

The Parish Magazine
for the Seataillan Benefice
Gosforth & Wasdale
Beckermest, Calderbridge & Seascale



December 2025 & January 2026

connecting our communities

60p

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(continued)

Seatallan Benefice Directory

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All copy for the magazine needs to be with the Editor by the 15th of the preceding month, by email if possible.

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## FROM THE SEATALLAN PARISH REGISTERS

Occasional Offices conducted between  
the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 to the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### BECKERMET

No Occasional Offices known

### CALDER BRIDGE, PONSONBY and OLD CHURCH

No Occasional Offices known

### SEASCALE

No Occasional Offices known

### GOSFORTH, NETHER WASDALE and WASDALE HEAD

31<sup>st</sup> October    Cremation and Thanksgiving    Margaret Blencoe  
(Gosforth)

## TUNNELS

Back in the 'days of yore', I had a couple of 'run ins' with tunnels I will never forget. When I say 'tunnels', I do not mean the little ones that we tend to have in the UK.... or even the Channel Tunnel, where I once interviewed for a job, long before they even started building it. I mean the long tunnels that you get in mountainous regions in Europe, which are normally built on a curve, so that when you enter them you cannot, at first, see the other end... let alone guess at what might be on the other side!

I encountered the first of these memorable tunnels, at the age of eighteen, whilst cycling over the Grimsel Pass between Obergoms and Meringen in the Swiss Alps. All day long we climbed, for mile after mile, up through the hay meadows, and then on, further up the switch-backs, which led into the glaciers near the sky. By the evening, we were on top, exhausted, but thrilled at the idea of rolling downhill for over 30 miles. Faster and faster I tore downwards, into the gathering gloom of the valley, until round a sharp bend, I was met by the sight of a tunnel entrance, and the lights went out. With the wind continuing to blow in my face, I could see nothing at all... not even the edge of the road. Blindly, I hung on, trying to 'sense' the rightward bend. Then, there in the distance, a window of light appeared. I shot out of the tunnel... and stopped. Seconds later I looked at my friend in silence. Our wheel rims began to cool. Silently, we agreed - in future the bike lights would go 'on' before setting off downhill.

In the summer of 1999, I visited Italy. I was there, on my own, in order to travel the 'Blue Walk', or 'Sentiero Azzura', a route which runs along the shoulder of the mountainous coastline near Pisa. The walk should not have been a drama – simply 15 km of beautiful coastal scenery - except it was hot... and I had not packed enough water. A couple of kilometres north of Corniglia, I turned right, off the path, down the 1000ft slope which led to what looked like a hostelry on the beach. The hillside was covered in brambles and gorse, so the going was tough. When I arrived at the establishment and ordered a drink, something seemed wrong. No one had any clothes on! Inadvertently, I had strayed into a nudist colony. Focusing on his face, I asked the barman how to 'get away'. He pointed to a tunnel entrance in the hillside, and spoke to me quickly in Italian. With no understanding at all, I nodded, and made my way towards the gaping hole that was the entrance. Pitch dark. No torch. Feeling my way along the wall. Not knowing if a pit lay open ahead of me. Several times trains thundered by, barely ten feet away. What seemed like an hour later, a sliver of light appeared at the other end of the tunnel... but it was

not what I expected. The light I had seen was 'seeping' in to the tunnel through the cracks surrounding a crude iron door, which was fitted with a magnetic lock. My path was blocked. It is surprising how strong you can be, if you are determined not to retrace your steps! Blinking in the sunshine, I never looked back.

I always think that the season of Advent is like a tunnel. We step over the threshold and travel, in our various ways, towards 'the light' at the other end. Some years, we can see it all the way. Other times, it explodes upon us suddenly, as we come around the final bend. Some years, it can be so hard just to get to the manger's side.

To every traveller this Advent, to everyone of us, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." (John Ch 8vs 12. New Living Translation.) In this very dark time of the year, and at this point in our Nation's history, when there is a good deal of uncertainty around, may that same Lord Jesus be with us all, by his Spirit, present to scatter the darkness from beneath our feet, as we move steadily through the tunnel of Advent, and on to the pooled light of Christmas.... and the starlit clarity of Epiphany. Travel safely as you go...

**Every Blessing from us all at the Rectory!...**

*Philip, Jacquie, Freddy and Grace*

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GOSFORTH CHURCH – Christmas Decorations & Flower Fund



This year we will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday 11th December at 10am, ready for the Candlelit Concert the following evening. Everyone is most welcome to join us – you don't have to be an expert at arranging flowers – we all help each other and enjoy the time together! Refreshments are provided.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of flowers this Christmas, please have a word with me.

Decorating the church with flowers throughout the year is funded by voluntary donations and I would like to thank all who have contributed to the flower fund this year. We use garden flowers and greenery when available but of course we do have to buy flowers during the winter months and for special occasions. Our Flower Fund is very low at the moment so donations would be most welcome!

Ann McKenzie – Tel: 25700



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Irton, Holmrook, Cumbria
tel: 019467 24175
mobile: 07855 806637
john@hrybltd.com

The Wasdale 100 Fundraiser

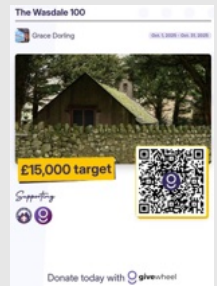
A 'Thank you' from Grace Dorling

On the 29th October 2025 my student friends in Liverpool and Newcastle finished our fundraising challenge – 'The Wasdale 100' – in which we each aimed to run 100Km during the month of October in order to pray for our city and to raise money for two causes that mean a lot to us.

The first cause that we ran to raise money for, was the Mountain Rescue in England and Wales. The Mountain Rescue in England and Wales means so much to everyone that loves the uplands. If things don't work out as planned in the hills of England and Wales, they are life savers. It is so good to know that 'they are there for us'...

The second cause that we ran to raise money for, was The Renovation of St Olaf's Church at Wasdale Head. As so many know, St Olaf's is the smallest church by the deepest lake under the tallest mountain in England; everyone who visits the church falls in love – the humility of this tiny building somehow shows us that the God who made this great big world loves us all. The renovation of this building will mean that it can withstand the Wasdale weather for another 100 years.

I would like to say a big '**Thank You**' to everyone involved in the 'Wasdale 100 Fundraiser'. I, along with many others, finished the 100km of running on the 29th of October. As we ran across the month it was amazing to be able to pray for Liverpool, to run with friends taking part or supporting...and to raise money for these two excellent causes. By the end of the month, we had raised the fantastic total of nearly **£2600.00** and the total seems to go on rising. Thank you all for your generous donations!



If you still want to give, you can still do so by going to my 'Give Wheel', which can be reached by scanning the QR code above with your phone's scanner and clicking the links.

Thanks again. Grace

THE LOCAL FOODBANK

Just a reminder to everyone that the local Foodbank (ours is Egremont) is still very much in need of support, especially at Christmas time. There are collection boxes at the back of most of our churches and the food collected is taken regularly to Egremont Methodist Church, where the Foodbank is based.



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GOSFORTH PARISH CHURCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The last meeting of the Management Committee was held on Thursday 6th November. All members of the committee were in attendance.

The Treasurer reported the projected annual income as at 30/9/25 was £28,198 which, taking into account inflation, means a 14% reduction in real terms in projected income. The extra amount we would need for our annual income to match the 2020 level in real terms is approximately £4,500.

The Committee formed a sub-group to prioritise and action maintenance work for the Church. There are several roofing issues and John Miller Roofing have been contacted regarding these. Concerning the Bier House, temporary steps are being taken to stabilise the building until a more permanent repair can be made for which funding will need to be sought.

Fundraising is still a major concern for the committee and we continue to look for new ways to achieve this. Day to day running costs, e.g. grass cutting, continue to increase and we will be looking for increased contributions towards these costs.

Steps are currently being taken to purchase and install a contactless card reader for donations. It is hoped to install this in the very near future.

The Committee are working on the Worship Review alongside introducing the new Audio-Visual equipment into our weekly services. It is hoped that we will have news on these matters in due course.

Susan Round (Clerk to Committee)

EVENTS IN NETHER WASDALE

Tuesday 2nd December at 12pm in the Old School, Nether Wasdale
FESTIVE SOUP & MINCE PIES

Tuesday 6th January at 3pm, in the Old School, Nether Wasdale
AFTERNOON TEA

Tuesday 3rd February at 7pm, in the Old School, Nether Wasdale.
A TASTE OF UZBEKISTAN

Saturday 7th February, 10am to 2pm, in the Old School, Nether Wasdale.
ANTIQUÉ VALUATIONS by Mitchell's Auctioneers

CHRISTMAS SERVICES and EVENTS in the SEATALLAN BENEFICE - 2025

BECKERMET

Friday 28th November at 6.00 pm – Carol Service in St John's Church with Egremont Town Band and switching on of the Christmas tree lights.

Christmas Day at 9.30 am - Christmas Communion

CALDER BRIDGE and PONSONBY

Saturday 6th December at 5.00 pm – Carol Service in Ponsonby Church

GOSFORTH

Sunday 30th November at 2.00 pm – Light up a Life Service (Hospice at Home W. Cumbria)

Friday 12th December at 7.00 pm – Candlelit Christmas Concert of music and song by members of school and church in St Mary's Church, with mulled wine and mince pies.

Tickets: Adults £5; Children £1. Proceeds to school and church.

Sunday 21st December – Village Carol Singing and short service in St Mary's Church.

6.30 pm – Assemble in Village Car Park and sing carols enroute to church via Meadowfield Grove and Meadowfield. Church Service at 7.00 pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine/fruit juice.

Christmas Eve at 4.00 pm – Crib Service in Church.

Christmas Day at 10.00 am – Family Communion.

NETHER WASDALE

Saturday 13th December at 5.00 pm – Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies and a Tatle Pot at Galesyke at 6.00 pm

Christmas Eve - There will be no Midnight Communion at Nether Wasdale this year.

SEASCALE

Sat/Sun – 13th/14th December – Christmas Tree Festival at St Cuthbert's.

Saturday 13th – Christmas Fayre - 11am – 5 pm with Soup Lunch, stalls, raffle and live music.

Sunday 14th – Christmas Tree Carols at 4.30 pm.

Tuesday 16th – West Lakes Music Centre Windband and Setheria Brass Christmas Concert. 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's Church.

Christmas Eve – Crib Service at St Cuthbert's at 4pm.

Midnight Communion at St Cuthbert's at 11.30 pm.

Christmas Day – Morning Service in the Methodist Church at 10 am

WASDALE HEAD

Wednesday 17th December at 6.00 pm: Carols in the Bar at Wasdale Head Inn.

Christmas Day - Festival Communion at 11.15 am

COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT (The Three C's) – 10.30 – 12 noon

Our **Christmas coffee morning** will take place in St Mary's Room on Thursday 4th December when Citizen's Advice will come along to give us some Fuel advice. We will also have a Christmas raffle and enjoy some mincepies and other Christmas fare, so do come and join us. Donations will go to The Children's Society along with the money from the school Christingle Service.



Make a note in your diary (the first for 2026?) that on **Friday** (yes, Friday, not Thursday) **January 2nd 2026** an exceptional **Coffee, Cake and Chat** session will take place from 10.30 in St Mary's Room. This is your triennial (once in three years) opportunity to meet the **Revd Andrew Walker** and his family, who are hoping that as many people as possible will come to hear how their work with Crosslinks in Mendoza, Argentina, is developing. Andrew and his wife Bethanie have been supported by churches in the Gosforth benefice for around six years now, so it will be good to welcome them and their well-behaved children (Maia -13, Emilio -11; Lucy -9 and Noah -6) for real. The collection that day will be for Crosslinks, whose Mission Statement is "God's Word to God's World".

SOUTH CALDER MISSION COMMUNITY PRAYERS

These continue to take place on Zoom every Thursday morning at 9.30am and last about 20 minutes. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Jonathan Falkner on 01946 721852 for an invitation on Zoom.





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St Olaf's Wasdale Head

faith in the fells

DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICES AT ST OLAF'S

Sunday 14th December 11am – Morning Praise for Advent.

Wednesday 17th December 6pm – Carols at the Inn, Wasdale Head Inn.

Christmas Day 11.15am - Festival Holy Communion.

Sunday 11th January 11am – Morning Worship.

Sunday 25th January 11am – Celtic Praise.

All our services are followed by refreshments in the Wasdale Head Inn.

There are services at Nether Wasdale Church on Sunday 7th December and Sunday 18th January, both are at 9.30am and are Holy Communion.

CAROLS IN THE INN – 6pm Wednesday 17th December – come and enjoy this pre-Christmas celebration in the bar at the Wasdale Head Inn, led by Philip, with Margie Simper on keyboard. There is room at the Inn for everyone!

CHRISTMAS DAY at 11.15am – Festival Holy Communion. Many have likened St Olaf's humble structure to a small barn or a stable, there are poems about it, and this makes it such a special place to come and worship on Christmas morning. The Inn and the Stable - at the heart of Christmas in Wasdale Head.

2026 RESTORATION YEAR! With the pending sale of the Old School we will reach our Restoration Fundraising Budget - £235,000. A huge 'thank you' to everyone who has supported our appeal, and to the organisations that have contributed. The whole amount has been raised in Cumbria, or via Cumbrian connections - this is so appropriate for one of Cumbria's most loved churches.

It is not unusual for tenders to exceed budget, and St Olaf's is no exception, so we have a little more to raise but are confident of doing so. The work will start in April and be concluded by the end of September. During this period St Olaf's will be closed, we look forward to worshipping at the other end of the Lake!

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped St Olaf's during 2025, whether leading worship, playing the organ, mowing, cleaning, opening the church every day, and to all our visitors. **Best wishes for Christmas and 2026.**

Hugh Foulerton 01946 725 725 wasdalehead.church@gmail.com



DECEMBER 2025

At our October meeting it was decided that we would no longer hold regular monthly meetings. Those running the branch have many other commitments with their own churches, so we would explore the possibility of members becoming Diocesan members - in effect becoming individual members of MU and the branch being put in abeyance. Those becoming Diocesan members would meet informally at times for prayer and fellowship. At the time of writing we haven't received answers to the questions we put to the Diocese.

PRAYER TOPICS –

In December

December Prayer

Gracious God, we gladly accept and give thanks for your invitation to venture with you through this season of Advent. As we await with anticipation the promises foretold by the prophets “behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son” may we be ready this Christmas, to recognise the gift of your Son and be well prepared to love and serve him throughout the coming year. Amen

Please pray for: -

- The contribution and commitment of MU's four million or so members as they aim to be effective witnesses for Christ and strive to end poverty, injustice and violence.
- The MU joins the United Nations annual campaign '16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' which continues to 10th December. Pray for the transformation of the culture of gender-based violence. Also, for women you know in positions of influence, whether in the family, in the church or in society in general, that they are protected from unwarranted criticism or prejudice and instead have opportunities to influence for good.
- That we will all find a moment of peace to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and then find the strength and energy to share God's love in practical ways at Christmas and throughout the coming year.
- Those for whom the Christmas season is a time of sadness rather than joy; for the lonely and bereaved, and those who struggle to

provide for their family. Pray for people to draw alongside them who will lessen the pain and provide practical help.

- In this Christmas period, pray for the displaced people far from their homes, for whom this Christmas is a time of sadness and insecurity rather than celebration. The homeless and the various charities such as Crisis and the Salvation Army who work to give them some joy at Christmas. Those living at Calderwood House at this time.
- All those who have to work through the holiday period and particularly on Christmas Day itself. All who selflessly care for the vulnerable at this time - working in the health service, in care homes and in agencies supporting the homeless and depressed.
- Those working in essential services - to supply our food and medicines, to maintain the communication networks and the supply of the various utilities needed in our homes. Also, those in the police and fire services.

In January

January Prayer

God of every moment, we pause with wonder at the journey behind us, the grace that carried us, the lessons that shaped us, the beauty we didn't expect. With grateful hearts, we look ahead trusting that the same love will guide our steps. Open our eyes to possibility, our hearts to purpose and our lives to your unfolding story. May we walk forward in faith, rooted in gratitude and filled with awe at what is still to come. Amen

Please pray for: -

- In the week of prayer for Christian Unity (18th to 25th January) join with Christian churches world-wide in praying that the Christian beliefs we share are more important than the differences between us. Locally pray for the various churches in our Mission Community and for Churches Together in Seascale and District, that we can work more closely together and support each other in spreading the Christian message.
- The people of war-torn countries as they face the perils of daily life and worry about their families.
- Those for whom simply living is a daily struggle and the many MU projects designed to help them.
- The planning which is going on for 2026 and beyond, that the focus of the Leaders of Nations will be on peace and reconciliation, justice for all and the basic needs of all people.

SEASCALE NEWS

News from St Cuthbert's Church – Christmas Tree Festival

This will take place over the weekend of Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December and the theme this year will be **LIGHT** (see front cover). Decorated trees will be on display on both days from 2 – 4pm and refreshments will be served. If a group you belong to would like to decorate a tree, please contact Mary Waterhouse – waterhousemc@gmail.com

Light in December!

Come and visit 23 trees (maybe more!) decorated on the theme of light! From 5.30 – 8.30pm visit Lightworks installations in several locations in Seascale, including St Cuthbert's.

West Lakes Windband & Setheria Brass in concert at St Cuthbert's Church on **Tuesday 16th Dec. at 7.30pm** – see poster for full details.

Mary Waterhouse

News from the Methodist Church - Wednesday Afternoon Outreach

At present members are working on preparations for the Tea and Chat Christmas tree³⁰ based on the carol 'It was on a starry night'. Our grateful thanks to the team leading the project. We enjoyed a craft afternoon in November when members helped to prepare the stars for the tree.

At our November meeting of Tea and Chat we were delighted to have a visit from Revd. Rachel Cunliffe and baby Elizabeth.

The December Tea and Chat will be on Wednesday 3rd December at 2pm.

In January we will meet for Tea and Chat on Wednesday 7th January at 2pm and the Friendship Hour on Wednesday 21st January at 2pm when we have a chat with our friends with refreshments.

All are welcome to join us at any of our meetings.

We remember all our members who can no longer join us for meetings following their moves to live in care homes.

As this year draws to a close, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who help in so many ways with our Wednesday afternoon activities.

We extend our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everyone.

Tea Services

We are all looking forward to our Carols and Cakes afternoon with Phoenix Praise on Wednesday 17th December at 2pm. We appreciate Phoenix Praise including our afternoon in their busy Christmas schedule. There will be no Tea Service in January.

Our thanks to everyone who has led a Tea Service this year and special thanks to Sheila and Jonathan Falkner together with Andrew Murray who provide the music for our services, not to mention all the support they offer in other ways.

Saturday Coffee

Saturday Coffee will continue as usual during the Festive season on Saturday 27th December and Saturday 3rd January at 10-11.30am in the Methodist church hall. Just drop in for a drink and a chat or stay all morning and enjoy a social occasion.

Jackie Folkes



West Lakes WINDBAND



together with
Sethera brass

INVITE YOU TO AN EVENING OF MUSIC

including some festive favourites



Free Admission

Venue: St. Cuthbert's Church, Seascale

DATE: TUESDAY 16th December

TIME: 7:30 PM



REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

ANY VOLUNTARY DONATIONS WILL BE IN AID OF THE EGREMONT
FOODBANK and St. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

New members are always welcome so if you play woodwind, brass or percussion instruments, (or would like to dust them off and have a go), why don't you come along and see us for a chat on the night.

Website: cumbriamusicclub.com/west-lakes-music-centre

Facebook: facebook.com/west.lakes.windband

BECKERMET COMMUNITY NEWS

With both Halloween and Bonfire Night now behind we are heading fast towards that magical time of the year, Christmas. Giving and receiving gifts is lovely but the true meaning of Christmas is too often forgotten today as it has become so commercialised that we forget why we celebrate the 25th December. It is about remembering and celebrating the birth of that special child who when he grew up taught us how to live our lives and be true Christians. It is important to remember that there are a great many people who need help and support around Christmas so, if you are able, do give something to your local foodbank (boxes in the church & Reading Rooms) or possibly a charity supporting the homeless. Above all stay safe during these dark winter days and nights especially if you are out travelling to visit others.

Reading Rooms

Our new part time manager Rob has now taken over fully from Jo and he is busy getting to grips with the task of continuing on what Jo has achieved, whilst at the same time looking at ways to also develop on the firm foundations achieved to date. If you haven't been to enjoy the various activities available, I suggest you make the effort to come along and see for yourself what is on offer in lovely surroundings.

Saturday Café

The café which is open on most Saturdays and some Sundays has been a great success with lots of people making the most of the wonderful cakes and sausage rolls all freshly baked by Tina.

Coffee Cake & Chat

These sessions which have been going for over three years are becoming more and more popular. The sessions are on **Tuesdays from 9.30-11.30** and on **Thursdays from 1.30-3.30**. All refreshments, cakes and biscuits are free of charge but if you would like to leave a donation that would be gratefully received. Lately we have had around 60 people attending over the two sessions. If you have never been before then why not come along as you will be made most welcome.

Beckermets Village 50/50 Lottery

Our village lottery has now entered its third year with 175 entries this time around. This will allow us to give around 100 prizes during the year ranging from £10 to £50 each month, in total just over £2,100 with the same amount available to help youngsters or village groups who need financial support with their project.

Draws take place on the first Tuesday of each month in the Reading Rooms at around 10am. If you would like to take part then please use the contact details at the end of this article.

Friday Quiz & Bingo Nights

Quiz nights will be on **5th December & 16th January** with **Bingo** nights on the **12th December & 30th January** all at the usual time of **6.30-8.30pm**. Everyone is welcome to attend wherever you live. Why not come along and sample one of these sessions which are often full of fun and laughter. The bar is available for both alcoholic soft drinks and tea and coffee. Quiz teams of around 4 with prizes for the winning team while at bingo there are 10 houses to be played during the evening plus the 11th game and a raffle plus a prize for the lucky bingo book, all included in your entry of £10 (entry fee for both includes tea/coffee)

St John's Services (usually 2nd & 4th Sundays).

Our Remembrance Day Service took place on Sunday 9th November when around 40 members of our community attended this special service to remember those who served their country in both World Wars. On this occasion following the service all were invited around to Tina's Café for free refreshments in the Reading Rooms. It was lovely to see some new members of our community attend this very special and important service.

Please note that all services from the start of January will be held in the Reading Rooms at the usual time of 9.30 and will return to St John's Church for the Easter Service.

St John's Soup Lunches

Our next soup lunch will be **Wednesday 18th February**. This will be at the usual time of **12-1.30pm** when you will be able to have a lovely bowl or even two of delicious home-made soup (four to choose from) followed by delicious home-made cakes, raffle tickets included all for the excellent value of only **£6** per head.

Entertainment Evenings:

Saturday 6th December: - Kickstart

Wednesday 17th December: - Two Rivers Rock Christmas Performance

Friday 19th December: - Cath & Gemma Rocking Around the Christmas Tree. Tickets usually sell fast- book early to avoid disappointment.

Beckermets Christmas lights switch on

On Friday 28th November the switching on of the village lights took place marking the start of Advent. Egremont Town Band together with the children from our village school joined in the service in the church which was followed by mulled wine, tea coffee and soft drinks. Following the conclusion of the service the congregation moved to the park where the newly erected Christmas trees lights were also switched on.

Youth Club Evenings - Held in the Reading Rooms on **Mon & Thurs** evenings from 6-8pm. Free entry, with tuck shop available.

Art Group: - meet every Monday morning 10-12

Yoga Group: - meet every Sunday morning 10.30-11.30

Open Mic Nights: - Wednesday 10th December & 14th January with bar open for refreshments

Jazz Club Nights: - Friday 23rd January with bar open for refreshments

Two Rivers Rock: - Village choir meet every Wed evening in the Reading Rooms. New members welcome.

Children's Christmas Parties: - Sunday 14th December 12.30-4pm

For further Information about these events/times and others in Beckermat please check either the: -

Beckermat Reading Room or **Beckermat Village Facebook** pages for details.

John Mackay

john.mackay52@btinternet.com

01946 841429 07912859480

**VILLAGE CAROL SINGING
and
CAROL SERVICE IN GOSFORTH**

Sunday 21st December

Assemble in the Village Car Park for 6.30pm and sing carols on the way to St Mary's Church via Meadowfield Grove and Meadowfield for a Carol Service at 7.00pm followed by mulled wine and mincepies.

**WE HOPE THAT MANY PEOPLE WILL
COME & JOIN IN
AND MAKE IT A REAL VILLAGE EVENT!**



West Lakes U3A EVENTS for DECEMBER and JANUARY

As this is a holiday period ensure that you check with group leaders and the website for accurate information

Full details can be found on our website: <https://west-lakes.u3asite.uk>

Or contact smithybrown@icloud.com or 07817499849

Visitors are very welcome to attend a couple of meetings or activities before becoming a member.

Current annual membership is £7. There is usually a small charge for indoor meetings.



Cycling - 019467 25831 - 1st Monday morning monthly - meet Gosforth

Tai Chi - Mondays - weekly - Gosforth Public Hall

Chair based exercises - Wednesday weekly
- Gosforth Public Hall

Folk Dancing - Friday afternoon weekly - Gosforth Public Hall - 2pm

Ukelele - 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings - House group

French conversation - Wednesday mornings weekly - Currently full

History - 1st Wednesday morning monthly - Drigg Village Hall

Treble Recorder - 1st Thursday morning & 3rd Wednesday afternoon
monthly - Santon Village Hall

Singing for Fun - 1st Thursday afternoon monthly
- Seascale Methodist Church - not January

Strolling - 2nd Monday afternoon monthly

Discussion - restarting in January. Details will be posted shortly

Art Appreciation - 2nd Thursday morning monthly
- St Joseph's Seascale

Advanced Recorder Consort - 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons
- Santon Village Hall

Intermediate Recorder - 2nd and 4th Friday morning
- Santon Village Hall

Family History - 3rd Tuesday morning monthly - Santon Village Hall

Open Mind - 3rd Thursday morning monthly - Gosforth Public Hall

Chatty Lunch - 3rd Thursday morning to follow Open Mind
- Gosforth Public Hall

Discovery - 4th Tuesday afternoon monthly - St Mary's Room, Gosforth
- not December

Reading - 4th Thursday morning monthly - currently full
- St Mary's Room, Gosforth

Out and About - dates vary - check website

Indoor Bowls - Wednesday pm weekly Gosforth Public Hall



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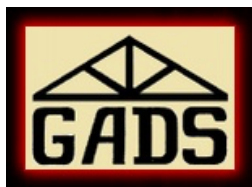
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NEWS FROM GADS - GOSFORTH AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY



Facilities at the hall are now limited by the refurbishment but we are doing our best to keep a few things going.

Our weekly Youth Theatre Group will continue for as long as we can, hopefully leading to a performance of "The Phantom and the Phoenix" in March.

Plays for Pleasure has been on hold for months because we have been so busy with productions but we can now resume P4P in the current quiet period. This is our monthly informal play reading where we just get together, read a play, have a drink and have a laugh. On 11 November we had a great turnout for our reading of "Murdered to Death" by Peter Gordon. Meetings continue in the function room at the Kellbank at 7:30pm on the following Tuesdays: 2 December, 13 January and 3 February. All are welcome and there is no pressure whatsoever to start acting. It's just good fun.

All being well, our next production will be a "21st Century Showcase" of songs from modern musicals and we are even looking at alternative venues if our hall is unavailable for the show dates in mid May. The preparation begins with an open night on Thursday 12 February. Please come along to the Hall for 7:30pm if you are interested.

To keep up to date with anything GADS, you can visit the website www.gads.org.uk, follow us on Facebook (GADS1948), Instagram (gads_gosforth) or email us using gadsqosforth@gmail.com.

GOSFORTH LIBRARY

Refurbishment continues at a pace, and on programme, inside the building. With a building this old (1628) you expect to find some rotten wood, and a significant number of old oak lintels will need replacing. They have also found several old door and window openings that had been blocked up, and opened up the canopy of an inglenook fire place.



GOSFORTH SCHOOL NEWS



Another busy month at school! Year 6 had a visit from our local PCSO Simon who came to talk to the about being responsible citizens and the legal age of responsibility. He was very impressed with how mature and knowledgeable our pupils were. Simon then popped in to meet our new Reception pupils. He even joined in with a game of guess the emotion!

Sporting events have continued and so far the weather has been kind. A group of Year 6 pupils travelled to West Lakes Academy to play netball against other local schools. The majority of our Year 5 pupils travelled to Whitehaven Academy and were trained up to be Young Leaders. This will lead to them spending time on the infant playground and organising games and activities with our younger pupils. Our younger children had a visit from Phil with his balance bikes. They had great fun riding round the playground and trying out the different ramps. Thirty of our KS2 children travelled to Whitehaven Academy to take part in the annual Cross Country event. It was a muddy afternoon but enjoyed by all!

Loweswater have been learning about Belonging in RE. The unit ended with the mock baptism of Daisy Angel (named by the Year 2 children) in the church which was led by Philip.

FOGS continue to work hard to raise funds for our school. Just before half term we had the Autumn Discos. Our discos are always well attended and a great fund raiser. The latest meeting had a big focus on the upcoming festive period. Events include craft workshops, Egremont Farmer's Market (tombola and refreshments on 5th December), Candlelit Concert (St Mary's Church 12th December) and a Christmas Film night for the children.

Anti-bullying Week started with Odd Socks Day which is not only a fun way to celebrate individuality but kicked off a week of activities focused on kindness and inclusion. Activities included looking at the effects of bullying, identifying trusted adults to share worries with and self-care.

Our Remembrance Service took place in church. As usual we were joined by the Royal British Legion and those children who attend local Scout, Cub, Brownie, Beaver and Rainbow groups attended in their uniforms with their flags. It is always a moving service which includes a time for reflection and to think about those who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

Just before half term we had our SIAMS Inspection which evaluates how a school's Christian vision impacts its students and staff. Some of the highlights from the report state that:

- The school's vision and values are central to daily life and decision-making.
- Spiritual development is nurtured through carefully planned opportunities across the curriculum.
- Partnership with St Mary's Church enriches worship and strengthens the school's Christian identity.
- Mental health and wellbeing are well supported for both pupils and staff.
- Pupils show empathy, care, and responsibility, with a clear understanding of how they can make a difference locally and nationally.
- We are incredibly pleased with the final report and feel it is a true reflection of our school.

Mrs S Layzell
Assistant Headteacher

GOSFORTH BROWNIES

Our group currently has 8 girls, so lots of space for new Brownies to join us!

We continue to meet on a Monday evening in Gosforth, having recently moved our venue. Please get in touch via the girl guiding website to register any girls who are interested in joining us.



This term, the girls have been working on their Take Action Theme Award badge, exploring how to get their voices heard and make a difference in society. We had great fun at our Halloween movie night and, for Remembrance, the girls worked on 2 decorated planters which were placed at the village war memorial in time for Remembrance Sunday. They also made their own poppies using finger knitting.

As we head towards Christmas, we are taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival in Seascale and are looking forward to visiting Bradbury House for some carol singing.

Claire Winter-Moore - 2nd Gosforth Brownies Leader



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WEST LAKELAND ROTARY CLUB



At our meeting on 11th November, we received an excellent presentation by the wife of one of our Rotarians, describing a walk she did along the GR20 in Corsica back in July. This lady is an experienced trekker/mountaineer having previously done some serious stuff in the Andes and Himalayas. However, it was quickly appreciated by our members that the GR20, which runs from the north to the south of Corsica, along its mountainous spine, is clearly in a different league altogether; 12 days of punishing ascents and descents over vertiginous granite slopes in +30deg temperatures, 15-20 miles/day and, in most cases, overnight stops in bivouacs, took its toll, as all 12 of the group (9 men, 3 women) suffered aching joints, sprains and blisters.

On 18 November we heard from Christine of BabyBank who provide valuable work, alongside NHS midwives and health visitors, to support vulnerable young families, supplying basic needs and supplies – clothing, nappies, toiletries etc.

For our annual Christmas Message in December, we are looking forward to hearing what Rev Angela Overton-Benge has to say about her work in the churches and communities in and around Bootle, Whitbeck and Corney and, hopefully, something about her sterling work at HMP Haverigg.

Malcolm Richardson

NEWS FROM BECKERMET SCHOOL

We're all very busy at Beckermest School at this time of year. Last week we had a very special visit when Bishop Rob called in to see us. He had a tour of our lovely school and was very impressed with our wonderful singing and he left with joy and happiness in his heart.

We had great fun taking part in wheelchair basketball on Children in Need Day. The hall was filled with laughter and excitement!

All the classes are busy learning lines and songs for Christmas plays in December. We have some budding stage stars I think!

Our Christmas Fair is in school on Sunday 23rd November from 10am to 2pm and our Friends of Beckermest are working hard to arrange some lovely stalls for the day. Everyone is welcome and we'd love to see you there!

Susan Alderson - Senior Teacher

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GOSFORTH WI

Tuesday, 2nd December. 1pm. St. Mary's Room. Christmas Party, with the Harp Ladies. Bring and share buffet lunch. Secret Santa (value £6) if you wish.

Competition: A Christmas Table Decoration.



Tuesday, 6th January. 2pm. St. Mary's Room. Social afternoon. Bring along your leftover Christmas Nibbles. Competition: Your favourite Christmas Card.

MUNCASTER MICROBUS

Could you drive once a month for the Microbus?

Also looking for drivers to assist with a routine Gosforth to Seascale journey

If you would like to volunteer as a driver or to book any journeys ring Gill on: 01229-717229

The Microbus can get you there even in these times of dwindling bus services

Trips coming up are:

Whitehaven shopping trips every Tuesday and Thursday – FREE if you have a NoW card bus pass.

- Saturday 6th December – Cockermouth – Taste Cumbria - £8.00
- Friday 19th December – Egremont Farmers Market
- £3 donation to the market
- Saturday 20th December – Carlisle - £11.00
- Saturday 10th January – Kendal - £10.50
- Friday 16th January – Egremont Farmers Market
- £3 donation to the market
- Wednesday 21st January - Workington - £8.50
- Saturday 31st January – Penrith - £10.50
- Saturday 14th February – Windermere / Ambleside (Including Hayes Garden World) - £10.50

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UPDATE GOSFORTH PUBLIC HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

Work is progressing to plan with no major issues reported. This has focused on stripping out, removing plaster to expose brick and stonework, and exposing structural elements to assess integrity and replacement or repair needs. We're delighted with feedback received that the builders, Roland Hill, have been very understanding of the inconvenience the work may cause and have been helpful in working with neighbours and Hall users to limit any inconvenience.

The major risk this month is the extent of replacement and repair needed to lintels and roof trusses. There is budget for 'unexpected discoveries' which are inevitable in a building of this age.

The Hall is still open for use as usual. While the Library, Supper Room and Kitchen are no longer available, a temporary sink has been installed near the toilets which provides drinking water and waste water disposal. The hall has kettles and crockery for those wanting to make light refreshments. We are delighted that most of our regular users are still able to undertake their usual activities in the hall. All U3A exercise classes, craft classes, dance classes, speaker classes and Chatty Lunch, indoor Bowling and Youth Theatre activities are still taking place in the public hall as usual. The builders are happy to provide vehicle access for dropping off and collecting items at the rear doors. If you'd like to book the hall, please contact GPHbooking@gmail.com.

You may have heard or seen BBC news coverage of the grant provided by Historic England for the refurbishment of the older part of the Public Hall. If you missed it the link is below. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gkpy319dlo>

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please raise them with Jackie or Karen.

Many thanks

Jackie Atkinson

Gosforth Parish Council

Jackie.atkinson500@btinternet.com

Karen Russ Gosforth
Public Hall Management Committee
Treasureqwi@gmail.com



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HOLMROOK READING ROOM

Our next event:
Saturday 6th December – 18:30

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

£7 for members and £8 for non-members

Come and join us for a great evening –TO BOOK: E mail
drmarsden@outlook.com or Ring 07931-393954

Advance Notice of a Talk on: Thursday 12th March 2026 – Invasive
Plant Species and the impact on our rivers – Chris West – 6:30pm

Table Tennis Club: Meets on a Wednesday - 6:00pm to 7:30pm. All welcome, young or old. Contact David on 07931-393954. Other times can be arranged.

Playground: Come and see for yourself – A lovely playground in a great setting.

Wild Flower Meadow: Enjoy a walk or just sit and relax in the peace and quiet of the meadow. Supervised children are welcome.

Fishing Club: If you want to join this club it's only £12/year. If you want some more information, please contact David on 07931-393954.

Bookings: The Reading Room has a fully equipped kitchen, facilities for people with disability, in fact everything you would need for a great party. £9 / hour. Why not call David on 07931-393954 to see if it is available for your next event?

Membership: Membership renewals for 2025 are due from 1st January. £8 for annual membership and £4 to join a club.

These can be renewed/started any time. If you are an existing member or want to join us contact David on drmarsden@outlook.com or 07931-393954.

GOSFORTH INDOOR MAT BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club meets every Wednesday afternoon in Gosforth Public Hall from 2 – 4pm.

£3.00 including refreshments. Spare bowls available. Please bring clean flat shoes.



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SEATALLAN BENEFICE SERVICES - JANUARY 2026

	Church	Service	Time
1st Sunday			
4th January	Nether Wasdale	HC	9.30
The Epiphany	Seascale	HC at St Cuthbert's Church	9.30
White	Gosforth	Morning Praise	11.00
Proper	Calder Bridge Village Hall	HC	11.00
	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Methodist Evening Worship	6.30
2nd Sunday			
11th January	Beckermet	HC in the Reading Rooms	9.30
Bapt of Christ	Seascale	Methodist Worship at Methodist Church	10.30
White	Gosforth	HC in St Mary's Room	11.00
Proper	Wasdale Head	Morning Worship	11.00
	Seascale/Various venues	Faith and Fellowship	6.45 for 7.00
3rd Sunday			
18th January	Nether Wasdale	HC	9.30
2nd of Epiphany	Seascale	HC at St Cuthbert's Church	9.30
White	Gosforth	Morning Worship – St Mary's Room	11.00
Proper	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Methodist Evening Worship	6.30
4th Sunday			
25th Jan	Beckermet	Morning Prayer in the Reading Rooms	9.30
3rd of Epiphany	Seascale	Methodist Worship at Methodist Church	10.30
WHITE	Gosforth	HC in St Mary's Room	11.00
Proper	Wasdale Head	Celtic Praise	11.00
	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Phoenix Praise Evening Worship	7.00

SAINTS FOR DECEMBER and JANUARY

In December and January, the Church of England remembers a number of Saints who lived and died in the Fourth Century.



In December, on the 6th, Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, on the 7th Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, on the 13th Lucy, a Martyr.

In January, on the 2nd, Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, on the 13th Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, on the 17th Antony, a hermit, and on the 21st, Agnes, who is described as Child Martyr. Although they might not be familiar to us, we should remember them.

SEATALLAN BENEFICE SERVICES - DECEMBER 2025

	Church	Service	Time
1st Sunday			
7st December	Nether Wasdale	HC	9.30
Advent 2	Seascale	HC at St Cuthbert's	9.30
PURPLE	Calder Bridge	Village hall	11.00
Proper	Gosforth	Morning Praise – St Mary's Room	11.00
	Gosforth St Mary's Rm	Methodist Evening Worship	6.30
Sat 13th	Nether Wasdale	Carol Service	5.00
2nd Sunday			
14th December	Beckermet	HC	9.30
Advent 3	Seascale	Methodist Worship at Methodist Church	9.30
PURPLE	Gosforth	HC - St Mary's Room	11.00
Proper	Wasdale Head	Morning Praise for Advent	11.00
	Seascale	Christmas Tree Carols at St Cuthbert's	4.30
Wed 17th	Wasdale Head Inn	Carols in the Bar	6.00
3rd Sunday			
21st December	Nether Wasdale	No service	9.30
Advent 4	Seascale	HC at St Cuthbert's Church	9.30
PURPLE	Gosforth St Mary's	Village Carol Singing and Service	6.30/7.00
Proper			
24th December			
Christmas Eve			
PURPLE	Seascale	Crib Service at St Cuthbert's	4.00
Proper	Gosforth	Crib Service at St Mary's	4.00
	Seascale	Midnight HC at St Cuthbert's	11.30pm
Christmas Day			
25th December	Beckermet	Christmas Communion	9.30
GOLD	Gosforth	Family Communion	10.00
Proper	Seascale	Methodist Worship at Methodist Church	10.00
	Wasdale Head	Festival Communion	11.15
4th Sunday	MC Sunday		
28th December	Gosforth	Seatallan Benefice Communion	10.30
Christmas 1			
WHITE			
Proper			



The course continues on free Wednesday evenings at 7pm at The Rectory but please check with Philip on 07500 239684 or email him on philipdorling123@btinternet.com as there will be some breaks over the Christmas/New Year period.