and towards Lent.

### Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, and we will be offering the traditional service with the imposition of ashes. *Ashing* can feel unfamiliar or even uncomfortable, so it's worth saying what it means. The ash — usually made from last year's palm crosses — is marked on the forehead with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ." It is not about shame or judgement. It is a sign of honesty: about our mortality, our fragility, and our need of God's grace. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we begin Lent not by pretending to be strong, but by admitting that we are human. Our services of Holy Communion that day will be :

11.00am in Skelton Church

7.30pm in Armathwaite Church

Lent, the 40 days following Ash Wednesday, is often misunderstood as a gloomy or joyless season, but at its heart it is about honesty and hope. It is a time for taking faith seriously enough to ask questions, to notice habits we have slipped into, and to make space for God again.

continued

This year, we are offering two groups during Lent to help us think about prayer: what it is, what it isn't, and how we might deepen or rediscover a prayer life that is realistic and sustaining. You don't need to be an expert, or even especially confident — just willing to come, listen, and reflect alongside others.

- Wednesday evenings 7.30 pm at Alma Little's house (please phone Alma or Rev Allison for the address): Feb 25, March 4, March 18, March 25
- Thursday morning 11.00 am in the vicarage: Feb 26, March 5, March 19, March 26

### Sermons

Alongside all this, I'm very aware that not everyone is able to be in church every week and that I am only able to be in each church once a month. To help with that, my sermons will be available from Mondays for anyone who would like to keep up with my preaching. They won't be in the public domain, but if you email the parish office, we can add you to a mailing list and send out a weekly link.

### Facebook

Just to let you know that many of our churches have a Facebook Page and that we have started an 'Inglewood Benefice' page — please like or follow it to keep up to date with news, events, and reflections. It's a good way of staying connected.

As Candlemas fades into Lent, we are reminded that faith is not static. It is something we carry, question, practise, and grow into. Wherever you find yourself this season — curious, committed, uncertain, or weary — you are very welcome to walk the road with us.

With my prayers, Allison

### ST MARY'S CHURCH HIGH HESKET

Our door is open every day from 10 - 3.30pm come along, reflect on your day or just enjoy the peacefulness of our church. We have a Contactless Donation machine situated on the bench at the back of church. If you'd like a coffee or a book or would just like to give something Just tap your card on the machine and it will be greatly appreciated.

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH, HIGH HESKET; FOODBANK COLLECTION POINT

St.Mary's Church is open daily from 10.00 a.m. to 3.30p.m. for anyone living locally to drop off items for Carlisle Foodbank. The tub for donated items is in the porch.

There is very real ongoing financial hardship for many families now, so please support this extremely important cause as much as you can. Even a single item will make a difference. So please contribute what you can. All donations including food items, toiletries, household products and pet foods are needed, and are regularly forwarded to Carlisle Food Bank for distribution. Your support is and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you



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## St Mary's Church, High Heskett

Happy New year everyone and a huge thank you to all who supported our fundraising events in 2025, we couldn't do it without you. Over the last 3 years we have carried out some major renovation work to future proof your church building. Inside of church cost £42,000 and the Bell Tower cost £10,000 and this year year we are hoping to start our final phase "The Vestry", which is very damp and starting to damage our archives and vestments. This is the oldest part of the Grade 2\* listed building and the Diocese have advised us that to help get the vestry dry we need to chip off and replace all the internal lime plaster, replace door and window, chip off all the external concrete plaster which is trapping the moisture and replace with a more breathable Lime render, so our initial estimate has doubled!! We could not do any of this work without your generous support to help maintain your Church building and fingers crossed we will start work on this at the end of February. We have also applied for a grant to help with costs and we await the outcome. So we have another busy year of fundraising which we hope you will support.

Please get these dates in your diary...

PreLoved Book Fayre March 7th 2 to 4pm. ~ Flower Demonstration by David Ryland March 7th at 7pm. ~ Produce Show August 1st, ~ Cheese and Wine Tasting September 11th ~ Christmas Singalong on December 18th

Many thanks The PCC St Mary's Church High Heskett, working hard to maintain Your Church in the village.

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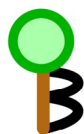
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## St Mary's Church High Heskett Coffee Morning

is on Friday 27th February from 10am to 11.30am.

Thank you to our wonderful supporters

We look forward to seeing you

## HESKET-IN-THE FOREST MOTHERS' UNION AGM

On Monday 23rd February at 2pm In Low Heskett Village Hall

Subs will be collected £30

Any question tel Daphne 016974 73614



**CAN YOU PLEASE HELP?** St. Mary's PCC is looking for someone to become our Treasurer, the books are in good order and you do not need to become a member of the PCC. We would be grateful for someone who may be interested in giving us their support and so can we invite you to have a chat with either the Vicar or Churchwardens please.

## LOW HESKET VILLAGE HALL NOTICES

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December 2025 68 – Linda Scott 67- Margaret Lowes 25 – Carolyn Taylor  
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## All Saints Church Calthwaite

Another New Year begins and we are very grateful for the Blessings we received over 2025. Our “new” Vicar Rev Allison has settled in as parish priest, and we look forward to her ministry in 2026.

The church was beautifully decorated by the PCC and we thank Chris Johnson and David Holliday for the yew tree lights in the garden which were lit from Advent until Epiphany, Rev Allison headed a wonderful Christmas season at Calthwaite with Advent worship, school and nursery services, carols in the pub with the talented Blue Jam musicians which hopefully will be an annual thing. Carol singing around the village with our friends from Cottagewood We had a happy and joyous Christmas Eve service with a retelling of the Christmas story, singing Christmas carols and a pop up nativity with lots of the children dressed up including a live baby Jesus [grateful to Katie and Stu and their family for dressing up too especially baby James] all of which made a beautiful tableaux. More of our young people joined in with Christingles to sing Hope of Heaven. A special afternoon of worship, The congregation then raised the roof with a rendition of the 12 days of Christmas many competing for the loudest singing. Lots of people then went over to see if there was any room in the Inn for a time of fellowship before heading home.

**Collections over the season** Carols around the village with our friends from Cottage Wood, Carols in the Pub, Light a Light, Christmas Eve, Donations will be made to Hospice at Home, the Children’s Society and All Saints Church from the proceeds.

**Join us in this prayer written by Compassion** As we step into the next year, we place our hopes and plans in your hands. Help us lean not on our own understanding, but to be guided by your Word and your Holy Spirit living in us. Fill us with peace and purpose; guide us by your wisdom and love. Help us to trust you in all that lies ahead, knowing that you promise to walk with us every step of the way. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**New Service times** We continue to have two services a month with the 1st Sunday now being a communion with Rev Allison the next one is 1<sup>st</sup> February which is also Candlemas. The 3rd Sunday is led by the congregation. Both services now start at 9.15am.

We are delighted that we have 2 Christenings and a wedding booked to look forward to this year. Thank you to everyone who has donated financially throughout the year to Calthwaite Church. We really appreciate all the giving towards the upkeep of our beautiful church.





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**THANK YOU** The Practice has asked the PPG to convey they're thanks to all patients for their kind wishes, lovely feedback, chocolates and cakes during the Festive Period. The kindness and generosity were very much appreciated during a very busy time.

**TRAINING PRACTICE** Many of you already know that Court Thorn is a Training Practice, which includes training for junior doctors and has been supporting students from Newcastle University for many years. It has now been announced that Court Thorn has been selected as a Training Practice by the **Pears Cumbria School of Medicine**. Pears is a unique partnership between Imperial College, London and the University of Cumbria. Court Thorn will receive the first cohort of Pears Medical students, who will be mentored together with doctors from Newcastle University by Dr Jenny McIntyre during their placements. This is a great achievement and a positive reflection on Court Thorn and the quality of the training and mentoring provided.

**Kelly Mitchell- Well-Being Coach** Kelly Mitchell, our Well-Being Coach at Court Thorn, regularly posts information on the notice boards regarding **FREE** local support groups covering many relevant topics for our patients. Please take a moment and regularly check the notice board or scan the QR code. Among the information is **Strategies for Well-Being, Well-Being and Loss, Well-Being and Sleep and Well-Being and Menopause**.

**THANK YOU** The PPG wish to acknowledge a kind donation of £150.00 from the Partners of Court Thorn to the PPG. The donation will be used to cover the work of the PPG.

**Membership of the PPG.** The PPG welcomes new members. We meet 5 times per year with each meeting averaging around 1.5 hours. The next meeting will be **25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. If you are interested, please contact the Surgery or any member of the PPG.



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**St. Michael's Church Skelton.**

**St.Michael's Church, Skelton Foodbank Collection Point.** A huge thank you to all who kindly donate to the Foodbank. Items for the Foodbank can be left in church. The church is now open every day between 10am and 3pm. All donations will be taken to the Salvation Army in Penrith, for onward distribution to those in need in our local area.



St Michael's Church, Skelton  
**'Soup and Pudding Lunch'**  
Tuesday 3rd February 2026  
at Toppin Memorial Hall Reading Room,  
Skelton 12 noon –1.30pm £7 entry Raffle



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**St Michael's Church Skelton 100 Club Winners**

	1st prize £25	2nd prize £15	3rd prize £10
October 2025	Rachel Jones 109	Rosemary Lavendar 121	Doreen Millican 14
November 2025	Andrew Dixon 52	E Crichton 101	Steve Wilkinson 87
December 2025	Lily & Elsie Bird 45	Anita Jackson 57	B & A & V Wilson 122

**Anna Chaplaincy**

You are warmly invited to a Tea Service. A short informal church service followed by tea and cake. To be held in Skelton Methodist Chapel on Tuesday 24th February and Tuesday 24th March.






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## SKELTON TOPPIN MEMORIAL HALL

**Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall, "kitchen only"** will continue to be closed until 31 January 2026, for a complete refurbishment: Any questions please contact: bobprovoncha@yahoo.co.uk or 07876402738

**Skelton Amateur Dramatics' Christmas Show:** "Christmas at Toppin Towers" presented on 19 & 20 Dec, was a resounding success! ... both in attendance and in the nearly £1,500 raised. The audience know what to expect ...but comes along anyway A huge thank you to all who made up this year's, as well as past and hopefully future audiences! The monies raised this year, as last, go to the continued refurbishment/upkeep of this 102-year-old, purpose built, rural village hall, without which, shows like this and so much more, would have no local community venue. (new players always welcomed!)

**6 February & 6 March First Friday Pub evenings in Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall,** Reading Room, local volunteers, popular prices, local draught & bottled beer, wine, mixed and soft drinks, warm inviting atmosphere: serving 6:30 -10:30 pm, cash/card accepted.

**21 February Ceilidh in Toppin Memorial Hall main hall,** a month late for Burn's night due to kitchen renovation, doors open: 7 pm, dancing from 7:30 pm, featuring: Sophie and the Tailgate Buskers, expected cost £15- £17/person with planned for Scottish buffet and pay as you go bar. Contact: bobprovoncha@yahoo.co.uk for up-date/details

**28 February, Planned Exercise at Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall as a Community** Emergency Hub involving ACT (Action with Communities in Cumbria), Cumbria Joint Emergency Management and Resilience Team and Cumbria CVS. All day event. Could you help in times of emergency? Contact bobtowers@btinternet.com See also link in Skelton Parish Council Report.

T:01768 896219

E: info@heatherglencountryhouse.co.uk

W: heatherglencountryhouse.co.uk



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Choose from one of our nine luxury ensuite rooms.

This offer is available until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and exclusively bookable by telephone.

*Friday pub Classics*

We're launching our pub classics menu starting Friday 30th January.

The same Heather Glen quality you know and love cooked by our fantastic long standing chefs, but featuring delicious pub classics.

Serving from 5pm so you can head to us straight from work and start the weekend the Heather Glen way. Get in touch today!

*Get married at Heather Glen*

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From birthday meals, family gatherings, baby showers, Christenings and everything in between, we would love to be part of your story.

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Here at Heather Glen, we pride ourselves on our luxury country house being a home from home for our guests, so why not let it be your home for a mini escape?! Gather a group of family and friends and book Heather Glen from Monday to Friday, enjoying bespoke catering throughout. Minimum numbers and rooms apply.

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SKELTON TOPPIN MEMORIAL HALL

9 March 2026

Formal notice is given that Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall, (John Castlehow Toppin Memorial Hall) Skelton, CA11 9TE will hold its Annual General Meeting, (AGM), (for financial year ending 30 Sep 2025), at 7 PM on Monday, 9 March 2026, in the Reading Room. The regular monthly trustees meeting to immediately follow. Local members of the public are cordially invited to attend. Trustees for the following year will be elected. New trustees are always welcome; it's an exciting time on the heels of the Main hall refurbishment, previous integrated solar PVs & Batteries installation, dual, 2-way, EV carpark charge point, this month's kitchen refurbishment and this years planned for front extension with disability ramp. If you'd like to help take the development of the Hall forward while also securing benefits for the community, please contact: bob-towers@btinternet.com or bobprovoncha@yahoo.co.uk

National Village Halls week 16-22 March 2026 with the theme of: "Connecting Communities to Health & Wellbeing"

**SKELTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT.** Skelton Parish Council is commencing its third 5-year Community Action Plan for the period 2026-2031. The Action Plan is a document that sets out what local people value in their community and the plans for projects to achieve the aspirations of local people. A working committee is being established which interested parties are welcome to join. The Action Plan can only happen if the community is fully engaged. Please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@skeltonpc-cumbria.org.uk

Building on the efforts of Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall to become a Community Emergency Centre, the Parish Council will also be developing a Community Emergency Plan which will involve the production and circulation of proposals for individual Household Plans. We have been very lucky with the worst weather passing us by so far, but the need to plan ahead for worsening weather and other emergencies could not be clearer. Contact the clerk to get involved.

### SKELTON METHODIST CHURCH

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# Cottage Wood Centre

The **Methodist Church** Penrith Circuit

Methodist rural outreach Calthwaite Penrith CA11 9PL

*Serving out community in the name of Jesus*

**Worship starts at 3pm where we have a relaxed style of Worship. We sit around tables and enjoy refreshments and fellowship together. Come along and join us you will be most welcome.**

**3c's group - Meeting on Wednesday mornings during the school term time. At 10am we start with a Bible reflection with others joining at 10.30am. Various crafts are undertaken so if you would like to learn to Knit -Cross stitch or crochet do come along or pop in and have refreshments with us.**

**Take Tea Out – We will be starting our afternoon teas again on Thursday 12th March at 2pm. This is a full afternoon tea we charge £6 with the majority of the money going to charities here and abroad. This last year we have been able to give away £500. If you would like to join us or have a take away tea please give Sheila a call.**

**Prayer meeting – This is held in our own homes on the first Wednesday in the month 7pm – 8pm. If you would like us to pray for anyone of any situation please give Sheila a call Tel: 01768 885362 – or if you would like to have any information about Cottage Wood.**

**Services – 3pm**

**Sunday February 1st – Joint service with Stainton- & Skelton at CWC**

**Sunday February 8th – Dean Lawson**

**Sunday February 15th – Revd Julie Reid**

**Sunday February 22nd – Mr Ian Newton**



**Eden Valley Flix**  
Community Film Club



**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – I Swear – 15**

John Davidson: diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome at a young age which alienated him from his peers, he struggled with a condition few people had witnessed.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – The Choral – 12A**

A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie to recruit teenagers. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with their impending conscription into the army.

**All films are shown at Ainstable Institute**

**Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start**

Entry to films £4, refreshments available to purchase.

Sub-titles will be used if requested.

### **Voluntary Car Scheme (VCS)**

The VSC provides transport for any age (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult) who cannot make their journey by public or private transport. Drivers wanted: If you would like to volunteer please contact any of the numbers below:

Skelton /Lamonby area - Mags Towers 01768484727 Sheila Magee 01768484389  
Ainstable, Armathwaite, Hesketh Ivegill & Calthwaite area - Neil Ruddick 07929761173



## St Michael & All Angels, Ainstable

### AINSTABLE FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

will be held on Saturday 28th February  
at 7pm in the Village Hall

Free entry.

Bingo books to purchase on the night with prizes for a line and full house.

Shepherds pie and pea supper available for £3.

Raffle will also be held.

All ages welcome so come along for an enjoyable evening with all the family, and  
at the same time supporting the upkeep of the Hall.

### Christ Church, Ivegill

A Very Happy New Year to everyone in Ivegill and the Inglewood area. We hope it's a  
happy, prosperous and healthy 2026.

The services for February 2026 follow our usual pattern of :-

2nd Sunday ( Feb 8th) Morning Worship at 9.30 am

4th Sunday (Feb 22nd ) Holy Communion at 9.30am

Soup and Puds to come -Saturday 21st March 12.00-2.00 pm

### Dalston Flower and Craft Group

Wednesday 11 February  
at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall, Dalston.

Annual General Meeting  
with a Bring and Share Supper.

All are welcome.

We are a small, friendly nursery situated in a beautiful rural area. As a small setting we are able  
to get to know our children and families well. Our intent is to nurture and enrich  
each unique, individual child through a range of playful experiences in a warm,  
safe, and caring environment. We run a weekly music session in the village hall for  
children under 5. Open Monday to Friday 8.50 - 3.30 during term time. Flexible  
provision for children aged 2 upwards. Free entitlement for eligible 2 year olds, 15  
and 30 hour funding for 3 and 4 year olds. For enquiries contact us on 016974  
73732 or [ivegillnursery@gmail.com](mailto:ivegillnursery@gmail.com)



## The Catholic Parish of St Catherine, Penrith, with the Chapel of St Wulston, Alston and Our Lady of Appleby with Kirkby Stephen

Christmas 2025 saw 586 people attend our Christmas Masses at Alston, Penrith and Appleby,  
an increase over the previous year's 505 and 451 in 2023. It is always special as we welcome so  
many, both visitors as well as family members returning home for the Christmas season. Many  
stayed on as the following Sunday, our numbers were in excess of 300. It is traditional to have  
a collection box beside the crib. Proceeds for the 3rd year are for the Holy Land and will be  
sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. While many in our Parish have visited the Holy  
Land and seen the walls and barricades and even joined our fellow Catholics for Mass in their  
church, others are now familiar with the situation through television news. We need peace, but  
what will be the price? We pray that our small donations might make a difference, but more  
importantly that our prayers will be heard.

Christian Unity week seems to arrive, almost unexpectedly every January. We are involved  
with Christian Unity week in Penrith, Alston and Appleby. We are always happy to welcome  
members of other churches and to offer them some modest hospitality. Many enjoy visiting our  
churches and we try to answer all their questions.

Our annual preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion began in January. It is a  
big commitment for both children and parents. In addition to the children working in school  
there is a class every 2 weeks for children and parents through to the special day in June. It is  
special for the Parish as they welcome parents and children to Mass every 2 weeks and then  
join in the celebrations in June. Please say a prayer for our children and their parents.  
On Thursday 12th February Bishop Paul will confirm 22 candidates at Confirmation Masses in  
Alston and Penrith. Many of the candidates will have attended a Day Retreat at Hyning Hall  
Monastery, near Lancaster. Hyning Hall has a small community of Bernadine Cistercian's sisters,  
who offer a series of retreats for individuals or groups, which can include accommodation.

We all have Parishioners, whose work has had a significant impact on your Parish. Paul Harper,  
who used to live in Lazonby, but moved to Harrogate to be near his family made such an  
impact on St Catherine's. Paul was Master of Ceremonies on many special occasions. He made  
a big impact in the background, especially with the buildings with his practical management  
approach as well as the bell restoration project. The many challenges in these areas were  
quietly managed. Paul died just before Christmas and his funeral will be at Harrogate on 16th  
January. May he rest in peace.

Our course for those interested in becoming a Catholic or wanting to know more about the  
Catholic faith, has just started. If you are interested in joining or want further details, please  
contact Father John or Deacon David.

### TIMES OF SERVICES THROUGH THE YEAR The Catholic Parish of St Catherine, Penrith

Please contact St Catherine's to check. Tel: 01768 862273 Website [www.stjohnboste.org.uk](http://www.stjohnboste.org.uk)

Email – [parishoffice.stcatherines@btinternet.com](mailto:parishoffice.stcatherines@btinternet.com) Fr John B Winstanley, Parish Priest St Catherine's Rectory, Drovers  
Lane, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9EL Tel: 01768 862273

**Masses: Sunday 8.30 am and 10.30 am Weekday Services:** Masses most days

**Saturday 9.00 am Mass 9.30am** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions

**St Wulstan's,** Kings Arms Lane, Alston CA9 3JF: **Saturday 6pm Mass.** Confessions, 5.30 pm before 6pm Mass

**Our Lady of Appleby with Kirkby Stephen** CA16 6UA Sunday Mass 4 pm.

## GENERAL INTEREST

### PRE LOVED BOOK FAYRE St.MARY'S CHURCH , HIGH HESKET

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH

from 2pm to 4pm New range of brilliant books all at 20p each

Please come and have a browse Tea and Coffee available for donation

All money raised goes towards our renovation of the Vestry

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### for the Court Thorn Surgery Prescription Delivery Team

Each Friday prescriptions from the surgery are taken to patients who are unable to collect their medication by a driver and deliverer.

The rota is drawn up three months in advance and is not a weekly commitment.

The more people who are involved, the less frequently they are called upon.

Mileage is reimbursed. Training is provided.

The gratitude of the patients who receive this service makes it very rewarding!

Please consider joining the team!

For further information contact: Court Thorn Surgery 016974 73548 or a member of the Patients Participation Group (PPG).

## ST JAMES'S HUTTON IN THE FOREST

**Hutton End Village Hall** is available for hire for family parties, groups etc.

It has been refurbished in the last few years and can seat 60 people . We have chairs, tables and crockery available, and a modern kitchen. The hall is accessible for wheelchairs. Contact : Margaret Gray ( booking secretary) for prices and information [margaret.e.gray.mg@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.e.gray.mg@gmail.com)

## HUTTON-IN-THE-FOREST

Historic House & Gardens

Although we are now closed, we are looking forward to opening 29 March 2026.

We have job vacancies available in our Cloisters Tearoom, Administration office or as a House Guide.

Please call or email for details.

Tel. 017684 84449

[www.hutton-in-the-forest.co.uk](http://www.hutton-in-the-forest.co.uk)

14

## Armathwaite Old School Hall

### Community Café -Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 11.30am -2.00pm.

Come and enjoy a heartwarming homemade lunch, every second and fourth Monday. Volunteers are welcomed to serve on the day or make soup, salad or a cake or just come and chat to people.

Contact Jean 07891795490 or Sue 07876485011 for more information.

For bookings contact Emma [armathwaiteosh@hotmail.com](mailto:armathwaiteosh@hotmail.com) Check the new website or We are Armathwaite Facebook page for events coming up.

### Live Music in the hall-Brooks Williams-Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

Celebrated as one of the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists, Brooks blends folk, blues and country music with effortless skill for a truly unforgettable performance.

Tickets £15.00 available from [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)

or contact Gill 07779134654 for more information.

### Armathwaite Community Primary School and Nursery

We are a friendly, caring school for children aged 3 to 11 years. We have a real family and community feel, where each child is valued We offer a broad and rich curriculum. Our

Nursery is available for children from the term after they turn 3. Flexible sessions are available. We have a large, exciting outdoor area. We also provide breakfast club and a range of fun after-school clubs and wrap-around care. We would love to show you round



**Armathwaite**  
Community School

our wonderful school. If you would like to visit call

01697472296 or email [admin@armathwaite.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@armathwaite.cumbria.sch.uk)

## Christ & St Mary's Armathwaite

**Thank you** to everyone who came and joined in the Carol Singing at the Fox and Pheasant and to Steve for allowing us in his newly refurbished dining room at the last minute. Our thanks go to Sian and Mark who led the singing and to everyone who came and supported the event. It is hoped to run the event this coming year, but watch this space in the December edition or check out information at [www.achurchnearyou](http://www.achurchnearyou)

£225.31 was raised for Shelter at this event, combined with the collection taken at the Christmas Eve communion service. Thank you for coming along and for your generous contributions.

### Messy Church

Another wonderful session of Messy Church at the beginning of January when the theme was Epiphany. Stained glass windows, decorated star biscuits, paper plate angels and three kings on lolly sticks were all made by the children with the help of some adults! Watch the March edition of the News and Notes to see details of our next session or visit [www.achurchnearyou](http://www.achurchnearyou). If anyone has any questions about Messy Church, or would like to be added to our database for future events, please contact Sian Banks on 078 818 08679.

### Carlisle Foodbank

Thank you to all those over the past months have been leaving donations of food. We've received the following message from Brenda at the Foodbank:

*"Thank you very much for your kind donations to the Foodbank, we really appreciate your continued support."*

*Happy New Year to you all, your kindness means such a lot to us. Please come in and see us when you can – we have a new café/shop upstairs serving lovely coffee, cheap snacks and low cost food items.*

*Please pass on our thanks to everyone, sending you all best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026."*

Visit [www.carlislefoodbank.org.uk](http://www.carlislefoodbank.org.uk) to see a shopping list of goods which are regularly required. Again, grateful thanks for all your support.

### Open Gardens 2026

This event will take place over the weekend of the 27/28 June 2026. If you would like to open your garden or help over the weekend, please get in touch with either Sue Bonsor 016974 72054 or Jane Dutton 016974 72840.

Best wishes to everyone for 2026 from all at Christ and St Mary, Armathwaite.

## THE INGLEWOOD GROUP OF CHURCHES—SERVICES

### Services in February

#### Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February - Candlemas

9.15	Armathwaite	Morning Prayer
9.15	Calthwaite	Holy Communion
11.15	Skelton	Holy Communion

#### Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February

9.15	Plumpton	Holy Communion
11.15	High Hesket	Morning Prayer
11.15	Hutton	Holy Communion

#### Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February

9.15	Armathwaite	Holy Communion
9.15	Calthwaite	Morning Worship
11.15	High Hesket	Holy Communion
11.15	Skelton	Morning Worship

#### Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February -First Sunday of Lent

9.15	Plumpton	Morning Prayer
9.15	Ainstable	Holy Communion
11.15	High Hesket	Morning Worship
11.15	Hutton	Morning Prayer
11.15	Skelton	Morning Worship

#### Ash Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

- 11.00am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes, Skelton
- 7.30pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes, Armathwaite

## February in the Garden

Prune shrubs that have finished flowering and finish pruning deciduous trees.

Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate deciduous hedges.

Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter.

Put a top dressing around plants after pruning, planting etc. such as bark or gravel around alpiners. This helps to improve the soil, suppress weeds, insulate roots and retain moisture during the summer.

Apply a general fertiliser to all plants. Apply the fertiliser where the roots are - roughly a similar area to the spread of the branches.

Regularly check stored fruit and veg removing any rotting or mouldy specimens.

Regularly dead head plants and sweep up fallen debris, to prevent disease spreading.

Prune Trees Shrubs and climbers

It is ok to move established hedges, shrubs, trees and climbers and plant new specimens.

Continue to plant roses but remember not to plant them where previous roses have been to avoid replant disease.

Do not forget it is the last chance month for pruning apples and pears next month the sap will start moving. It is also time to cut autumn fruiting raspberry, black currents down to the ground to stimulate new canes.

Did you know? Mole activity increases in February as it is the mating season and they are building nests.

### TOP TIP

Check whether pots and other containers need watering - even at this time of year they can dry out.

*Thomas the Bucket*



**Hesket Parish Council**

[www.hesket.org.uk](http://www.hesket.org.uk)

Find us on 

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**Chair: Elaine Martin**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Hesket Parish Council will be held on Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 7.30pm at Armathwaite Old School Hall.

At the November meeting of the Parish Council the following matters were discussed:

- The Parish Council agreed to sign an agreement with Westmorland and Furness Council for the siting of a memorial bench in Armathwaite, in memory of local resident Billy Robley.
- Updates were received on issues at the development at Gillian's Well, Calthwaite. The Parish Council also engaged a contractor to repair damage to the wall, who has completed repairs to a high standard.
- Repairs to the Coronation Bench at Plumpton have now been completed.
- The Community Governance Review into Parishes by Westmorland and Furness Council was discussed. The Parish Council have agreed that a review of wards in the Parish was warranted, with a proposal to extend these from three to five, retaining the same overall number of Councillors.
- The Precept for 2026/2027 was agreed, with a 4% increase, to cover increasing costs and ensure appropriate reserves are maintained. The annual Precept for Hesket Parish will now be £16,120.17, meaning a Band D property will pay around £15.36 a year towards the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council agreed to object to a planning application at High Hesket, for the erection of a further 25 bungalows.

A report of the 13<sup>th</sup> January meeting will be published in the next edition of the magazine.

### **Armathwaite Play Area**

The Parish Council recently conducted a number of repairs at Armathwaite Play Area. The Council was very disappointed to receive a report that a number of fence planks have been removed from the play area fencing. Parents are reminded that they are responsible for their children's action at the play area. Repairs will now have to be carried out again, at further cost to the Parish Council, and ultimately residents.

Contact details:

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