The Parish Magazine

for the Seatallan Benefice

Gosforth & Wasdale

Beckermet, Calderbridge & Seascale



December 2026 & January 2027

connecting our communities

£1

Seatallan Benefice Directory

Rector – Revd Philip Dorling
(philipdorling123@btinternet.com)
01946 725102 (m. 07500 239684)

Associate Priest:		
Revd Jonathan Falkner	falcon626@btinternet.com	01946 721852
Readers:		
Rosalind Amey		01946 820426
Sheila Falkner	falcon626@btinternet.com	01946 721852
David Rudd		
Churchwardens:		
Gosforth		
Norma Hughes	normahughes768@gmail.com	01946 725366
Ann McKenzie	annatfellside@yahoo.co.uk	01946 725700
Malcolm Richardson	malcolmrichardson@btinernet.com	01946 841560
Alister Harlow (Asst.)	ali@harlow.me.uk	07947 146631
Nether Wasdale		
Rachel Putnam	raquelhuge@gmail.com	01946 726362
Margie Simper		01946 726285
Wasdale Head	wasdalehead.church@gmail.com	01946 725725
Beckermet		
Ben Whiteley	benofyorkshire@gmail.com	01946 841591
Ben Strain	benstrain@btinternet.com	01946 841595
Calderbridge		
Annette Crayston		
Sarah Millard	blennerhazel@hotmail.com	01946 725365
Seascale		
Jim Geering	jim.sheila.geering@gmail.com	01946 727380
Peter Holburt	khumde6@hotmail.co.uk	07748 680290

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Seatallan Benefice Directory
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Safeguarding Officers:
Gosforth, Wasdale & Calderbridge – Steven & Susan Round
(safeguarding.gosforth.wasdale@gmail.com) 01946 841626
Beckermet - Julia Lee 01946 841603
Seascale - Mary Waterhouse waterhousea4@aol.com 01946 727641

Bookings for –
St Mary's Room, Gosforth - David & Jill Falkner 01946 725720
Old School, Nether Wasdale - Inigo Ford 01946 726013

Benefice Magazine:
Editor - Norma Hughes normahughes768@gmail.com 01946 725366
Advertising & Distribution – Michael & Karen Warmoth 01946 725640
mwarmoth17@yahoo.co.uk

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 11th October and the 7th November 20262026

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
- 28th Oct 2026 Wedding St Olaf's Hannah Platt and John Watterson
- 7th Nov 2026 Ashes St Olaf's Audrey Crossland
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The Glory of the Man from Heaven

Advent is here again…and soon it will be Christmas and then Epiphany. Personally, I can't really believe that we have reached this time of year once more! The long hot summer of 2026 seems so recent, but actually, since then, a lot has happened, hasn't it? The wars have continued, we have another new Prime Minister, the Republicans have lost both the Senate and the Congress in the USA… and, in other news, the spectre of AI seems to loom ever larger. Amidst all this, we are being asked to think about 'resilience in the home' in the event of unexpected weather and power outages which all arrived on queue. Thankfully, following all that, the Autumn of 2026 brought with it some truly golden and glorious days. In John Ch1 vs 14 it says… *'The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth'.*

'We have seen his glory' – that is what John wrote all those years ago. As I have watched the beech trees catch fire this Autumn, these five words have echoed with me: *'We have seen his glory'.* Imagine seeing the glory of Christ. In the Old Testament, the prophets spoke about what God was like…but when Jesus came down from heaven and was made man, people like his mother, Mary, and the Gospel writer John…actually saw him. They saw him and they knew that he was the radiance of God's glory. Later, when the disciples wanted to be quite sure about God, Philip said to Jesus, 'Show us the Father and that will be enough for us'…and Jesus replied, *'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father'*…and right there, as he communicated with them face to face, they knew that he was right. They saw 'the glory' with their eyes…and heard it with their ears.

These days, we communicate in so many effective ways. We email, we Whatsapp, we Facebook and Facetime…we Zoom and we Teams…we use Instagram and X. Some of us still use the telephone to speak to each other, and an even rarer breed write letters, which we still put in the post. But we all yearn to see the people we love face to face, because that is how real communication works. Sometimes, face to face, you don't even need words.

The radiance of God's glory came to us in person to communicate with us. Because of his communication, we know him as a baby…a boy…a teenager…and a young man; we know him as full of love and compassion. We know that he was lonely – and hated. We know that he

experienced pain, and agony…and even death. In the light of this communication with us, Luther wrote, *'He ate, drank, slept and walked: was weary, sorrowful and rejoicing; he wept and laughed: he knew hunger and thirst…and sweat: he talked, he worked, he prayed. There was no difference between him and other men – except that he was God…and had no sin'.* He was glorious.

Once again, as we move through the growing darkness of Advent this year, we yearn for the return of Christ's glory. At Christmas, we set up our cribs and yearn for the sight of Christ once more. We wonder how he will come again. In Epiphany, we recall the pilgrim kings paying homage to this glorious Jesus – revealed as prophet, priest and king – coming to us from the Father, full of grace and hope, in order to live among us and communicate face to face.

May God bless us all in the coming months, as we seek to communicate these things afresh to a generation who dwell in pitch darkness. This communication is both a serious and a glorious business!

May you know God's blessing this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Philip

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 3rd December when we will also have a raffle and enjoy mince pies and other Christmas treats, so do come along and join us.

Donations will go to The Children's Society, along with the money from the school Christingle Service at the end of term.

Our January coffee morning will be on Thursday 7th January.



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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 mostly 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

GOSFORTH CHURCH – Christmas Decorations & Flower Fund



This year we will be decorating the church for Christmas on Wednesday 16th December at 10am, ready for the start of the Christmas activities. 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 Christmas flowers 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, so donations to be Flower Fund are always most welcome.

Ann McKenzie – Tel: 25700

CHRISTMAS SERVICES and EVENTS in the SEATALLAN BENEFICE - 2026



BECKERMET

Friday 27th November at 6.00 pm – Carol Service in St John's Church with Egremont Town Band and switching on of the Christmas tree lights.

Wednesday 16th December - Two Rivers Rock Choir at 6.30pm – Carol Concert in St John's Church.

Christmas Day at 9.15 am - Christmas Communion

CALDER BRIDGE and PONSONBY

Saturday 5th December at 5.00 pm – Carol Service in Ponsonby Church

GOSFORTH

Friday 11th 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 20th 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 5.00 pm – Crib Service in Church.

Christmas Day at 10.00 am – Family Communion.

NETHER WASDALE

Saturday 19th December at 5.00 pm – Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies and a Tatie Pot at Galesyke at 6.00 pm

WASDALE HEAD

Wednesday 16th December at 6.00 pm: Carols in the Bar at Wasdale Head Inn.

***Christmas Day at 11am*:** Festival Morning Prayer.

SEASCALE

Sat 5th December from1pm – Christmas Tree Festival with refreshments and carol singing. Time 1pm. 'Everyone Here' Lightworks 5-7pm - start at St Cuthbert's.

Sunday 6th – Christmas Tree Festival from **2pm.** 'Everyone Here' Lightworks 5-7pm - start at St Cuthbert's.

Tuesday 15th at 7.30pm– West Lakes Music Centre Windband and Sethera Brass Christmas Concert in St Cuthbert's Church.

Christmas Eve at 3pm– Crib Service at St Cuthbert's.

Midnight Communion at 11.30pm - at St Cuthbert's.

Christmas Day at 10.30am – Morning Service in the Methodist Church Hall.

GOSFORTH PARISH CHURCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT December 2026

Members of St Mary's Management Committee have been busy with some maintenance work behind the scenes, which may go unnoticed, but for which we are all very thankful. At our next Boon Day, next spring, we are hoping to paint St Mary's Room.

In order to keep running costs down, our Sunday Services will continue in St Mary's Room, apart from the special Christmas Services. Please check out the information in the Parish magazine for more information about when and where our Services will be.

The piano that was in St Mary's Room had seen better days and has now been removed. The piano that was in the main Church is now in St Mary's Room and Amanda Keddie has donated a piano which is now currently in the main Church. We are very grateful for this very kind donation.

We can report the Little Goslings Toddler Group is continuing to provide a warm, welcoming and safe place for the children and their carers to meet under the leadership of Heather Mckenzie – Charalambous. The Group meet at 10am until 11.30am every Tuesday morning during school term time.

Susan Round (Clerk to Committee)

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Exciting Times Ahead for Shackles Off!

As we approach the end of 2026, we are delighted to share some exciting news about the progress of our new Shackles Off Youth and Community Centre at the former Games Room building at the Windscale Club site in Seascale. After many years of planning, fundraising and building work, our vision of creating a welcoming, modern and accessible space for young people and the wider community is finally becoming a reality! The building is now really taking shape, with the roof, windows and doors installed, and work progressing on the internal fit-out, including heating, electrics and the finishing touches that will turn the building into a fully functioning community facility.

We are aiming for the building work to be completed by the end of January. All being well, we hope to move into our wonderful new centre towards the end of January or early February 2027, with an official opening to follow.

2026 has also been another incredibly busy and successful year for Shackles Off. Our work now reaches across Seascale, Millom and Hensingham, delivering 11 weekly sessions and providing safe spaces, activities and support for young people, families and adults. Alongside our youth work, we provide numerous community activities as well. Many informal educational workshops have been delivered this year, helping young people develop confidence, life skills and achieve nationally recognised awards. We were also delighted to be recognised as Better Tomorrows Youth Project of the Year 2025/26, a wonderful acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of our team and the achievements of the young people we support.

The new centre will not only provide a permanent home for our youth and community work but will also offer opportunities for community activities, support groups and local services. It will be the new base for the Seascale and District British Legion and Gosforth & District First Responders. Currently it will be used for 6 days a week.

We are incredibly grateful to our funders, GDF Community Partnership, Sellafield Ltd and Copeland Community Fund, our volunteer new build project team and everyone who has supported us throughout this journey. We thank you all for your continued encouragement and support.

We look forward to welcoming you all into the new centre in 2027!

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

From everyone at Shackles Off Youth & Community Project

- Modern exhibitions
- Multi-sensory experience
- Family friendly
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- Boot village, Eskdale CA19 1TG
- **Get involved!**

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SEASCALE METHODIST NEWS

Wednesday Outreach
Members have been working on preparations for the Tea and Chat Christmas tree based on Cumbrian place names. Our grateful thanks to the team leading the project.
The December Tea and Chat will be on Wednesday 2nd December at 2pm.
In January we will meet for Tea and Chat on Wednesday 6th January at 2pm and a Friendship Lunch on Wednesday 20th January at 1pm.
We remember all the people who are no longer able to join us for meetings.
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 meetings, without you we would not be able to continue.
We extend our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everyone.

Tea Service
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 Tea Services, not to mention all the support they offer in other ways.

Carols and Cakes
We are all looking forward to our Carols and Cakes afternoon with Phoenix Praise on Wednesday 16th December at 2pm. We will have a Christmas raffle in the afternoon and this year we will be supporting The Whitehaven Dementia Choir.
We thank Phoenix Praise for including us in their busy Christmas schedule.

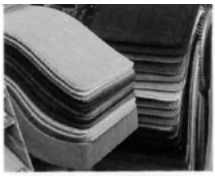
Jackie Folkes

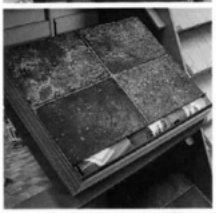
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT NETHER WASDALE

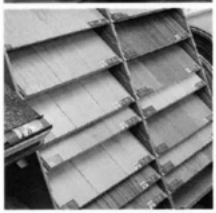
These will commence with a **Christmas Tea** on Tuesday 1st December in the Old School at 3.00 pm. Everyone is very welcome to come and join us for this and donations will go towards future events in the village. There will not be an organised event in January.

The **Christmas Carol** service will take place in Nether Wasdale church on Saturday 19th December at 5pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Old School. Everyone is then invited to Galesyke (home of Christine and Lucy McKinley) for a Tatie Pot supper.

Christine McKinley







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NEWS FROM CALDERBRIDGE AND PONSONBY

Carol Service at Ponsonby Church
Saturday 5th December at 5pm
Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

If you haven't been to the Carol Service before at Ponsonby, come along and join us. Candle light and traditional carols are just what is needed to get us in the Christmas Spirit. Do wrap up warm and bring along a torch.

Services for December and January
All to be held in Calderbridge Village Hall

20th Dec	9.30am	Holy Communion
3rd Jan	9.30am	Morning Prayer
17th Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion
31st Jan	**10.30am**	**Holy Communion - Benefice Service**

Eleanor Glaister

SEASCALE NEWS FROM ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

Christmas Tree Festival at St Cuthbert's, Seascale
Twenty trees - decorated on the theme "Cumbria"!

Saturday 5th December - 1pm
To open the festival, Phoenix Praise will lead carols followed by music from Penny and Albert.
At 5pm Light Works will begin with music developed at the workshops held recently and the opportunity for everyone to join in! A dance performance and lantern procession to the light installations outside are planned to follow.
These events run until 7pm.

Sunday 6th December - 2pm
The Tree Festival will be open throughout the afternoon.
At 5pm Light Works will run again as on Saturday

Refreshments will be available in church.
Donations are invited in support of Action for Children and The Children's Society.

Mary Waterhouse
Waterhousemc6@gmail.com

BECKERMET COMMUNITY NEWS

With November behind us we are therefore heading fast towards that magical time of the year, Christmas. It is a very special time but, unfortunately, too many forget what Christmas is truly about. The giving and receiving of gifts are lovely, but the true meaning of Christmas is all too often forgotten today. It has become so commercialised that we forget why we celebrate this special day in December. Christmas should be first and foremost 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 also important at this special time of the year to remember that there are a great many people who need help and support, so if you are able remember to give something to your local foodbank (boxes in the church & Reading Rooms) or possibly a gift to a charity who will support those in greatest need, many having to live on the streets through being homeless. Although this message may be a little early, can I wish one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2027.

Britain in Bloom (Congratulations: - **Silver Gilt Award)**
The long wait is over for the outcome of all the efforts put in by Claire and her hard-working band of volunteers - I am pleased to announce that Beckermet, having been chosen to represent Cumbria in Britain-in-Bloom, didn't let themselves or Cumbria down by gaining the **Silver Gilt Award** from the judges at the presentation in Rochdale. This was on top of the **Gold Award & Best Kept Village Trophy in Cumbria Awards** achieved just a few weeks earlier. A great achievement by all involved and something that they and all members of our small village should be extremely proud of.

Beckermet Village 50/50 Lottery (draw on **1st Tuesday** of each month)
Now in its fourth year our village lottery continues to be well supported with 175 entries this year. For a one-off annual subscription of **£25** each entry has a chance of winning one of six monthly prizes on offer: - **£50, £30, £20, £10, £10 & £10** while on

at least four months there are two lots of each of the monthly prizes. Over the year a minimum of **£2,080** will be paid out in prize money and the same amount awarded to individuals and village groups to assist them achieve their goals. The next draws take place on **Tues 1st Dec, 5th Jan & 2nd Feb** at around 10am in the Reading Rooms. Anyone is able to join in at any time of the year at a pro-rata rate of the annual subscription of £25 for the year. If, you are interested in joining this local fundraising activity then please contact me using the details at the end of this article. All winners are notified after each draw and a list of monthly winners are posted on Facebook & in the village.

Two Rivers Rock Village Choir

Our local village choir will be performing at two events in December this year. The first will be following the traditional switch on of the lights after the service with Egremont Town Band in St John's Church on **Fri 27th Nov** when they will be joining in singing carols around the tree in the village park following their switch on. The second performance will be in St John's Church on **Wed 16th Dec** at **6.30pm** when all are welcome to come & listen. There is no charge but donations will be split equally between the St John's & the Reading Rooms.

St John's Services.

Our regular church services take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at St Johns Church in the village, starting at **9.15am** followed usually by refreshments in the church after the service. It has been a pleasure to attend recently as the new under pew heating system works a treat keeping you warm during the service. On **Fri 27th Nov** the annual switch-on of the village lights will take place following the service in church accompanied by Egremont Town Band. At the end of the service we will all move down to the village park for the switch on of the Christmas tree lights with carols sung by our own village choir, Two Rivers Rock. On **Wed 16th Dec** Two Rivers Rock will be performing carols and songs in the church for all to attend. Please come along to these excellent village events.

St John's Soup Lunches
The October soup lunch was extremely popular with over forty people attending. The last one for this year was held on Wed 18th Nov. As per previous years the volunteers who work so hard putting on these lunches will be having a well-earned rest as there will be no soup lunches in December or January. The next opportunity to enjoy a delicious bowl will be on **Feb 17th** and then again on **Mar 17th** at the usual time of **12-1.30pm.** They are excellent value at **£6 per head** which includes a bowl of soup or two even, home-made cakes plus copious tea/coffee. If you have not had the opportunity to come to one of these then why not add these two dates to your 2027 diary. A great way to meet up with friends & even make new ones so why not come along and see for yourself. **Remember there will be no soup lunches in December & January.**

Coffee Cake & Chat (supported by the GDF**)**
Our sessions continue throughout the year on **Tuesdays** from **9.30-11.30** and on **Thursday** from **1.30-3.30**. Refreshments are free of charge but if you would like to leave a donation that would be gratefully received. If you haven't attended before then why not come along and enjoy a cuppa, biscuits & cakes and meet up with others to have a good old blether, natter or catch up with others in our community. Please note we will be changing our usual Thursday sessions on 24th and 31st to **Wednesday 23rd & 30th** either am or pm. Please check nearer the time as to whether they are in the morning or afternoon.

Reading Rooms
This is a great facility for our village run by a small group of directors who are all volunteers who in turn are supported by other volunteers helping in numerous ways to keep these activities on for the rest of the village. Due to their efforts, we have a thriving community centre at the heart of our village where a great variety of regular and one-off events take place. If, you feel that you could help in any way then contact me and I will pass on your details. If you haven't attended anything yet then why not come along and see for yourself the lovely facility on offer. The rooms can be hired out for regular activities or for a one-off event.

Quiz Nights: - (4th Dec, 15th Jan & 5th Feb**) Bingo Nights: - (**20th Nov, 11th Dec, 22nd Jan & 26th Feb**)**
All these events are on Fridays from 6.30-8.30pm when everyone is welcome to come along and join in, no matter where you live. If you haven't been before, then why not come along and sample one of these sessions as we always like to meet new members and hopefully you will enjoy it enough to want to come back again.

Open Mic Nights (usually 2nd Wed each month 7-10pm. Free entry. Bar available for refreshments)
The monthly Open Mic Nights organised by Justin continue to be very popular and well attended. The next two evenings are on the **9th Dec & 13th Jan**. Please keep an eye out on the Facebook pages for these events.

Upcoming Village Events in the Reading Rooms:
Youth Club: - Monday & Thursday evenings 6-8pm
Yoga: - Sunday mornings from **10-11.30**
Two Rivers Rock: - Wednesday Evenings in the Reading Rooms.
Christmas Fayre Café & Stalls: - Saturday **Nov 28th** 10am-4.30pm
Entertainment Nights: -Saturdays: -**Dec 19th** Christmas with Cath & Emma
Christmas Lights Service in St John's switch on: - **Fri 27thNov** with Carols around the village tree
Two Rivers Rock Choir: - Performing in St John's Church **Wed 16th Dec 6.30** (All Welcome)
For further Information about these events and others in Beckermet please check either the: -
Beckermet Reading Room or **Beckermet Village Facebookpages** for details.

John Mackay
john.mackay52@btinternet.com 01946 841429 07912859480

BECKERMET SCHOOL NEWS

We can't believe how quickly this term is going as we race towards Christmas!!
Our **Year 5 & 6** children had a very successful **World War 2 Residential** at the end of October. They were evacuated to the old train station at Keswick and met by the home guard!! After some drill practice we were marched down to the lake where we got the launch across to Hawse End. ID cards and ration books were issued, followed by bed making!! The rest of our time was spent doing code breaking, semaphore messaging, air raid shelter building, search and rescue, a mock air raid and to finish, a Victory Day tea!!
All the children took part in a very respectful **Remembrance Day Service** with all classes contributing some lovely prayers of hope.
The whole school also enjoyed a day of **wheelchair basketball** where excitement and laughter filled the air! We are now very busy with the run up to Christmas and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas with their families.

Susan Alderson – Senior Teacher



West Lakes
WINDBAND
together with
Sethera brass



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Free Admission
Venue: St. Cuthbert's Church, Seascale
DATE: TUESDAY 15th 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: cumbriamusichub.com/west-lakes-music-centre
Facebook: facebook.com/west.lakes.windband

WEST LAKELAND ROTARY CLUB

There are several items we hope are of interest in this month's bulletin:

Back in September Rotarian Sandie was pleased to report completion of the final stretch of the footpath from Holmrook through to, and beyond, Irton Hall (approx 2 miles). This has involved resurfacing of several overgrown areas in Haggs Wood and the provision of two useful information boards along the route. We encourage the public to explore this path and enjoy the delightful scenery along the way. The whole project has been made possible through generous funding from the GDF, the Copeland Community Fund and two additional strategic grants from the Geoffrey Blake Architectural Fund, and the Jeffrey Blake Fund.

More recently, Vice-President Nigel has put in considerable effort to set up a special evening on Saturday 5 December at Rosehill Theatre entitled 'The Five Treasures of the Snows' an evening of film and chat by renowned mountaineer John Porter close friend of Sir Chris Bonington. The film recounts the story of the first ascent of Kangchenjunga the world's 3rd highest mountain in 1955, with quips and commentary by John. A traditional wooden-shafted ice axe autographed by Sir Chris will be auctioned. Tickets are £10 either on-line or in person at the Rosehill box office. All proceeds from the evening will go to the Nepal Disaster Relief fund.

The Club has also heard from several excellent speakers in the last 3 months:

18 August: Mining in Eskdale by Peter Van Zella
25 August: Fair Trade coffee and climate change
1 September: Sheep farming by Bill Rawlins
8 September: Naomi Anderson from the Whitehaven Harbour Youth project
22 September: Community Conservation – Lizzy Benn
29 September: '0ne Irish Sea' – Toryn MacDonald Cumbria Wildlife Trust
6 October: Bahrain Animal Rescue Centre
20 October: Cycling around the world (yes, he did!) Ian Finlay
3 November: Restoring Hardknott Forest – John Hodgson
10 November: Alan Vicars Muncaster Head Archaeological dig
17 November: Local wildlife photography (brilliant photos!) Stephen Leece

Finally, we look forward to hearing our 'Christmas Message' on 15 December. This year given by West Cumberland Hospital chaplain Yvonne Myers.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Malcolm Richardson

GOSFORTH SCHOOL NEWS

In the last few weeks, the children have enjoyed taking part in **Wear It Pink Day and Children in Need**, dressing in non-uniform to show their support for these important causes. Through their participation, they have helped raise awareness and demonstrated the importance of compassion and thinking of others in our wider community.
We had an **Open Afternoon** for parents who have children starting school in September 2027. This gave them the opportunity to have a look at our school and ask any questions they may have.
We held our annual **Remembrance Service** in the church with the theme of Small Acts, Great Peace. We used the story of the 1914 Christmas Truce as a central element, highlighting how small acts of humanity and kindness can bring people together, even in the midst of conflict. The key message to the children was we cannot change the past, but we can all help to build a more peaceful future through the choices we make and the kindness we show to others.

Crummock and Ennerdale travelled to Whitehaven for a workshop at **The Beacon** and an interactive session at Levels to enrich their History topic this half term which is **Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?**
Crummock and Wastwater are currently receiving weekly **ukulele lessons** and are preparing a piece to perform at the **Music Concert** at the end of the term. **Ennerdale** are receiving **clarinet lesson**s weekly from Music Services. Although quite challenging, they are enjoying the sessions.
Year 3 and 4 spent a morning with Natalie from **Little Lifers First Aid**, where they learned essential lifesaving skills, including how to respond in an emergency, treat injuries and seek help. The practical activities helped to build their confidence and understanding of how they can help others and potentially save a life.

FOGS continue to work hard to raise funds for school. At the last meeting they agreed to fund the cost of coaches for the children to enjoy **Christmas trips** out - the younger children to Planet Play in Workington and the older children to The Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. They have a **Festive Fused Glass** workshop planned for Wednesday 25th November priced at £35. To book a place please email

The annual **Candlelit Concert** will take place at **St Mary's Church** on Friday 11th December at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased on the door. All welcome.

Mrs S Layzell
Assistant Headteacher

NEWS FROM GADS – GOSFORTH AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

From the ongoing work at the Hall, you will have realised that we are going yet another year without a pantomime in January. However, we are continuing to hold Workshops and Play Readings to keep our members engaged. We are also excited to be planning our calendar of events for when the Hall opens next summer.

Our Workshops continue each month. On Tuesday 1 December, it's a "Diction and Projection" Workshop led by Alison Fligg. This will be held from 7pm in St Mary's Room and is open to those aged 12 and over. This one is for you if you want to be heard and understood when on stage - and what's the point otherwise? After that, we have more workshops planned for Thu 4 Feb, Mon 8 Mar and Wed 7 Apr, topics to be determined. Your first workshop is free to attend, but after that we simply ask that you join us as a member or patron for insurance purposes.

Our play readings "Plays for Pleasure" also continue monthly from 7:30 pm in the Kellbank function room. We have readings planned for Tue 15 Dec, Mon 18 Jan, Mon 15 Feb and Wed 24 Mar. These are free to attend and all are welcome.

In the New Year, we are working hard to bring back our Youth Theatre Group, but we may have to change things a bit to do so – a new location, perhaps on another day and maybe even a slightly shorter term. Past members will receive an invitation when we firm things up and potential new members can find out more by contacting us using the details below.

If all goes well, we will be able to hold our Summer Youth Workshop in August 2027 at the Hall. If not, we will no doubt find an alternative venue so as not to disappoint our younger members. After that, our first production won't be too ambitious while we find our feet in our new home. It will be an intruiging play called "Doomgate" by Hannah Sowerby, Jamie McLeish and Lynne Patrick. Hannah is an award winning Cumbrian writer, performer and comedian who is currently based in Newcastle. Their dark comedy "Doomgate" was reviewed by NARC magazine as "a real treat for any dark comedy lovers". And then it's time for the long awaited big comeback show – the pantomime in January 2028. We are planning for this one to be as good as they get – and regulars will know what that means. We even have plans for beyond that, but let's save some surprises for another day.

To find out more, follow us on Facebook (gads1948), Instagram (gads-gosforth), the Website (gads.org.uk) or by emailing gads_gosforth@gmail.com. Best of all, why not join our mailing list? You won't get bombarded, but you will be the first to find out what's happening. There is a link to sign up on the website home page.

Christmas Tree Festival

St Cuthbert's Seascale
Sat 5th December 1pm-5pm
1pm Carols with Phoenix Praise
Sun 6th 1pm-5pm

Donations invited for the Children's Society and Action for Children

Light Works event
5pm-7pm

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING
and
CAROL SERVICE IN GOSFORTH

Sunday 20th 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!



NEWS FROM GOSFORTH PARISH COUNCIL

The Gosforth Parish Council last met on 14/10/26. You can find a complete set of minutes on the noticeboard at the entrance to the village car park and on the website gosforthpc.org.uk. The following is a summary of three key issues the Parish council are concerned with:

Commanders Lonning is on land owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and is a popular walk for Gosforth residents from Fleming Hall to New Mill. Recently, lane closed signs have been erected. It has been confirmed the closure is temporary. The Parish Council will write to the NDA and request planned dates for the re-opening and request the reasons for the temporary closure.

Village Shop - The Clerk had written to the Chief Executive and Leader of Cumberland Council regarding the Village Shop and the following is an extract from their response dated 24th September 2026: 'the Council has been in regular contact with Ipsum Capital, BEC and Josh MacAlister to ensure we understand any plans for redeveloping the site. These are now progressing with Ipsum Capital and early design ideas and costs are being refined. Once these plans are more clearly defined, we expect Ipsum Capital will be interested in engaging with the Parish Council and community on the ideas they are working on.' ….'We expect Ipsum Capital will be ready to share their plans within the next 6-8 weeks'.

Village Car Parking – A document was discussed which sets out the village parking problem - that it is often full beyond capacity. The problem has arisen since the Sellafield 'park and ride' service began. The situation is likely to get worse once the Public Hall re-opens fully and the village shop is reinstated. Cllrs. agreed to put forward all the proposed options and to start communications with Sellafield with the plan to seek improvements.

Jackie Atkinson

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.

J J HRYB

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Thursday: 9am & 10:30am

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Kelly: 07817 263 801

West Lakes U3A - December 2026

https://west-lakes.u3asite.uk/events/

Date	Group	Contact
Mon 7th December	**Cycling:** Gosforth Public Hall at 10 am	John ☎ 019467 25831
Mon 7th / 14th / 21st December	**Tai Chi** Calderbridge Village Hall; 11.30 am	Michael westlakesU3A@gmail.com
Wednesday 2nd December	**History:** Winter Safety Drigg Village Hall; cost £2; 10.30 am	Vera ☎ 019467 25213 **(incl sherry & mince pies!)**
Weds 2nd / 9th / 16th December	**French Conversation** Kellbank, Gosforth; cost £4; 10.15 am	James ☎ 07931 996742 **This group is currently full**
Weds 2nd / 16th Dec **No class on 9th Dec**	**Chair Based Exercises** Calderbridge Village Hall; 11.30 am	John ☎ 019467 25831
Weds 2nd / 9th Dec **No bowls 16th Dec**	**Indoor Bowls** St Mary St Michael's Church Hall; £4; 2pm	John ☎ 019467 25831
Tuesday 1st December	**Discussion of Current Affairs** Kellbank; coffee £4 (optional); 10.45 am	Bridget ☎ 07594 167575
Thurs 3rd / 17th Dec **No class 10th Dec**	**Eskdale Exercise Class** Eskdale Village Hall; 10.30 am – 11.30 am	Sherill ☎ 07484 384640
Fri 4th / 11th / 18th December	**Folk Dancing** Calderbridge Village Hall ; 2 pm – 4 pm	Vera ☎ 019467 25213
No meeting in Dec	**Photography**	Nigel ☎ 07774 673461
Monday 14th December	**Walking for strollers** 2 mile stroll from 2 pm; **No dogs**	Valerie ☎ 07796 527876
No meeting in Dec	**Art Appreciation**	Margaret
Friday 11th December	**Intermediate Recorders** Santon Village Hall; 10 am – 12 noon	Marilyn ☎ 07817 499849 smithybrow@icloud.com
Tuesday 15th December	**Family History Group** Santon Village Hall; cost £2; 10 am	Hilary **Bring laptop / device** westlakesu3afhg@gmail.com
Thurs 3rd – 10 am Weds 16th – 2 pm	**Treble recorders** Santon Village Hall Supper Room	Marilyn ☎ 07817 499849 smithybrow@icloud.com
Thursday 10th December	**Advanced Recorders** Santon Village Hall Supper Room; 2 pm	Marilyn ☎ 07817 499849 smithybrow@icloud.com
Thursday 17th December	**Open Mind**: Christmas party with the Village Voices Choir C'bridge Village Hall; cost £4; 10.30 am **Chatty Lunch:** to follow Open Mind	Alan **Pre-booking essential** Vera ☎ 019467 25213
No meeting in Dec	**Reading**	Norma ☎ 019467 25366
No meeting in Dec	**Discovery**	Ben ☎ 019467 24791
Thurs 3rd December Seascale 9.15 am Gosforth 9.30 am	**Out and About** Wine tasting and lunch Woolpack Inn, Boot; cost £40	Vera ☎ 019467 25213 **Pre-booking essential**

Queries regarding **Events** should be sent to: westlakesu3a@gmail.com or see the website

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GOSFORTH WI

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2nd December in St Mary's Room from 1pm. This month sees us hold our annual Christmas party with entertainment from Northwest Harps and a 'bring and share' tea.

Members - our competition this month is "A table decoration" and if you wish to take part in our Secret Santa, please bring a wrapped gift to the value of £6.

Our January meeting will be held in St Mary's Room at 2pm on Tuesday 5th January when we will be having a relaxed meeting with post-Christmas and New Year nibbles and play some board games.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our members for a very entertaining year and we look forward to welcoming 2027 and all it has to offer.

GOSFORTH LIBRARY OFFICIAL OPENING

The official open day went well and more visitors than expected had a good look around the refurbished Library, Meeting Room and Supper Room, all making positive comments on the warmer and brighter atmosphere of the new rooms. (All of which are now ready for hire.)
Refreshments, organised by the library volunteers, were plentiful and many visitors stayed to make the most of them.
The ribbon cutting was held at 4pm at the front door and was displayed on social media and this week's Whitehaven News.
The Library now has new opening days as follows:

Saturday 10-12am; Tuesday 10-12am; Thursday 2-4pm.

John Reed





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GOSFORTH PUBLIC HALL (GPH) REFURBISHMENT

We were delighted to host the visit of our MP, Josh McAlister, 2 days after the official opening of the 1628 part of the Pubic Hall building (Josh wasn't available to attend the official opening). This is the second time he has visited our refurbishment project and he had a good memory of what was discussed on his first visit. He toured the Library, new meeting room and supper room and posted his support on our Gosforth & Seascale Matters Facebook page. The extension to the main Hall is progressing to plan and we are now discussing the detailed design of the new kitchen. A big thank you to everyone for your continued support during the final phase of the refurbishment of our great community asset.

Karen Russ - Chair, GPH Management Committee

HOLMROOK READING ROOM

NEXT EVENT
Buffet, Mince Pie and Wine Christmas celebration
Saturday 12th December

Members: £7.50, Non-Members £8.50, U/12 £5
All welcome - Ring 07931-393954 to book

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 2027 are due now
£9 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.

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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:

Saturday 12th December	Workington, including Derwent Howe shops	£9.00
Friday 18th December	Egremont Farmers Market	£3 donation
Saturday, 23rd January	Carlisle	£11.50
Friday, 15th January	Egremont Farmers Market	£3 donation
Saturday, 6th February	Keswick	£9.50
Friday, 19th February	Egremont Farmers Market	£3 donation
Saturday, 20th February	Penrith	£11.00

RING 01229-717229 TO BOOK ON ANY OF THESE TRIPS OR TO FIND OUT MORE

SAINTS FOR DECEMBER and JANUARY



Thomas Becket

In the days after Christmas the Church of England remembers two Archbishops of Canterbury, who suffered violent deaths. On the 29th of December **Thomas Becket** is remembered as a martyr, as he was murdered, it is said, by knights who thought they were following the wishes of King Henry II. He died in 1170, whereas the next death took place in 1645, when **William Laud** was beheaded on Tower Hill. He is remembered on the 10th of January and he was executed for religious reasons during the Civil War, unlike Thomas, whose death was caused by what we would call today political reasons.



William Laud

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, ESPECIALLY AROUND CHRISTMAS

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

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

SUNDAY EVENINGS

1st and 3rd Sunday of Month: St Mary's Room, Gosforth

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

3rd 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 Seascale Methodist Church and its Gosforth Methodist congregation, and as such are safeguarded by their safeguarding processes.*

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

4th 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 jillfhudson@hotmail.co.uk and for a Zoom invitation email khudson@freenetname.co.uk or ring 01946 721592 or visit www.phoenixpraise.org.uk. *These services are services of Seascale 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:aitchpateman@gmail.com

SEATALLAN BENEFICE SERVICES - JANUARY 2027

	Church	Service	Time
1st Sunday			
3rd January	Nether Wasdale	Holy Communion	9.30
Epiphany	Calder Bridge Village Hall	Morning Prayer	9.30
Gold	Seascale St Cuthbert's	Holy Communion	11.00
Proper	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Morning Praise	11.00
	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Methodist Evening Worship	6.30
2nd Sunday			
10th January	Beckermet	Holy Communion	9.15
Epiphany 1	Seascale Methodist Church	Methodist Morning Worship	10.30
Gold	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Holy Communion	11.00
Baptism of Christ	Wasdale Head	Morning Worship	11.00
	Seascale – various venues	Faith and Fellowship	6.45 for 7.00
3rd Sunday			
17th January	Calder Bridge Village Hall	Holy Communion	9.30
Epiphany 2	Seascale St Cuthbert's	Holy Communion	11.00
Gold	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Morning Worship	11.00
Proper	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Methodist All-age Worship	6.30
4th Sunday			
24th January	Beckermet	Holy Communion	9.15
Epiphany 3	Seascale Methodist Church	Methodist Morning Worship	10.30
Gold	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Holy Communion	11.00
Proper	Wasdale Head	Holy Communion	2.00
	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Phoenix Praise Evening Worship	7.00
5th Sunday			
31st January	Calder Bridge Village Hall	Benefice Holy Communion	10.30
Epiphany 4			
Gold			
Candlemas			
Every Sunday	Seascale St Joseph's RC Church	Mass	9.00



SEATALLAN BENEFICE SERVICES - DECEMBER 2026

	Church	Service	Time
1st Sunday			
6th Dec	Nether Wasdale	Holy Communion	9.30
Advent 2	Calder Bridge Village Hall	Morning Prayer	9.30
Purple	Seascale St Cuthbert's	Holy Communion	11.00
Proper	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Morning Praise	11.00
	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Methodist Evening Worship	6.30
2nd Sunday			
13th December	Beckermet	Holy Communion	9.15
Advent 3	Seascale Methodist Church	Methodist Morning Worship	10.30
Purple	Gosforth St Mary's Room	Holy Communion	11.00
Proper	Wasdale Head	Morning Worship	11.00
	Seascale	Faith & Fellowship	7.00
3rd Sunday			
20th December	Calder Bridge Village Hall	Holy Communion	9.30
Advent 4	Seascale St Cuthbert's	Holy Communion	11.00
Purple	Gosforth St Mary's	Village Carol Singing and Service	6.30/7.00
Proper			
24th December			
Christmas Eve			
PURPLE	Seascale St Cuthbert's	Crib Service	3.00
Proper	Gosforth St Mary's	Crib Service	5.00
	Seascale St Cuthbert's	Midnight Holy Communion	11.30pm
Christmas Day			
25th December	Beckermet	Christmas Communion	9.15
GOLD	Gosforth	Family Communion	10.00
Proper	Seascale Methodist Church	Christmas Morning Worship	10.00
	Wasdale Head	Festival Morning Prayer	11.00
4th Sunday			
27th December	Gosforth St Mary's	Benefice Holy Communion	10.30
Christmas 1			
Gold			
Proper			
Every Sunday	Seascale St Joseph;s RC Church	Mass	9.00



Cover Picture: Designed for 'Embrace' (a Christian charity working in the Middle East) by a student of the Arken Centre in Egypt.