

# Coniston and Crake Valley News



Coniston  
&Crake  
Churches

February 2026 [www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk](http://www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk)

## **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](mailto:vicar@conistonandcrake.churches.co.uk) or sent to the **Vicarage, Penny Bridge, LA12 7RQ.**

*Brian Streeter*

## **LDNPA car park in Hawkshead**

The LDNPA car park in Hawkshead has some 30-minute free parking spaces. They are individually signed, stating they are the 30-minute spaces. They are suitable for those from Coniston Surgery who now have to come to Hawkshead for prescriptions, along with other short stay visitors.



# 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 Streater The Vicarage, Penny Bridge. LA12 7RQ	vicar@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk <i>Brian works for Filling Station on Thursday</i> <i>Brian's rest day is Friday</i>	01229 861668 07505 048736
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## 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](mailto: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**.

# Church Services for February 2026

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>		
<b>St. Luke, Torver</b>	9.30am	<b>Winter Breakfast</b>	Hazel Bowness, Linda Inman, Val Towndrow
<b>St. Luke, Lowick</b>	9.30am	<b>Morning Worship (Safeguarding Sunday)</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>Holy Trinity Colton</b>	10.00am	<b>All Age Worship</b>	Pam Priestley
<b>St. Mary Penny Bridge</b>	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>Coniston Methodist</b>	11.00am	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Chris Clark
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>		
<b>Holy Trinity Colton</b>	10.00am	<b>Morning Worship (Safeguarding Sunday)</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>St. Andrew Coniston</b>	11.00am	<b>Healing Service (Safeguarding Sunday)</b>	Pamela Hull
<b>St. Mary Penny Bridge</b>	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Harry Welch
<b>Coniston Methodist</b>	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Grace Cauldwell
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>		
<b>St Luke, Torver</b>	9.00am	<b>Holy Communion (Safeguarding Sunday)</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>St. Mary Penny Bridge</b>	11.00am	<b>Morning Worship (Safeguarding Sunday)</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>Coniston Methodist</b>	11.00am	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Andrew Lockley
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		
<b>St. Andrew Coniston</b>	11.00am	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>St. Mary Penny Bridge</b>	7.30pm	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>		
<b>St. Luke, Lowick</b>	9.30am	<b>Methodist Service</b>	Leanne Long
<b>Holy Trinity Colton</b>	10.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>St. Andrew Coniston</b>	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Rev David Bickersteth
<b>Coniston Methodist</b>	11.00am	<b>Morning Worship</b>	(Own Arrangements)
<b>Holy Trinity Colton</b>	3.00pm	<b>Songs of Praise</b>	Rev Brian Streeter
<b>St. Luke, Torver</b>	7.00pm	<b>Torver Junction</b>	Rev Brian Streeter

**Tottlebank Baptist Church** - Many thanks to all those who came along to our Christmas Fayre and Winter Warmer. The sum of £542.20 was raised for St Mary's Hospice.

Our next **Saturday Special** will be on **Saturday 28th February 2026** 10.15 am - 12.30 pm. Led by Richard Henry, the theme will be "An introduction to Exodus". All welcome.

## Pastoral Letter - Rev<sup>d</sup> Brian Streeter

### IT IS I

So, how is 2026 going? How has the year 2026 been for you so far? Is there anything of note going on in your life or in the world?!

Of course, this month we will sadly, almost undoubtedly mark the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation—four years of a special military operation, and counting. The United States of America armed forces have captured and renditioned the head of the sovereign state of Venezuela, President Nicolás Maduro. In addition, they have seized and impounded a number of foreign-owned oil tankers. The people of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been protesting the continued rule and governance by the Islamic clerics and their enforcers, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC. This has led to the deaths of 100s and what will most likely be 1000s of Iranian citizens.

And I make no mention as yet of the continuing tensions in the Israeli-Gaza peace deal, the war in Sudan, the tensions in Yemen between United Arab Emirates and Saudi-backed forces, or the daily threats to Taiwan, Cuba, and even—incredibly—Greenland! It is an unsettled and unsettling world in early 2026.

After the feeding of the five thousand, we are told in the Bible that Jesus withdrew, but sent the disciples to row back across Lake Galilee. But the wind was against them and they struggled to make headway.

*Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."*

*Matthew 14.25-27*

Jesus came at the fourth watch of the night, between 2.00-4.00am, the darkest part of the night, when the disciples were exhausted and they had no more strength left—when their fear was at its greatest and they were at their weakest.

And their fear was compounded by the fact that they thought He must be a ghost. But Jesus reassures them, "It is I" or the literal translation from the Greek, "I am", the name of Yahweh, the LORD God.

Not only that but any Jew at the time would have known the words of Job talking of the Almighty God that, "*He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea*". And that in Jewish thinking the seas represented chaos and disorder.

So, 2026 may seem stormy, unpredictable, chaotic even, and we in our lives or as the nations may feel exhausted, frightened, and with little or no strength left... ..but is precisely then that the LORD God strides across the chaos, our storms and declares, "*Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid*".

**Blessings in Christ,**



## Around the Parishes:

### Coniston & Torver

#### Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston - December 2025

Total - 511.2mm (20.1ins)

Wet days - 19

More than 1mm on 16 days

Wettest day - 14th - 90.0mm (3.5ins)

Frost on the 15th and the 23rd to the 30th

Total rainfall for 2025 - 3165.2mm (124.6ins)



#### Coniston Parish Council

If you are searching for information relating to the work of Coniston Parish Council, you might want to start at the Council website [www.coniston.info](http://www.coniston.info). However, on a day-to-day basis much of the Parish Council's work and general information regarding *community events*, *emergency planning*, *road closures* etc. is posted on Facebook at Coniston Parish Council, if you don't already do so, follow us to be kept better informed.

You probably already know one or more of your parish councillors, however, if you want to contact them in their capacity as parish councillor you can do so by email at the contact details listed below:

- *Tracy Coward*, Chair [tracy.coward@coniston.info](mailto:tracy.coward@coniston.info)
- *James Buller*, Vice Chair [james.buller@coniston.info](mailto:james.buller@coniston.info)
- *Robert McCracken* [robert.mccracken@coniston.info](mailto:robert.mccracken@coniston.info)
- *Derek Adams* [derek.adams@coniston.info](mailto:derek.adams@coniston.info)
- *Lian Dixon* [lian.dixon@coniston.info](mailto:lian.dixon@coniston.info)
- *Libby Lea* [libby.lea@coniston.info](mailto:libby.lea@coniston.info)
- *James Butcher* [james.butcher@coniston.info](mailto:james.butcher@coniston.info)

If your query is more general you might want to contact *Michael Dearnley*, the Parish Clerk, he can be contacted at: [parish@coniston.info](mailto:parish@coniston.info) or by telephone **01539 441 442**.

#### Coniston Parish Council: PAT Testing Scheme

Electrical safety for older people is an increasing concern.

Why? People over the age of 65 are proven to be most at risk from electrical hazards in the home.

One potential hazard that can be identified early and easily is whether equipment is

safe and suitable for use.

Coniston Parish Council has secured a grant from Electrical Safety First, a charity established to promote electrical safety in homes across the UK, to pay for qualified persons to test personal electrical equipment at no cost to the homeowner.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is PAT testing?**

Portable Appliance Testing or PAT Testing is the process of checking electrical appliances for safety through a series of visual inspections and electronic tests.

### **Why do I need to have my appliances tested?**

The best way of ensuring that your appliances are safe is to have a PAT test conducted on them.

### **What does Portable Appliance Testing involve?**

The person conducting the test will establish the safety and suitability of your electrical appliances initially with a visual inspection of the appliance, its plug and lead. They will also then inject test signals into the cable and appliance to ensure their integrity.

### **What will I receive?**

Upon completion of the portable appliance inspection and testing you should receive a report that details the following as a minimum:

- An inventory containing each appliance type, name, location, and description
- A full set of test results for each appliance tested
- A full list of any failed items with an explanation of their failure
- A visible pass or fail label on each appliance detailing the inspection date, next test due and the inspector's signature.

If you are not technically aware, then the contractor who conducted the inspection and testing should be happy to talk through your report with you and advise you of any further action required.

## **What do you need to do?**

If you are a pensioner living in the Parish of Coniston and you are interested in having your electrical appliances tested, or you have some questions, you are asked to contact the Parish Clerk to let him know of your interest.

When the scheme is ready to be delivered you will be informed by the Parish Council who will be contacting you to arrange a mutually convenient time for the testing to take place.

The Parish Clerk can be contacted by email at [parish@coniston.info](mailto:parish@coniston.info), by post at *Bluebird Lodge, Coniston, LA21 8AJ* or by phone to **01539 441 442**.

## **Coniston Surgery Update - Good News!**

The ICB has advertised for the new GP services with an initial 10 year contract beginning **15 June 2026**.

At first the practice will be based in the existing premises while negotiations continue to find a new improved site.

A representative from the Patient Group will be included on the panel that scrutinises the applications.

## Grants from the Rawdon-Smith Trust

The Rawdon-Smith Trust is a charity that owns the bed of Coniston Water and uses the fees collected from moorings and jetties for the benefit of local communities around the lake.

Recently, trustees have met with the heads of the outdoor centres based on Coniston Water to extend opportunities for local young people to take part in water activities.

The Trust's website: [rstcharity.uk](http://rstcharity.uk) provides more information on its work and it has an application form for grants. The Trust regularly supports voluntary bodies and charities and recent grants have been made to John Ruskin School for an initiative to support Girls' PE, Sport and physical activity, to Lowick Parent and Toddlers Group and to Coniston First Responders.

Trustees meet four times each year to consider requests. Applications for grants must be made online through the website and be submitted at least 7 days prior to a meeting. The Trust's next meeting is on **19th February 2026**.

## 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 the first **Wednesday – 4 February, 4 March**.

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

Everyone welcome.

## Coniston Community Lunches

Thank you to everyone who came to our January lunch, it was lovely to see you all.

Our next lunch will be **Monday 16th February** at 12.30pm in the institute reading room.

We will be serving a hearty two course lunch (usually soup and pudding) plus tea or coffee and treats from the sharing table. All ages are welcome.

No payment is expected, however a donation of £5 towards our costs would be very welcome.

Places can be limited so please confirm attendance by phoning or texting *Helen* on **07583 371275** or email [e.glaister013@btinternet.com](mailto:e.glaister013@btinternet.com). Also please let us know if you have any dietary requirements or need help with transport.

We are always grateful for additional help so please get in touch if you can offer any help either in the kitchen on the day or donating some food - perhaps a pudding or something for our sharing table.

I would also like to remind everyone that this is my last season organising the lunches and I will be finishing in March. I am still hopeful that someone will volunteer to continue the lunches as it will be sad to see them finish. If you are at all interested and would like to know more please get in touch.

Best wishes

***Helen and the Community Lunch Team***

## Egton cum Newland

### Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council Meeting

The date of the next Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday 3rd March 2026** 7pm at Greenodd Village Hall.

### The Crake Valley Friendship Club Coach Trip

The Crake Valley Friendship club's First coach trip of 2026 is on the **18th March**. We are going to Oswaldtwistle Mill's (including 3 course lunch & Cabaret Entertainment), at an additional cost of £20.

There are spare seats on our trips which are up for grabs to none members, anyone is welcome to join us. £18 none members.

For enquiries: please contact Anne on **01229 861278**

Coach leaves *Greenodd* 9.00 Prompt.



## Colton

### Colton Parish Council News February 2026

#### **Join the Parish Council**

If you are looking for a way to get more involved in community life in 2026, why not join your local parish council? Colton has 4 vacancies for councillors, and we'd love to hear from anyone who lives or work in the Colton area who might be interested. Please email the clerk for more information.

Archie has now stepped down as a Councillor, although we're pleased to say that he will continue to work with us the Lengthsman. We would like to express our thanks to Archie for his wonderful contribution and all he does in our Parish.



**We have new email addresses.** You can contact us:-

- [clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- [abigail.bennett@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:abigail.bennett@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- [gail.dudson@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:gail.dudson@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- [john.atkinson@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:john.atkinson@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- [kevin.wiley@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.wiley@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

#### **Speaking up for residents**

There have been concerns raised about the installation of new telegraph poles that have been put up as part of the ongoing work to improve broadband in the local area. Residents have raised issues about the lack of prior information or consultation, and the choice of unsuitable locations. We have been working with our Westmorland & Furness Councillor, Suzanne Pender, to ensure that the community's voices are heard. Whilst the installation of new poles is not subject to planning permission, it's

important that local needs are taken into consideration. If you have concerns about this speak to your local councillor or contact *Suzanne*:-

- [Suzanne.Pender@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Pender@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

We have been working with partners from all round Coniston and surrounding areas to ensure the forthcoming Bluebird festival in **May 2026** is a positive experience for local people and that potential negative impacts are minimised by good forward planning. We have voiced our concerns about the risks of increased traffic, inconsiderate parking, fly camping, rubbish and disruption to wildlife and we will continue to work with local partners to promote and encourage a robust approach.

### **Community Governance Review**

We are working with other local parish councils and Westmorland & Furness Council as part of a *Community Governance Review*. The aim is to look at the size and structure of local parish councils to ensure they reflect and work for local communities. The consultation process will be led by Westmorland & Furness Council. Please keep an eye out for opportunities to have your say. We will circulate information as it becomes available.

Our next meetings are:-

- 7pm **Monday 24th February** at Rusland Reading Room
- 7pm **Monday 31st March** at Bouth Village Hall

All welcome. See <https://coltonparishcouncil.org.uk/> for more information or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ColtonParishCouncilSouthLakes/>

### **Bouth Village Hall Coffee Mornings 2026**

Filter Coffee or Tea with Biscuits: £2.00 Donation

10:30-12:30

*An event for residents and non-residents alike*

#### **Fourth Wednesday of the month:**

**28th January    25th February    25th March**

**22nd April**

#### **Third Wednesday of the Month:**

**20th May    17th June    16th September**

**21st October    18th November**

**16th December (Christmas Special 10:30-13:30)**

**(Holiday months July and August)**



## 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](mailto:vicar@conistonandcrake.churches.co.uk) or sent to the **Vicarage, Penny Bridge, LA12 7RQ**.

*Brian Streeter*

## Reports

### Oxen Park Cinema Club

**February Films - 3rd February** - our winter Supper Special - 'The Ballad Of Wallis Island' . **21st February** - 'Santosh'

Oxen Park Cinema Club

**March - 3rd March** - 'September 5th' (1972 Munich Olympics) . **14th March** - Our annual Mountain Film Festival - a selected programme of films from the London Mountain Film Festival . and **Saturday 21st March** - 'The Seed Of The Sacred Fig'

That only leaves April before the end of our season so check out the website now and see where there are spaces. Add yourself to the waiting list if the film you want is full as that is an incentive for us to put on second show in our amazing, cosy, warm & sociable cinema. Don't forget linking a film with a meal at The Manor makes a great evening out.

### Oxen Park and Green Sparks Winter talks in aid of the Oxen Park Reading Room

All at The Carthouse Community Cinema 7.30pm. £5.00 plus £1 raffle

Booking ahead preferred (with Carol) [crlmcneill@gmail.com](mailto:crlmcneill@gmail.com)

**Friday 13th March** - A great follow up to our Indigenous peoples film "Singing Back The Buffalo" . Sarah Littlefeather Demick - she is Ojibwa. Her people are the Anishinaabe on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Sarah tells her story of adoption and assimilation via an English family in London, to a Cumbrian farm.

**Friday 27th March** - we have a film about bringing world wide communities together to fight the big corporations responsible for wrecking the countryside - 'Fires and Fascism' with director Pete Knapp.

*We plan for more this winter, dates to be arranged - watch this space.*

### Shoebox Appeal Thank You

The Girlguiding Shoebox team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated money for postage, their time, or items to go in the boxes. We sorted, boxed up, and made 2210. Just think of those children's faces, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova all received boxes. We also sent 100 directly to Ukraine to an orphanage for young teens. When we could not buy enough toothpaste at 50p the locals bought hundreds, they came from all over the county. We have started working on our 2026 appeal. If

you can add a toothpaste, a soap, a comb or a toothbrush to your weekly shop it would help enormously. If you can knit or sew then hats, scarfs, mittens, wrist warmers. Pencil cases and little bags and scrunchies can be sewn. So please make a difference this year by volunteering to help with the shoebox appeal. Save the date **23rd November - 26th November**.

### Hawkshead Guides, Brownies and Rainbows

Hawkshead Guides, Brownies and Rainbows meet each week to have fun, make new friends, learn new skills in a safe place and make a contribution to their community. If your daughter is aged 5-7 Rainbows, 7-10 Brownies and 10-14 Guides. New volunteers are always welcomed to be part of our team.

### Egton WI.

The first meeting of 2026 got off to an excellent start. We heard about the subjects put forward for our annual resolution and voted accordingly. The clear winner from our members was to see an improvement in the provision of public toilets as well as stopping the decline in their availability as so many have been shut in recent years.

We were then entertained by Sarah Garrish who teaches belly dancing. Much to the relief of many members we were not asked to participate but we were all enthralled with her beautiful (if somewhat heavy) costumes as well as her dancing. She spoke about the different Egyptian dances and how important the movement and personal interpretation of the music is.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 10th February** when Helen Bradford, a local authoress, we be talking to us about her writing as well as narrative therapy and the stories we tell ourselves and how it links to what we read! Interesting! We will welcome any new faces if you fancy joining us ladies.

For further info call **07519144799**.



### Coniston WI

Coniston WI have another exciting year planned, we are dancing, visiting the theatre, swimming, walking and doing lots of things in our community. We also have a crafting evening each week. We would love to welcome more members and the new year is a good time to start.

Contact **Judith** on **07896618474** if you would like more information or a programme.



### Penny Bridge CE Academy – News from School

As we welcome 2026 at Penny Bridge CE Academy, we look forward to another positive year at school. The spring term is always a busy one, and 2026 is already shaping up to be full of memorable experiences for our children.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue our visits to Abbots Reading Farm, where pupils will learn first-hand about animals, food production, and life in our farming community. Later this month, our school choir will travel to Manchester to take part in the **Young Voices** concert — an unforgettable opportunity for our children to sing alongside thousands of other young performers. Then, in February, some of our

older pupils will be setting off on a residential visit to **London**, exploring the capital's landmarks, museums, and cultural experiences. It promises to be a truly enriching trip.

### **A Request for Help from Our Community**

We are, however, facing a significant challenge at school and would be incredibly grateful for the support of our local community. We are currently **short of lunchtime supervisors**, which is placing real pressure on our dedicated staff team, as teaching staff often have to cover duties alongside teaching full days.

If you, or someone you know, could spare even **one lunchtime a week**, your help would make a tremendous difference. The role involves supporting and enjoying time with our lovely children in the middle of the day — a rewarding way to contribute to school life and help us keep lunchtimes safe, positive, and well-staffed. We are ideally looking for support across **all five school days**, but even a single day would be hugely appreciated.

Further information about the role is available on the **school website**, or you can simply **contact the school office** if you would like to ask any questions or express an interest.

Our community is at the heart of everything we do at Penny Bridge, and we are so grateful for any help you can offer.

### **BRANTWOOD NEWS AND VIEWS.**

#### **'East Side Story – Portrait of a Lakes Road in Winter'**

exhibition continues in the Severn Studio. These evocative photographs by local photographer *Ken Royall* depict the East of Lake road in Coniston including some of the characters that live and work there. It is a celebration of the uniqueness of the East Side and enables a deep appreciation of the stillness and solitude of winter in the Lake District. On display until **12th April**.

Our Blue Gallery exhibition explores John Ruskin's favourite colour, Blue. Ruskin deeply loved the colour blue, seeing it as divine, a source of joy, and essential in nature, especially the sky and water. It influenced his art and writings with its intense hues like gentian blue, contrasting with industrial greys and celebrating blue as a spiritual and aesthetic delight. He studied its variations, used it in his watercolours, and viewed blue as a pure, natural element.

On **Sunday 22nd February** at 2pm, we welcome harpist, *Elinor Nicholson* to perform in our Drawing Room as part of our **2025-2026 Concert Series**. Tickets are £20 and can be purchased through our website.

For full details of all our exhibitions, events and bookings, please visit our website [www.brantwood.org.uk](http://www.brantwood.org.uk). Contact [enquiries@brantwood.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@brantwood.org.uk) or call **015394 41396**.



### **The Farmer's Arms Lowick Green / Grizedale Arts**

#### **Our Annual Feast of St Valentine Returns**

Whether you're coming as a family, a couple, a group of friends, or happily flying solo, you're warmly invited to join us for our *annual St Valentine's feast*.



You'll be welcomed with a glass of something fizzy and tasty nibbles, then treated to a special early-spring four-course dinner, celebrating the best of local, seasonal produce — from shellfish to venison. And of course, no feast would be complete without a groaning pudding trolley to satisfy even the most ambitious sweet tooth. Prebooking essential via our website.

### **The Cafeteen: A New Menu (and a Few Good Surprises)**

Our teen-run Cafeteen will be launching a new menu, and it's heartening to see how much thought and effort continues to go into it. What started as a learning project has become a well-run and much-loved part of our Saturdays.

The cake table is particularly strong- with Chocolate Guinness cake, Coffee & Walnut, cheesecake, brownies, and the ever-popular Sticky Toffee Pudding. Tea and coffee are now served with *free madeleines* — a small kindness that has already persuaded several of us to stay for a second cup. Savoury offerings include homemade soup, sausage rolls, assorted things on toast (*always interesting, always earnest*), sandwiches, bibimbap, and chips.

Cafeteen is open every *Saturday from 11–4*. Please do come along to support these young people, who are learning fast, working hard, and occasionally teaching the rest of us a thing or two about hospitality!

### **Bring Us Your Best Ideas!**

As ever, our space is available to hire for events, conferences, talks, workshops, quizzes, and just about anything else you might be planning. If you have an idea, we're very likely able to make it work.

We regularly host weddings, birthday celebrations, and community events, as well as special dining experiences and more laid-back gatherings. We offer very reasonable rates throughout the week, available daytime or evening, and are happy to tailor the space to suit your event and numbers — whether you're planning something intimate or inviting half the village.

If you'd like to talk it through, please do get in touch. We enjoy a good plan, and we're rather good at making them happen.

### **Whats On in February?**

#### **5th February – Edward Carefoot: Journeyman Furniture Maker**

Edward talks about his work as a furniture maker. After a five-year apprenticeship in antique restoration, he set out to test whether the medieval tradition of travelling and trading one's craft for food and lodging could still be done today. Over two years he journeyed from Scotland to the Isles of Scilly, working for farmers and royalty alike — fixing gates, restoring shipwrecked furniture, and everything in between. Edward has now returned to Cumbria, where he designs and makes bespoke furniture in his workshop.

#### **12th February – Japan and Ways of Living**

Join Motoko Fujita (GA's Director for Japanese Projects) and three professors from Tokyo University for a discussion and illustrated talk. They will share insights from

their research trip to Grizedale Arts and the Crake Valley, exploring *wellness, creativity, and approaches to living a creative life.*

### **19th February – Poetry Reading & Open Mic with Kerry Darbishire**

Spend an informal evening with local poets and writers. Bring your own work, a favourite poem to share, or simply come along to listen and enjoy.

This month's guest reader is *Kerry Darbishire*, a much-loved local poet, reading from her new book *What Love Is* — a collection of poems of exquisite depth and beauty exploring love in all its many forms.

There will also be *five-minute open mic slots* — sign up on the door. Seasoned writers and first-time readers alike are very welcome, and applause is guaranteed.

### **26th February – Book Launch: Patricia Townsend**

Artist Patricia Townsend presents her new book *Bridging Time 1944–2024: Letters to My Father*. Patricia works across photography, moving image, installation, and poetry, and has held three solo exhibitions at the Blue Gallery, Brantwood. Her moving-image work *Inner Worlds 1* is currently on display at Abbot Hall Gallery, Kendal. This talk offers a fascinating insight into the creation of her book and the intersections of art, memory, and storytelling.

As usual, our popular **Friday Pizza and Music Nights** are back with the likes of Freyja Evelyn, Little Arrow String Band, Alcove, and Chris Fellows. Check our social media for upcoming performance details.

### **Rookhow**

#### **Cello concert 26th February**

'**MIGRATION**' with Maja Bugge, professional cellist and Ben McCabe, drums



**Thursday 26th February 2026.** 7pm refreshments. 7.30pm Music. Donations on the door- pay as you feel.

The MOOT duo will perform compositions and improvisations from their album 'Together' as well as new tunes featuring the sound of declining seabirds alongside melodies, grooves, repetition and stillness. Website link: [www.majabugge.com](http://www.majabugge.com)

To book a seat email Sue: [contactrookhow@gmail.com](mailto:contactrookhow@gmail.com) Tel **07377 971783**

#### **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>

#### **Quaker Meetings in the Rusland Valley**

Every 1st Wednesday 7.30-8pm

Every 1st and 3rd Friday 12.30-1pm

Non Quakers and local people are welcome, even if you have not been to a Quaker Meeting before. Join with others in a gathered silence. Rookhow, LA12 8LA

## **Open Days & Quiet Garden Movement**

Rookhow continues to be open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month 10am-4pm all year round. Come and be shown round the 300 year old Meeting House, take time to wander in the woodland and chat with our friendly volunteers over tea and homemade cakes. All are welcome. No charge. Donations welcome. Potential volunteers are even more welcome!

A reminder that on Open Days, Quakers' Wood is available as a 'Quiet space'. Rookhow is now a member of the Quiet Gardens movement. Just let us know when you arrive that you are here for Quiet Garden time and you'll be free to wander undisturbed!

## **LDNPA car park in Hawkshead**

The LDNPA car park in Hawkshead has some 30-minute free parking spaces. They are individually signed, stating they are the 30-minute spaces. They are suitable for those from Coniston Surgery who now have to come to Hawkshead for prescriptions, along with other short stay visitors.



## **Green Sparks News February 2026**

### **Dates for your Diaries!**

**Friday nights at the Carhouse Cinema Oxen Park**, raising funds for Oxen Park Reading room. All welcome! Contact us to book your seat.

**7.30pm Friday 30th January Clinging by a Claw** This film, created by Saving Wildcats and produced by SCOTLAND: The Big Picture, offers an extraordinary insight into the journey of Scotland's wildcats from the brink of extinction to their return to the wilds of the Cairngorms National Park.

**7.30 Friday 10th April "Where are we with wildlife reintroductions in Cumbria?"** A talk with Jenny Williams from Natural England and local resident Colin Barr.

## **Funding available for local Eco groups**

Ulverston Town Council offers an Environmental Sustainability Grant Fund, providing an opportunity for small groups, schools, charities and non-profit organisations to apply for up to £250. The funding can be used to fully support a project or contribute to a larger initiative. See <https://ulverstoncouncil.org.uk/environmental-sustainability-grants-up-to-250-available-to-local-groups/>

Grant applications will be considered every two months.

## **Make your home warmer, greener and cheaper to run**

Try affordable and quick fixes, such as these

- Fitting door seals around the sides and top of the door and door brush seals around the bottom of the door
- DIY upgrades to your front or back door such as a letterbox or keyhole brush or Eco Flap
- Adding or replacing worn window seals
- Installing loft hatch seals Upgrading any pet flaps
- Turning off radiators in rooms that aren't used
- Fitting curtain for the front door

For many more ideas see <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy/>

To let us know about useful resources, local events and news about sustainability, nature recovery and tackling climate change, contact us at [greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com](mailto:greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com)

## **Parish Prayer Diary February 2026**

### **1<sup>st</sup>: Sunday, the first day of the week**

May God give to His people grace to so love what He commands and to desire what He promises, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Pray for our Government.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Pray for the International Rescue Committee responding to humanitarian crises and helping to restore people devastated by conflict and disaster.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** On World Cancer Day, pray adults and children have access to quality health services when, where and how they need them.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for an opportunity to talk with someone about how they are feeling, and just listen without interrupting or advising.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for School Governors as they work with headteachers and senior leaders on their school's vision, ethos and strategic direction.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for emergency services First Responders, often managing particularly challenging and distressing scenes.

### **8<sup>th</sup>: Sunday, the first day of the week**

Pray our creator God will grow in us reverence for all creation and respect for every person that we may reflect His light and love to a troubled world.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for people and families struggling financially, and for the charities providing practical advice such as Step Change, Citizens Advice, Christians Against Poverty.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for the Mothers Union as it defends Christian family values in all spheres of life. Pray for MU's participation in PEGI (Pan-European Game Information) created to ensure video games were responsibly age-rated thereby providing an essential guide for parents on age appropriateness.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for the ministry of Chris Clark, Coniston's Youth & Community Worker.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for Community Nurses.

**13<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for Bible reading notes contributors.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** Thank our Father God for the courage of our persecuted church family in North Korea; may He be their strength and provide for all their needs. May the light of Christ shine and His peace be felt wherever there are Christians in North Korea, especially in labour camps. Give strength and wisdom to Open Doors partners serving North Korean believers.

### **15<sup>th</sup>: Sunday, the first day of the week**

Pray that our Holy God, who knows the disorder of our sinful lives, may set straight our crooked hearts and bend our wills to love His goodness and glory revealed in Jesus our Lord.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for Head Teachers and their Staff during the school half-term break.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for Christian song writers and musicians.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** As we move into the period of Lent prayerfully consider how you personally can use the next six weeks to deepen your relationship with Jesus.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** Pray for Scripture Union working to equip Mission Partners at home and abroad as children and young people with no church contact are discovering hope, strength and faith in the Lord Jesus.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Pray today's UN World Day of Social Justice will mobilise the political will of the international community to strengthen policies and provide resources that fight poverty, promote decent work, and open opportunities for all.

**21<sup>st</sup>:** Pray for newly appointed Network Youth Minister, Edward Carthy, as he settles into his role.

### **22<sup>nd</sup>: Sunday, the first day of the week**

Pray our Father God, whose Son Jesus fasted in the wilderness and was tempted, as we are, yet without sin: may give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to His Spirit; and, as He knows our weakness, so may we know His power to save through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** Pray for those who work in the science and research industries.

**24<sup>th</sup>**: Pray for members and leaders of our local Young Farmers Club.

**25<sup>th</sup>**: Pray for all who live and work in the communities of Mansrigg, Newland, Next Ness, Plumpton and Arrad Foot.

**26<sup>th</sup>**: Pray against the many armed conflicts across our world.

**27<sup>th</sup>**: Pray for all who work within Cumbria Constabulary.

**28<sup>th</sup>**: Pray for local organisations working to improve our environment for the benefit of wildlife.

## **Healing Services — Why do we have them?**

From the start of 2023 the ministry team for the churches of the benefice decided that we would hold a healing service every quarter at St. Andrew's, Coniston and St. Mary's, Penny Bridge.

The Healing Service is a normal Morning Worship service, i.e. it is not a communion service, in which there is an opportunity for all attendees to go forward to receive a prayer for healing. But some people have been asking, why do we do this? The reasons are fairly simple...

...it is normal in the Bible—I think that I hardly need to say that there are numerous healing stories in the Bible, and they play a significant part in the ministry of Jesus. Alongside the ethical teachings of Jesus that form the backbone of the culture we so highly prize and wish to pass on to our children, there were always healings.

In one healing story, Jesus is on His way to heal the 12-year-old daughter of the synagogue leader when a woman—who had been bleeding for 12 years—reached out her hand to touch His garment.

The woman was instantly healed and then Jesus spoke to reassure her. He said, *“Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well”*. In reaching out, in trusting that Jesus had the authority to heal her, it was her faith in Jesus that healed her.

Getting our relationship with the LORD God right is what brings us to a place of healing, be that physical, mental, or spiritual healing.

...the Bible tells us to—in the Book of James the author writes, *“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them... pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective”*. The LORD Jesus healed many and we are to follow in His example, it is not rocket science!

...there is an obvious need—I cannot speak for you as a reader, but I can speak for myself and from my own experience. I had a fairly difficult childhood losing my mother when I was 8 and then helping to care for a terminally-ill father from 11 until he died when I was 13. I am only able to function today because of the healing I have received.

Many people require physical healing, but for many others it is mental or emotional healing that they really need. The LORD God wants to meet with each of us where we are and as we are. He wants to bring us to a place of forgiveness, and also healing that often follows that forgiveness.

This is why we have the regular Healing Services, to give you this opportunity.

*Brian Streeter*

### From the Registers

**Holy Trinity, Colton**, 7th January 2026, Funeral of Vera Graham

**Holy Trinity, Colton**, 6th February 2026, Funeral of Sheila Rotheram

### Readings for February 2026

1st	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40
8th	Romans 8.18-25	Matthew 6.25-34
15th	2 Peter 1.16-21	Matthew 17.1-9
18th	2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10	Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21
22nd	Romans 5.12-19	Matthew 4.1-11

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Monday	Short Mat Indoor Bowling, 1 - 3pm, no experience needed	Greenodd Village Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Egton WI, 7.30pm	Greenodd Village Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Ulverston Repair Café 6.30-8.30pm	Croftlands Community Centre
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Coniston WI, 7.30pm,	Coniston Institute
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	Prayer Hour - 10 - 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.30pm	Bouth Village Hall

## What's On Guide - February

3rd	Winter Supper Special - Film - 'The Ballad Of Wallis Island' Film - see page 11	Oxen Park Cinema Club
5th	Edward Carefoot: Journeyman Furniture Maker - see page 14	The Farmer's Arms
6th	QUIZ NIGHT - see page 32	Water Yeat Village Hall
7th	Rod Demick and Jackie McAuley - see page 31	Coniston Institute
12th	Japan and Ways of Living - see pages 14-15	The Farmer's Arms
13th	Holly Clarke and George Sansome - see page 32	Water Yeat Village Hall
16th	Coniston Community Lunch - see page 8	Coniston Institute
19th	Poetry Reading & Open Mic with Kerry Darbishire - see page 15	The Farmer's Arms
21st	Film - 'Santosh' - see page 11	Oxen Park Cinema Club
22nd	Songs of Praise - see pages 2, 4, and 11	Holy Trinity Colton
22nd	Harpist, Elinor Nicholson - see page 13	Brantwood
25th	Coffee Morning - see page 10	Bouth Village Hall
26th	Cello concert - 'MIGRATION' - see page 15	Rookhow
26th	Book Launch: Patricia Townsend - see page 15	The Farmer's Arms

**Please send all articles and events for the  
March Magazine by February 15th to  
[editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk](mailto:editor@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk)**

# CONISTON INSTITUTE

Rod

DEMICK

Jackie

McAULEY



**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**TICKETS £12 online : [conistoninstitute.uk](http://conistoninstitute.uk)**

**DOORS 7:00PM PERFORMANCE 8:00PM**

**NO BAR – BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS. RAFFLE**

**ENQUIRIES : 07789591619**

# WATER YEAT VILLAGE HALL

Presents

## QUIZ NIGHT



Come and enjoy an evening of fun and good company, with prizes.

**Friday, 6th February**

7pm for a 7.30pm start

Maximum of 4 per team. £3 per person

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

[www.e-voice.org.uk/wyvh](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/wyvh)

find us off A5084 to Coniston: SatNav LA12 8DJ

&

**Holly Clarke and George Sansome**



Holly Clarke, a captivating singer draws from the old ballads and stories, from songs of the supernatural and folklore, to the tales of love and loss, Holly Clarke sings with an infectious energy and passion for traditional song.

George Sansome is a singer who gets right to the roots of what traditional music is all about.

His performances place a spotlight on human stories, with masterful guitar arrangements that showcase impressive skills whilst giving the songs themselves the space to shine.

**Friday 13th February, 8pm £15**

[www.wegotickets.com/wateryeatvillagehall](http://www.wegotickets.com/wateryeatvillagehall) - no booking fee

Café/table seating. No bar, bring your own drinks and nibbles

[www.e-voice.org.uk/wyvh](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/wyvh)

[www.facebook.com/wateryeatvillagehall/](https://www.facebook.com/wateryeatvillagehall/)