Coniston and Crake Valley News



Coniston & Crake Churches

December 2025 www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk

Carols by Candlelight

Tottlebank Baptist Church LA12 8HY

Sunday 14th December 2025 at 4 pm

Led by Richard Henry

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine

(or tea and coffee)



All Welcome

St Luke's Carol Service Torver

Come and join us on Sunday **14th December 2025** at 5pm for a carol service in our beautiful church followed by a 'bring and share' gathering and 100 club draw in the schoolroom.

Food can be dropped off from 4.30pm at the schoolroom.

Everyone welcome.

21st December Carol Services

St. Mary Penny Bridge, 11.00am

Holy Trinity Colton, 3.00pm

St. Andrew Coniston, 6.00pm

Lowick Young Farmers Carol Service

Lowick Young Farmers are hosting their annual Christmas Carol Service at Lowick Church on **Monday 22nd December**, in aid of Coniston and Crake Churches.
All welcome, 6:30pm onwards followed by festive refreshment's in Lowick Community Hall!

St. Luke, Lowick with Blawith

Carols and Candlelight

Friday 12th December at 6pm



The Coniston and Crake Valley Benefice

"To Grow, Witness and Love Like Jesus"

Serving the parishes of Colton, Coniston and Torver, Egton cum Newland and Lowick with Blawith

Revd Brian Streeter The Vicarage, Penny Bridge. LA12 7RQ	vicar@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk *Brian works for Filling Station on Thursday* *Brian's rest day is Friday*	01229 861668 07505 048736
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER		
Juliet Caldwell	safeguarding@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	07884 232281
MAGAZINE EDITOR		
Robin Whiteway	editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	07770 805961
ADMINISTRATORS		
Marion Swift	2admin@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk admin@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk	01539 521337

Churches in Coniston and the Crake Valley

To contact any of the Churchwardens, pastoral team, retired clergy or lay ministers please call or email the Administrators.

St Andrew's Church, Coniston LA21 8EN
St Luke's Church, Torver LA21 8AZ
St Luke's Church, Lowick LA12 8EE
Holy Trinity Church, Colton LA12 8HF
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Penny Bridge LA12 7RQ

Tottlebank Baptist Church, Colton LA12 8HY

Welcomes you to our Sunday services from 10.30 to 11.30am followed by refreshments, and midweek prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. The church building is usually open daily 10am – 4pm for visitors and for private prayer. For further information contact Chris and Margaret Hamps, **hampsc@outlook.com**

Coniston Methodist Church, Coniston LA21 8ER

The Sunday morning service is at 11.00am and a warm welcome awaits you.
For further information contact Joyce Holland on **015394 41594**.

St Francis of Assisi Church of the Sacred Heart, Coniston LA21 8AW

Mass is held on Thursdays at 10am and Saturdays at 5.00pm.
For further information contact Father Matthew Jacob on **01229 779673**.

Cover: Brantwood Robin

Church Services for December 2025

7th	**Second Sunday of Advent**		
St. Luke, Lowick	9.30am	**Holy Communion**	Rev David Bickersteth
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Grace Cauldwell
12th	**12th Friday**		
St. Luke, Lowick	6.00pm	**Carols and Candlelight**	Rev Brian Streeter
14th	**Third Sunday of Advent**		
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	**Morning Worship**	Pam Priestley
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	**Morning Worship**	Rev Harry Welch
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	**Morning Worship**	Lesley Thompson
St. Luke, Torver	5.00pm	**Carol Service**	Rev Brian Streeter
21st	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**		
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	**Carol Service**	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	**Morning Worship**	Chris Clark
Holy Trinity Colton	3.00pm	**Carol Service**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	6.00pm	**Carol Service**	Rev Brian Streeter
22nd	**22nd Monday**		
St. Luke, Lowick	6.30pm	**Lowick Young Farmers Carol Service**	
24th	**Christmas Eve**		
St Luke, Lowick	3.00pm	**Children's and**	Pam Priestley
(Lowick Community Hall)		**All Age Service**	
St. Andrew Coniston	4.00pm	**Christingle**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Luke, Lowick	11.00pm	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00pm	**Holy Communion**	Pamela Hull
25th	**Christmas Day**		
St. Andrew Coniston	10.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev David Bickersteth
Holy Trinity Colton	10.30am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
28th	**First Sunday of Christmas**		
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	**Christians Together in Coniston**	
(Coniston Methodist Church)			
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Harry Welch
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	**Morning Worship**	Rev Grace Cauldwell

Tottlebank Baptist Church - ***Carols by Candlelight and other services*** - see pages 2 and 19

Pastoral Letter - Pam Priestley

Dear All,

About a year ago I bought a book recommended to me by a friend entitled 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry'. I only began reading it a few weeks ago. Why? I told myself that I didn't have time - too busy! When we ask others the customary question, 'How are you?' the answer is often, 'Oh ok, just busy.' Perhaps the 'busy' label gives us a certain importance and when circumstances or age takes it away we are left feeling redundant.

As we know, the spread of Covid for many was a time of sadness and loss but for some it was liberating in that they found time to enjoy again the companionship of friends and family, to delight in the natural world and to rethink priorities. Some, as a result, changed direction completely and adopted a less hurried form of existence. Others returned to the busyness.

At this time of year a lot of the busyness is associated with preparations for Christmas - cards, presents, food. For others it is about struggling and worrying about the money to buy any of these.

We are now in the season of Advent and strangely enough, what is important at this time of year in the church is completely opposite to the bustle around us. Advent is a time of waiting, reflecting, anticipating what lies ahead. Mary waited 9 months for the birth of Jesus and spent time pondering on the words of the angel and what they could mean. She spent time with her cousin Elizabeth as they marvelled together and were excited about what God was doing and what it all meant.

We hope that many of you reading this will come to one of the church Carol services. It could so easily be another thing on the 'list' to do and tick off but perhaps we could allow ourselves to come with quiet receptive hearts ready to hear again of the precious gift God gave to the world and be willing to receive and believe and as John the apostle writes, to become children of God.

With love,

Pam



SONGS OF PRAISE

Is there a hymn or worship song that when you hear the tune it just makes you want to sing it? If so, then we want to know!

On **Sunday 22nd February 2026**, 3.00pm at Holy Trinity Colton, we will be holding a **Songs of Praise**. So bring your best singing voice and invite those you know who also enjoy a good sing. We are not looking for perfection, just enjoyment.

Please do send me your favourite hymn or worship song, or your suggestions. These can be emailed to vicar@conistonandcrake.churches.co.uk or sent to the **Vicarage, Penny Bridge, LA12 7RQ**.

Brian Streeter



Children's

Village Christingle
St. Andrew's Church, Coniston
24th December, 4.00pm

Christmas Eve

Midnight Service
St. Andrew's Church, Coniston
24th December, 11.00pm

Midnight Service
St. Luke's Church, Lowick
24th December, 11.00pm



Children's Service
Lowick Community Hall
24th December, 3.00pm

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Service with Carols
Tottlebank Baptist Church
25th December, 10.00am

Christmas Day Service
St. Andrew's Church, Coniston
25th December, 10.00am

Christmas Day Service
Holy Trinity Church, Colton
25th December, 10.30am

Community First Responders

"As a First Responder for a number of years I was called out to five cardiac arrests. When this happens it is essential help is delivered quickly. People need to know where Defibrillators are in their area. I was recently called out to a very good friend who had gone into Cardiac Arrest. One First Responder came and did a wonderful job and together we did our best. It just made me think why do more people not come forward for first aid training, so that they can save a life. First responding is one of the most rewarding things you can do. The First Responder can speak to the ambulance service and a call can be upgraded. They offer reassurance in the most awful circumstances people find themselves in. Training is excellent, and yes you do have to give commitment. But the rewards are immense. So please do think about offering your services to our community."

Around the Parishes: Colton

Colton Parish Council News November 2025

Seasons Greetings! Wishing you all a peaceful, restful and happy Christmas AND New Year!

Working for nature in our parish

Councillor Kevin Wiley joined a group of enthusiastic and hard working volunteers planting 600 primroses on Bethecar Moor last month as part of a project to boost biodiversity and provide essential habitat for the Duke of Burgundy butterfly; a species that is only found in a small number of locations across the country and that we are privileged to have on our doorstep in the Colton Parish Area.

We've also been standing up for nature in our response to a local consultation on the forthcoming Bluebird K7 - The Festival, planned to take place in Coniston in May 2026. Whilst we recognise the social and economic benefits, and we understand how much enjoyment many people get from events like this, we want to make sure that the wildlife that depends on the lake and its shore are protected from noise, pollution and disturbance, especially at a time of year when there are nesting and fledging birds. We've urged organisers to take steps to keep disruption to wildlife and the East of Lake area to a minimum.

Flooding

With the increasing frequency winter storms, bringing heavy rain and wind, we all need to be aware of the steps to take when there are floods

- Problems with sewers, burst water mains, and pollution should be reported to United Utilities https://www.unitedutilities.com/emergencies/report-a-problem/ or call **0345 672 3723**.
- Blocked drains and flooding on major or busy roads should be reported to Westmoreland & Furness Council https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/streets-roads-and-pavements **0300 373 3300**
- If the blocked drain is on a local lane email clerk@coltonparishcouncil.org.uk and we'll ask our Lengthsman Archie to take a look
- For more tips and to sign up for flood alerts see https://floodaction.campaign.gov.uk/

Priority Services Register

All utility companies are required to hold a Priority Services Register to ensure they

offer appropriate support to vulnerable people. This includes support during extended power cuts. Those eligible include anyone with a medical need, people over the state pension age, families with children under 5 or expecting a baby. To sign up contact your supplier or see https://www.enwl.co.uk/power-cuts/extra-care/ecr-forms/

Be vigilant to prevent crime

With the darker evenings and Christmas approaching, the Community Police Team are encouraging us all to be more vigilant to keep each other and our property safe. Make sure vehicles and outbuildings are locked and bikes, garden equipment and other portable items often left outside are secure. If you are concerned about suspicious activity you can report it here https://www.cumbria.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/soh/seen-or-heard/. If there's a crime taking place and/or in an emergency call **999** See https://www.cumbria.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

Colton Parish Noticeboards

Look out for our new community noticeboards appearing very soon around the parish. If you spot Archie hard at work putting up the new noticeboards or clearing the drains stop for a chat; he'd be delighted to talk to you about the work of Colton Parish Council.

Get in touch

To raise an issue with us, find out more about the Council's Work or if you are thinking about becoming a parish councillor email our clerk clerk@coltionparishcouncil.org.uk

Our next meetings are

- 7pm **Monday 15th December** at Finsthwaite & Lakeside Village Hall
- 7pm **Monday 19th January 2026** Rusland Reading Rooms.

All Welcome!

Bouth Village Hall coffee morning dates! For Colton residents and visitors

Christmas extended coffee morning with a light lunch **17th December** (**10.30-13.30**)

Tickets from **Kevin Smith, 07745 117406**

Egton cum Newland

Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council

The next Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 13th January 2025** 7pm at Greenodd Village Hall. Members of the public welcome.

Church coffee morning

Join us for coffee and cake at Greenodd village hall on **Saturday 6th December** 10-12noon. There will be a lovely selection of stalls with lots of goodies for sale. Cakes, raffle, chocolate, tombola, nearly new bric a brac and Albert with his wood. Come and join friends and neighbours for a chat over coffee and cake in comfortable surroundings and help us to raise funds for our local church.

Jean and the team.

Coniston & Torver

Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston - October 2025

Total - 330.7mm (13.0ins)

Wet days - 21

More than 1mm on 16 days

Wettest day - 3rd - 76.1mm (3.0ins)

Torver Parish Council

TPC convened on the 6th of November with all councillors present and two members of the public in attendance. Julie Ward was co-opted to fill the vacancy on the council. Discussions on managing water runoff from the fells continued with valuable input from Richard Graham and John Barr snr. Solutions will require collaboration with relevant authorities and agencies. Concerns were raised regarding future parking arrangements on the common opposite the former Land Rover garage; a satisfactory resolution will require further deliberation. The meeting concluded with the resignation of the Chair, Peter Worth. Councillors expressed appreciation for Peter's leadership and dedication. Chris Bradley, the new Chair, made a presentation on behalf of the council. Peter is relocating to the northeast to be closer to family. The next council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 8th January 2026** at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.

Coniston Parish Council and the Surgery Planning Application

There has been some confusion about the Parish Council position on the application for a surgery and social housing on land adjoining the Bluebird Car Park. After discussion at the 18th August 2025 meeting the PC resolved to support the principle of the development but subject to two conditions. The minutes record:

"Support subject to conditions that before development starts contracts be in place (1) with a registered social landlord regarding the social housing, and (2) a provider of GP services regarding the surgery."

The aim of the conditions was to reduce the risk that after construction the building might not in practice actually be available on terms acceptable to the NHS and a social housing provider.

X7112 Bus Walks: On **December 17th** we will be taking the 09.30 X7 (Furness North Coast Route) bus from Coniston Central Bus Shelter for our regular 3rd Wednesday walk. Our walks are at an easy pace. We return mid afternoon. Please bring good boots, warm clothing and snap. As yet unknown weather conditions will determine our route and how much time, if any, we spend in a public house. For further details contact "roberthenrymccracken@outlook.com" **(07514 480 875**)"

Thank You Coniston Community

The main hall in the Institute was full of former patients and friends from Coniston surgery to say thank you and fair well to our doctors and reception staff.

The evening began with a music performance by Julie Blainey. Then everyone tucked into the wonderful Jacobs Join buffet. Alex Stewart gave a brief history with anecdotes and thanks before presenting the staff with money from a village collection and locally painted cards. The two doctors then cut a large thank you cake. The evening concluded with more music by Sam Clark and Ben James.

Thanks' need to be given to all who came and provided a glorious buffet, all who helped to prepare the room and helped on the day and the organising group.

Just For Ewe Christmas Shopping Afternoon.

Wednesday 3rd December. 1pm until 5:30pm

10% off everything including sale items, lots of bargains to be found.

We stock a wide selection of gifts, books, cards, toys, handbags sheepskins, hats and scarves.

Brands include Wrendale, Alex Clark, Dartington, DCUK, Blade and Rose, Harris Tweed, Envy bags, Lila Jewellery.

If you need any more information please phone us on **015394 41206**.

Coniston Surgery Update

Nearly 3 months since our GP practice changed, what has happened and what have the Coniston Patients Group (CPG) been doing?

- Under the new management by the Morecambe Bay Primary Care Collaborative Group (MBPCC) patients are still able to easily make appointments. Also to get flu and Covid jabs
- Following an appeal to the village Coniston Carers have been reorganised.
- Our "old" surgery was placed in the top 4 in England in an NHS survey of Patient Satisfaction as reported in the Evening Mail.
- MBPCC were appointed by The NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) for an initial 6 months despite the original advertisement being for 12 months. We have just had confirmation from the ICB that the MBPCC group will continue to provide care "for the duration of the procurement process for a replacement GP even if it goes beyond the 6 months"
- The ICB are preparing the contract for a new, permanent GP. The advertisement should be appearing "shortly"
- Surgery premises: while Dr Frey has kindly made the existing surgery available, more accessible premises are needed. We the CPG and the Parish Council have supported a private building application with local occupancy conditions and looked at other possible buildings eg the Tourist Information Centre. The decision will rest with the ICB who move extremely slowly
- 23 October-- 100+ patients attended a Jacob's Join supper at the Institute to say our grateful goodbyes to Drs Frey and Abbas and Rachel, Denise and Sophie whom we all miss so much. Huge thanks from the CPG to everyone who helped; from musicians to clearers-up

44th Annual Coniston 14 Race

The 44th Coniston 14 race will take place on **Saturday 21st March 2026**. In recent years the race has attracted some 1200 runners, many returning each year. It has been described as one of the most scenic and well-managed events in the UK.

Different kinds of runners take part including those wanting to keep fit, to train for marathons, to raise money for their chosen charities, to compete against friends or improve their personal best times.

The run starts at John Ruskin School in Coniston and makes a 14-mile circuit of Coniston water with stunning views over the lake to the Coniston fells. For the safety of the runners there will be the usual short road closure between Coniston and Torver for the start of the race and along Lake Road, Coniston for the finish.

It is a great community event and over 80 volunteers help on the day. We are always pleased to have extra marshals to help. Please contact the race director, Janette Braithwaite: janettemaude@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer.

We are also keen to attract new members of the committee. Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at John Ruskin School on **Monday 8th December** at 6pm.

Each year the Coniston 14 Committee raises some £20,000 from the race and this is donated to about 30 local charities, good causes and clubs in the communities around the lake.

For further information and entries for the race visit: https://www.coniston14.co.uk

Lunch and Dominoes

We will continue on **Wednesdays at 12.30pm** in Coniston Institute Reading Room. Do come along and join us for soup/roll and a pud, tea/coffee, followed by dominoes. All for £5.00

The next one will be on **10 December**. Please note change of date.

Then it will be the first **Wednesday – 7 January, 4 February, 4 March**.

To book a place, ring Jean on **41617**, by the Monday before.

Everyone welcome.

Join the Torver Schoolroom 100 club!

The Torver Schoolroom 100 Club helps raise funds to support the upkeep of Torver's school room and gives you the chance to win cash prizes!

Each number costs £25 per year and will be entered into a prize draw four times a year.



A few numbers have become available and if you would like to purchase one or more numbers please contact Bev at beverleylewis57@outlook.com

Or on **07969343832**

COFFEE and MINCE PIES with MUSIC

Coniston Methodist Church will hold our annual Christmas Coffee Morning on **Thursday 18 December**, starting at 10.00am. As has become our custom we shall be joined by pupils from the Primary School to provide tuneful entertainment.

Donations will go Coniston Carers.

Do come and join us.

CONISTON CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

As 2025 draws to a close, we are optimistic about the year ahead. Thanks to the commitment of our management and staff, we are seeing real progress. Christmas products are now available. This year, dividends will be issued as vouchers. We hope to welcome a new tenant to the top shop in January. Your input - especially from those outside the committee - has been invaluable. Thank you all for your continued support.

CONISTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY LUNCHES - Christmas Special

Monday 15th December at 12.30 in the Institute Reading Room.

Come and enjoy some yummy Christmas fare in the good company of friends.

Everyone is welcome, however numbers are limited so please get your name down as soon as possible. Phone or text Helen on **07583 371275** or email e.glaister013@btinternet.com. Also please let us know if you have any dietary requirements and/or require help with transport.

It's lovely to see so many attending the lunches and we are very grateful to you all for your donations. We are also thankful for all the lovely people who volunteer their help in different ways. Without all these donations and help we would struggle to continue. Thank you!

We must also do a big THANK YOU shout out to all the children from Coniston Primary School who provide such excellent service with a smile. Well done to all!

Finally, from us all in the Community Lunch Team we wish you a Very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

Reports

Mothers' Union Report

Jean kindly hosted our October MU meeting which began with a short form of worship taken from the MU prayer book. Extra prayers were added for those who had died recently and peace in the world. Jean then led and guided us in a craft session making figures for a nativity scene out of corks and materials with varying results! The meeting closed with the usual tea.

There is no meeting in November due to a clash of dates but members are going to attend the Deanery carol service at Flookburgh on **December 1st** and 'A Christmas Celebration' by Dalton members.

New members are very welcome. For more information contact **Kay 015394 41559**

Oxen Park Cinema Club

Most films are being booked up early so do book in for those films you want to watch as early as you can before they fill up. If waiting lists are seen to be filling then we will put a 2nd showing on the Sunday after.

December 2nd - *THE OUTRUN*

December 20th - *PENGUIN LESSONS*

December 27TH 4.30 - *PADDINGTON IN PERU*

ALSO - **NEW - *SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER* 7.30 LOOK OUT on the website FOR A FILM BASED ON the NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Celebrate the New Year with a film show for your friends and family. Join as a member, choose your favourite film, contact Carol for more details about hiring the cinema with a date and time.

***Oxen Park Presentations* in aid of the Reading Room** - see Green Sparks section for our combined presentation series.

Egton WI

Thirty-two members attended our AGM in November which was lovely. We celebrated our 80th birthday in style as members donned hats and some complete outfits in the style of the 1940's. We began the evening with a pie and pea supper which was very tasty and rounded it off with a piece of a beautiful birthday cake made by Linda (one of our members). The committee had retrieved some of our documents from the archives and played the roles in their respective posts and read out what was said and reported on at our very first meeting in 1945. It made very interesting reading and was entertaining at the same time, enjoyed by all it was certainly a meeting to remember. As we also had a photograph from that first meeting of all the members grouped together we took one ourselves in a similar pose. Will they both be brought out again in another 80 years we wonder! After that the business continued as usual and the AGM followed. We are delighted to have three new members join the existing committee which will now have a new President in charge.

Our December meeting will we hope have a good turn out as once again we will be doing what the WI does best, yes you've guessed it, eating what we hope will be a delightful supper made by the committee! There will be some entertainment and a secret Santa too so that will finish the year off nicely. How time flies.

All that remains is to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and new year from all the members of Egton cum Newland WI.

For more information call **07519144799**.

CWT Rusland Local Support Group: Upcoming Events

Feel like getting out and about with some physical conservation work over the winter? Please come and join us at one of our local events. And if you want to learn more about the role and work of the Rusland Group, including the Rainforest Project then do come to our talk. Details as follows:

- **Saturday 17th January**, Black Beck Woods – Coppicing for conservation

- Also a 'Save the date' - **6th December** - for a Rainforest Project volunteer planting day. Details will follow.

To attend any of these events, just email us at: ruslandLSG@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

As always, you can also keep in touch with us by: Joining the *Wild about Rusland* Facebook group, Going to: https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/rusland or Signing up for the CWT Newsletter.

BRANTWOOD NEWS AND VIEWS

In **The Terrace Café**, our Countdown to Christmas continues every weekend until **14th December**. Each weekend, a different local maker or crafter will be showcasing their beautiful creations - the perfect chance to find a unique festive gift. Enjoy the cosy atmosphere with our hearty food, handmade cakes, and festive tipples while you browse. Come and celebrate local creativity (and a bit of Christmas magic) at The Terrace! On these weekends, there will also be **Christmas craft activities upstairs in the Loft.** Crafts include Miniature Wreaths and Festive Table Decorations, Twig & Fabric Christmas Tree Decorations and Garlands.

Full programme and booking on our website.

On **Sunday 14th December** at 2pm, we welcome back pianist Martin Roscoe to perform in our Drawing Room as the first in our 2025-2026 Concert Series.

Tickets are £20 and can be purchased through our website.

Our exhibition **The Ways of Turner: Tracing His Northern Tour** by artist Monika Müller continues in the Studio until **21st December** as well as our Blue Gallery exhibition **Order out of Chaos: The Beauty of Flowers** by Piers Williams.

Please note that we will be closed from Monday 22nd December, re-opening on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

With best wishes for the season and a big thank you to all our volunteers, customers and supporters near and far for making Brantwood the special place it is.

For full details of all our exhibitions, events and bookings, please visit our website www.brantwood.org.uk. Contact enquiries@brantwood.org.uk or call **015394 41396**.

The Farmer's Arms Lowick Green / Grizedale Arts

Our Stable Bar opens in conjunction with our programme of arts and cultural events and workshops. See our *Facebook*, *Instagram* or *Website* for our programme of talks, workshops and music.

We open **every Thursday from 1-2pm** for Community Lunch cooked by our wonderful volunteers Rosemary and Brian. Just £7 per head for a main course, pudding and unlimited tea and coffee. All welcome!

The bar is open again on **Thursday evenings from 5-10pm**. We host a weekly talks programme starting at 6:30pm from artists, poets, historians, gardeners and more! Just £5 per ticket.

Friday Evenings are our popular Pizza and Live Music Night from **5-11pm**. We serve freshly made wood fired pizzas from **5-8:30pm**, with music every week.

Cafeteen serves daytime food, coffee and cakes on **Saturdays from 11-4pm**, managed and staffed by our very capable and youngest staff.

As always, our space is available for parties, conferences, talks, pub quizzes, workshops, weddings- any event you would like to organise we can most certainly accommodate. We can also cater for events and parties so get in touch if you'd like to use our space for a special dining experience or laid back event tailored to your needs and party size!

Rookhow



Winter Notes concert at Rookhow

Thursday 4th December. 6pm Soup and rolls. 7pm music. £18 to include soup & a roll.

A seasonal concert in the beautiful acoustic of Rookhow Quaker Meeting House with Jack McNeill and friends. Come and take a seat at the fireside of this ensemble, with their voices, clarinet, bass clarinet, harmonium, piano and percussion. Expect the slightly unexpected as they weave musical creatures from the air and earth, sing of rivers, moons, and local legends. A new set of carols to accompany the old - carrying homelessness and ambition, songs of love and of time, the crack and spin of winter leaves and rain, dry-stone-walls of poems, words of grief and hope, lullabies, and tunes – well known and

brand new – but mostly an invitation to be taken on a journey. To book a seat, email: contactrookhow@gmail.com

Winter Social for locals in the Rusland Valley **Thursday 15th January** 6pm

'Let the light in'

A seasonal celebration of welcoming the light back after the dark Winter nights for local people. Bring and share supper. Donations to Rookhow's Retreat Away Fund welcome. Bring a decorated jam jar lantern. Anyone willing to offer some background music or 'take a turn', please get in touch.

For more info contact Sue Nicholls, Rookhow Tel **07377 971783**. Email-contactrookhow@gmail.com or talk to Elaine Fleming.

Storytelling for Restoration and Connection weekend

13th-15th March. A creative development weekend for adults involved or interested in peace and reconciliation, restorative practice and community building with Hannah Moore, storyteller supported by Sue Nicholls. Explore storytelling as a powerful ingredient for peace and reconciliation work and for bringing people together.

Suggested donation £150 or pay what you feel. Local people could stay at home overnight and join in the days if they would prefer. https://rookhow.org.uk/events

Christmas & New Year availability

We still have some availability in the Bunkbarn around Christmas so if anyone is planning a big family or friends get together, please get in touch. Sole use (includes woodland). Minimum 2 nights. £390 per night for the Bunkbarn. 7 nights for the price of 6. Up to 16 people. Website: rookhow.org.uk

Green Sparks News - December 2025

Book now for the Climate Assembly Talk with Suan Marston at Oxen Park It's only 2 weeks until our Winter Talk about the **Cumbria Climate Assembly and Climate Charter** at 7.30pm on **Friday 28th November** at the Carthouse Cinema in Oxen Park. £5 on the door. Booking recommended. Email us at greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com to confirm your place.

You can also book for **The Bethecar Moor Project talk by Richard Dobson 7.30 pm Friday 12th December** at the Carthouse Cinema Oxen Park

All proceeds from the Winter Talks go to support Oxen Park Reading Room.

Pollution in Windermere. Watch this YouTube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2NMWYt9U1c for an insight on the impact of pollution in Windermere. See https://www.savewindermere.com/ for more information or see the campaign's latest film, **Origin** at Kendal Mountain Festival on **22nd November** https://www.savewindermere.com/events/kmf-2025

Residents, businesses and all those affected by the pollution are invited to join **a public meeting in Windermere 6pm-7.30 Wednesday**

26th November. To register see https://www.leighday.co.uk/news/events/tackling-pollution-in-windermere-a-community-call-to-action/

The Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy was officially launched in November 2025 See https://cumbrialnrs.org.uk/latest-news

Monday 1st December Community Resilience Drop in Even at Grasmere Village Hall 2pm-6pm Find out about preparing for emergencies, as well as rainwater gardens, resilient driveways, bank stabilisation and protecting your home against flooding.

Tuesday 9th December 10am-2pm volunteer hedge planting in Grasmere. Booking essential. For more information and to book contact cifr@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Battery recycling Don't bin your old batteries; they contain hazardous materials that pose a risk of fire and contamination. Either take them to the household recycling depot or use an instore collection point available at locations across South Lakes. To check where (almost!) any item can be recycled go to https://www.recyclenow.com/recycle-an-item

Insulation following recent headlines about poor quality insulation causing rather than solving problems of cold and damp, Future Proof Cumbria is offering services to help you to get insulation right. See https://futureproofcumbria.org.uk/getting-insulation-right-how-to-make-sure-your-home-stays-warm-dry-and-healthy/ or https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/reducing-home-heat-loss/

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this month's news. Please keep emailing us with your suggestions: greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com

Parish Prayer Diary December 2025

1st: Give thanks for the faithful Saints as we are inspired to follow their example.

1st: Pray for the children at Penny Bridge CE Academy participating in Experience Christmas today and tomorrow.

2nd: Pray for those who live with disability, and the organisations supporting them and their families at home and in their local community.

3rd: Pray for the Open the Book storytelling teams as they go into primary schools and bring Bible stories to life for the children.

4th: Pray for the traumatised and exhausted trying to survive in the grip of conflict where there is a complete loss of law and order.

5th: Pray parents and God-parents will take seriously promises they make to nurture the Christian spiritual development of children they bring for baptism this weekend.

6th: Pray for our local farming community working long hours in often difficult conditions.

7th: **Sunday, the first day of the week**

Pray by the Spirit's grace, our hearts and minds may be purified to run the race that

is set before us, so that when Jesus comes as Judge and Saviour we are ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

8th: Pray for people living under oppressive and unjust regimes. Pray also for all who stand for truth and integrity against the corruption that undermines social and economic development in all societies.

9th: Pray for Samaritan's Purse charity, transporting and distributing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world.

10th: Pray for Food Banks providing emergency food to those in need, and for Pantries preventing waste by distributing usable produce and products to members.

11th: Pray for those who live and work in the communities of Greenodd, Penny Bridge, Lowick and Spark Bridge.

12th: Pray for the Shine Your Light events taking place this weekend, as Christians throughout the UK bring Christmas "..tidings of great joy.." to workplaces and communities across the nation (*Luke 2:10*).

13th: Pray for the NHS facing the challenges of staff shortages and increasing demands for its services.

14th: **Sunday, the first day of the week**

In this time of Advent preparation, pray that God grants us grace to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly in the light and presence of Jesus.

15th: Give thanks for volunteers who selflessly give their time and skills to help others.

16th: Pray for the bereaved experiencing deep sadness and depression because of their loss of someone they love.

17th: Pray for carol services across the nation as familiar words proclaim the awesome wonder of The Word made flesh.

18th: Pray for refugees fleeing from war and famine and for all who work to help and support destitute people.

19th: Pray for pupils and staff as school term ends for Christmas break.

20th: Pray for The Samaritans, especially counsellors taking calls from people in crisis.

21st: **Sunday, the first day of the week**

At the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus, may we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, that we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge.

22nd: Pray for Iran's secret churches, praying both wisdom and courage for believers and for the strengthening of Christian prisoners and their families, ensuring their mental and physical well-being. Pray the growing church in Iran will multiply safely.

23rd: Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces away from family this Christmas.

24th: In the busyness of final preparations, may we, and all who seek a better way, take time to reflect on God's greatest Gift: Jesus, our living hope.

25th: **Christmas Day:** May our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth, accept our heartfelt praise as we worship Him, our Saviour and eternal God.

26th: Pray for those who have explored the Christian faith and have come to the point of personal commitment and received Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

27th: Pray for The Children's Society, as it campaigns and works throughout the UK to improve the lives of millions of underprivileged children and young people.

28th: **Sunday, the first day of the week**

Give thanks to God, who in the birth of Jesus has revealed the fullness of His love. Pray He will help us to dwell in His light and share His love each day.

29th: Pray for chaplains who minister in hospitals and other care settings.

30th: Pray for UN Secretary-General António Guterres and his team as they strive to bring resolution to global issues and problems.

31st: As 2025 draws to a close, reflect on the Lord's past provision and, assured of His faithfulness for today and tomorrow, offer Him your present concerns.

Please send all articles and events for the January Magazine by December 15th to editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk

Christmas at Tottlebank

Sunday 7th December 2025, 10.30 am
Sunday Service*



Sunday 14th December 2025, 4.00 pm
Carols by Candlelight* followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Sunday 21st December 2025, 10.30 am
Sunday Service*



Thursday 25th December 2025, 10.00 - 10.45 am
Christmas Day a short Service of carols and readings*

Sunday 28th December 2025 10.30 am
Cafe Service*

* Service at the Tottlebank Baptist Church and on Zoom

From the Registers

Holy Trinity, Colton, 6th November 2025, Funeral of George Young

St. Andrew's, Coniston, 6th December 2025, Baptism for Scarlett Cooper Askew

Readings for December 2025

7th	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12	
14th	James 5.7-10	Matthew 11.2-11	Isaiah 9.2, 6-7
	Luke 1.26-35, 38	Luke 2.1-7	Luke 2.8-16
	Matthew 2.1-11	John 1.1-14	
21st	Isaiah 9.2, 6-7	Luke 1.26-35, 38	Luke 2.1-7
	Luke 2.8-16	Matthew 2.1-11	John 1.1-14
24th	Isaiah 9.2-7	Luke 2.1-20	
25th	Isaiah 52.7-10	John 1.1-14	
28th	Galatians 4.4-7	Luke 2.15-21	

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Regular events

Monday	Knitting and Stitching, 7pm	Greenodd Village Hall
Monday	Short Mat Indoor Bowling, 1 - 3pm, no experience needed	Greenodd Village Hall
2nd & 4th Friday	Tottle-Art: Art Group 10.30am - 12.30	Tottlebank Baptist Church
Tuesday	Coffee and Chat, 9.45 - 10.45am	Greenodd Village Hall
Tuesday	Coniston CAMEO 2 - 4pm	Coniston Institute
Tuesday	Youth Club age 11 & over 7 - 9pm	Coniston S & S Centre
Wednesday	Yoga 7 - 8pm 07471 421 153 to book	Coniston S & S Centre
Wednesday	Lowick Parent & Toddler Group 9.30 - 11.30am (term time only) £1.50	Lowick Community Hall
Wednesday	Walking Football, 6.30 - 8pm	Coniston S & S Centre
Thursday	Community Lunch, 1pm sharp, £7	Farmers Arms, Lowick
Thursday	"Young at Heart" exercise and lunch, 11am £5 (term time only) or just come for lunch at 12 noon.	Coniston S&S Centre
Thursday	Volunteer Day 9.30 - 3.30pm	Brantwood Gardens
Thursday	Zumba 6.30pm with Valentyna	Coniston Primary School
Thursday	Netball Skills 6.30 - 7.30pm	Coniston S & S Centre
Friday	Junior Cricket	Coniston Cricket Club
2nd Tuesday	Egton WI, 7.30pm	Greenodd Village Hall
2nd Tuesday	Ulverston Repair Café 6.30-8.30pm	Croftlands Community Centre
3rd Tuesday	Coniston WI, 7.30pm,	Coniston Institute
1st Wednesday	Prayer Hour - 10 - 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
3rd Wednesday	Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.30pm	Bouth Village Hall

What's On Guide - December

1st	Community Resilience Drop in - see page 17	Grasmere Village Hall
2nd	Film - THE OUTRUN - see page 13	Oxen Park Cinema Club
3rd	Just For Ewe Christmas Shopping Afternoon - see page 11	Just For Ewe
4th	Winter Notes concert - see pages 15-16	Rookhow
6th	Coffee Morning - see page 9	Greenodd Village Hall
6th	Rainforest Project volunteer planting day - see page 14	See page - 14
9th	Volunteer hedge planting - see page 17	Grasmere
10th	Lunch and Dominoes - see page 12	Coniston Institute
12th	The Bethecar Moor Project talk by Richard Dobson - see page 16	Cathouse Cinema
13th	The Little Arrow String Band - see page 31	Coniston Institute
14th	Pianist Martin Roscoe - see page 15	Brantwood
15th	COMMUNITY LUNCHES - Christmas Special - see page 13	Coniston Institute
17th	Coffee Morning - see page 9	Bouth Village Hall
17th	X7112 Bus Walk - see page 10	Coniston Central Bus Shelter
18th	Coffee Morning - see page 12	Coniston Methodist Church
20th	Film - PENGUIN LESSONS - see page 13	Oxen Park Cinema Club
21st	Scrooge and Song - see page 32	Water Yeat Village Hall
27th	Film - PADDINGTON IN PERU - see page 13	Oxen Park Cinema Club



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