



September 2026

St Oswald's Parish Church, Dean

Directory

Ministry Team:

Clergy: Canon Jane Charman

Lay Minister: Michael Bonner

Parochial Church Council:

Clergy Canon Jane Charman

Lay Chair Clare Chittenden

Churchwarden: Clare Chittenden (Safeguarding) 01946 861089

Secretary

Treasurer & Deanery Synod Rep. Michael Bonner

Elected: Sheila Eynon Eleanor Gate
Fiona Hammond

Enquiries regarding Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals please contact
Grasmoor Mission Community Administrator, GMC Office,
South Street Community Hall, South Street, Cockermouth, CA13 9RU
- Tel: 017687 75742 - Email: gmcoffice@grasmoormc.church

anyone requiring a home visit (occasional or regular) should contact the
Churchwarden, Clare Chittenden on 01946 861089
who will be happy to make the arrangements.

Verger: Clare Chittenden 01946 861089

Honorary Treasurer: Michael Bonner 01900 605536

Church Flowers: Eleanor Gate 01900 872568

Magazine Editor: Kevin Tolchard 07540 620811

Email: Kevin.DeanParishnews@Gmail.com

Services and activities

St Oswald's Church is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and welcomes all who wish to visit. **Our Sunday morning services are at 10.00 a.m.** – on the 1st Sunday of each month we have a traditional Book of Common Prayer said Holy Communion, the 2nd a Common Worship Morning Prayer with hymns & refreshments, the 3rd a short said Celtic Morning Prayer & the 4th a full Common Worship Holy Communion with hymns & refreshments.

More information about our Church including Services can be found at www.achurchnearyou.com/dean-st-oswald and on Facebook.

Editor's Letter

I hope everybody managed to enjoy a wonderful summer, whether travelling to see family & friends, or heading off to the beach to re-energise, or staying at home to enjoy the (mixed!) weather.

September always seems to arrive with a gentle nudge back into routine. After the long, lighter days of summer, the village begins to feel busy again: school bags appear by the door, alarm clocks are set a little earlier, roads and pavements fill with familiar morning movement, and local shops and services welcome the return of everyday rhythms.

For families, pupils, teachers, school staff and everyone involved in the school day, September can bring a mixture of fresh starts and full calendars. There are new routines to settle into, uniforms to organise, lunches to remember, clubs and activities to restart, and perhaps a few nerves alongside the excitement. It is a good moment to be patient with one another, especially during the busier school-run times, and to take extra care around crossings, narrow lanes and parked cars.

As we move into the month ahead, this edition of Dean Parish News is a chance to reconnect after the summer break and look forward to what autumn will bring. We hope to share updates from local groups, notices from businesses, dates for your diary, and stories that reflect the everyday life of our community.

If you have news to share, an event to promote, a thank-you to pass on, or a local story that deserves a mention, please do send it in. Dean Parish News works best when it reflects the people who live, work and contribute here — and September is the perfect time to begin again with energy, kindness and a renewed sense of community.

With warm wishes for the month ahead,

Kevin

Editor, Dean Parish News

Deadline for the October edition is 15th September.

Kevin.DeanParishNew@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

You may have noticed that since we got back to a service on every Sunday, following on from the restrictions of Covid 19, we have been experimenting to try to meet the needs of those who want a service in Church on Sunday.

We are now quite settled in a pattern of, on the first Sunday of each month, a “said” Book of Common Prayer service led by a visiting cleric, highlighting the beautiful traditional language for those who value it, while on the second Sunday a Common Worship (modern language) Service of Morning Prayer, normally led by a local leader, with hymns, and on the 4th Sunday of the month we again have a visiting cleric leading a modern Common Worship service of Holy Communion, again with hymns.

However, we are not yet settled on an acceptable service for the 3rd Sunday each month. Recently we have been following a Celtic Morning Prayer enjoyed by a small handful of people just now but not seen as a longer-term installation.

So from this September (and particularly on Sunday 20th) the Church will be manned by local leaders for an hour from 10 a.m. open to anyone who feels the need for time in Church on a Sunday morning, or anyone who would like to spend some time alone with God, perhaps below a lovely stain glass window, or anyone who would like to talk with someone quietly about God and/or the Church, or someone with an idea of what they would like to do here on a Sunday morning.

For 851 years this building has been here for the people who lived in the parish over that time, and every generation down those centuries have found comfort here. You can too.

Michael Bonner – Lay Minister – Dean

How time does fly!

It is September and change is in the air. We hope everyone had an enjoyable time over the summer months.

Children are about to begin the new school term, and many young people will be experiencing different educational settings, teachers and lecturers are preparing for work mode we wish them all well.

Nature is also beginning to move on losing its summer foliage but still giving us the rewards of its fruitfulness.

At Church, Creation tide or the Season of Creation in the Church Calendar is the period from September 1st until [St. Francis's](#) day October 4th which is dedicated to God as Creator and sustainer of all life. A time when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention in prayer and action to the responsibility of humanity for the earth and for all that lives upon it.

I Quote “Every act of care for creation becomes part of a global stream of hope”.

Looking for a Pen Pal

Looking for a Pen Pal! ♥♥

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A NEW FRIEND BY LETTER?

I'm from the historic market town of **Cockermouth**, in the beautiful Lake District.

I'd love to write to someone...

- anywhere in the UK
- of any age
- who enjoys a good chat about life, hobbies, books, music, nature or anything!

LET'S SHARE stories, friendship & a little bit of kindness one letter at a time. ♥♥

PEN PAL WANTED

♥ COCKERMOUTH, CUMBRIA, CA13 9XG ♥

INTERESTED?
Please get in touch!

CONTACT

✉ Sue Gorman cockermouth@linkinglives.uk	✉ Lois Sparling community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com
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Let's keep the art of letter writing alive! ♥

Over the past year, Sue Gorman (of Linking Lives) and Lois (the GMC Community Chaplain) have been approached by different people looking for 'pen friends' and we wondered whether we might be able to broaden this more widely.

Lois has been writing to a delightful lady Devon for the past six months or so, because her son approached Loweswater Parish Council, after a visit to our area, asking whether anyone might be willing to exchange letters with her. Sue has recently been approached by someone in Cockermouth similarly - and the two have now been matched as Pen Pals, with great success.

If you know of anyone in your community who would like to have a pen friend to exchange news with - or anyone who would be willing to be a pen friend to someone who has asked for one - please let Sue (cockermouth@linkinglives.uk) or Lois (community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com) know.

Letters do not have to be handwritten if your handwriting is no longer legible! They can be typed and printed – but they do have to be sent through the post so that someone who does not have email has the pleasure of reading and treasuring them.

ALL
WELCOME!

TEER
al community



Grasmoor
Mission Community

Cumbria
CVS



Cockermouth

Volunteering Fair

Sat 12th Sep 2026, 11am - 12.30pm
Christ Church, South Street, Cockermouth,
CA13 9RU

Come along to be inspired and discover your own new
volunteering adventure – join us for refreshments and
friendly conversation at the Cockermouth Volunteering Fair!



**[volunteering.cumbriacvs.org.uk/
volunteers/events/](https://volunteering.cumbriacvs.org.uk/volunteers/events/)**



**We are back Monday
September 7th,
9am – 10:45am**

DEAN DUCKLINGS PLAYGROUP

Term
Time

0-5yrs



£2

Join us for a play, snack and songs. New faces always welcome.

Dean C of E Primary School,
CA14 4TH



Follow Dean Ducklings Playgroup for all our news



Dean Arts and Scarecrow Festival Update

The accounts for the recent Scarecrow and Arts Festival have now been finalised, and we are delighted to report that this year's festival was, again, a huge success.

Refreshments alone took nearly £7,500 which is an amazing amount and was only made possible by all the willing helpers who baked and manned the rotas serving, washing up etc.

Also notably, the raffle took £2,300 and the evening events in the marquee, nearly £2,100. Once again, a central marquee provided a focus in Dean for daytime and evening events, and we are grateful for the generator supplied by G&AM Lawson which made this so effective.

The weather was very kind to us and combined with the availability of a parking field from Alan Wood, contributed to a wonderful atmosphere over the three days as people came together to enjoy the scarecrows and the many attractions on offer. There were many others, too numerous to mention, who also contributed their time, skills and support to making it such a great event.

Overall, the Festival made about £5,600 profit and the Committee has decided, as previously, to keep enough funds to go towards the next festival. The remaining surplus however has been divided equally between Ullock Village Hall, the Kirkstile Community Centre, Dean Church and Dean School who each received £1,000.

Our thanks once again to everyone and to all those local organisations who contributed towards making this such a wonderful and successful community event.

Our thanks also to the Potato Pot Community Benefit Fund for their generous support.

We look forward to 2028.

Graeme Sparke
Treasurer, Dean Parish Festival



DEAN WI UPDATE

We had a very interesting talk for our July meeting by local children's author Helen Haraldsen. She told us how she had gradually become a full-time author and we had the opportunity to purchase some of her books. We are looking forward to the following speakers – August 18th Ros Dowling Snap, Crackle, Pop and September 15th Johnathan Moore from the Alhambra Theatre in Keswick.

Our newly formed walking group had their first walk on August 11th led by Wendy Turner. They walked along Maryport prom culminating in coffee at the prom café.

Meanwhile our book group had their first meeting in July. Please see the accompanying review from the first book discussed at that meeting. We are now busy reading the second book from our selection.

Preparations are well underway for our coffee morning on Saturday, 19th September, 10am to 12 noon in the Kirkstile Community Centre, Dean. All are welcome and proceeds will go to Calderwood House, Egremont, a refuge for the homeless. There will be a tombola, a produce stall and a raffle.

If you would like to try one of our meetings you would be most welcome. We meet in the Kirkstile Community Centre, Dean, at 7.30 p.m.

Louise Richardson --- lousierichardson5@hotmail.co.uk ---Tel: 01900 601231

WI BOOK CLUB REVIEW 'The Bullet Catcher's Daughter' by Rob Duncan

The book centres around a young woman called Elizabeth, who lives on a houseboat. She creates a brother who is a private investigator who works at night, so that she can live under his protection.

The story is set in what seems to be Victorian times but is a fantasy time when England has been split into an Anglo-Scottish Republic with a capital in Carlisle, and then a Kingdom of England and Southern Wales with a capital in London. Elizabeth lives in the Republic, which is quite puritanical and where women face more restrictions than men, compared with the Kingdom.

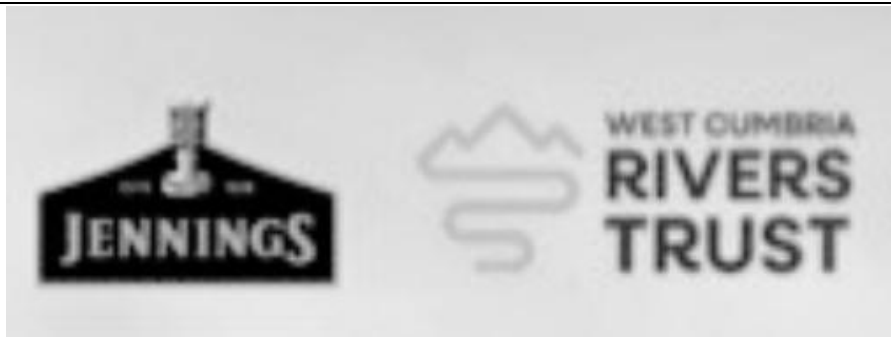
The story centres around Elizabeth's search for a missing aristocrat from the Kingdom, and the machine he has that supposedly turns base metal to gold, after her brother (Elizabeth disguised as a man) is employed by the missing person's sister to find him.

The story is of Elizabeth's adventures in trying to find this person, involving many interesting characters from a circus, who would like the machine; as well as an officer of the Patent Office who also has an interest in finding the machine. The Patent Office is an organisation that both countries have joined, whose role is to make sure that only inventions that they think will be good for mankind are allowed to be made.

The book divided opinion in the reading group. Some could not get into the book, and they did not like the fantasy part, so very quickly stopped reading it. The rest all agreed it took a while to get into the book, but they enjoyed the adventures and resourcefulness of the main character. A few of this group enjoyed the book so much they are keen to read the subsequent books in the trilogy.

All were agreed it was not a book they would have read without the book club, and that the cover did nothing to encourage a new reader to think it would be a book they would like.

Our next book is, 'All The Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr



Pull Together: Bash the Balsam 2026

Balsam Bashing status – We Smashed It!

We had 4 fantastic days over the summer. We pulled and destroyed over 46,000 plants, stopping 12 million seeds from entering the catchment – that's another 35% of our goal, which means we have hit the overall target – amazing!

We wanted to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who came along and helped out on the Bashes – especially West Cumbria Rivers Trust for their hard work protecting our rivers.

We've enjoyed every minute of this collaboration and already can't wait for next year.

Thank you again everyone who helped – until next year!



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Foot Health Practitioner **Allison Wood** Dip FH, MCFHP, MAFHP

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<https://allisonwoodfoothealth.com>

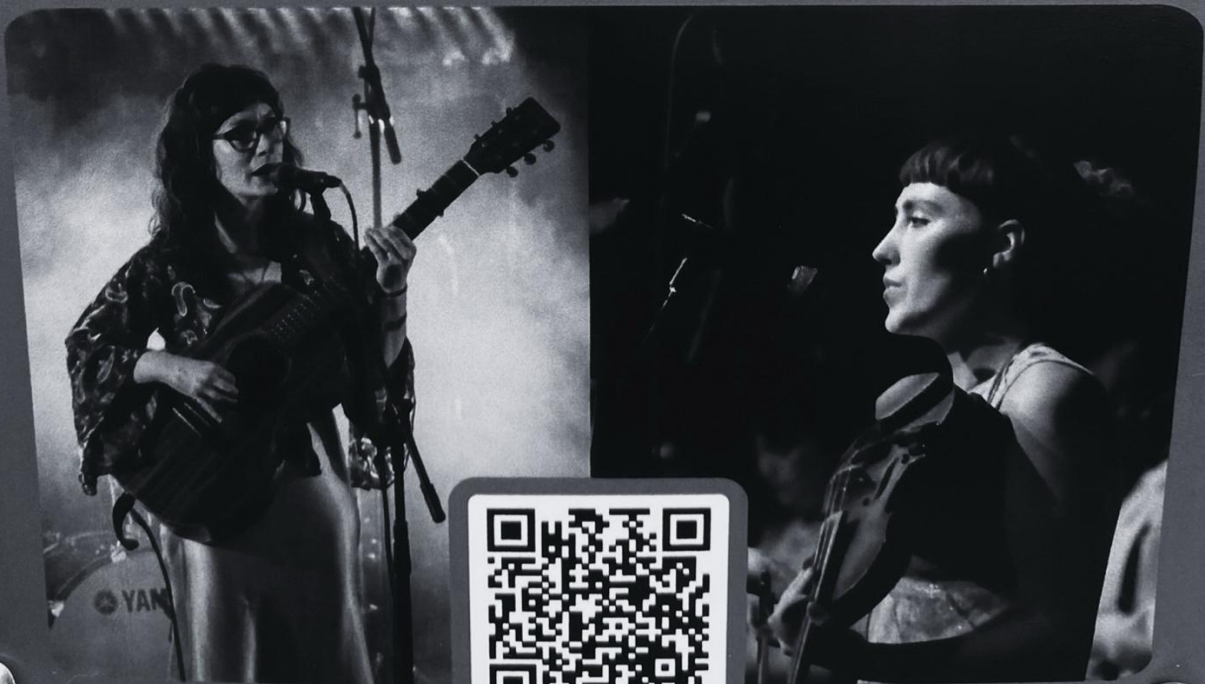
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Cumberland and Westmorland Herald

"These events are pure timeless magic."
Cumbria Life Magazine



Scan QR Code For Tickets



THE GOOD FRIDAYS

Kirkstile Community Centre, Dean

26 September 2026 7.30pm

Tickets only £10

A vibrant mix of acoustic pop, soul, blues and lots more from
some great local musicians – not to be missed!



Tickets: Scan QR code

Text: 07780868148

FUNBUS

LIVE AT KIRKSTILE COMMUNITY CENTRE



Kirkstile Community Centre, Dean
2nd October 2026

Doors open 7.00pm • Bar available

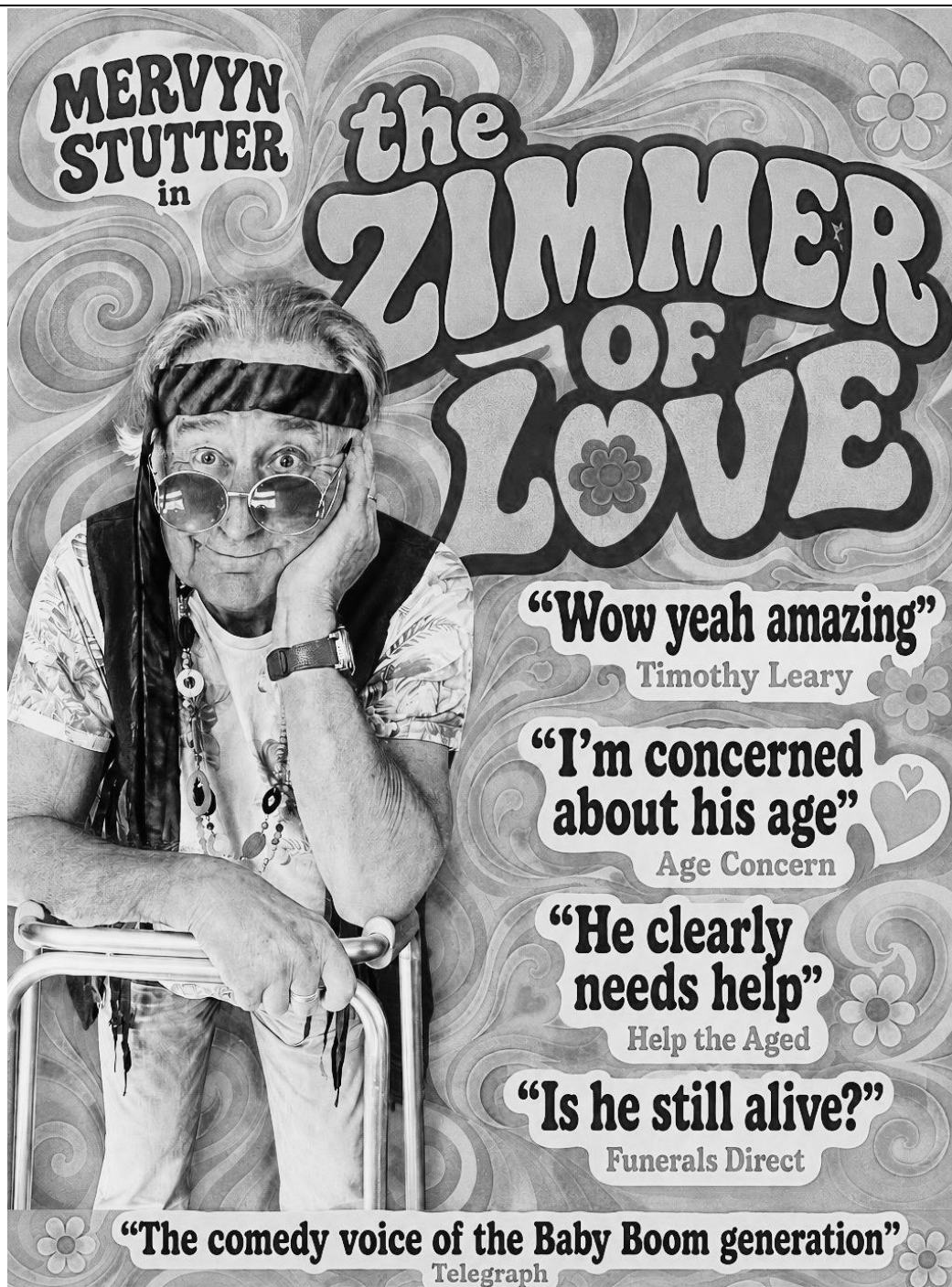
Tickets £10 Text 07780868148 or Scan QR code



About the Band

Funbus are a Cumbrian five-piece band known for high-energy live shows and are popular at local venues and festivals, such as Taste Cumbria events and Grid City Music Festival. They play original music and feel-good covers spanning rock, blues, and pop genres from the last fifty years.

Look forward to a fun night of music and dancing!!



**ULLOCK VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER at 7 30pm**

**The return to Cumbria of Mervyn Stutter after his 2 two previous sell out tours
Great entertainment combining music and comedy**

Tickets £12 including light refreshments. Bring your own beer, wine etc if you wish

**Helen Finn 07786 01667;
Margaret Trotter 01946 861458 or from the Kirkgate
Sponsored by Arts Out West**

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Thursday 10 September

In search of Arctic Wonders: Cumbria and the Arctic in the 18th and 19th Centuries

Dr Rob David will range widely over Arctic exploration investigating the role of Skeffington Lutwidge of Holmrook Hall in the North Polar Expedition of 1773, the adventures of the Yellow Earl, the roles of Sir John Barrow in promoting Arctic exploration while at the Admiralty, and of Sir John Richardson and Sir John Franklin in their search for the North-West Passage, as well as other Cumbrians involved in amazing adventures in the Arctic.

Dr Rob David is a well-known and respected local historian. He completed his PhD in British Culture and the Arctic at Lancaster University and was president of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society from 2017 to 2020.

The talk will take place at 7.30 at the Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton, CA13 9UJ.

Parking is tricky, so please leave plenty of time to find a spot.

Visitors are welcome £4 cash payable at the door, to include refreshments.

www.derwentfells.com

Gardening Tips for September

- **Water and mulch** after dry or hot weather to help plants recover.
- **Deadhead flowers** such as dahlias, roses and bedding plants to extend flowering.
- **Harvest fruit and vegetables** regularly, including tomatoes, beans, courgettes, apples and pears.
- **Sow hardy salads and autumn crops** such as spinach, rocket, lettuce and spring onions.
- **Plant spring bulbs** like daffodils, crocus and alliums; leave tulips until later autumn.
- **Care for lawns** by raising mower height, raking lightly and repairing bare patches.
- **Tidy borders gently** by removing dead or diseased material while leaving seedheads for wildlife.
- **Check for pests and disease**, especially aphids, mildew, slugs and vine weevil.
- **Improve soil** with compost or well-rotted organic matter.
- **Prepare for cooler, wetter weather** by checking drainage, supports and vulnerable plants.

To protect plants from pests in September:

- **Inspect regularly:** Check the undersides of leaves, stems, pots and soil surfaces for aphids, caterpillars, slugs, snails and vine weevil.
- **Remove pests by hand:** Pick off caterpillars and slugs in the evening or after rain.
- **Encourage natural predators:** Leave some seedheads and shelter for ladybirds, hoverflies, frogs, birds and ground beetles.
- **Tidy selectively:** Remove diseased or pest-infested leaves but avoid over-clearing wildlife habitat.
- **Improve airflow:** Thin overcrowded growth to reduce mildew and fungal problems.
- **Water at soil level:** Avoid wetting leaves, especially as nights become cooler.
- **Protect pots from vine weevil:** Check container plants for notched leaves and inspect compost for grubs if plants wilt suddenly.
- **Control slugs early:** Use wildlife-friendly traps, copper tape around pots, or rough barriers such as grit.
- **Avoid harsh chemicals:** Stressed plants can be more vulnerable, and sprays may harm beneficial insects.

After a heatwave, pests can build up quickly on weakened plants, so the best approach is **regular checking, good plant hygiene and encouraging natural predators**.

Morning Tea/Coffee

Eternal at Headford Court, Cockermouth

What a lovely secluded & peaceful place Eternal Eatery is. The staff are very friendly & welcoming & the decor is modern & relaxed. The cafe has plenty room inside with a pretty courtyard off Main Street for those balmy Cumbria summers. We did sit outside & actually chose to sit in the shade!

We were just in time to catch the breakfast menu. Breakfast is served until 11.45 & lunch starts at 12pm until 3pm (3.30pm on Saturday). After lunch service stops you can still get drinks & scones & cakes.

They have a lovely cabinet of Cannoli (definitely worth a delicious try!).

We ordered at the till & the food was brought out to us.

The cappuccinos arrived first on little wooden trays with a tiny, sweet bite of a mini jammy dodger.

Great presentation & lovely hot coffee.

Kevin had Farmers Avocado with added poached eggs. It was presented really well with sourdough toast, avocado, roasted tomatoes, perfect poached eggs & little bit of spice.

I had the best pancakes! It's called Short Stack & comes with 3 excellent American style pancakes, 2 rashers of bacon (Kevin had one of them!) & and an egg. Plenty of maple syrup which is delightful change.

We enjoyed our brunch so much that we stayed a bit longer so we could try the tea & cake - we sacrifice so much for our research for you!

I had peppermint tea which came as loose tea leaves in a glass tea pot. Also served with the mini jammy dodger. Kevin had another hot cappuccino. The carrot cake (Kevin's choice!) was very delicious. This is high praise indeed from Kevin who is a bit of a connoisseur on carrot cakes!

The cute shop has quirky & reasonably priced little gifts to buy - Great for hostess gifts & Christmas stocking fillers (dare I mention that word so early!). The glass tea pots can be purchased & a selection of the loose tea too.

They also have a new fresh flower pick & mix wall to create your own bouquet. Worth a look!

Eternal Eatery is located down the alleyway off 60 Main Street next to the Toy Shop.

Closed on Tuesdays. Open Wednesday to Monday 9.00am to 4.30pm (including Sundays (10-4pm) & Mondays!) Dog friendly inside & out.

Accessible with a flat surface & ramp into the cafe. (Although there is a small step to the toilets & the shop).



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- Legacy planning



Get in touch with us below for more information

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Website : www.rocklakedistrict.co.uk

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Our Villages' Notice Board

Lunch Club in UVH

10th September 12-30pm.
Soup, bread, cheese, biscuits and
cake £3.
Friendship, quiz and chat.
All welcome.

WI Coffee Morning

Saturday, 19th September,
10am to 12 noon
Kirkstile Community Centre, Dean

Art Club in UVH

Fridays @ 10.00 am
New members welcome

Thursday Club In UVH

27th September.
Outing to be arranged
New members always welcome

Local Home Help Wanted – Branthwaite

We are looking for a reliable local person to help a gentleman living independently in Branthwaite, who has some disabilities.

He already has regular cleaners but would appreciate extra help with washing, ironing and the occasional odd job around the house.

Around 4 hours per week, on a day and time to suit. Competitive wage.

If you might be interested, or know someone locally who could help, please contact Sarah Hogg 07878 825993 for more information.

Please remember – this is your notice board, please let me know if you have anything you'd like to include.

Dates for your Diary

September

Sunday	6 th	10.00 a.m.	Said BCP Holy Communion
	10 th	12.30 p.m.	Lunch Club in UVH
Sunday	13 th	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	16 th	7.30 p.m.	Dean WI in KCC
Sunday	20 th	10.00 a.m.	(Up to) An Hour in Church
	24 th	2.00 p.m.	Thursday Club in UVH
Sunday	26 th	7.30 p.m.	The Good Fridays in KCC
	27 th	11.00 a.m.	Patronal Festival at The Fell Church, Benefice Service of Holy Communion

Plus our regular weekly activities

Day	Time	What & Where
Monday	9.00 a.m.	“Dean Ducklings” Playgroup in Dean School
	10.30 a.m.	Art Group in KCC
	10.00 a.m.	Marron Valley Handbells in UVH
	7.00 p.m.	“Sing owt” Choir in UVH
Wednesday	10.30 a.m.	Dean Handbell Ringers in KCC
Thursday	7.30 p.m.	Oswald Singers in Dean School.
Friday	10.00 a.m.	Art Class in UVH

Need help in your neighbourhood?

EMERGENCIES - Dean Civil Parish Community Response Group Members

Dean		Pardshaw	
Tim Chittenden	01946 861089	Val Pallister	07803 138862
Clare Chittenden	01946 861089	Eaglesfield	
Sybil Worsley	01946 861580	David Clarkson	01900 827763
Branthwaite		Jenny White	01900 825994
Keith Thomas	01900 603073	Deanscales	
Ullock		Sarah Edwards	01900 821805
Margaret Trotter	01946 861458		

MEETING PLACES IN THE PARISH

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH

The Church is available for concerts and similar appropriate activities –
Please contact any Churchwarden (page 1) for details

DEAN SCHOOL SPORTS AND ARTS FACILITY

The facility is available for Private Hire, Sports and Arts activities.
We can provide Badminton and Table Tennis equipment and there are facilities
for a wide range of other activities.
Sessions are priced **from** £7/hr for the hall and £3.50/hr for the foyer.
To book please contact Norah in school hours on 01946 861408

KIRKSTILE COMMUNITY CENTRE, DEAN (KCC)

is available for parties, concerts, meetings etc.
Rates are £10 per hour for the whole premises, £5 per hour for the kitchen (small
meeting room).
For more details or to book please contact Sybil Worsley on 01946 861580

ULLOCK VILLAGE HALL (UVH)

is available for parties, concerts, meetings etc.
Rates are £7.50 per hour – For the whole hall
£4 per hour – For the small room (kitchen)
Commercial rates available. For bookings, please contact:
Margaret Trotter 01946 861458 or Jacqui Clarkson 07824 534708

DEAN PARISH NEWS is published monthly by St Oswald's Church
and **delivered free of charge to every home in the Parish.**

It is also on Facebook

It is funded by St Oswald's Church PCC, who gratefully receive contributions
from advertisers, a grant from DEAN PARISH COUNCIL
and donations from parishioners

Articles, notices etc for PARISH NEWS should be sent to the
Editor, Dean Parish News,
by e-mail to Kevin.DeanParishNews@gmail.com

**Articles for the October Parish News
should be submitted by 15th September.**

Advertising space is available

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