

Grasmere and Rydal Parish Magazine



February & March
2026

MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Editorial Policy

Grasmere Parish Magazine is produced bi-monthly by St. Oswald's PCC and is sponsored by Wordsworth Grasmere. The names of the authors appear by each item and the views expressed are those of the authors alone. The Magazine is produced by St Oswald's PCC on behalf of the community. The Editors and PCC reserve the right to use their discretion in finalising the content. Our policy and copyright notices are available at: www.oswaldparish.news

Copy Date

Copy date for the **April - May 2026** magazine is **18th March**. Please email copy to editor@oswaldparish.news

Submissions should be in Word, using *Calibri font* 11pt on A5. Past editions are available on our website: www.oswaldparish.news

Advertising in the Magazine

To advertise in the magazine please contact the Editors:

Ann and David Jackman - editor@oswaldparish.news

Apologies in advance for any errors or omissions.

From The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

A very happy New Year to you all. As the year opens before us, with all its promise and uncertainty, I find myself drawn back to the quiet wisdom of the psalmist: *“Be still, and know that I am God.”* These are unhurried words. They invite us to slow our pace, to breathe more deeply, and to notice the presence that so often waits beneath the surface of our days.

At the turning of a year there can be a subtle pressure to move quickly—to plan, to resolve, to improve. Yet the Christian tradition, and especially the Celtic saints who learned faith amid rugged landscapes and patient silence, points us in another direction. They recognised that holiness often begins with stopping. Stillness, for them, carried depth rather than lack: a posture of attentiveness in which God could be met, and the heart gently gathered.

Without spaces of quiet, our lives can become crowded with activity while our souls remain unattended. Silence, is where we allow God to love us as we truly are, rather than as we appear to others or strive to become. It is in silence that we discover our limits, our longings, and the steady faithfulness of God who meets us there.

St Oswald’s church has long offered that kind of space. Rooted in this valley and shaped by weather, prayer, and time, it has served generations as a place where people come simply to rest before God. Over the past year alone, around 1,900 written prayer requests were entrusted to this church during 2025. Each one holds a life, a hope, a grief, or a thanksgiving quietly placed into God’s care. Together they speak of trust, and of a deep human longing to bring what feels heavy into a place of shelter.

As we step into this new year together, my hope is that St Oswald’s will continue to be a place where you feel free to pause. There is no requirement for polished words or settled certainty. You may arrive exactly as you are. Sit for a while. Listen. Allow the stillness to do its gentle work, trusting that God is already present and already attentive.

May this be a year in which we rediscover the quiet grace of being still, and within that stillness come to know again that we are known, held, and deeply loved. With every blessing for the year ahead. *Lawrence*

Lent Course

This Lent you are warmly invited to join a friendly and reflective Lent Course at **Rydal Hall**, meeting on **Mondays at 11.00am**.

The course follows the Church of England's Lent theme for 2026, ***Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent***, inspired by the words: *"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you"* (James 4.8).

Together we will explore simple, life-giving rhythms of Christian discipleship, with each week focusing on a different aspect of the Christian way – worship, prayer, reading the Bible, sharing communion, service, and sharing our faith. The sessions are relaxed and welcoming, and no prior experience is needed.

Dates:

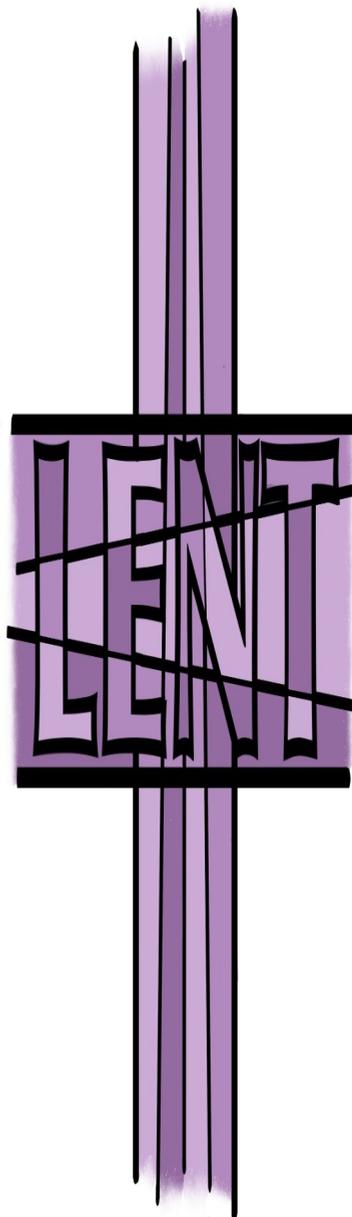
Monday 22 Feb, 2 Mar, 9 Mar, 16 Mar, 23 Mar, 30 Mar

Time: 11.00am

Place: Rydal Hall

Refreshments will be available.

All are very welcome – do come along for as many sessions as you are able.



Sacred Encounters at Rydal Hall

Sacred Encounters are welcoming, monthly outdoor gatherings that explore the wonder, beauty and awe of nature through a Christian lens. Each month focuses on a simple theme (for example, hope, forgiveness, new life or light). We begin and end with a short blessing, share food around a small campfire, and take time for gentle conversation. There's also a simple symbolic practice in the nearby fells and woods to help us connect with God, each other, and the created world. The pace is unhurried, the tone reflective, and the paths are generally easy. Next Gathering: 1:00pm, Saturday 15th February 2026, meeting outside the café at Rydal Hall. We aim to finish by 4pm or perhaps a bit later as the days lengthen. And then every 2nd Saturday of the month. Bring: waterproof jacket and trousers, warm layers, hat and gloves, sturdy footwear, a small item of food to share.



If you value quiet space, community, and the outdoors, Sacred Encounters offers a simple rhythm to soak, gather, and to notice God's presence in everyday life. You are welcome wherever you are in your faith journey, or simply enjoy nature.



Last month on the 10th January we walked to Rydal Water and explored what we each thought about the new beginnings and how the landscape spoke to each of us. It was lovely gentle time to encounter nature and connect with old friends and new. For more information please see: info@beyondtheview.org.uk <https://www.facebook.com/p/Beyond-The-View-61554766114665/> <https://beyondtheview.org.uk/.../sacred-encounter...>

Music Notes

January has traditionally been a time for looking both backwards and forwards, and it would be wrong to leave it behind without thanking all those who contributed to the musical celebration of Christmas, without singling out anyone in particular.

Going forward, musical plans are still mainly on the drawing board, but we can look forward to two performances of Handel's greatest oratorio, Messiah, towards the end of March.

On Sunday 22nd March at 3.00 p.m. in St Oswald's Church there will be a performance given by the Levens Choir conducted by Gawain Glenton. Further details of this will be available in due course.

The following Saturday, 28th March at 7.30 p.m., Keswick Choral Society will perform Messiah in St John's Church, Keswick, with professional soloists, two trumpets and organ. There are some brochures about this society at the back of Grasmere church.

Coffee and Chat

10.00am to 12.30pm

Every Wednesday

Come and join us

in the Village Hall

EVERYONE WELCOME



Grasmere Fellowship

Our final talks for this season are as follows:

February 5th Dame Sue Ion: *Title not available at going to press*

Sue was the former director of engineering at British Nuclear Fuels and an expert on all matters concerning energy. She is an outstanding speaker.

February 19th David Felton: *Cumbria 1000 Years of Maps*

David is the publisher of William Shannon's beautiful book of the above title. William cannot be with us but David will talk about the book but requests we don't ask any technical questions about mapping!

March 5th Brian Topping: *Tales of a Customs Officer*

Brian is a retired customs officer and will recount some of his more interesting or amusing events in his long career.

March 19th: In addition to the ever popular **AGM**, **Eileen Jones** will talk about her book *Loughrigg – Tales of a Small Mountain*. Eileen is a local author who has also publishes about Parkrun. We spend our days looking at Loughrigg so come and have a closer encounter.

All meetings start at 2.30pm.

We could do with a few more members to enable us to produce an interesting season so come and give us a go. Promise you will not have to sing Jerusalem or anything else for that matter!

Membership fee is now £15. Guests are always welcome - £5 a meeting - so it is still cheaper to join. Tea and cakes are included, as ever..

David Dodgson

Rydal Church Events

Sunday Holy Communion services 9.30am in Rydal Hall chapel every week. All welcome

Sunday Taizé services 1st Sunday of the month at 7.00pm in Rydal Hall chapel on 1st February, 1st March and 5th April All welcome
Ash Wednesday Service in Rydal Hall 18th February at 9am
For information about Rydal Hall please see the website www.rydalahall.org

Quiet days can be found under the events section of the Hall website and there are Retreats especially for Holy Week and Easter led by our vicar, Lawrence Basham

Sacred encounters takes place every 2nd Saturday of every month - see page 6. Please meet at 1.00pm beside Rydal hall cafe All welcome

Grasmere and Rydal Parish events

Parish Meal Sunday 22nd March 12.30 in Grasmere village hall . All are very welcome. We only ask for a donation towards the cost of food and any surplus is split between the church and the food bank. More details in magazine page 30

Ruth Yates PCC Member

Rota for Sidespersons

1st Feb	TREVOR & HELEN EASTES
8th Feb	DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON
15th Feb	SONIA RICKMAN & PAT TAYLOR
22nd Feb	DAVID & ANN JACKMAN
1st Mar	GERRY & ANNE RAWCLIFFE
8th Mar	DON PERRITT & DAVID DODGSON
15th Mar	SONIA RICKMAN & PAT TAYLOR
22nd Mar	TREVOR & HELEN EASTES
29th Mar	DAVID & ANN JACKMAN

Grasmere School News



GRASMERE SCHOOL

During our 400th Celebrations I made a speech which referred to a golden age of primary education.

Here is an example of the competence of children today. This poem was written this morning, during a forty -minute lesson. Children were writing in response to a film clip of a lighthouse. The vocabulary choices and use of figurative language show a lovely deftness with language. Four hundred years ago the vast majority of children were illiterate. Nowadays every child is taught to use language precisely and powerfully. Sometimes it's worth enjoying what's going right in the world, so here's a lovely bit of incidental writing:

The Lighthouse by Year 5

The milky, mysterious moon smiles in the darkness,

Below, the sea: raging, crashing and thrashing, harassing the whalelike rocks,

Worn, weather-beaten houses huddle together in the village like penguins seeking warmth,

Through the glowing amber pub window, overflowing tankards are clinked together enthusiastically,

The joyful townsfolk cheer as the lighthouse beam slices the darkness in two.

I mentioned earlier that in December Grasmere School held a celebration of its 400th anniversary. In the following pages I am sharing photos and words from the celebration. I hope you enjoy sharing the joy that we all felt that evening.

Here are the 'headteacher's opening words' from the 400th Celebrations.

From 1625 to the present day...

Over thirty years ago I started teaching. We used chalk, blackboards, bander machines and books... It was before the internet, computers or even photocopiers. Looking further back is unimaginable.



1625:We know that there were 12 scholars taught by the Rector, in a world where Shakespeare was not long dead, Charles 1st was about to be crowned, and the school map (if there was one) showed a continent in the southern hemisphere, but only because they thought there must be one to balance the weight of Africa... 'Australia' was not yet really known to Europeans.

1725:The story of Aladdin arrives in England... (more about this later) Grasmere has a flourishing schoolhouse by the lychgate, with a school master. The churchyard contains no graves, as burials still happen within the church. So the children play in the churchyard.

1825:Wordsworth has been in Grasmere for 26 years. The school master is teaching 'knitting, amongst other arts and sciences'. 'Scientific knowledge' and the idea of the polymath are revered - the 'last man who knew everything' is still alive, just.

1925:Education is free to all, up to the age of 15. There is a new schoolhouse, with 3 school rooms and a school master's house

2025:The school became a primary school in 1964. So here we are today. Age 3 - 11, with 'wrap around care'. 88 pupils. 14 staff. The internet gives us 'street view' of almost every place on earth, and endless information, both true and untrue. No one today can possibly claim to 'know everything'.

So is it really the same school? Would our predecessors recognize this as education? Well yes, I believe they would. This village has been motivated since 1625 to educate its children. And why? Well, fundamentally, the aim is to change an infant into a child who will have the knowledge, skills and character to become a wonderful, successful adult.

As the Victorians put it, in our deed of governance: 'to educate the children of the poor of the parish'. Or as our vision statement puts it: 'Helping children to think for themselves, giving them what they need to respond positively, honourably, courageously and creatively to all the challenges they face in life'.

Our village has been impressively committed to this endeavour. Benefactors built the school(s), paid for the schoolmaster, supported scholarships, paid for vital resources and glorious treats.

Today we still rely on benefactors. Kelsick's Educational Foundation supports us. And as in 1625, 1725, 1825, 1925... our employers, those responsible for the school, are unpaid volunteers. Nowadays we call them 'governors'. What an extraordinary situation. Volunteers also drive the minibuses, donate books, judge the cooking competitions, and generally make the school flourish. That's where education should emerge from - its community.

Our community is a small one. And like any community, it's varied. We are all part of Grasmere School. Our families also identify (amongst other things) as British, Scottish, Welsh, Philippine, Polish, Swedish, Spanish, English, Romanian, Czech, Greek, Ukrainian, South African, Irish, Cornish, fell runners, Westmerians, American, footballers, Orcadians ... Yorkshire.

Everyone is important. Small is beautiful. Particularly where children are concerned. They need to be known and loved by their community. They can't have success unless their community knows them and is 'rooting for them'. They can't be held to account unless they care about the people around them.

If they're going to be strong adults they need to be supported as they 'feel the fear' of being on stage, tackling difficult concepts, playing in a match... without the option of anonymity. I've taught in big schools, and I've taught in small



ones. This one, to me, is the perfect human scale. In this school we can give them windows onto the world. We can hold up a mirror, in a loving way, and say 'what does that make you think?', and we can open real doors, into the real world, and say, 'and what are you going to do with all that knowledge?'

Thinking historically and globally, this is probably a golden age for primary education in our country. Children are (comparatively) well fed, warm and healthy. They don't routinely get dyptheria. They don't have to stay off school if it rains because wellies haven't been invented. The teachers aren't battling to teach 70 children single handed, or trying to make an exciting lesson from one picture of a duck. Our children are taught using interactive, well-resourced teaching programmes, in small groups, by highly educated professionals. They have a visual world beyond the wildest dreams of the children of the past. Sometimes it feels as if the world has become too complex, and too stressful, or as Wordsworth put it 'the world is too much with us... getting and spending we lay waste our powers'. When that happens, it is worth consciously revelling in the wonders which our children are capable of today. They are SO competent. Fundamentally, much remains the same. What do children need?

Well, in March 1911 Dr Henderson and Dr Craig 'called at school and spoke to the children upon fresh air, porridge and bath'. I think I'd add love, hope, fun, friendship, climbing trees and paddling in puddles. But I suspect we'd have got along fine. It's so difficult to 'read' the ethos of another time - 'The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there.' But do they really?

Grasmere School was set up by a community who valued education. It has been supported for 400 years by a community which values education.



So when we're looking into the future...I hope... (and hope has something of 'faith' in it...) As I have faith in humanity, and particularly in the humanity found in small communities, I hope that in 2125, and beyond

- * Children at Grasmere School will still love learning
- * They will still love learning together
- * They will still expect that what they learn will help them to become better, more reflective, wiser human beings

On behalf of all the headteachers, from 1625 to the present day, and on, on into the future, I want to thank the community around Grasmere School (past, present and future) for its commitment to its children.

A living community is one which cherishes its school.

Jo Goode, Headteacher

Grasmere and Cumbria Weather

November is rarely a month of temperature extremes, but November 2025 was an exception. The rainfall for Cumbria was also classed as exceptionally high at 178% of the average. November was also the 3rd. wettest on record for Cumbria since 1871. Mild south westerlies were already established as the month started, and with air coming from the Canaries, temps. were extremely high for the time of year. The warm spell peaked between the 5th. and 7th., with afternoon temps. widely exceeding 16.C. Despite the high temperatures, it was also very wet, as fronts became slow moving on the 2nd. and 3rd. with Coniston recording 85 mm. (3.35 in.) on the 3rd. and Grasmere 2.48 in. on the same date. The mild weather continued into the second week, with further heavy rain and strong winds. Signs of change began on the 12th. as high pressure built across Greenland, with strong northerlies. However, the frontal boundary between the cold air mass and mild air became slow moving, with heavy rain and widespread flooding. A cold front on the 17th. introduced very cold Arctic winds, and temps. fell well below normal, with a sharp frost under clear skies.

A shallow depression from Iceland brought snow to many areas on the 19th with 5 to 10 cms. (4 inches) settling on high ground above 1000 ft. The next few days were cold but sunny, with hard nighttime frosts. Temperatures fell below minus 6.C. on the 20th and 21st., with a dawn temp. of minus 8. C. at Bewcastle on the latter date. From the 22nd. milder weather then arrived, as deep depressions brought widespread gales on the 28th, before north-westerlies brought a return to cool, showery conditions on the 29th.

Mean temperatures were above average overall. Rainfall amounts were also very much above normal, with some Met. stations recording over 200% of the average. Statistically, in any month that is 30 days long, 762.0 mm. is a very significant one. Should this total be achieved, it is the equivalent of one inch of rain (25.4 mm.) falling on every day of the month. Whilst Seathwaite fell just short of this total, both Ennerdale Black Sail and Honister beat it handsomely, and it was the latter with 841.2 mm. (33.13 in.) that finished as the wettest of any location in November. This effectively equates to 1.3 inches of rain every day. .

I am now into my 36th. year of rainfall recordings. Never a dull moment!

Thirlmere reservoir stock also increased from 68% at the end of October to 85% at the end of November.

Grasmere: Wettest Nov. day 3rd. 63.1 mm. 2.48 in.

Total for month 535.2. mm. 21.74 in. Av. 10.56 in. Last year 6.54 in.

Nov. rain days 26 Last year 19 rain days to date 186 Last year 230

Rainfall to date 2448.0 mm. 97.07 in. Last year 98.45 in.

3rd. wettest Nov. since 1890. Wettest on record 29.26 in. in 2009.

Grasmere recorded the 6th. highest Nov. rainfall in Cumbria.



Rain, rain, rain. **December** started off on a very wet note, with rain every day until the first completely dry day of the month on the 23rd. A very strong established jet stream brought low pressure systems virtually daily with heavy showers and long periods of relentless rainfall.

Here in Grasmere for the 48 hours on the 13th. and 14th. 136.4 mm. (5.35 in.) was recorded, adding to the misery of waterlogged lowlands. However, having received that amount here, we discover that in the same 48 hours period, Honister again surprised us logging 360.2 mm. 14.18 in. With the water table so high, after November's drenching, the ground was at saturation point putting the antiquated sewage system under tremendous pressure with water tankers emptying the drains daily. November has been the wettest month of the year to date, with rainfall recordings 49% above the monthly average. However, the wind eventually veered into the northeast on the 23rd. momentarily bringing cold winds, night frosts and welcome sunshine, as well as stopping the incessant rain. The mercury dropped to minus 6C nightly. These anticyclonic conditions lasted until the month's end.

So, overall, England experienced its sunniest year on record, and an exceptional amount of sunshine during the Spring, followed by long hot spells during the summer's frequent influence of high-pressure systems. It began with the 3rd. sunniest March on record, followed by a record-breaking sunniest April, then the second sunniest May. All three months of the summer saw above sunshine hours and the long duration and consistency of high-pressure systems.

England also basked in 1622 hours of sunshine, and even during the last week in December, early flowering daffs have been spotted in unseasonable bloom, 3 weeks earlier than usual in certain parts of the country. At 3.03 pm Dec. 21st. the earth's axial tilt reaches its furthest point away from the sun, marking the shortest day. After this date, precious daylight hours increase by only a few seconds, but reading this now it increases to two - three minutes a day. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Wettest Dec. day 13th. 70.7mm. 2.78 inches

Rain days for month 23 Last year 30

Total for month 446.8 mm. 17.59 in. Last year 15.65 in. Av. 11.15 in.

Rain days to date for year 209 Last year 260

Rainfall to date for year 2894.8mm. 114.66 inches Last year 114.10 inches

Happy New Year to all. Roll on Spring!

Peter Bailey



A new year and already we have galloped through 'dry' (actually very wet!) January. Society (GVS) memberships are now due for 2026. Existing members will have received an email inviting renewals but there may be others in the village, residents or businesses, who would be interested in joining the Society.

GVS is a charitable organisation that was established many years ago to promote high standards of village planning and architecture and to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the village.

The modest membership fees and any additional donations enable the Society to undertake these aspirations. Committee members are unpaid volunteers and all donations are for the benefit of the village. You do not need to be a resident of Grasmere to join and several of our members are past residents or visitors.

You may join or renew by typing “GVS Membership joining and renewal form 2026-Fill in form” into your internet browser. Alternatively a printed form is available from our membership secretary Simon Hey (simonhey4@gmail.com or 015394 35067).

The annual subscription fee is £1 and 50p for junior members under the age of 18, although we welcome additional, voluntary, donations.

Now here’s an important date for your diary.

The Society AGM will be held on **Thursday March 19th** in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. The business meeting will be short and will be followed by a cheese and wine party. All are welcome and whether you would just like to socialise or want to quiz the committee on future plans, or give us your thoughts on future plans and projects, all are welcome and we hope that you will join us.

The committee is always looking for new blood and if you would like to contribute then please do not hesitate to step forward and join us.

In particular, we are looking for a new secretary. Duties include taking minutes at meetings, preparing agendas and general correspondence under the guidance of the chair and other committee members. This is a personally rewarding position as you will become involved in the decision making process in the maintenance and improvement of the amenities of the village and will take part in discussions as a committee member of the Society. The committee meets once a month on a Tuesday evening in the Reading Rooms (behind the school) and meetings normally last between one and two hours. If this is of interest then please contact Nick McCraith (or any committee member) at nickmccdoc@yahoo.co.uk for further information and to answer any questions.

Nick McCraith (Chairman)

GRASMERE WI

December saw us celebrating Christmas in style at a packed GWI Christmas party at Tweedies, a fabulous festive afternoon with lots of fun including our very own GWI 12 days of Christmas written by Hilary Beskeen and performed by all 60 of us at the party!



Also in **December** we had a wonderful festive GWI Christmas Book Group evening with the brilliant Sarah Waterhouse reading *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry and where we shared recommendations for our 2026 reads and all this in the very atmospheric Wordsworth's Study at Allan Bank. We also had 2 superb GWI Christmas wreath making sessions at Allan Bank, big thanks to Ann Jackman and team.

Our **January** meeting saw us "Lunging into 2026 and keep moving" with the brilliant Libby Dixon, such an inspiring and good fun afternoon, thank you Libby. We also launched our GWI 2026 Schedule, such an action packed, exciting year ahead. Before the meeting, Sam Dixon gave a slideshow presentation on our hugely impressive GWI Lakes and Tarns Challenge where we swam, toe dipped and visited over 250 lakes and tarns across the Lake District. Thanks Sam for all the great work on this.



Also in **January** our Book Group went to see the NT production of *Hamlet* at Fellinis after reading the play and discussing it at our January Book Group meeting.

Looking ahead.....

By popular demand, **February** sees (for the sixth year running) the return of our annual stepping challenge for our charity the wonderful St Mary's Hospice. It's such a brilliant, good fun challenge (9,000 steps a day) raising much needed funds for the Hospice. Please do join in and support us, every step and contribution helps! Please keep an eye on our GWI Facebook page and website for more information and updates. We are looking forward to another fantastic February of stepping out for St Mary's Hospice.

Our **February** meeting is on **Thursday 12 February 2pm at the Village Hall** with our very own Sally Smith talking about working dogs. Sally is an expert in everything dogs and dog training, it'll be a fascinating afternoon.

Also in February our **Art Group** are visiting the amazing Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and our Craft Group are having a trip to Farfield Mill.

On **Saturday 21 February 11.30 to 3.30 pm** we are hosting an Antiques Valuation Day at Tweedies with Mitchells Auctioneers in aid of St Mary's Hospice. Please bring along your items for valuation, it'll be a really interesting and good fun afternoon. Please see pages 20-21 for all the details

Our meeting on **Thursday 12 March 2pm at the Village Hall** is our **AGM** with the excellent Federation WI Shop and a great fun social session.

Our **GWI Cumbria Way Challenge** is making great progress with monthly team walks ticking off the different stages. We are now over half way and have reached Rosthwaite, Borrowdale, just 36 miles to go. Currently in a winter pause for catch ups, we start again in **March** when we head off from Borrowdale to Langdale, Old Dungeon Ghyll.



A huge thanks to all of our 98 members for making Grasmere WI such a vibrant, friendly and fun group. Come and join in the fun, you will be made very welcome. Please get in contact, my details are below.

Louise Sykes President Grasmere WI

T: 07860 299658

E: clsmailbox@icloud.com

Antique & Collectables Valuation Day Raising funds for St Mary's Hospice

With Grasmere WI

**at Tweedies Lodge, Grasmere,
Saturday, 21 February, 11.30am – 3.30pm**

Ever wondered what your treasured heirlooms are really worth? Bring your antiques and collectables to Tweedies for a professional valuation by Mitchells Antiques and Fine Art Auctioneers, based in Cockermouth.

Expert appraisers will offer:

- Free verbal valuations, but a donation to the Hospice will be most welcome
- All items considered — jewellery, gold and silver, stamps, watches, artwork, ceramics, vintage toys, country pursuits, furnishings and more. If an item is too large, please bring a photo and a home visit can be arranged

No appointment necessary

Join us for a fascinating day and discover the real value of your treasures and support our local hospice with your donations.

Everyone welcome!

Refreshments available.

For more information, see www.mitchellsauction.co.uk or contact myramcraith@aol.com



ANTIQUES VALUATION DAY!

DISCOVER WHAT YOUR TREASURES ARE WORTH!

Mitchells Auction Company & Grasmere WI PRESENT

Mitchells
ANTIQUES & FINE ART AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

VALUATION DAY IN AID OF
ST MARY'S HOSPICE



Saturday 21st February

Tweedies Bar & Lodge, Grasmere

11:30am – 3:30pm

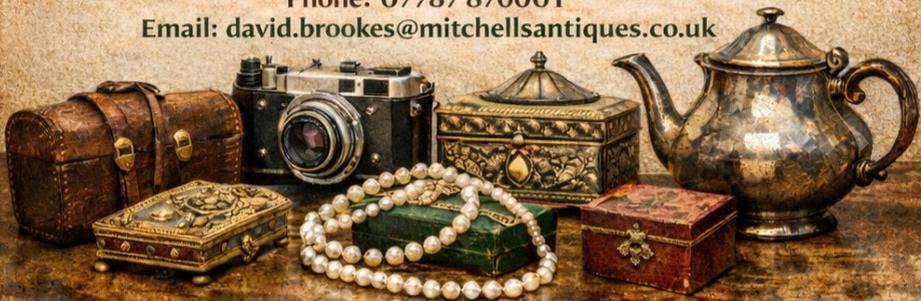
Bring along your antiques, jewellery, collectibles & curios!

Larger items can be valued from photographs.

Mitchells Antiques & Fine Art

Phone: 07787 870001

Email: david.brookes@mitchellsantiques.co.uk



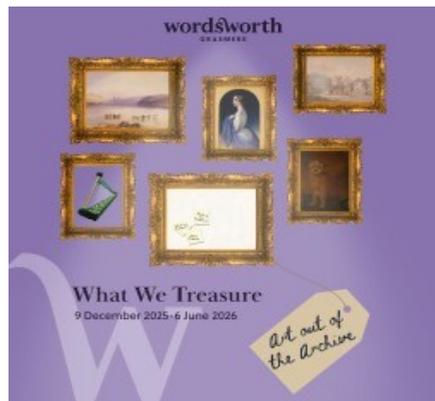
Wordsworth

GRASMERE

We are open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm. Don't forget, entry is free to Grasmere residents and workers – we look forward to seeing you soon!

What We Treasure: Art out of the Archive

Our new interactive exhibition celebrates the treasures of the Wordsworth Grasmere trove. Discover grand landscapes by Constable and Turner, a hasty sketch by Dorothy Wordsworth, dramatic watercolours and rarely displayed objects that spark wonder, curiosity and affection. We invite you to think like a curator: what makes something a treasure? Is it fame? Rarity? Talent? Emotion? Explore how art becomes meaningful and share what speaks to you most and why.



Winter: Make and Play

Wednesday 18 February from 10.30am-12.30pm in the Learning Space.

Join us to celebrate the last weeks of winter. Taking inspiration from Regency era poems and diary extracts we will paint, craft, dress up and play! Create an icicle mobile, sparking snowflake or a snow drop inspired collage.



For families with children of all ages. Free event, no need to book, just drop in.

Little Wanderers, our creative play sessions for under 5s, takes place every Thursday morning at 10.15am during term time. Free for all families. We thank Grasmere School & Nursery for supporting this event.

Discover Poetry with Polly Atkin and **Dove Cottage Poets**, our poetry reading and writing groups, continue to take place on Zoom and as a hybrid meeting respectively.

For more information and to book please visit

wordsworth.org.uk

*Hannah Catterall, Events Officer,
Wordsworth Grasmere*



Books Needed

If you have any spare books please pass them on to St Oswald's church, we would be very happy to receive them.

There is a second hand bookshop raising money for church activities.

Please leave any books at the back of the church near the bookstall.

Thank you

Grasmere PCC



Grasmere Diary - February 2026

1	Sunday Celebration: Holy Communion	Rydal St Oswald's	9.30am 11am
5	Grasmere Fellowship	VH	2.30pm
8	Sunday Celebration: Open Church	Rydal St Oswald's	9.30am 11am
12	WI Book Group	VH Zoom	2pm 8pm
15	Sunday Celebration Holy Communion	St Oswald's	11am
19	Grasmere Fellowship	VH	2.30pm
21	Antique Valuation Day	Tweedies	11.30am
22	Sunday Celebration: Open Church	St Oswald's	11am

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Week Day Services Tuesday 10am Holy Communion

Thursday 2.30pm Quiet Half Hour

Coffee & Chat Every Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm VH

Knit and Nat Every month 2nd & 4th Tues Reading Room at 2pm

Grasmere Diary- March 2026

1	Sunday Celebration: Holy Communion	Rydal Hall St Oswald's	9.30am 11am
3	Village Hall AGM	VH	6pm
5	Grasmere Fellowship Rushbearing Meeting	VH St Oswald's	2.30pm 6pm
7	Coffee Morning St John's Hospice	VH	TBC
8	Sunday Celebration: Open Church	Rydal Hall St Oswald's	9.30am 11am
12	WI AGM Book Group	VH Zoom	2pm 8pm
14	A Night of Swing	VH	7.30pm
15	Sunday Celebration: Mothering Sunday	Rydal Hall St Oswald's	9.30am 11am
19	GVS AGM	VH	7.30pm
22	Sunday Celebration: Open Church	Rydal Hall St Oswald's	9.30am 11am
	Spring Parish Meal Levens Choir	VH St Oswald's	12.30pm TBC
29	Sunday Celebration Holy Communion	Rydal Hall St Oswald's	9.30am 11am

Grasmere Village Hall

The festive period has been a busy time for the Hall. The Christmas Fair was a great success and the Grand Raffle raised over £4,000 for the Hall and Grasmere Red Squirrel Group. The New Year's Eve party was a great fun event and an excellent way to see in 2026 among friends. Nearly 100 people packed into the Hall to hear the story of David Johnson and Nicky Oliver's recent challenge 'The Wainwrights in Winter: climbing 214 Wainwright fells in a single Winter', featuring stunning photos of their endeavours! To brighten up a dull January, Grasmere Players performed their pantomime 'Cinderella' to packed houses.

If you've been into the Hall lately, you'll have noticed the fresh new interior painting! We'd like to say a big thank you to Mark & Karl Broomhead and their team for the super decorating job which is a huge improvement for everyone using the Hall. We're also purchasing additional chairs and tables – courtesy of grant funding from Westmorland & Furness Council's Festival and Events Fund - so that we can accommodate larger numbers on comfortable chairs! Meanwhile, here are some dates for your diary:

Coffee & Chat – Every Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

The regular coffee mornings continue through the Winter: come and enjoy a warm drink, sweet treats, and friendly conversation. Whether you're new to the village or a familiar face, everyone's welcome.

Following the popularity of James & the Giant Peach last year, Cinema Night will be back - further details available soon!

Tuesday 3 March 6.00 pm: Grasmere Village Hall Annual General Meeting. All Grasmere residents are invited to attend, bring their ideas and discuss how the Hall can better serve the community.

Saturday 7 March: Coffee morning and jumble sale in aid of St John's Hospice.

Saturday 14 March 7.30 pm: A Night of Swing & Dance with Kendal Big Band. Dance the night away to live big band music; dressing up is encouraged! Tickets £15, including finger buffet, on sale at Barney's Newsbox, Grasmere or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/grasmere-village-hall-co-ltd Licensed bar.

Over the Easter period the Hall will be hosting the annual Cumbria Local Arts exhibition. Lastly, we'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you at many more events in 2026.

Grasmere Village Hall Trustees

Grasmere Village Hall Company Ltd
Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to announce that the AGM will take place on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at Grasmere Village Hall at 6.00 pm. All Grasmere residents are welcome to be in attendance.

Following the official business of the meeting you are invited to join the Trustees for refreshments and a discussion on the hall and how it can best serve you and the community's needs.

Feature: GRASMERE PHARMACY

Grasmere Pharmacy can be found on Broadgate, between the Co-op and the Village Hall. It opened about 20 years ago when pharmacist Trevor Eastes applied to the NHS to open a new premises to serve this rural community. The pharmacy provides NHS Services for the village and wider community and has a large, well-stocked shop selling medicines, toiletries, first aid, perfume, batteries, gifts, mobile & electronic accessories, household products including Ecover products and refills. We also have collection points for battery and glasses recycling and the Grasmere food bank? The pharmacy is open **Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm with an early closing day at 1pm on a Wednesday.**

NHS prescriptions are mostly received electronically direct to the pharmacy, though you may still be given a paper one from your dentist, hospital or out of hours doctor. Prescriptions can be received in this way from anywhere in the country and they are dispensed on site, supplied by twice daily deliveries from national distributors. **Local patients can order their prescriptions from the Central Lakes Medical Group via the NHS App, or you can telephone the pharmacy or call in for us to order on your behalf.**

Our regular pharmacist, Christine, lives in Cockermouth and has been a pharmacist for 33 years working mainly on the west coast of Cumbria in community pharmacy and general practice. More recently she has been working in the South Lakes and Grasmere catching an early lift from her husband who is the Senior Conservation Boat Builder/Engineer at the Windermere Jetty Museum. She has 3 children in their 20's and when time allows can be found fell walking, gardening or maybe cooking for a warm welcome space.

Our full-time dispenser and pharmacy assistant, Jone, who is 28, has been a friendly face at the pharmacy for the past seven years.

Originally from Bilbao, Spain, she has lived in the Lake District for 10 years and has greatly valued the opportunity to learn and grow within the world of pharmacy. Through her work, Jone has experienced a strong sense of community and discovered how important human connection is to her.



Her time at the pharmacy has helped shape her aspirations for the future, allowing her to grow both personally and professionally, and she remains truly grateful for the people she has met along the way.

Christine was listening to Anthony Fauci (Ex Chief Medical Advisor to the President of the United States) on the radio recently. He said his “Parents ‘drug store’ was a family hub of the community. The pharmacist was the neighbourhood psychiatrist and marriage counsellor as well as someone who fulfilled prescriptions. So from a very early age he was incorporated into that feeling of service to the community”. We can identify with this! Our pharmacy is here for the community, and we will do whatever we can to help you. You may remember when the Co-op was closed for a few months we stocked essential basics UHT milk, eggs, bread and goodies! If there is something you need or would like us to keep in stock, we will always try to assist.



BUT Your pharmacy needs you! In April 2024 the pharmacy reduced its opening hours mainly to cope with the seasonal effect on trade. We are very busy in the summer months and holidays with visitors to the Lakes. But to keep the continuity of business, if you live in the village, please think about using us when you get a call for your vaccination or buying something from the shop when you pick up your prescription. This will make a big difference.

Christine and Jone in conversation with David Jackman



Please join us at the
Spring Parish Meal

ALL WELCOME

22nd March 2026

12.30pm

The Village Hall

Tickets from Barney's from 22nd February 2026

BYOB and DONATIONS WELCOME



Rushbearing 2026

the annual village celebration,
is on

11th July 2026

Would you like to be part of the team?

We need you this year...

If you think you can help out please join
us for a short meeting on

MARCH 5th

6.30 -7.30pm

St Oswald's

Refreshments provided



Grasmere Book Group

In December, the group were unanimous in their love of Christiane Ritter's 1938 memoir of a year living in the Arctic, *A Woman in the Polar Night*. Ritter's depictions of the polar landscape, light, weather and ice all came in for praise. Others highlighted the lively prose, absent of any self-pity, particularly notable given the extreme conditions Ritter faced. Overall, the group thought the book felt surprisingly modern, which might explain why the German edition has never been out of print.

In January we discussed *Advent*, a seasonal Icelandic novella by acclaimed Icelandic novelist Gunnar Gunnarsson. First published in 1936 and now available in a new English translation, the story is beguilingly simple. Benedikt journeys with a ram called Eitill and a dog called Leo to gather in sheep who haven't come down from the mountains in the harsh Icelandic winter. All we know is that this is the 27th year in a row Benedikt has undertaken the feat, each time setting out over advent. The trinity are forced to work together as they are pitted against the elements. Many in the group felt the story was powerful and lingered long after reading, highlighting the descriptions of the elemental landscape. Some enjoyed the animals as characters, and the colloquial chatty narrative voice whilst others mentioned the prominence of service to community, particularly at this time of year. As is traditional, we also planned our reading for 2026.

Factoring in books from our book chat, suggestions emailed to us over Christmas and the limiting factor of months in a year, we've come up with the following calendar...

FEBRUARY 12th – Sally Smith, A Case of Mice and Murder

MARCH 12th - Andrew Miller, The Land in Winter

APRIL 9th – Freya Stark, The Valleys of the Assassins

MAY 14th – Kazuo Ishiguro, The Remains of the Day

JUNE 11th – Sarah Hall, Helm

JULY 9th – Elisabeth Sanxay Holding, The Blank Wall

AUGUST 13th – JL Carr, A Month in the Country

SEPTEMBER 10th – Graphic novel month (title/s TBC)

OCTOBER 8th – John Christopher, The Death of Grass

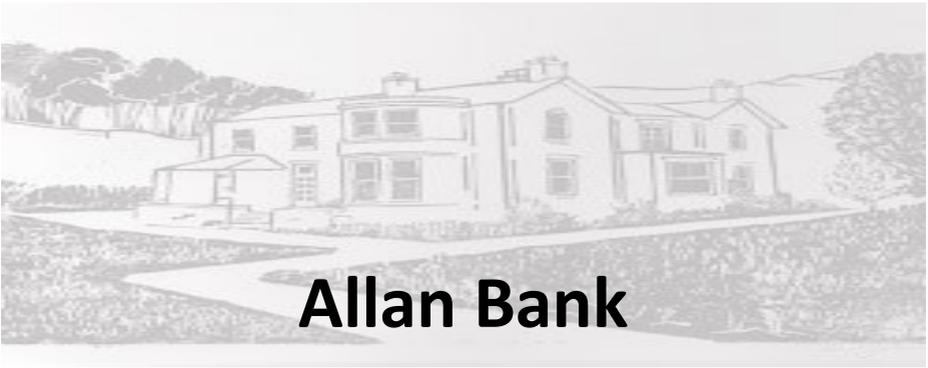
NOVEMBER 12th – Marlen Haushofer (tr. Shaun Whiteside), The Wall

DECEMBER 10th – Mary Shelley, Frankenstein (1818 text)

Book group meets online at 8pm on the second Thursday of every month. All are welcome to join... do email us and we can send you a Zoom link. All book group books are available from Sam Read's at 10% discount off the r.r.p.

Polly and Will – dr.will.smith@me.co





ALLAN BANK EVENTS SPRING 2026

The house re-opens for the season on **Monday 9th March** and will extend its opening days to five, opening Saturday-Wednesday, closed Thursdays and Fridays.

Exhibitions

'The Caravan Press' exhibition continues for 2026, revealing the life and work of printmaker Gwyneth Alban Davis, who ran her business from a caravan in Langdale in the late 1940's.

New for 2026 – 'Women in Print' - a striking new collection of original artworks that celebrate the creative potential of modern printmaking.

This exhibition invites fresh conversations around printmaking, challenging traditional perceptions and showcasing the dynamic range of contemporary techniques. Featuring significant new works, the show highlights the evolving role of women in the printmaking world.

'Women in Print' draws inspiration from the life and legacy of Gwyneth Alban Davis, whose values of community, resilience, and creativity continue to resonate today.

The show is part of a two year residency with the University of Lancashire (ULan), co-curated by the university's ArtLab Contemporary Print Studio and Bristol's Centre for Print Research.

Check the website for artist led workshops throughout the year.



Community Dark Skies Evening – March 19th

To help celebrate the Grasmere Switch Off on Thursday March 19th, we will be opening the house and grounds of Allan Bank after dark, between 8-10pm, for the local community to enjoy this unique date in the year where you can enjoy a true dark skies experience.

This year we're joined by an expert from the local Eddington Astronomical Society in Kendal to guide us in the search for stars, distant galaxies and planets. You're welcome to bring your own telescopes and binoculars.

This is a free drop in event. Blue badge holders can park up at the house, otherwise please park in the village. A torch is essential for the walk up the drive to the house.

Please note if the weather is poor or cloudy the event will still go ahead.

Easter – Sunday March 29th – Sunday 12th April

Celebrate Easter at Allan Bank and walk in the footsteps of the Wordsworth children on an Easter trail through the garden & collect a chocolate egg. £3.50 per trail (including egg). *Emma Hawley National Trust*

YOUR VOICE

As we step into the start of 2026, I would like to invite the residents of Grasmere Village to have a voice.

I would love to hear your thoughts on what you feel is lacking, missing, or could be improved to make living here even better.

This could be a big idea or a small one, something practical, something hopeful, or even something you think might never happen. Every thought matters.

This is an open invitation to all ages to share ideas, concerns, or suggestions.

Let's start a conversation and see what we can do together.

Please feel free to contact me by phone, text, letter, or email. Let's try.

Thank you, Sharon Savasi

savasi@hotmail.co.uk or 015394 35458

Gardening

People who spend time gardening may have better brain function in later life than those who do not.



Such are the findings of a recent study at the University of Edinburgh.

The authors of the study observe that gardening involves: “not only physical exertion but creativity and planning. Engaging in -gardening -projects, learning about plants, and general garden upkeep, involve complex cognitive processes such as memory and executive function.

“Consistent with the ‘use it or lose it’ framework of cognitive function, more engagement in gardening may be directly associated with a lower risk of cognitive decline.”

As one doctor said: “People often don’t realise the wide range of benefits that gardening can bring. For example, digging, planting and pulling weeds will increase hand strength, which research has shown can also boost brain health.

“Growing your own food can help you eat a healthier diet; another key factor. And staying connected to other people is beneficial for brain health, so community allotments are a great place to socialise, reducing loneliness and isolation.”

The researchers want more study into the possible benefits of gardening, hoping it might help against cognitive decline.

Happy gardening!

Parish Pump

KESWICK CHORAL SOCIETY

MESSIAH

G F Handel

Nikki Martin - soprano
Imogen Garner - contralto
TBC - tenor
Jonny Hill - bass
Jordan English - organ
Peter Crompton - trumpet
Stella Crompton - trumpet
Ian Hare - conductor

St John's Church Keswick CA12 4DD

28 March 2026

7.30 pm

Tickets, including full programme:
£13 in advance from Bookends, choir members &
Eventbrite £15 on the door
Full-time education £5 Under 12s free

Registered Charity 1161762

47th Annual Cumbria



Local Arts Exhibition

Easter is coming so the Cumbria Local Arts Exhibition is here again, now in its 47th year.

As always the exhibition is located in the beautiful Grasmere Village Hall from 3rd April to 12th April 2026.

Featuring 115 artists from all over Cumbria and the Lake District it shows nearly 600 original artworks in all mediums, sizes and prices.

The majority of the work is shown for the first time. Artists range from acclaimed award-winning professionals to artists that are exhibiting for the first time.

The mission of the exhibition has always been to provide a platform to showcase art from the whole of Cumbria and the Lake District. A true celebration of creativity from across Cumbria. This follows on from the record-breaking exhibition in 2025 where we received hundreds of lovely comments such as - "Blown away by the quality and variety of work", "the most serene experience", "Stunning" and many more.

For information visit <https://cumbrialocalarts.com>

**Cultural Landscapes event will take place on
Tuesday 3 February at 6.30pm.**

This will be a talk by Dr Chris Routledge on:

Restoring Hardknott Forest:

Photographing "Wildwood" in the Duddon Valley

University of Cumbria in Ambleside, Percival Lecture Theatre, Langdale Building,
LA22 9BB

Event tickets available from Ticket source

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cultural-landscapes/t-mjoqzqr>



- ***Free, confidential advice and help is available from South Lakes Citizens Advice How to access:***
- ***Call 015394 46464 (9.30am – 2pm, Monday – Friday)***
- ***Drop in sessions at Wainwright's Yard, Kendal, LA9 4DP (10am – 2pm, Tuesday and Thursday)***
- ***Adviceline: 0808 2787 984 (9am - 5pm, Mon– Fri)***
- ***Email advice via the submission page on our website www.southlakescab.org.uk***



Caring for someone with Dementia?

We offer a relaxed community run Drop In on the 3rd Tuesday of every month where you will find:

Friendly faces Advice & leaflets

Emotional Support Practical Tips

Whether you're a carer, a friend or concerned about your own memory, you are very welcome to join us at our monthly meet ups on third Tuesday.

Venue: Wesley Room, Ambleside Parish Centre

Next Drop In:

Tuesday 17th February Time: 10.30 – 11.30

We also host Spring & Autumn events with local charities and dementia services providing lots of helpful info, resources and support all in one place

Venue: Wesley Room, Ambleside Parish Centre

Tuesday 17th March Time: 10.00 – 12.00noon

Message us for more information

admin@ambleside.org.uk

barratt573@btinternet.com

www.amblesidepc.ork.uk



CONTACTS

St Oswald's Parish Church,

Church Stile, Grasmere LA22 9SW

Rector: Rev Lawrence Basham

lawrencebasham@gmail.com 07891001592

Church warden: Anne Rawcliffe

grasmerewarden@gmail.com

Church Warden Deputy: Jane Robinson (Rydal)

Treasurer: Gerry Rawcliffe

gerry.rawcliffe@btinternet.com

Organist: Mr Ian Hare

017684 83886 ian.c.hare@outlook.com

Church Website: A Church Near You

Methodist Minister:

Grace Cauldwell 07341960506 / 01229 583196

Grace.southlakes@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Priest:

Fr. Ajish Kumpukkal, Mater Amabilis Church,

Ambleside 015394 33027

Quaker: Friend In Residence:

Terry Winterton, Glenthorne, Grasmere

Tel: 015394 35389 info@glenthorne.org

URC Minister:

The Rev. Martyn Coe, Carver Church, Windermere

01539 533223

Central Lakes Mission Community Rev. John Dixon

015394 36301 jjcedixon@btinternet.com

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Dove Cottage • Museum • Woodland
Garden • Café • Shop • Family Activities



Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm

Free admission for Grasmere residents
and employees of Grasmere businesses