

The Parish Magazine
for the Seatallan Benefice
Gosforth & Wasdale
Beckermet, Calderbridge & Seascale



February 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 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

### BECKERMET

|                        |         |                  |
|------------------------|---------|------------------|
| • 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec | Baptism | Elaina Wilson    |
| • 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec | Baptism | Abigail McCarten |

### CALDER BRIDGE, PONSONBY and OLD CHURCH

- No Occasional Offices known

### SEASCALE

- No Occasional Offices known

### GOSFORTH, NETHER WASDALE and WASDALE HEAD

- No Occasional Offices known

## The Passing of Time

At this time of year, a lot of people are thinking about the year ahead. It could be that they are doing this because of the 'resolutions' they made on New Year's Eve, as their TVs showered them with images of people enjoying themselves around the world, under the fireworks.... or it might be because, simply trying to remember that this is '2026', every time you write the date, makes you sense the passing of time. Whichever it is..... I think it is natural, in January and on into February, to think of the past, and to 'ponder'... hopefully without too much trepidation... what the future might hold.

If you are a Christian, amongst the first stories which the church gives you to think about in January, is the one about the three kings, or wise men, and their search for a new type of King. This story is actually great for the start of the year, because it reminds us that life is a journey. Famously, the kings, or wise men, left behind everything they knew at home, which (if you think about it) was a very risky thing to do! Somehow, these people found the faith to walk off west, in search of a better future. They were full of hope! And their hope was 'realised' in the most unlikely place, wasn't it? They found God's love, lying in a cave, on the wrong side of Bethlehem. But the journey did not stop there for the wise men. Their faith, and new found love, changed them forever, gave them hope, and propelled them forward, into a dangerous future... but full of courage.

In our community, as we look forward into the new year, most of us cannot forget the events which have dominated recent months. So many people in so many places are suffering as 2026 begins. It has felt like a fairly dark time. It has been challenging. I guess that the people directly affected could tell anyone, quite clearly, that life is not a holiday!

Just recently, I heard a very good talk by a vicar from Carlisle. In it, he said, that it is by looking back on our experiences, that we can become aware of the things that can be trusted. If these things bear the marks of love, then we can put our faith in them. So... looking back is a good plan, if we are to face the new year with hope..... and find the courage we need, especially when life is tough, to journey on hopefully.

Looking back over the last month and a half, we can see the things that have provided a firm foundation for those affected by violence and warfare. In the midst of it all we have seen compassion, kindness, selflessness and real community spirit growing in the midst of the toughest settings. Of course it was there before, but so many people have wanted to give, and help....and simply bless those who have had

their lives turned upside down. To look back and 'see' it all through this lens, is enough to restore our faith in human nature. There is always a lot of love around, one way or another! As we think about travelling into the future there is plenty to give thanks for, and to be hopeful about, right here....on our doorstep.

New Year's Eve does, sometimes, feel like 'Ground Hog Day' to me. When I see the fireworks go off on Sydney Bridge I admit that I do feel as if the years have merged together, and I wonder what is going on.... on so many levels! But, of course, the 'real year' ahead will be different, because life in God's world is a journey that has to be travelled, one way or another. We are not here to simply 'pass the time', or be on an endless holiday. We are here to change...to be softened where we have become hard. We are here to be transformed.

By looking back over the last year, faith can be found; by looking around, 'on our doorstep', and engaging with it, love can be experienced...and by joining both together, we can discover hope, and a real appetite for the future. I probably need to remember this more than many people. I think that is what the kings, or wise men, did. They were up for the journey.... I hope you find that you are too. May God bless you as you travel on into 2026!



*The Reverend Philip Dorling*

## **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.



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

This will take place in St Mary's Room on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Everyone is most welcome to come along and enjoy our home baking and a cuppa and a chat! There is no charge but we always have a collection for a charity and this month our collection will go to Embrace the Middle East, which our church supports.





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[john@hrybltd.com](mailto:john@hrybltd.com)

# *St Olaf's Wasdale Head*

## *faith in the fells*

### **FEBRUARY SERVICES AT ST OLAF'S**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – 11am Morning Praise

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> – 11am Celtic Praise\*

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

*The February service at Nether Wasdale Church is Holy Communion at 9.30am on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February.*

**YEAR OF GROWTH** – St Olaf's continued to progress in 2025. Visitor and pilgrim numbers topped 31,000, an average of 85 daily, with income increasing to £33,393 for the year. 39 services were held in St Olaf's in 2025, with an average attendance of 17. Carols in the Wasdale Head Inn, and the Festival Communion on Christmas Day, both led by Philip, provided a joyful end to the year, with large attendances at both.

**RESTORATION** – the restoration of St Olaf's is starting next month. The church will close after the service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February\*. The aim is to complete the restoration in August and reopen in September. St Olaf's is Wasdale's oldest building and England's smallest parish church, a special sacred place; the architect and contractor appointed are experts in the conservation of ancient buildings, and its complete and careful restoration will equip it to face the next century. Make a note to visit in the autumn! In the meantime we will keep you updated with progress and photographs in this magazine and on St Olaf's website [www.wasdalehead.church](http://www.wasdalehead.church)

While the restoration is underway, the pipe organ and all furnishings will be removed, with the organ being rebuilt and revoiced in Carlisle and Durham, and the furnishings carefully renovated, by volunteers we hope.

If funds allow we will also improve the churchyard - new paths and gates, the removal of steps, an additional stone bench and improved drainage. Accordingly donations to the restoration fund are still very welcome - via JustGiving on the website, or by cheque payable to Wasdale Head PCMC.

*Hugh Foulerton    01946 725 725    [wasdalehead.church@gmail.com](mailto:wasdalehead.church@gmail.com)  
[www.wasdalehead.church](http://www.wasdalehead.church)*

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**'Belonging'** is a small group designed to help churches to build communities in which people can thrive, feel seen, heard and understood. We hope that it will lead to the formation of a regular home group for anyone that is interested in that form of discipleship.

**'Belonging'** is open to all and will happen in the homes of church members from across the Seatallan Benefice of churches. At present the sessions are happening at the Rectory in Gosforth.

**Do come along if you are interested.**

**Each session will begin at 7pm.**

For more information please ring the Revd Philip Dorling on

**07500 239684**

or email him on

**philipdorling123@btinternet.com**

## **NORMA'S BISCUIT RECIPE (I still measure in lbs. and ozs. !)**

Several people have asked me for my biscuit recipe, so here it is!

### **Basic recipe:**

8 oz. soft margarine

6 oz. caster sugar

Cream these together and add 2 tablesp. syrup; 12 oz. SR flour and 2 level teasp. bicarb. soda, and mix well.

Now you can add either: 2oz desiccated coconut /

2oz almonds (ground or flaked) / or other nuts / 2 oz sultanas /

2 rounded dessertsp. ginger + chopped crystallised ginger /

2 oz porridge oats / or anything else you think might work well, and mix together.

Roll into small balls and flatten with the back of a fork.

Place on baking tray and bake at 160 C for 10-15 mins. **Enjoy!**

# ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH – SEASCALE

## Christmas Tree Festival and Light Works

We had a very successful weekend of light apart from wind, rain and collapsing car park! All the groups which had taken part in preparing trees (beautifully!), lanterns, poetry, singing, dancing, are to be congratulated - along with the artists who gave inspiration.

So many visitors came to see the trees and the light installations, braving the weather - thank you for helping make the weekend go so well.

The photo below shows where some of the trees spent Christmas decorating St Cuthbert's.

**West Lakes Windband** gave a most enjoyable concert just before Christmas with a wide variety of music. Donations and raffle proceeds, divided between the Foodbank and St Cuthbert's, amounted to £523.78 - many thanks to band and audience.

## Lent Lunches in Seascale

begin on the following Tuesdays:  
(Soup, bread and cheese and tea/coffee) Everyone most welcome.

24<sup>th</sup> Feb - St Joseph's Hall

3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March - Methodist Hall

17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March - St Joseph's Hall

## World Day of Prayer Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March "I will give you rest, come"

This service, planned by women in Nigeria will be held in Seascale, time and venue to be arranged.

*Mary Waterhouse*



# SEASCALE METHODIST NEWS

## **Wednesday outreach**

Looking back to Christmas we would like to thank everyone who was involved in decorating the Tea and Chat Christmas tree and to the members who helped in many ways with the Christmas activities.

The first Tea and Chat of the year was well attended considering the cold weather at the time.

We will be having a Winter Lunch on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm. This will be in place of the Tea and Chat meeting.

All are welcome to join us at our meetings.

## **Tea Services**

Our first tea Service this year is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm and will be led by Andrew Murray.

All are welcome.

## **Carols and Cakes**

On what proved to be a very wet December afternoon we were delighted to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of carol singing with Phoenix Praise. We extend our grateful thanks to Phoenix Praise who willingly come along to lead our singing at such a busy time of year. The afternoon raised £138 for the Henderson Suite at the West Cumberland Hospital to provide treats for patients during their treatment.

Unfortunately, it was at the Carols and Cakes afternoon that we learned of the sudden passing of Graham Hutson. He and his wife Elizabeth often attended our Tea Services. We extend our condolences to Elizabeth and family.

*Jackie Folkes*

## **NEWS FROM CALDERBRIDGE AND PONSONBY**

Our last service for 2025 was the Carol Service at Ponsonby Church on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, followed with refreshments.

Thanks to everyone who helped to decorate the church, led or participated in the service, provided refreshments, and to all those who attended. The feedback received was very positive and everyone enjoyed it.

Our first service for 2026 will be:

1<sup>st</sup> February at Calderbridge Village Hall at 11am - followed by refreshments.

*Eleanor Glaister*

## BECKERMET COMMUNITY NEWS

I know by the time you read this it will be late January or even early February but I would still like to take the opportunity to wish you all a happy & prosperous new year. I hope that you all had a great time over Christmas and on New Years Eve, hopefully receiving the gifts you all wished for from Santa, but more importantly being able to spend good quality time with your friends and family. Christmas has become too commercialised and the pressure on families of young children has greatly increased over the years. The reason for celebrating this special time is all too often forgotten unfortunately. With the turning of the year the days will slowly begin to get longer, around two minutes per day/an hour per month. The new shoots of life are already pushing through with snowdrops and daffodils eagerly reaching out skywards to eventually brighten up our days in the months ahead. Although we are certainly not out of the problems associated with winter, we do know that slowly but surely the days will get warmer as they grow longer and that big yellow ball will give us more warmth as it climbs higher in the sky. I for one love seeing those new shoots of life and I eagerly await those dancing swaths of daffodils that will once again adorn our roadsides and gardens.

### **Reading Rooms**

This facility continues to be at the heart of our village providing a wide variety of activities throughout the week not only for our members of the village but also for anyone wishing to attend. Our new part time manager Rob is busy getting to grips with the task of continuing what has been organised previously, 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. You will always be made to feel welcome to whatever event you attend, whether it is in the café or the coffee cake & chat sessions or on band nights.

### **Coffee Cake & Chat (supported by the GDF)**

These sessions on **Tuesdays from 9.30-11.30** and on **Thursdays from 1.30-3.30** continue to be very popular and well supported by many local residents. These sessions have been ongoing now for over three years and often attract visitors from other local communities, walkers, passing cyclists and visitors to the area on holiday. In recent months we have also had visits from the local village nursery who have enjoyed their time especially with a cup of juice and a biscuit. We hope to develop these visits further in the months ahead. All refreshments, cakes and biscuits are free of charge but if you would like to leave a donation that would be gratefully received. The sessions are a great way of meeting up with

other members of the village with many making new friendship links beyond the Reading Rooms. Recently around 40-50 people have attended over the two sessions which is great to see that they value the opportunity to have a catch up with friends. If you have never been before then why not come along as you will be made most welcome.

### **Cumbria / Britain-in-Bloom**

As many of you will be aware Beckermet has entered Cumbria-in-Bloom for the past two years. In 2024 they gained the Silver Award while in 2025 they went one better receiving the Gold Award for all their efforts. Recently the organisers contacted the group to ask if the village would represent Cumbria in Britain-in-Bloom. This is a great achievement in such a short time but with it comes even greater focus on improving our local environment by our band of volunteers. To understand what will be needed a number of meetings have been organised for volunteers to attend to enlighten them of the criteria required. The first meeting took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> January with the next two on the **10<sup>th</sup> February & 10<sup>th</sup> March** in the Reading Rooms from **6-7pm**. If you didn't manage to make the first meeting you are more than welcome to come along to the others. The more volunteers we have the more improvements we can make and the greater the chance of doing Cumbria proud with our inclusion in Britain-in-Bloom.

### **Ramblings of a Retired Vet: - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 7pm**

Steve Smith a well-known local vet will be giving a talk in the Reading Rooms. Entry is free but donations will be welcome. A raffle will also be held on the night with all proceeds in aid of St John's Church Beckermet. Refreshments including a bar will be available on the night.

### **Two Rivers Rock: - restart on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 6.30-7.30**

Our village choir had several performances over the festive period. The first of these was on Wednesday 17th December with a Christmas performance of songs and carols, some with audience participation. This was held in the Reading Rooms. Everyone had to bring a tin to get in. With the sale of raffle tickets together with a bucket collection raising £148.35 in total plus two large boxes full of tins. Then two days later on Friday 19th December they gave another performance in the Whitemare pub where the bucket collection raised another £109.10. This enabled them to donate over £250 as well as the tins collected to North Lakes Foodbank in time for distribution to needy families at Christmas. A great effort much appreciated by the foodbank who are always in need of donations to help those in greatest need. Please remember that this need for help has not gone away so if you are able to donate there is always a box at the front entrance to the Reading Rooms which again is taken to the foodbank in Egremont.

## **Saturday Café**

The café which is open on some Saturdays has been a great success with lots of people making the most of the wonderful cakes and sausage rolls all freshly baked by Tina. If you haven't tried it yet I strongly recommend that you do so. No need to book just turn up but always check on the Facebook pages to confirm that it is open on the day you plan to visit.

## **Beckermet Village 50/50 Lottery**

Our village lottery with 175 members has had four monthly draws in this its third year. 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. Each draw takes place in the Reading Rooms at around 10am on the first Tuesday of each month during our Coffee Cake & Chat session. If you would like to take part then please use the contact details at the end of this article.

## **Friday Quiz & Bingo Nights**

**Bingo** nights on the **30<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup> March** while the **Quiz** nights **13<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March** 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). All proceeds in aid of St John's Church

## **St John's Services (usually 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) in the Reading Rooms at 9.15am**

As per last year St John's services will take place once again in the Reading Rooms as the heating system in our church still needs to be replaced. These have been moved forward to 9.15am to fit in with other bookings. The next services will be on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March. They will follow the same pattern of services as would be held in St John's itself. Following all services there will be refreshments available should you wish to participate.

## **St John's Soup Lunches**

Following a short break over the festive period the St John's Soup Lunches will recommence on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February** starting at the usual time of **12.00-1.30pm** when you will be able to have a lovely bowl or even two of delicious home-made soup (four to chose from) followed by delicious home-made cakes and a raffle ticket included for the

excellent value of only £6 per head. If you have not had the opportunity to come to one of these then why not add this date to your diary. It is another great way to meet up with friends & even make new ones. Soup Lunch in **March** will be on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Over 60s Lunch on January 4<sup>th</sup> in the Reading Rooms**

The pie & pea annual lunch was attended by just over 40 members provided by the village social committee.

### **Beckermet Music Marathon Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 11am-11pm: - in Aid of Bowel Cancer.**

This twelve-hour music event will take place in the Reading Rooms with various artists performing at different times of the day. Each two-hour session during the day will be covered by a number of performers, A raffle will be held during the event together with the opportunity to make a donation towards the chosen charity. People will come and go throughout the day but numbers attending at any one time will be limited to 50 for fire regulations so be aware of this restriction. We look forward to a great day of music from all the groups who have volunteered their time for this cause, together with hopefully a tidy sum raised.

**Youth Club Evenings: - 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 or 11.00-12.00

**Jazz Club Nights** - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February & Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March with bar open for refreshments

### **Additional Details**

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

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

John Mackay  
[john.mackay52@btinternet.com](mailto:john.mackay52@btinternet.com)

## **NETHER WASDALE EVENTS**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** at 7pm in the Old School  
A taste of Uzbekistan

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – from 10am – 2pm in the Old School  
Antique Valuations by Mitchell's Auctioneers

**Everyone is welcome to bring along their antiques and enjoy refreshments!**



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## NEWS FROM BECKERMET SCHOOL

After a well-deserved Christmas break, the staff and children at Beckermet School are back into the swing of things now! The children in our Year 3 & 4 class enjoyed a visit to Tullie House in Carlisle this week as part of their History topic on the Stone Age and Iron Age. They learnt lots of things and even handled some authentic artefacts from that period!

We are hosting our Reading Breakfasts next week. These are a lovely opportunity for parents and grandparents to come and share a book with the children, while having a hot drink and some sweet breakfast treats!

This term we have a big focus on Oracy. As part of this focus we are holding our very first Oracy afternoon where we have invited our parents/grandparents into school to take an active part in a History based activity. Year 5 and 6 will be holding a debate on the evolution of democracy in Ancient Greece! We're really looking forward to some lively discussions!

*Susan Alderson – Senior Teacher*



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# West Lakes U3A - FEBRUARY 2026 Events

**u3a**

Full details can be found on our website: <https://west-lakes.u3asite.uk>  
 Or contact [smithybrow@icloud.com](mailto:smithybrow@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.

| Date                                                                                         | Group                                                                                                      | Contact(s)                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February                                                              | <b>Cycling</b><br>Meet at Gosforth Public Hall at 10 am                                                    | John<br>☎ 019467 25831                                                                        |
| Mondays - Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup> / 16 <sup>th</sup> / 23 <sup>rd</sup>        | <b>Tai Chi</b><br>Gosforth Public Hall; 11.30 am - 12.30 pm                                                | Michael                                                                                       |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> February                                          | <b>Ukulele</b><br>21 Gosforth Rd, Seascale; 10.30 am - 12                                                  | Janet Hardy<br><a href="mailto:janethardy36@gmail.com">janethardy36@gmail.com</a>             |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February                                                           | <b>History</b><br>History of Gosforth Show by S. Lawson Drigg Village Hall, 10.15 am – 12 noon             | Vera<br>☎ 019467 25213                                                                        |
| Wednesdays 4 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup> February | <b>French Conversation</b><br>Kellbank, Gosforth; 10.15 am - 12.15 pm; Cost £4                             | James<br>☎ 07931 996742<br><b>Currently full with waiting list</b>                            |
| Wednesdays 4 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup> February | <b>Chair Based Exercises</b><br>Gosforth Public Hall<br>11.30 am - 12.30 pm                                | John<br>☎ 019467 25831                                                                        |
| Wednesdays - Feb 4 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup>    | <b>Indoor Bowls</b><br>Gosforth Public Hall; Cost £3; 2 – 4 pm                                             | John<br>☎ 019467 25831                                                                        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> February                                                                     | <b>Discussion of Current Affairs</b><br>Kellbank, 10.30 am – 12 noon, £4                                   | Bridget<br>☎ 07594 167575                                                                     |
| Fridays - February 6 <sup>th</sup> / 13 <sup>th</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> / 27 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Folk Dancing</b><br>Gosforth Public Hall; 2 pm – 4 pm                                                   | Vera<br>☎ 019467 25213                                                                        |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February                                                              | <b>Walking for strollers</b><br>2 mile stroll from 2 pm; <b>no dogs</b>                                    | Val<br>☎ 07796 527876                                                                         |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February                                                           | <b>Art Appreciation</b><br>Winslow Homer by M. Monkhouse St. Joseph's Hall, Seascale; 10.15 am             | Margaret                                                                                      |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup> February                                        | <b>Advanced Recorder Consort</b><br>Santon Village Hall; 2 pm – 4 pm                                       | Marilyn<br><a href="mailto:smithybrow@icloud.com">smithybrow@icloud.com</a>                   |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> / 27 <sup>rd</sup> January                                           | <b>Intermediate Recorders</b><br>Santon Village Hall; 10 am - 12 noon                                      | Marilyn<br><a href="mailto:smithybrow@icloud.com">smithybrow@icloud.com</a>                   |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February                                                            | <b>Family History Group</b><br>Santon Village Hall; 10 am - 12 noon                                        | Hilary<br><a href="mailto:westlakesu3afhg@gmail.com">westlakesu3afhg@gmail.com</a>            |
| Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 10 am Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2 pm                               | <b>Treble recorders</b><br>Santon Village Hall<br>Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> 10 am / Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> 2 pm | Marilyn<br>☎ 07817 499849<br><a href="mailto:smithybrow@icloud.com">smithybrow@icloud.com</a> |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February                                                           | <b>Open Mind</b><br>From Alaska to Zion by Nigel Thornton Gosforth Public Hall, 10.15 am                   | Alan Bell                                                                                     |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February                                                           | <b>Chatty Lunch</b><br><b>Pre-booking essential</b> via Vera                                               | Vera<br>☎ 019467 25213                                                                        |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February                                                           | <b>Reading</b><br>St Mary's Room; 10.30 am - 12 noon                                                       | Beneta Livesey<br><b>This group is currently full</b>                                         |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February                                                            | <b>Discovery</b><br>Life as an expert witness by N. Entwhistle St Mary's Room, Gosforth; 2 pm to 4 pm      | Ben<br>☎ 019467 24791                                                                         |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February                                                           | <b>Out and About</b><br>Trip to Grizedale Observatory, £tbc                                                | Vera ☎ 019467 25213<br><b>Pre-booking essential</b>                                           |

# GOSFORTH SCHOOL NEWS



We were excited to be invited to be part of Seascale Light Festival in the run up to Christmas. Crummock worked on a performing arts piece with The Knotted Project which was shown at the festival. Ennerdale and Wastwater spent half a day producing lanterns which would have been taken along to the parade had it not been rained off.

Crummock and Ennerdale visited The Beacon Museum in Whitehaven for a workshop on Stone Age to Iron Age as part of their History topic. They also had the opportunity to have a look around the museum.

We had our annual visit from Nate who brings along a set of ten wheelchairs so the children can play Wheelchair basketball in the hall. This experience encourages our children to see ability rather than disability and creates memorable learning that extends beyond our curriculum PE sessions.

Year 3/4 travelled to Whitehaven Academy for a Rapid Cricket event against other local schools. For some it was their first experience of cricket and they were firm fans by the end of the afternoon.

Key Stage 2 had a visit from local photographer, Carlos Reina, who delivered a lesson on how Christmas is celebrated in his home country - Spain. We love having Carlos in to work with the children and they loved greeting each other with Felix Navidad for the rest of the day!

Year 6 had a busy time in the run up to Christmas. They started out in Drigg with a visit to Tuesday Chat. They not only sang carols but took along a craft activity which was done with the attendees. They then visited Bradbury House for a Christmas sing along with residents. A small group popped over to St Mary's Church to help decorate the tree and windows ready for Christmas. They also spent an hour outside Gosforth Bakery carol singing to bring Christmas Cheer to the village.

We had another year of successful Christmas Plays. Each class performs a nativity themed play. It takes an incredible amount of hard work from the staff and pupils to put these performances together but it is worth it!

Our younger children enjoyed a festive trip to Planet Play in Workington. They spent time on the soft play, had lunch and received a special visit from Father Christmas. The older children travelled to Theatre by the Lake in Keswick to see The Wizard of Oz. The show was fabulous and

the children had a great afternoon. A great cultural experience which will create lasting memories.

We welcomed church representatives into school to help make the Christingles which were taken to the Carol Service in church on the last day of term. The Year 6 children told everyone the meaning of the Christingle then we lit the candles. This part of the service was followed by hearing about Mary and Joseph's Advent Posada. They spent two weeks travelling round some of our school families. A diary was completed and photos taken. Activities included decorating trees, riding motorbikes, meeting Father Christmas, seeing the Wombats perform in Newcastle, attending a soft play party and of course experiencing lots of yummy food!

FOGS had a very busy festive season. They provided the refreshments and had a tombola at the Farmer's Market in Egremont, held two festive workshops, provided the refreshments at the Candlelit Concert, held a Festive Film Night for the children and finally had the Christmas Fair in school. Their fundraising efforts brought in over £3500 which will be used to enrich our children's learning and experiences.

*Mrs S Layzell  
Assistant Headteacher*

## **GOSFORTH LIBRARY**

The contractors had two weeks off over Christmas and New Year and work has now restarted again. The rotten wooden lintels are being replaced with concrete ones, the roof slates have been removed and the rafters and wall plates replaced. First fix electrics have started and the removal of the external render has started on the front of the building. Work overall is on programme with some areas being ahead and others behind schedule. Monthly progress meetings are held between the contractor, architects and the public hall representatives.



*John Reed*



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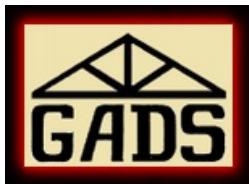
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## NEWS FROM GADS - GOSFORTH AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY



Our Youth Theatre Group continues after the Christmas break and preparation is going well for "The Phantom and the Phoenix" in March. If all goes to plan, there will be a public performance on Friday 27 March and our youngsters would love your support. This will be free to attend although you are welcome to make a donation afterwards if you enjoy it.

Plays for Pleasure is our informal play reading group where we just get together, read a play, have a drink and have a laugh. The sessions continue on Tuesday 3 February at 7:30 pm in the Function Room at the Kellbank. It's free to attend, all are welcome and there is no pressure whatsoever to start acting. It's just good fun.

Our next major production will be a "21<sup>st</sup> 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. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Showcase is a dazzling, fast-paced musical revue celebrating the best of 21<sup>st</sup>-century musical theatre. With a set list drawn exclusively from shows written and first performed since the year 2000, this production pays tribute to the bold voices, fresh stories, and innovative sounds that have reshaped the Broadway stage for a new era. The preparation begins with an open night on Thursday 12 February. To find out more about being involved, please come along to the Hall for 7:30pm. After that, auditions will be held on Tue 24 and Thu 26 February, also in the Hall. An audition form can be found via our website.

To keep up to date with anything GADS, you can visit the website [www.gads.org.uk](http://www.gads.org.uk), follow us on Facebook (GADS1948), Instagram (gads\_gosforth) or email us using [gadsgosforth@gmail.com](mailto:gadsgosforth@gmail.com).

## THE LOCAL FOODBANK

Just a reminder to everyone that the local Foodbank (ours is Egremont) is still very much in need of our support. 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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[mwarmoth17@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mwarmoth17@yahoo.co.uk)

## WEST LAKELAND ROTARY CLUB

Sadly, just a week before Christmas, one of our longest-serving members, Graham Hutson, died on 15 December. We pay tribute to his service to the Rotary Organisation and to our local community.



Our 'Christmas Message' dinner was held on Tuesday 16 December when we listened to Revd Angela Overton-Benge telling us, in her characteristically amusing, but meaningful, style, a little about her years as an industrial chaplain in the south of England, as well as her more recent pastoral ministry in and around the South Calder Benefice – she is based in Bootle. In her message she emphasised the importance of engagement and care in our local community; she was very well received.

Our thanks go to Rotarian Mike Beaty for organising our Christmas raffle which raised over £1000 for our charities fund.

We received several interesting presentations before Christmas:

Bill Rawlins from the Ennerdale Commons Group, and Andy Laird, a local man now living in Coniston, who has grown a very successful business designing and building Olympic standard White Water kayaking courses.

Last year, in partnership with Cockermouth Rotary Club, we staged a 'Ukrainian Evening' in Lamplugh Village Hall, when we were hosted by a group of Ukrainian ladies serving national dishes; the ladies in their colourful national dress. These same ladies, Anna and Mariia, visited the club on 13 January when they updated us a little on the dreadful situation in their country. They were accompanied by a young church 'elder' Oleksii, who ministers to troops on the front line. A very thought provoking, and somewhat sobering, evening.

Future events:

Annual Pensioners' Party at Calderbridge; Saturday 28 March

Annual Plant Sale, also at Calderbridge; Sunday 24 May

*Malcolm Richardson*

## GOSFORTH WI

Tuesday, 3 February - 7.15pm in St. Mary's Room.

Speaker: Nigel Thornton - A to Z of America.

Competition: Something American.



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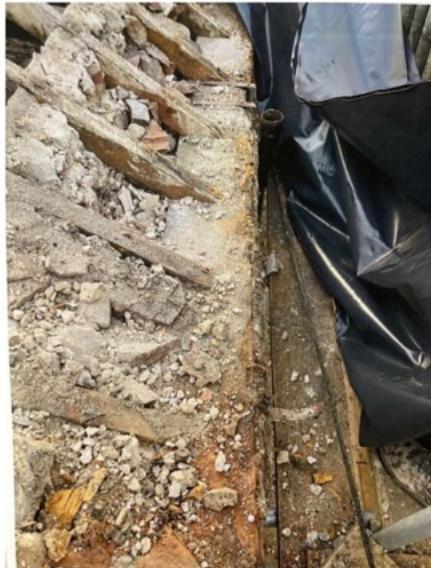
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## UPDATE GOSFORTH PUBLIC HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

With a major grant from Historic England and the Copeland Community Fund, work has progressed significantly with new roof timbers and lintels. The cast iron gutters need replacing and a new staircase to the upper room before plastering can begin. While some tasks have been completed more quickly (and at lower cost) than expected, others have needed more work (= time & money). Overall, the work is progressing to both time and budget plans. The internal work is due to complete end March 2026 with external render being applied in May / June. The main hall remains open for use and can be booked via [GPHbooking@gmail.com](mailto:GPHbooking@gmail.com).

*Karen Russ Gosforth  
Public Hall Management Committee  
[Treasurerqwi@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurerqwi@gmail.com)*



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### **Trips coming up are:**

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

Other Trips:

- Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January – Penrith £10.50
- Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February Windermere / Ambleside (Including Hayes Garden World) £10.50
- Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February - Egremont Farmers Market £3 donation to the market
- Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> February - Cockermouth / Keswick £10.50
- Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March Carlisle and Option of Dobies Garden Centre £10.50
- Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March - Egremont Farmers Market £3 donation to the market
- Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March - Maryport and Silloth £9.00

## SAINTS FOR FEBRUARY



There are three primary schools in England named for Gilbert of Sempringham. Two are in Lincolnshire, where Sempringham is, and one is Greater Manchester. Gilbert lived in the twelfth century and is remembered only by the Church of England on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. He founded the order of 'Gilbertines' which consisted of male regular canons and female nuns, living separately in one establishment. This proved popular with over twenty houses at one time, but none survived the reformation. He is therefore remembered today, and not just for the schools called after him.

# HOLMROOK READING ROOM

## AGM

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm**

**ALL WELCOME – REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**A talk and presentation on:**

**Invasive Plant Species and the impact on our rivers –  
Chris West**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 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 2026 are due from 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:drmarsden@outlook.com) or 07931-393954.

## GOSFORTH INDOOR MAT BOWLING CLUB

This club is now part of U3A and its new title is **West Lakes U3A Indoor Bowling Club**. The club continues to meet every Wednesday afternoon in Gosforth Public Hall from 2 – 4pm. £3.00 including refreshments. Spare bowls available. Please bring clean flat shoes.

## ZOOMED and EVENING SERVICES IN THE SEATALLAN BENEFICE

Some Gosforth services and Phoenix services are being 'zoomed' each week. There is also a weekly liturgy available by email each Sunday.

**NB. PLEASE CHECK LOCAL NOTICES  
FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE SERVICE INFORMATION**

### ZOOMED SERVICES

**11.00am Service of Holy Communion or Morning Worship** hosted by St Mary's Church Gosforth. If you would like an invitation to this service please email [stmarys.gosforth.zoom@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys.gosforth.zoom@gmail.com)

**Thursdays at 9.30am South Calder Mission Community Morning Prayer:**  
For an invitation please contact David Davies – [divord4@gmail.com](mailto:divord4@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY EVENINGS

#### **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month: St Mary's Room, Gosforth**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Informal Worship at 6.30 pm** – Songs/hymns, readings, short talk, discussion and fellowship (with occasional Holy Communion)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** – All-age worship at 6.30 pm – Especially suited to and often led by children + young people (and the young in heart).

Occasionally special events and circumstances may lead to changes in the regular programme. *These services are services of Seascle Methodist Church and its Gosforth Methodist congregation, and as such are safeguarded by their safeguarding processes.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month: Faith and Fellowship – 6.45 for 7.00pm at Various Locations.** Please contact Jill Hudson on 019467 21592 – [jillhudson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jillhudson@hotmail.co.uk) *This group has no formal or legal connection with the Church of England or the Methodist Church in England.*

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month: 7.00pm Phoenix Praise Informal Evening Worship**

St Mary's Room Gosforth. Led by Jill and Keith Hudson. Songs/hymns, readings, short talk, discussion and fellowship followed by refreshments. For more information please email [jillhudson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jillhudson@hotmail.co.uk) and for a Zoom invitation email [khudson@freenetname.co.uk](mailto:khudson@freenetname.co.uk) or ring 01946 721592 or visit [www.phoenixpraise.org.uk](http://www.phoenixpraise.org.uk). *These services are services of Seascle Methodist Church and its Gosforth Methodist congregation, and as such are safeguarded by their safeguarding processes.*

### SUNDAY WRITTEN LITURGY FOR THOSE AT HOME

#### **Into His Courts with Praise**

Compiled and distributed by Brian and Helen Pateman. This weekly liturgy can be read on your PC screen or printed off week by week for use at home in a text size to suit you. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Helen Pateman: [atchpateman@gmail.com](mailto:atchpateman@gmail.com)

# SEATALLAN BENEFICE SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2026

|                                   | Church                     | Service                             | Time          |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>      |                            |                                     |               |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b>    | Nether Wasdale             | HC                                  | 9.30          |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> of Epiphany</b> | Seascale                   | Morning Prayer at St Cuthbert's     | 9.30          |
| <b>Gold</b>                       | Gosforth                   | Morning Praise in St Mary's Room    | 11.00         |
| <b>Proper</b>                     | Calder Bridge Village Hall | HC                                  | 11.00         |
|                                   | Gosforth St Mary's Room    | Methodist Evening Worship           | 6.30          |
|                                   |                            |                                     |               |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>      |                            |                                     |               |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> February</b>    | Beckermet                  | HC - Reading Rooms                  | 9.15          |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Before Lent</b> | Seascale                   | Methodist Worship in Methodist Hall | 10.30         |
| <b>Green</b>                      | Gosforth                   | HC – St Mary's Room                 | 11.00         |
| <b>Proper</b>                     | Wasdale Head               | MW                                  | 11.00         |
|                                   | Seascale                   | Faith and Fellowship                | 6.45 for 7.00 |
|                                   |                            |                                     |               |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>      |                            |                                     |               |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> February</b>   | Nether Wasdale             | Morning Prayer                      | 9.30          |
| <b>Next before Lent</b>           | Seascale                   | HC at St Cuthbert's                 | 9.30          |
| <b>Green</b>                      | Gosforth                   | Morning Worship in St Mary's Room   | 11.00         |
| <b>Proper</b>                     | Gosforth St Mary's Room    | Methodist All-age Worship           | 6.30          |
|                                   |                            |                                     |               |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>      |                            |                                     |               |
| <b>22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>   | Beckermet                  | Morning Prayer in Reading Rooms     | 9.15          |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> of Lent</b>     | Seascale                   | Methodist Worship in Methodist Hall | 10.30         |
| <b>Green</b>                      | Gosforth                   | HC – St Mary's Room                 | 11.00         |
| <b>Proper</b>                     | Wasdale Head               | Morning Worship                     | 11.00         |
|                                   | Gosforth St Mary's Room    | Phoenix Praise Evening Worship      | 7.00          |

## IT'S SUBSCRIPTION TIME AGAIN

Annual subscriptions for our Benefice Magazine are due again next month. So that we cover our printing and paper costs properly for the magazine, it was decided at our last PCC meeting that we needed to be realistic and increase the annual subscription to £10.00 – I believe several people already give £10 anyway! The digital version of the magazine remains free but donations are always welcome.

Advertising will remain at £120 for a full-page advert, with £60 a half-page and £30 for a quarter-page. As in the past there will be 10 issues in the year – one each month with combined issues for July/August and December/January.

It would be helpful if you could have your money ready when your distributor delivers your March magazine. We thank all subscribers and advertisers for supporting the magazine and for our 16+ volunteers who deliver it.

*Norma Hughes – Editor*