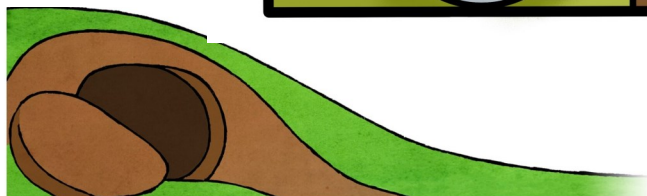
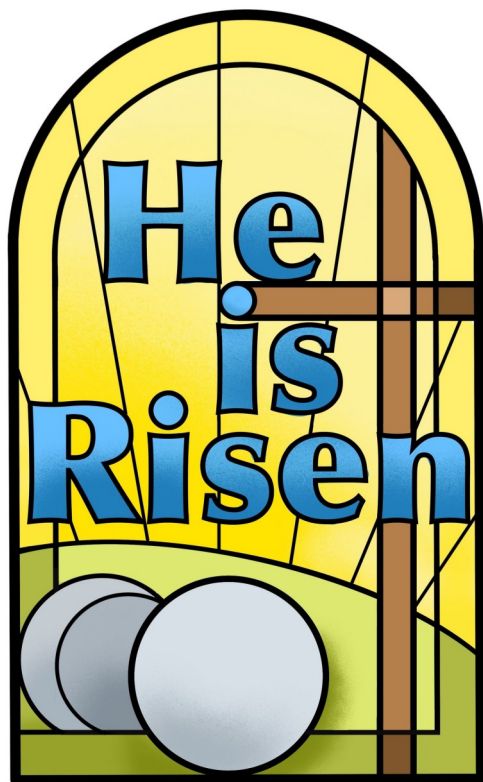


**PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. GEORGE, KENDAL  
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GRAYRIGG  
[www.beaconteam.org.uk](http://www.beaconteam.org.uk)**



April  
2026

# Beacon Team Mission Community

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<b>Electoral Roll Secretary :</b>			
<b>Baptism Secretary :</b>	Mrs Judith Cropper		07909766861
<b>Mission Partner:</b>	Miss Ruth Radley	ruthieradley@gmail.com	

# St. John The Evangelist, Grayrigg

<b>Authorised Worship Leader</b>	Mr Clifford Kendal	cbk1968@outlook.com	07713 787514
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Mrs Pauline Robson	plnrobson@yahoo.co.uk	824223
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Mr Sam Park		824349
<b>Correspondent</b>	Mrs Pauline Robson	plnrobson@yahoo.co.uk	824223
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Mrs Pauline Last		824468
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr David Last	davidlast@dockergarth.co.uk	824468

## Readings for April 2026

### Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6      Psalm 118:1-2,14-24  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Col.3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43      Gospel John 20:1-18 or Matt.28:1-10

### Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Acts 2:14a,22-32 or Exod.14:10-end,15:20-21      Psalm 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9 or Acts 2:14a, 22-32      Gospel John 20:19-end

### Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41 or Zeph. 3:14-end      Psalm 116  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Peter 1:17-23 or Acts 2:14a, 36-41      Gospel Luke 24:13-35

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Acts 2:42-end or Genesis.7      Psalm 23  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Peter 2:19-end or Acts 2:42-end      Gospel John 10:1-10



**Letter from Rev Michelle Woodcock**  
**Priest-in-Charge of the Beacon Team Churches**

Dear Friends,

As April arrives, the signs of spring are all around us. Gardens are beginning to wake; buds appear on branches that seemed lifeless only a few weeks ago and the air carries the quiet promise of new beginnings. The season itself invites us to pause, to breathe and to notice the gift of life returning.

In March I was able to take some time out for my annual spiritual retreat. I spent some time with the Society of Mary and Martha in Exeter. They are a Christian community devoted to hospitality, prayer and they offer space for rest and reflection. I was there on private retreat, and it was a real oasis of silence and restoration. Time to step away from the noise of everyday life and rediscover stillness in God's presence is a real gift.

In the Bible, in the letter of James we hear the simple invitation "*draw near to God and he will draw near to you.*" Sometimes we can imagine that faith requires great effort or complicated words, but often it begins simply with making space.

In the grounds of the retreat centre there is a full-sized outdoor prayer labyrinth. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path. You follow it slowly and deliberately, allowing each step to become a prayer. There is no rush and no wrong turn, only the journey inwards and then out again. Lots of people find that as their feet move steadily along the path that their hearts become still before God. With each step the distractions of life can fall away, and the simple rhythm of walking helps to create space to listen both to God and perhaps also to what was going on in your own heart too. It reminded me again that prayer is not always about finding the right words; sometimes it's simply about being present.

This idea of stepping away is not new. Before beginning his public ministry, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. In that place of solitude and prayer he prepared for what lay ahead. Retreat was not an escape from life, it was the beginning of it.

As we move through the final week of Lent and towards Easter, perhaps we might each find our own small "*wilderness space*"; a quiet walk, a moment of stillness in church, or simply a few minutes of prayer at the start or end of the day. In those moments we open ourselves to God's presence.



May this Easter season be one in which you find moments of quiet, where you can draw near to God and discover again the promise of new life.

*With every blessing,*

*Michelle x*

## **From The Registers**



### **Baptism:**

8th March - St John's Skelsmergh - Edward Blackburn Shaw

### **Wedding:**

31st March - St George's Kendal -  
Julia Frances Wilson and Lewis Joseph Whitmore

# Worship With Us

## **St John the Baptist, Skelsmergh:**

Sunday 5th April - Holy Communion for Easter Day 11am  
Sunday 12th April - *Joint service at Selside*  
Sunday 19th April - Morning Worship 11.00am + AGM  
Sunday 26th April— *Join a service at another church*

## **St John the Evangelist, Grayrigg**

Sunday 5th April - Holy Communion for Easter Day 9.30am  
Sunday 12th April - Morning Worship 9.30am  
Sunday 19th April - Holy Communion 9.30am  
Sunday 26th April - Evening Worship 6.30pm

## **St George, Kendal**

Sunday 5th April - Holy Communion for Easter Day 11.00am  
Sunday 12th April - Worship@4 4.00pm  
Sunday 19th April - Morning Worship 11.00am  
Sunday 26th April - Holy Communion 9.30am  
-

## **St Oswald, Burneside**

Sunday 5th April - Holy Communion for Easter Day 9.30am  
Sunday 12th April - Holy Communion 11.00am  
Sunday 19th April - Morning Worship 11.00am  
Sunday 26th April - Holy Communion 11am

## **St Mary's Longsleddale**

Sunday 5th April Abbey Service 10.30am



**St Thomas, Selside**

Sunday 5th April - *Joint service at Skelsmergh*  
Sunday 12th April - Holy Communion 9.30am  
Sunday 19th April - Evening Worship (BCP) 6pm  
Sunday 26th April - Morning Worship 11.00am

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.*

*Perhaps you might pop in once in a while, or maybe it's something you would appreciate being part of more regularly. There will be no expectation for you to do anything other than just come and enjoy a quiet 20 minutes at the start of a busy day "* **Revd Michelle**

In February we welcomed Ian Wilson, our Licenced Lay Minister, who spoke of his involvement in our Beacon Team churches, and his journey and training. He decided to commence the process after prayer and consultation with family, rural dean, vicar and other readers.

The process started with being interviewed by four people and then application to Emmanuel College, also safeguarding level 3 and DBS. Following acceptance, it involved travelling one night per week for two years to Penrith, a huge commitment especially in the winter months travelling over Shap. The terms were ten weeks, with all Readers meeting at Swanwick Conference Centre once a year.

Year one consisted of learning about theology, the New Testament, creeds and councils, Churches beliefs. Year two covered Leadership and Mission including preaching, the Old Testament, Discipleship and Ethics. Ian said Rev Matt Allen had been involved. He had assessments - two or three 5000-word essays per term, being filmed presenting a ten-minute sermon, a long essay on preaching and reports from the vicar. The course was accredited by Durham University, giving a third-class degree in Theology. His presentation included a lovely photo of Ian and Lois Sparling receiving their licences at Carlisle Cathedral.

Ian's duties include preaching without supervision at Service of the Word. Whilst he cannot officiate at Communion Services or Baptisms, he may take communion to housebound members.

Ian then spoke about becoming a member of the Anna Chaplaincy team for older people, hoping to expand this throughout the Beacon Team with the help of volunteers, visiting people in their homes, both

in the town and countryside. Older folk can be isolated especially when they have to stop driving, or through illness, or not having family members nearby.

This was an excellent talk by Ian and we were amazed at what had been involved. Mo thanked him. We then enjoyed a time of fellowship. Our meeting in April will be a talk by a member of St John's Hospice, and we will have a Bring and Buy towards the Hospice.

Future dates:

13th April – 150th Anniversary, Roundthorn Country House, Penrith.

17th – 19th June 2026, Rydal Family Weekend.

Sun. 8th August 2026, Mary Sumner Day (more details to follow)

*Mary Atkinson (Branch Leader)*

## 150 YEARS

In 2026, we will celebrate 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife with a bold vision. She believed that women, regardless of class or status, could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church.

From that single spark of an idea, a global movement was born – and Mothers' Union has grown to 4 million members across 84 countries. As we look to the future our members will continue working to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities around the world. At the heart of everything we do will remain our unwavering belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.

150th Celebratory Service – St Paul's Cathedral, London. 10th June 2026 at 5:00 PM

**Resurrection**  
(John 20:1-18)

Even in the darkness  
Still she went,  
Stumbling, longing for light,  
Finding a stone-moved emptiness.

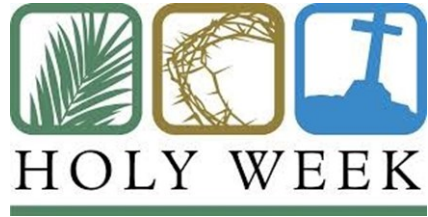
Then her running  
And the running and out-running of the men,  
The believing whilst not understanding,  
The tears and the angels with questions and messages.

Death transformed to Life  
In the turning,  
And revelation in a name,  
*Mary!*

Lord, sometimes I don't understand  
And the world seems dark,  
But I choose to turn from darkness to You.

Speak *my* name Lord,  
Hold me safe  
In Your resurrection power and light.

*By Daphne Kitching*



## Church services for Holy Week and Easter Sunday

**Monday 30th March:** 9am Morning Prayer (said) at Grayrigg

**Tuesday 31st March:** 9am Morning Prayer at Skelsmergh

**Wednesday 1st April:** 9.30am Holy Communion at Burneside

**2nd April Maundy Thursday 9am** Morning Prayer (said) at Skelsmergh

7pm Holy Communion with foot washing at Burneside

**3rd April Good Friday:** 10am -12 noon Messy Crafts at Kendal St George

2pm Whinfell Beacon service -

(meet at the mast from 1pm and start the walk from there at 1.30pm).

3pm An hour before the Cross at Kendal St George's

4pm Passion Gospel Reading at Skelsmergh

**4th April Holy Saturday 8pm** Deanery Easter Vigil at Kendal Parish Church

**5th April Easter Sunday** – Join us as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection

St. Oswald's, Burneside: Holy Communion 9.30am

STJE Grayrigg: Holy Communion 9.30am

St George's, Kendal: Holy Communion 11am

St Thomas, Selside: *joint service at Skelsmergh*

STJB Skelsmergh: Holy Communion 11am

# Grayrigg Church and Community News

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN GRAYRIGG

**3rd April**            **Good Friday Walk up Whinfell Beacon** 2pm  
Please make your way up to the top of Whinfell Beacon for a short Service at 2pm led by Reverend Michelle Afterwards in the Coronation Hall; Children's Easter egg hunt and toasted hot cross buns.

**3rd April**            Pub Night - with food    7.30pm onwards

**19th April**            **1pm** Sunday Lunch with Kath in the Coronation Hall **Steak or Cheese & Onion Pie** with chips & peas, followed by meringues & fruit, cream/ice-cream. £15 per head by ticket only - limited to 40 people. Proceeds for the Over 60's funds. Contact Kath on 07736 125236 or email: [kath.dickinson@btinternet.com](mailto:kath.dickinson@btinternet.com)

**25th April**          Soupa Saturday in the Coronation Hall 11.30 - 2pm  
For Church Funds

**1st May**            **Pub Night**                    7.30pm onward

**17th May**            1pm Sunday Lunch with Kath in the Coronation Hall **Cottage Pie with Veg.** (veggie option available) followed by fruit pie with cream/ice-cream. £15 per head by ticket only - limited to 45 people Proceeds for Grayrigg School. Contact Kath on 07736 125236 or email: [kath.dickinson@btinternet.com](mailto:kath.dickinson@btinternet.com)

**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

## Regular Meetings in Grayrigg

**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

**Pickleball** – takes place every Thursday evening 6-8pm in the Coronation Hall £3

**Grayrigg Young Farmers** - meet every Tuesday for meetings and social events.

## St John The Evangelist , Grayrigg Church Cleaning Rota

Cleaning for Sunday 12th April - Pauline Robson

Cleaning for Sunday 19th April - Wendy and Sally

Cleaning for Sunday 26th April - Jacqui Robinson

If anyone would like to help, please contact Pauline Robson.

## The Grayrigg Good Neighbours

Join us every second Tuesday of the month in the Coronation Hall at **7.30pm** for a get-together and talks or craft activities. All welcome.

**14th April** — Sweet Treats  
with Martin Frickel

**12th May** — My Travels Around Africa  
with Emma Littlewood

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

## Howgill and Firbank WI

Thursday 2nd April - Firbank Church Hall at 7.30pm  
Lacemaking with Jenny Parker.

## Grayrigg Rainfall



The rainfall in February 2026 was 113.5mm or 4.47 inches.

The rainfall in February 2025 was 64.5mm or 2.54 inches

The average February rainfall over the last 34 years is 141.4mm or 5.57 inches.

## **St George's Day: Organ Music Concert** **Experience the Power of the Wilkinson Pipe Organ**

Join us for an hour of organ music....with the sounds of our historic 1883 Wilkinson Grade 1 listed pipe organ filling the sacred space of St George's church. The organ has 2,032 pipes!



It will be played by Graham Toft BSc FPA who is the Music Director at Christ Church, Lancaster, and a former long-term organist at Settle Parish Church

**Thursday 23rd April**  
**12 noon to 1pm**  
**St George's Church Castle St. Kendal**



Kendal  
Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria

Everyone is welcome to the

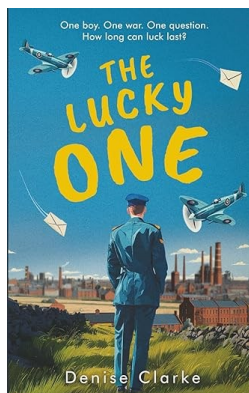
**KENDAL TEA SERVICE**

**BRINGING PEOPLE**

**TOGETHER**

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

Thursday 16th April 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

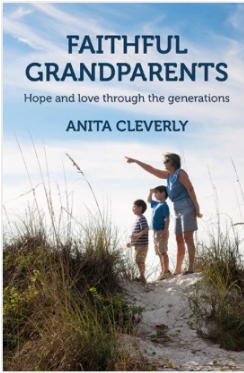


## ***THE LUCKY ONE***

Denise Clarke's latest novel *The Lucky One* is now available at £8.99, from Sam Read Bookshop in Grasmere, on Amazon and a few other online suppliers and it can be ordered through the Beacon Team Office. It has been reviewed in Cumbria Life magazine.

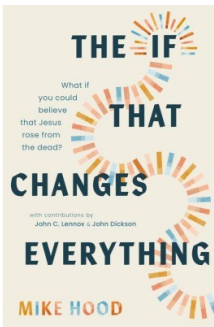
Denise is a member at St Thomas' Selside .

## BOOK REVIEWS



### **Faithful Grandparents: Hope and Love through the Generations** By Anita Cleverly, BRF, £9.99

This book urges grandparents to 'Be the grandparent God wants you to be!' There has never been a more important time to find meaningful ways of passing on our faith to the next generation. Part of this privilege and responsibility lies with grandparents who are living authentic Christian lives. They can be the vital link between the gospel and the faith of a younger generation.



### **The If that Changes Everything by Mike Hood** The Good Book Company £8.99 **offer price £7.99**

There are some things which, if they are true, change everything. If Jesus rose from the dead, it would transform what we think of God and how we see ourselves. We could make sense of some of the deepest mysteries of our existence and enjoy real hope in our everyday lives. But can a rational person actually believe that Jesus rose from the dead?

Mike Hood wants to show you that you can. In this short, personable book, he addresses questions like... Why do any of us believe what we believe about life after death? What makes us hesitate to change our view of Jesus or God? What historical evidence is there for the resurrection? What will it mean for our lives now if there is life after death?

Bringing together thoughtful examination of the evidence and real-life stories from people who have come to believe in Jesus' resurrection, this book shows how Christianity fits into and makes sense of our deepest questions and desires. Readers will be encouraged to see that faith in Jesus is both reasonable and life-changing in the best way. Includes appendices by respected scholars John Lennox and John Dickson.

*Available through South Lakes Christian Resources & Lynne Magee.*

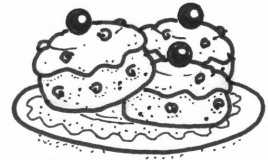


## St George's Church Chatter and Natter

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

Com along on **Friday April 24th 2026**  
from 10am to 11.30am



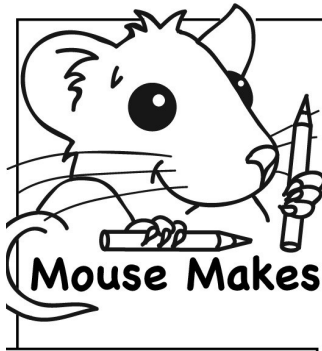
## Laughter Lines

A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."

### 23rd April – St George's Day

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303AD.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs & injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. We also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion.



GOOD NEWS  
 HOSANNA  
 DEATH Q B V  
 V N C O E E U I  
 U A H N A A R O  
 M I R E V S Y U  
 A L I V E T D R  
 R I S E N E O K  
 Y O T H O R N S  
 P A L M S Q K A  
 R P I L A T E N  
 C R U C I F Y G  
 R H I Q U A K E  
 O C J E S U S L  
 S T O M B V D Y  
 S R Y E M P T Y

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY

EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE

I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11

I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26

I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32

We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47

I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66

We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10

and spoke to the angel

Jesus is alive!  
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

## Beacon Team Events

Entertainment by *the last of the Red Hot Strummers Ukelele Band*

Music, humour and enjoyment.

At Skelsmergh Community Hall

**Sunday 24th May 2.30pm**

Tickets £10

(to include refreshments) from  
Helen Atkinson 07710 796678

*Proceeds for St John the Baptist  
Church, Skelsmergh*

## ***We're looking for a Secretary!***

Skelsmergh Community Hall Charity are looking for a friendly, organized volunteer to join the small team of trustees a Secretary.

### ***What would you do?***

Help organise trustee meetings a few times a year.

Prepare agendas with the Chair.

Take clear & simple meeting notes  
Keep key documents tidy & up-to-date.

Respond to emails

***Time commitment*** - just a few hours a month, plus attending trustee meetings. No experience needed.

***Interested?*** Contact Mary Chapman 07765 306535 email: [i.chapman434@btinternet.com](mailto:i.chapman434@btinternet.com)



*Maudy Thursday on April 1st - the last  
temptation of Eric*

## **Kendal Wills Ltd.**

For Wills and Lasting Powers  
of Attorney

Tel 01539 728020

[enquiries@kendalwills.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kendalwills.co.uk)  
[www.kendalwills.co.uk](http://www.kendalwills.co.uk)

Compliant with the Institute of  
Professional Willwriters Code  
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**Mobile: 07768155522**



**Prepayment Funeral Plans Arranged**

**Golden Charter**  
Funeral Plans 