

The Parish Magazine

*for the Seatallan Benefice
Gosforth & Wasdale
Beckermet, Calderbridge & Seascale*



December 2023 & January 2024

connecting our communities

50p

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All copy for the magazine needs to be with the Editor by the 15th of the preceding month, by email if possible.

next copy date is 15th January

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## FROM THE SEATALLAN PARISH REGISTERS

**Occasional Offices conducted between  
the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

### BECKERMET

- 14<sup>th</sup> October Wedding

Katy Morfoot  
Ross Leeson

### CALDER BRIDGE, PONSONBY and OLD CHURCH

- 26<sup>th</sup> October Funeral and burial at Old Church

Mary Johnson

### SEASCALE

- No occasional Offices known

### GOSFORTH, NETHER WASDALE and WASDALE HEAD

- 20<sup>th</sup> October Funeral and Thanksgiving at Gosforth

Donald MacTavish

- 21<sup>st</sup> October Wedding at Wasdale Head

Elizabeth Duffy  
Joshua Thompson

## Christmas Thoughts from Holmrook Rectory

In my house I can feel the excitement grow as Christmas approaches, even though my children are adults, this time of year brings joy as we decorate the house, eat too much and (occasionally) drink too much. The family all make plans to return for the Christmas holidays which brings a sense of joy as we come together and yet we feel some sadness as we realise we can't see everyone and sadly some of our families are no longer with us.

What I love about Christmas is the sense that we can connect with each other, we remember good times past, hence the excitement that we still feel, we remember those friends and family we don't see often connecting via Christmas cards or zoom calls, it can feel like a time of coming together. Sadly, for some this is also the hardest time of the year, where people feel more isolated than ever due to loss, health issues or many reasons why they are separated from friends and family. We see millions of people around the world displaced by war, poverty, lack of employment, a reminder of the brokenness that exists in the world.

At Christmas we remember the story of Jesus' birth, God coming into a broken world. A young couple, forced to leave their home as the emperor wanted to measure his wealth, who found nowhere to stay when they arrived in Bethlehem. It was into an occupied nation that God chose to reveal his son, born into poverty in the most basic of places. I believe God chose to reveal himself in this way as he wanted to show that his desire is to connect with us all, the everyday people, going about their everyday lives. There were great temples in that day with strong traditions, but God came quietly as a newborn baby, just like each one of us.

When you look into the eyes of a baby you can't help but feel love, and that is what the birth of Jesus signifies to us. In Jesus, love became a person and through Jesus, Christians believe that we are all included in that love, we are all connected to God. Sometimes we don't feel it, sometimes we have heard messages that make us feel like we are not good enough, that we don't deserve God's love.

The way the love of God works is a mystery, but we read in Colossians 1 *"This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you"*.

As we lead up to Christmas, can I encourage you in the midst of the busyness that often ensues, take time to pause and ask God to reveal that love within you. God's love is in you, despite what we may think about whether we deserve it, we are told that God first loved us. So, if you make one connection this Christmas season, let it be the connection to the love that lies deep within you, because when we accept this love we are better prepared to love ourselves and share love with our neighbours.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

*Revd Dave*

## **SOUTH CALDER MISSION COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

These continue to take place on Zoom every Thursday morning at 9.30 am and last about 20 minutes. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Please contact Jonathan Falkner on 01946 721852 for an invitation to Zoom.



A short service of Morning Prayer also takes place in Gosforth Church at 8.30am from Tuesday to Friday each week and everyone is welcome to join this also.

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

On **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** we will have a special Christmas coffee morning with a Raffle and the proceeds will go to the Children's Society along with the money raised by the Christingle, which this year the school are organizing and will take place in Church at their Christmas service on the last day of term.



Our January coffee morning will take place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, when we can wish each other a Happy New Year!



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# ADVENT 2023

## Taize & Lectio Divina services for the season of Advent



|                           |                        |         |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December  | St Mary's Gosforth     | 7.30pm  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December | St Mary's Gosforth     | 7.30pm  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> December | St Mary's Gosforth     | 7.30pm  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> December | St Cuthbert's Seascale | 11.30pm |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December | St John's Beckermeth   | 9.30am  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December | St Olaf's Wasdale Head | 11.00am |

**The Seatallan Group of Churches is part of the  
Diocese of Carlisle.**

**NB Lectio Divina** is Latin for 'sacred reading' – a way of praying through the Scriptures that has been around for millennia. Through *lectio divina* we can slow ourselves down, engage with Scripture, and submit ourselves to the 'Voice' behind the text. One can participate in *lectio divina* in four phases: reading, reflecting, responding, and resting. Come along and give it a try...

## GOSFORTH PARISH CHURCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The committee met at the end of October. We looked at the finances from July to December and the 9 Month budget review. Once again, we had to draw on reserves and it is concerning that the predicted deficit for 2023 will mean that the reserves will be over £8,000 - less than the recommended ideal. The main factor is a drop in income. We noted that we will have to obtain grants for any new developments and keep a keen eye on expenditure as well as trying to increase income. We also looked at the summary report of the quinquennial inspection of the church building and what is needed to maintain it. The estimate from the architect was a cost over the next 5 years of £29,100, of which only £7,900 is desired rather than essential. Over the last 12 to 18 months there has been much discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Board and various academics about changes needed in how we display our nationally important heritage artefacts and also make full use of the church building to adapt to smaller congregations and modern life. Changes will have to come, but can only be afforded if we can get the necessary grants. As a result, we passed a number of proposals for quotes and a faculty to enable us to move forward if the grants are obtained. When we know what is feasible, we plan to hold an open day to consult with the local community.

We discussed the Christmas services and events and decided that the Sunday service on the first and second Sundays in December will be in St Mary's Room with all other services in December in the main church. In January the Sunday services will return to St Mary's Room. We then considered the Churchyard and noted that while the new regime has resulted in greater biodiversity, the fact that we didn't manage to find people to rake the dead grass away means the soil will be enriched and won't give the best results. The cost of the grass cutting is lower than it might have been but inflation means it is still high and we don't get as much in grants as some other churches. The flooding in the North East corner is to be investigated to find the cause and a solution to the problem. We then reviewed our 5 marks of mission-

- i. Evangelism - plans are ongoing.
- ii. Discipleship - the study course on Ephesians is taking place.
- iii. Service to the local community - Coffee mornings, baby and toddlers, planning to enhance the display of heritage artefacts.
- iv. Social Justice - if we don't get a volunteer from Gosforth, we will explore combining with Beckermet in getting items to Egremont foodbank.
- v. Care for creation - add / retain some ivy to give flowers late in the season



The next regular management meeting will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February and the report will be in the March magazine. If you have anything you wish us to consider please phone 01946 725 300.

*Ruth Schofield (Clerk to the Committee)*

## **ST MARY'S GOSFORTH – Christmas Decorations & Flower Fund**

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10 am, ready for the Carol Service on the 17<sup>th</sup>. All are most welcome to join us – you don't have to be an expert at arranging flowers, we all help each other and enjoy the time together!



Refreshments are provided.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of flowers this Christmas, please have a word with me.

Decorating the church with flowers throughout the year is funded by voluntary donations and I would like to thank all who have contributed to the flower fund this year. We use garden flowers and greenery when available but of course we do have to buy flowers during the winter months and for special festivals. Our Flower Fund is very low at the moment so donations would be welcome!

*Ann McKenzie – Tel: 25700*

## **THE LOCAL FOODBANK**



Just a reminder to everyone that the local Foodbank (ours is Egremont) is still very much in need of our support.

There are collection boxes at the back of most of our churches and the food collected is taken regularly to Egremont Methodist Church, where the Foodbank is based.

For the past few years Philippa Grant has been kindly taking the Wasdale and Gosforth donations to Egremont on a monthly basis, but she will be moving back down south again in the near future so we are looking for a volunteer to take over from her. The Egremont Foodbank is open twice a week – on Tuesdays and Fridays between 1.00pm and 3.00pm – which is when they receive donations. It would be great if someone could volunteer to take on this responsibility! Please contact Norma on 019467 25366 if you are able to help or need more details.

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**Sun. 17th December**

**VILLAGE  
CAROL SINGING  
and  
CAROL SERVICE  
in  
GOSFORTH**

Assemble in Village Car Park at 6.30pm  
and sing carols on the way to Church  
via Meadowfield Grove & Meadowfield  
for short Carol Service at 7.00 pm

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WILL COME AND JOIN IN**

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**CHRISTMAS SERVICES and EVENTS  
in the SEATALLAN BENEFICE**



***BECKERMET***

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6 pm** - Carol Service in St John's with Egremont Town Band and switching on the Christmas tree lights.

**Christmas Day at 9.30 am:** Christmas Communion

***GOSFORTH***

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm** – Candlelit Christmas Concert of music and song by members of school and church in St Mary's Church.

Tickets: Adults £5; Children £2. Proceeds to school and church.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Village Carol Singing and short Service.

6.30 pm – Assemble in Village Car Park and sing carols enroute to church via Meadowfield Grove and Meadowfield. Church Service at 7.15 pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine/fruit juice.

**Christmas Eve at 4.00 pm** – Crib Service in Church.

**Christmas Day at 10.00 am** – Family Communion.

***NETHER WASDALE***

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm** – Carol Service

**Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm** – Candlelit Midnight Communion.

***SEASCALE***

**Sat/Sun – 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> December** – Christmas Tree Festival at St Cuthbert's.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Fayre** – 11am – 5pm with Soup Lunch

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Christmas Tree Carols at 3.30 pm.

**Christmas Eve** – Crib Service at St Cuthbert's at 4pm.

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

**Christmas Day** – Morning Service at the Methodist Church at 10 am

***WASDALE HEAD***

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6 pm:** Carols in the Bar at Wasdale Head Inn.

**Christmas Day:** Festival Communion at 11.00 am



## DECEMBER 2023

As usual there won't be a meeting in December.

**The January meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** at 12 noon will be the AGM followed by a Bring and Share lunch in St Mary's Room. Drinks will be provided. The programme for the rest of 2024 will be discussed. Please do come along for the fellowship and help to shape the way forward.

The Membership fee for 2024 will be £29. This has had to be increased because, although the branch fee remains the same, the amounts payable to Carlisle Diocesan MU and Central MU have increased. Members of the Gosforth Section are asked to pay this fee in the New Year, either by bank transfer (details from Jonathan Falkner) or to Ruth as cash or a cheque made payable to Gosforth and Seascale Branch of the Mothers Union.

## PRAYER TOPICS FOR DECEMBER

- The MU members and associates in the dioceses in Zone D – Kenya (117,604); Rwanda (27,150); Tanzania (850,000); Uganda (21,500), Jerusalem and the Middle East (3,330) that they may enjoy Christian Fellowship within the Mothers' Union.
- Those who are suffering abuse, injustice and discrimination rather than being treated with equality and respect, that all may learn to celebrate our diversity and interdependence. Praying especially for the women of Afghanistan and Iran.
- All for whom the celebration of Christmas is difficult; those who are ill at home or in hospital, for the bereaved, the lost and the lonely. May they know the light of the Christ Child in their lives at this time.
- In this Christmas period, pray for the homeless, those living at Calderwood House at this time, those living in poverty and those for whom Christmas is a sad time because of their isolation
- All those who have to work through the holiday period and particularly on Christmas Day itself. All who selflessly care for the vulnerable at this time - working in the health service, in care homes and in agencies supporting the homeless and depressed. Those working in essential services - to supply our food and medicines, to maintain the communication networks and the supply of various utilities needed in our homes. Also, those in the police and fire services.

## PRAYER TOPICS FOR JANUARY

- The MU members and associates in the dioceses in Zone E – Central Africa (3,650); Nigeria (60,000); South Sudan (53,000); Sudan (386); Southern Africa (61,664) that they may enjoy Christian Fellowship within the Mothers' Union.
- As the magi brought gifts to the infant Christ, so may MU members bring to him our gifts and talents to be used for his glory, through our service as Mothers' Union across the world.
- Those who are poor in affluent areas of the world, where people are ashamed to admit their needs, that they may regain their dignity and receive what help they need to be comfortable and confident day by day.
- The people of war-torn countries as they face the perils of daily life and worry about their families, thinking especially of those in and from Ukraine.



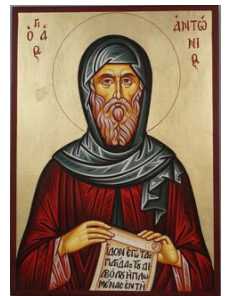
### SAINT FOR JANUARY - St Anthony of Egypt

After the hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Year you might like to think about some peace and quiet.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of January the Church remembers Antony of Egypt, who died in 356. He is described in Common Worship as an Abbot and a hermit. He lived a solitary life but others followed his example and lived nearby.

He is sometimes described as 'The Father of Monks' although he is not thought to have been the first monk.

He is often shown with a T shaped Cross, and he became popular in the Seventeenth Century as the inspiration for the 'Hospital Brothers of St. Antony'.



*Warren Lonorgan*



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## *St Olaf's, Wasdale Head faith in the fells*

**CHRISTMAS** - the popular **Carols in the Inn** is on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in the bar at the Wasdale Head Inn** – an occasion not to be missed. This year the carols will be accompanied by guitar. Our thanks to the Inn for hosting this event each year. Many stay on for a meal afterwards, a convivial evening is in prospect!

Christmas Day at 11am – this will be a special and different service this year, and the Festival Service will be led by the Rector, Philip Dorling. Do come!

Forward dates:

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 11am – Morning Praise

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 6pm – **CAROLS IN THE INN** (see above)

Christmas Day Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 11am – **FESTIVAL SERVICE**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 11am – Morning Praise

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 11am – Morning Worship

**EVOLVING HISTORY** – in the June Parish Magazine we published the earliest known photo of St Olaf's, it was taken sometime between 1855 and 1860. Our 'former forrester' Rector spotted that the trees surrounding St Olaf's were damsons, not our present yews, except for the two 'fastigate' yew bushes either side of the east gate, they're still there. Damsons proliferated in the Lake District at that time and if they were still surrounding St Olaf's we could have four legged mowers cutting the grass, and a crop of damsons too! This photo also proves that the churchyard walls are much earlier than previously thought - we now think it is likely that they were built at the time the present field enclosures replaced the old Wasdale Head common, news of the 1801 Enclosures Act seems to have reached Wasdale Head around 1820! A Wasdale yarn has it that the straight walls were built before lunch at the Inn, the crooked ones in the afternoon. The churchyard walls are dead straight!

**THANK YOU** – it is time to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who has supported St Olaf's this year, and to those who work so faithfully to open the church each day, lead worship and help maintain the church and its churchyard. **Thank you!**

*Hugh Foulerton*  
*e: [wasdalehead.church@gmail.com](mailto:wasdalehead.church@gmail.com) t: 019467 25725*  
*[www.wasdalehead.church](http://www.wasdalehead.church)*

## NEWS FROM SEASCALE

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL & ST CUTHBERT'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

St Cuthbert's and the Methodist Church will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival in St Cuthbert's Church on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 11am - 5pm and on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 11am - 4pm.

The Saturday will also be St Cuthbert's Christmas Fayre with various stalls, a raffle and children's crafts. Come and enjoy a soup lunch too, as well as browsing the stalls, and listen to live music in the afternoon.

On Sunday Phoenix Praise will lead us in singing carols at 3.30 pm.

### WEDNESDAY OUTREACH

Recently we have enjoyed some Craft afternoons when we have used cutters to make Christmas tree decorations from air dry clay. On our last Craft afternoon, we decorated the Christmas tree decorations as well as filling the knitted bells for hiding around the village at Christmas.



Work has also been in progress for the Tea and Chat tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Cuthbert's church on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The theme this year is the Natural World and we have chosen butterflies for our tree.

Our next meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm will see the return of the Friendship Hour, this is a drop-in session with the opportunity to chat over a cup of tea/coffee with cakes.

Shackles Off are kindly hosting a Christmas afternoon on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm, this is a community event with food and fun.

We look forward to our Carols and Cakes afternoon with Phoenix Praise on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

The January Friendship Hour will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 2pm. All are welcome to join us at any of our meetings.

We extend our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everyone.

*Jackie Folkes*

## Singing and Studying with Phoenix Praise

It's been a really busy but exciting autumn for Phoenix Praise. In addition to our regular weekly 'choir' practices and monthly services, our singers have taken part in some very special events. These have been organised variously by the Circuit, by both Benefices of the South Calder Mission Community, and by Churches Together in Seascale and District. And on Thursday evenings once a fortnight in Gosforth we have been hosting a series of Bible studies based on the Book of Ephesians.

In September we were delighted to be able to lead the worship at the Circuit Service in Seascale at which Brian Pateman was officially welcomed into the Methodist fold. As well as being a lovely local preacher, Brian is a star when it comes to printing song sheets for special occasions! In October Phoenix's monthly service was hosted jointly with Churches Together, and we were privileged to welcome Revd. Andrew Dodd, Chair of Churches Together in Cumbria, as our speaker. His ministry was much appreciated by the large congregation who attended either 'live' or on Zoom. By the time this magazine appears, we will have sung at a lively 'Messy Communion' event for the Seatallan Benefice, organised by our new friend Rev. Rachel Cunliffe, its newly appointed Curate.

Our series of Bible studies has proven to be a very welcome opportunity for many folk, from a whole variety of church backgrounds, to explore their faith more deeply and get used to talking about it with others. If we can't 'gossip the Gospel' with each other, it's much harder to share it with those who haven't yet heard it at all. We are especially grateful to Revs. Paul Harold, Alistair Smeaton and Kina Saunders for leading studies and enabling stimulating discussion to take place.

Now Advent is almost upon us, always the 'silly season' for choirs and music groups of all kinds. So, there will be a little less study and a lot more singing for a while...

Everyone is welcome to join in our activities, live and on Zoom. Please get in touch if you would like to know more about these or be added to our contacts lists.

Happy Christmas..!

*Jill and Keith Hudson [jillfhudson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jillfhudson@hotmail.co.uk)*

## BECKERMET NEWS

The past year has certainly flown and by the time you are reading this we will be fast approaching the busiest time for most with Christmas preparations of buying presents and sending off Christmas cards to all our relatives and friends. Although a wonderful time for the vast majority of us, there will be those who find it difficult and worrying due to the cost of basic food items. Christmas is a time of giving, so if you feel able to give a little something to help those families much less fortunate, then the box for donating food can be found in the front porch of the Reading Rooms. (tinned/packet etc. – not fresh)

The Reading Rooms continue to be well used for the benefit of the village with a great variety of activities being undertaken on a regular basis:

Coffee, Cake & Chat sessions take place on Tuesdays from 9.30-11.30 and on Thursdays from 1.30-3.30. There is no charge but a donation would be welcome.

Quiz Nights and Bingo Evenings continue to be enjoyed each month by our regulars and will be held on the following dates at 6.30pm and last about 2 hours.

Quiz Nights – 1<sup>st</sup> December; 5<sup>th</sup> January; 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Bingo Evenings – 15<sup>th</sup> December; 19<sup>th</sup> January; 16<sup>th</sup> February

The second Village Lottery Draw took place on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> with the three lucky winners receiving £50, £30 & £20 respectively. The December draw will take place at 10 am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, when the prize money will be doubled to £100, £60 & £40, plus extra prizes to be won so more people get a little extra cash to help with the expense of the coming festive season. Further draws will take place on the first Tuesday of each month during the Coffee, Cake & Chat sessions.

With 154 members now in the lottery we will be handing out over £1800 in prize money and a similar amount to good causes in the village. If you are interested in either, or would like to know more, please use the contact details at the end of this article.

St John's Church continues to hold two services per month, shared between Rev Philip Dorling and Rev Rachel Cunliffe. These will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December & 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January. Starting in January 2024 until March the services are planned to be held in the Reading Rooms as a trial over the cold winter months, returning back into St John's in time for Easter 2024. To fit in with the availability of the Reading Rooms, the services would start at 9 am (subject to PCC approval) with members



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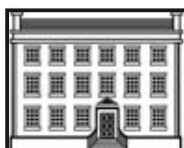


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## West Lakes U3A DECEMBER/JANUARY events

<https://u3asites.org.uk/west-lakes/events>



Contact : Marilyn on 07817499849, [smithybrow@icloud.com](mailto:smithybrow@icloud.com) or check website for further details and updates.

Visitors are very welcome to attend a couple of meetings or events before becoming a member. Current annual membership is £5. There is usually a small charge for indoor meetings.

**Mondays weekly:** Chair based exercises with Lin Davis. 60 minute sessions starting at 2.30 followed by refreshments. Gosforth Public Hall. Check website for dates.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – History:** Stephen Cove - Early postcards of our area produced by the Sankey family of Barrow in 1920's - Drigg Village Hall refreshments 10.15 for 10.45 start.

**Wednesdays 6<sup>th</sup> December resuming on 13<sup>th</sup> January weekly - French Conversation:** The Kellbank, Gosforth 10.15-12.15. Details from James 07931996742. This group is currently at capacity.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, No January session - Singing for Fun:** Seascale Methodist Hall 2.30-4.00 . Kathy on 019467 21217.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December, 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> January – Intermediate Recorders:** Santon Village Hall supper room. Refreshments available from 10.00 Playing from 10.15 -12.00. 07817499849 [smithybrow@icloud.com](mailto:smithybrow@icloud.com)

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December & 8<sup>th</sup> January – Strolling group:** A 2 mile gentle stroll followed by a refreshment stop, starting at 2pm. Route to be decided. Val 07796527876.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 9<sup>th</sup> January – Discussion Group:** This is a house group meeting at 7 Denton Park Court, Gosforth. 10.30-12.30. If you have not attended previously please contact Graham on 019467 25794 before attending for the first time.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec., Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January - Foundation Level Recorders:** Santon Bridge Village Hall Supper Room, Thursday 10-00-11.30., Wednesday 2.00-3.30 . 07817499849, [smithybrow@icloud.com](mailto:smithybrow@icloud.com)

**Wednesday fortnightly 10<sup>th</sup> January – IT/Digital Support drop in:** Gosforth Library. Call in anytime between 4 and 5 pm. (session finishes at 5.30) None in December.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December , 11<sup>th</sup> January - Art Appreciation:** Art of America - Parts 2 and 3 on DVD . St Joseph's, Seascale, from 10.15 for a 10.45 start.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 16<sup>th</sup> January – Family History Group:** Santon Village Hall , 10.00 – 12.00 . For further details or to express an interest email Hilary on [westlakesu3afhg@gmail.com](mailto:westlakesu3afhg@gmail.com)

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas entertainment and a buffet lunch:** Gosforth Public Hall, Refreshments from 10.15 for a 10.45 start Pre-booking essential. £10 members/£15 visitors. Details on website.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Reading group:** St Mary's Rooms, Gosforth 10.30. No meeting in December. Contact Jean on 019467 28713.

**Out and About – 13<sup>th</sup> December – Ambleside; 6<sup>th</sup> January - Theatre by the Lake,** Keswick. Details and booking ring Vera on 019467 25213.

## NEWS FROM GADS – GOSFORTH AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY



### GADS Pantomime – Once Upon a Time in Pantoland, by Alex Jackson. January 2024

This year we move away from the traditional pantomime tales and venture into the unknown, with a hilarious new script by Alex Jackson - a new writer to

GADS but one I'm sure we'll see plenty of in the years to come. This year we will be performing from **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

In Once Upon a Time in Pantoland Dame, Tallulah Tickle runs the local joke shop with her children Tommy and Tilly. But when the Spirit of Pantoland gets kidnapped by the nasty witch Mouldywart, not even the Ticklees can get the citizens of Pantoland laughing. Can PC Pete and his trusty police dog Baxter help the Ticklees save the day? Will a visit to the Fairy Grandmother give them the answers they seek? Will the characters of Pantoland ever get their happy ever after laughter? This is the ultimate pantomime mash-up with much loved characters, and all your favourite pantomime traditions wrapped up in a completely original fairytale.

**Tickets will go on sale to groups (Scouts, Guides etc) on 4<sup>th</sup> December, to GADS members on 18 December, and to the public from 2<sup>nd</sup> January.** Ticket prices remain at £7.50 for adults and £5 for u18 / students, with a 50p per ticket discount for groups of 10 or more.

Wednesday and Thursday shows are usually very busy with several good-humoured groups from the local scouts, cubs, brownies, beavers etc. Either is a great night to come along if you want to support their energetic audience participation. Remember, we now include a Saturday afternoon matinee for those of you with younger children or who prefer a daytime show.

Seating plans and ticket sales will be shown on the GADS website - especially useful when sales start to pick up so you can see our full availability. When booking opens, you will be able to book by email ([tickets@gads.org.uk](mailto:tickets@gads.org.uk)), phone (28392), via the website [www.gads.org.uk](http://www.gads.org.uk), or online at [www.ticketor.com/gads](http://www.ticketor.com/gads). We will be able to take BACS, mobile phone and card payments (in person, but not over the phone) and we still even take cash and the occasional cheque. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evening shows will start at 7pm. The Saturday performances will start at 1pm and 6pm. **For all shows, booking is recommended, and the doors will open 30 minutes before the start.**



We will have the usual complimentary programme and light refreshments during the interval and there will also be ice cream on sale during the interval, thanks to Ravenglass Handmade Ice Creams.

**GADS Youth Theatre Group** will continue to run during pantomime season and currently has spaces in both our junior and senior sections. Get in touch with our Youth Director Tosh via [yt@gads.org.uk](mailto:yt@gads.org.uk) for more information. **Plays for Pleasure** should be back following panto on the last Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30pm in the function room at the Kellbank. If you would like to keep up to date, you can visit our website for more information ([www.gads.org.uk](http://www.gads.org.uk)), follow us on Facebook and Instagram or join our mailing list via the website. You can also email us using [secretary@gads.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gads.org.uk) or [panto@gads.org.uk](mailto:panto@gads.org.uk) for panto specific enquiries.

*Natasha McGregor, GADS*



## **GOSFORTH WI**

The WI enjoyed a lovely evening watching a demonstration of flower arranging by Ann McKenzie in October. There were both real and silk flower arrangements including some examples of how easily novices can create a stylish table centrepiece.

In December the WI Christmas party will take place at Gosforth Public Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 1 pm. The Harp Ladies will entertain us with a recital followed by traditional Christmas carols, and a Bring and Share lunch will be provided by the members. The evening Christmas party will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7 pm at Sella Park hotel. (Pre-booking for Sella Park is essential.)

The January meeting will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 2 pm at Gosforth Public Hall. Our speaker will be Molly Champion advising us on health and wellbeing. Bring your post-Christmas left-over nibbles!





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### **CAROL for THE WATCHERS by Norman Nicholson**

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 The night that Christ was born,  
 His mother looked into his eyes and saw  
 Her Maker in her son.

The twelfth night, the twelfth night,  
 After Christ was born,  
 The Wise Men found the child and knew  
 Their search had just begun.

Eleven thousand two hundred and fifty  
 nights  
 After Christ was born,  
 A dead man hung in the Child's light,  
 And the sun went down at noon.

But the last night, the last night,  
 Since ever Christ was born,  
 What his mother saw will be seen again,  
 And what was found by the Three Wise  
 Men,  
 And the Sun will rise and so may we,  
 On the last morn, on Christmas Morn,  
 Umpteen hundred and eternity.

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## GOSFORTH SCHOOL NEWS



Despite the cold and mud underfoot, a large number of our children from KS2 attended a cross country event at the end of October. The fastest finishers will qualify for the county championships in Penrith after Christmas. We have also had a visit from two local Taekwon-do teachers who gave each class a 30 minute taster session of the sport.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the Autumn Disco which is also a great fundraiser for FOGS (Friends of Gosforth School). FOGS are having a Table Top Sale in the school hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 9am to 11am. The banner is also up at the Public Hall ready for the Christmas Market on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 10 - 2pm. There are now close to 30 stall holders attending. The Candlelit Concert will be held in Church on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, tickets on the door. The school choir will perform along with our talented musicians and of course the annual hand bell performance from the staff!

School held an open afternoon recently which offered the opportunity for parents who have children starting school next September to come and look around and see what Gosforth C of E Primary has to offer.

We held our annual Remembrance service in the church. Children who are part of Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts and Guides attended in their uniforms and carried their group flags into the church. They were lowered while The Last Post played. The children made us particularly proud during this service as they sat so quietly - even Reception who had only been in school a matter of weeks.

We kicked off Anti-bullying week with Odd Socks Day to show that it's okay to be different and to stand up against bullying and discrimination. Reception talked about Friendship with Elmer the Elephant, while the rest of the school looked at the story Benna Makes a Noise, about a bat who speaks out against bullies.

'Children in Need' day was also marked with our usual non-uniform day in exchange for a donation to the charity.

Our term will end on the 19<sup>th</sup> December with a Carol Service in the church. This year our service will include a Christingle celebration. Children will all be making their own Christingle in school the day before, to take along to church.

*Mrs S Layzel, Assistant Headteacher*



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## NEWS FROM GOSFORTH BROWNIES



Brownies had a fantastic coffee morning, raising much needed funds for themselves, Gosforth & District First Responders and Wasdale Mountain Rescue. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us. We are having a busy term -

making bunting for the War Memorial for Remembrance Day, practising carols and making lanterns for our carol singing evening at Bradbury House and around the village, making Christmas tree decorations, and a Christmas film night. Looking forward to the GADs panto, and planning to have a Brownie Bakeoff in the New Year, amongst other things. Congratulations to Laura and Prya on gaining their Brownie Gold Award this term



If your daughter would like to join us in January or get on the waiting list, please register interest on [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

*Samantha Milliner (Brownie Leader)*  
[sam.milliner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sam.milliner@hotmail.co.uk)

## GOSFORTH LIBRARY

Opening hours as follows:  
Saturday: 10.00 – 12.00 hrs.  
Monday: 13.00 – 14.30 hrs.  
Wednesday: 16.00 – 17.30 hrs.



The library is looking for more volunteers to continue with this village service. You do not need any library skills to be a volunteer and there will always be two on duty. It does not involve a lot of your time anything from a 2-hour session once a month or once a week. If you are able to help, drop into the library and have a chat with the volunteers on duty.

Last month's coffee morning was well supported by volunteers and residents. Some new Gosforth residents took the opportunity to visit the library for the first time and we were able to donate £100 of our takings to the local Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

During the month several residents (6+) have joined/rejoined the library and have made return visits, boosting the number of library users.



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## HOLMROOK READING ROOM

**Table Tennis Club:** Meets on a Wednesday - 6:00pm to 7:30pm. All welcome, young or old. Contact David on 019467-24632. Other times can be arranged.

**Playground:** Come and see for yourself – A lovely playground in a great setting.

**Wild Flower Meadow:** Enjoy a walk or just sit and relax in the peace and quiet of the meadow. Supervised children are welcome.

**Fishing Club:** If you want to join this club it's only £11/year. If you want some more information, please contact David on 019467-24632.

**Bookings:** The Reading Room has a fully equipped kitchen, facilities for people with disability, in fact everything you would need for a great party. Why not call David on 019467-24632 to see if it is available for your next event?

**Membership:** Membership renewals for 2023 are due from 1<sup>st</sup> March. £7 for annual membership and £4 to join a club.

These can be renewed/started any time. If you are an existing member or want to join us contact David on [drmarsden@outlook.com](mailto:drmarsden@outlook.com) or 019467-24632.

## HOLMROOK READING ROOM OUR NEXT COMMUNITY EVENT

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec at 6:30pm – Buffet, Mince Pie and Wine evening**

**ALL WELCOME – Ring 019467-24632 to book**



## GOSFORTH INDOOR MAT BOWLING CLUB

The Club meets every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4 pm in Gosforth Public Hall. £3.50 per session, including refreshments. Please bring clean flat shoes to protect the mats. Spare bowls available for you to try.

NO BOWLING 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Restarts Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2024.

## SERVICES IN THE SOUTH CALDER MISSION COMMUNITY

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

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

### ZOOMED SERVICES

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

**Phoenix Praise Informal Evening Worship** on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month in St Mary's Room Gosforth at 7.00 pm led by Jill and Keith Hudson. Songs/hymns, readings, short talk, discussion and fellowship followed by refreshments. For more information please email [jillhudson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jillhudson@hotmail.co.uk) and for a Zoom invitation email [khudson@freenetname.co.uk](mailto:khudson@freenetname.co.uk) or ring 01946 721592 or visit [www.phoenixpraise.org.uk](http://www.phoenixpraise.org.uk)

### SUNDAY EVENINGS

#### **Monthly programme in St Mary's Room, Gosforth**

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

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

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – see above.

Occasionally special events and circumstances may lead to changes in the regular programme.

**Faith and Fellowship** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month at 7.00pm in Seascale at The Ferns, The Banks, hosted by Chris and Joy Chuter. Please ring Chris on 07768 421621 for details or email [free.c@outlook.com](mailto:free.c@outlook.com)

#### **Sunday Written Liturgy for those at home – Into His Courts with Praise**

(Compiled by Brian Pateman and distributed by email to nearly 100 people by Helen Pateman)

A Sunday Liturgy is issued weekly and will be emailed to as many of our contacts as possible. It is produced in a simple form which can be read on-screen, enlarged if necessary, or printed out. It has proved to be a useful resource for lay worship as well as for sharing with friends or for private devotions. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Helen Pateman: [aitchpateman@gmail.com](mailto:aitchpateman@gmail.com)

## SOUTH CALDER MISSION COMMUNITY - JANUARY 2024

| JANUARY                           | Church                   | Service                         | Time  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>      |                          |                                 |       |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>     | Nether Wasdale           | HC                              | 9.30  |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> of Epiphany</b> | Waberthwaite             | MP                              | 9.30  |
| <b>White</b>                      | Seascale                 | HC at St Cuthbert's             | 9.30  |
| <b>Proper</b>                     | Gosforth St Mary's Rm    | Morning Praise                  | 11.00 |
|                                   | Drigg                    | HC                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Eskdale Boot             | HC                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Muncaster                | MP                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Whicham                  | HC                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Bootle                   | Family S. – Messy Church        | 4.00  |
|                                   | Gosforth St Mary's Room  | Evening Worship                 | 6.30  |
|                                   |                          |                                 |       |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>      |                          |                                 |       |
| <b>14<sup>th</sup> January</b>    | Beckermet                | HC – Reading Rooms              | 9.30  |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Epiphany</b> | Irton                    | HC                              | 9.30  |
| <b>White</b>                      | Seascale                 | Methodists at St Cuthbert's     | 9.30  |
| <b>Proper</b>                     | Whicham                  | MS with CAROLS                  | 11.00 |
|                                   | Gosforth St Mary's Room  | HC – Covenant Service?          | 11.00 |
|                                   | Wasdale Head             | Morning Worship                 | 11.00 |
|                                   | Drigg                    | Family Service                  | 11.00 |
|                                   | Eskdale Boot             | MP                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Seascale                 | Faith and Fellowship            | 7.00  |
|                                   |                          |                                 |       |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>      |                          |                                 |       |
| <b>21<sup>st</sup> January</b>    | Eskdale Green            | MP                              | 9.30  |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Epiphany</b> | Nether Wasdale           | MP                              | 9.30  |
| <b>White</b>                      | Waberthwaite             | HC                              | 9.30  |
| <b>Proper</b>                     | Seascale                 | HC at St Cuthbert's             | 9.30  |
|                                   | Gosforth St Mary's Room  | Morning Worship                 | 9.30  |
|                                   | Drigg                    | HC                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Muncaster                | HC                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Whicham                  | Bacon + Blither HC              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Bootle                   | Evening Service                 | 4.00  |
|                                   | Gosforth St Mary's Room  | Informal All-Age Worship        | 6.30  |
|                                   |                          |                                 |       |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>      |                          |                                 |       |
| <b>28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>        | Calder Bridge Village H. | HC                              | 9.30  |
| <b>Candlemas</b>                  | Beckermet                | MP - Reading Rooms              | 9.30  |
| <b>WHITE</b>                      | Eskdale Green            | HC                              | 9.30  |
| <b>Proper</b>                     | Seascale                 | Meth at St Cuthbert's Covenant? | 9.30  |
|                                   | Gosforth St Mary's Room  | HC                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Wasdale Head             | Morning Praise                  | 11.00 |
|                                   | Drigg                    | MP                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Irton                    | HC                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Bootle                   | HC                              | 11.00 |
|                                   | Gosforth St Mary's Room  | Phoenix Evening Worship         | 7.00  |

## SOUTH CALDER MISSION COMMUNITY - DECEMBER 2023

| DECEMBER                              | Church                    | Service                                       | Time      |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>          |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>        | Nether Wasdale            | HC                                            | 9.30      |
| <b>Advent</b>                         | Seascale                  | HC at St Cuthbert's – Christmas Tree Festival | 9.30      |
| <b>PURPLE</b>                         | Gosforth                  | NW – St Mary's Room                           | 11.00     |
| <b>Proper</b>                         | Drigg                     | HC                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Eskdale Boot              | HC                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Whicham                   | HC                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Muncaster                 | CAROLS (+Waberthwaite)                        | 2.30      |
|                                       | Boothle                   | Family Service -Messy Christingle             | 4.00      |
|                                       | Seascale                  | Christmas Tree Carols                         | 3.30      |
|                                       | Gosforth St Mary's Room   | Evening Worship                               | 6.30      |
| <b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> | Nether Wasdale            | Carol Service                                 | 6.30      |
|                                       |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>          |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> December</b>       | Beckermet                 | MP                                            | 9.30      |
| <b>Advent 2</b>                       | Seascale                  | Methodist at St Cuthbert's                    | 9.30      |
| <b>PURPLE</b>                         | Gosforth                  | HC – St Mary's Room                           | 11.00     |
| <b>Proper</b>                         | Wasdale Head              | Morning Praise                                | 11.00     |
|                                       | Drigg                     | Family Service                                | 11.00     |
|                                       | Eskdale Boot              | MP                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Boothle                   | HC                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Irton                     | CAROLS                                        | 3.00      |
|                                       | Whicham                   | CAROLS                                        | 4.00      |
|                                       | Seascale                  | No Faith and Fellowship tonight.              | 7.00      |
|                                       |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>          |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>       | Eskdale Green             | MP                                            | 9.30      |
| <b>Advent 3</b>                       | Nether Wasdale            | MP                                            | 9.30      |
| <b>PURPLE</b>                         | Waberthwaite              | HC                                            | 9.30      |
| <b>Proper</b>                         | Seascale                  | HC at St Cuthbert's                           | 9.30      |
|                                       | Drigg                     | HC                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Muncaster                 | HC                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Whicham                   | Christingle                                   | 11.00     |
|                                       | Whitbeck                  | Crib Service                                  | 3.00      |
|                                       | Boothle                   | Christmas + Film                              | 4.30      |
|                                       | Gosforth Village & Church | Village Carols – Leave car park at 6.30       | 6.30/7.00 |
| <b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>   | Wasdale Head Inn          | Carols in the Inn                             | 6.00      |
|                                       |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>          |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>       | Calder Bridge Hall        | HC                                            | 9.30      |
| <b>Advent 4</b>                       | Waberthwaite              | Crib Service                                  | 3.00      |
| <b>PURPLE</b>                         | Seascale                  | Crib Service at St Cuthbert's                 | 4.00      |
| <b>Proper</b>                         | Gosforth                  | Crib Service                                  | 4.00      |
|                                       | Boothle                   | CAROLS                                        | 4.00      |
|                                       | Irton                     | Midnight HC                                   | 11.00     |
|                                       | Whicham                   | Midnight HC                                   | 11.30     |
|                                       | Nether Wasdale            | Midnight HC                                   | 11.30     |
|                                       | Seascale                  | Midnight HC at St Cuthbert's                  | 11.30     |
|                                       |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>Christmas Day</b>                  |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b>       | Beckermet                 | HC                                            | 9.30      |
| <b>GOLD</b>                           | Waberthwaite              | HC                                            | 9.30      |
| <b>Proper</b>                         | Seascale                  | Methodist at Methodist Church                 | 10.00     |
|                                       | Gosforth                  | Family Communion                              | 10.00     |
|                                       | Eskdale Boot              | HC                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Drigg                     | HC                                            | 10.00     |
|                                       | Boothle                   | HC                                            | 11.00     |
|                                       | Wasdale Head              | Festival Communion                            | 11.00     |
|                                       |                           |                                               |           |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>          | <b>Benefice Sunday</b>    |                                               |           |
| <b>31<sup>st</sup> December</b>       | Gosforth                  | HC - Benefice                                 | 10.30     |
| <b>Christmas 1</b>                    | Drigg                     | HC - Benefice                                 | 11.00     |
| <b>PURPLE</b>                         | Boothle                   | NW & CAROLS                                   | 11.00     |
| <b>Proper</b>                         |                           |                                               |           |