

Coniston and Crake Valley News



Coniston
&Crake
Churches

March 2026 www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk



One of the benches that has stood at the head of Coniston Water since the 1970s was destroyed in the winter storms.

This is in a lovely position, and the Parish Council would like to replace it, however, the replacement cost will be in excess of £1,000. Sponsoring the replacement of this bench would be a great opportunity to commemorate the life of a family member or friend in the most beautiful of settings.

If you are interested in sponsorship please contact Michael Dearnley, Parish Clerk on 015394 41442 or via email on parish@conistonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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 March 2026

1st	Second Sunday of Lent		
St. Luke, Torver	9.30am	Winter Breakfast	Hazel Bowness, Linda Inman, Val Towndrow
St. Luke, Lowick	9.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	Dare Holland
6th	World Day of Prayer		
St. Andrew Coniston	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer	(see page 9)
8th	Third Sunday of Lent		
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion By Extension	Pamela Hull
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Harry Welch
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	Chris Clark
15th	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)		
St Luke, Torver	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Helen Hooley
Holy Trinity Colton	3.00pm	All Age Service	Pam Priestley
22nd	Fifth Sunday of Easter (Passion Sunday)		
St. Luke, Lowick	9.30am	Methodist Service	<i>TBC</i>
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bickersteth
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	Morning Worship	John Hogarth
St. Luke, Torver	7.00pm	Torver Junction	Rev Brian Streeter
29th	Sixth Sunday of Easter (Palm Sunday)		
St. Luke, Lowick	10.30am	All Age (Lowick Community Hall)	Pam Priestley
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	Morning Worship (Christians Together in Coniston)	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	Holy Communion (Greenodd Village Hall)	Rev Harry Welch

Tottlebank Baptist Church - Saturday Special - Mini bible school - a journey through the bible - last Saturday of every month. This month the subject is Exodus ch 2: A child of slaves and prince of Egypt. **Saturday 28th March 2026**, 10.15 am - 12.15 pm. All welcome.

	<u>Tottlebank Baptist Church Weekly Preachers</u>	
1st Sun	10.30 am in the School Room & Zoom - <i>Communion</i>	Richard Henry
8th Sun	10.30 am in the School Room & Zoom	Richard Henry
15th Sun	10.30 am in the School Room & Zoom	Buster Violet
22nd Sun	10.30 am in the School Room & Zoom	Mike Hattersley
29th Sun	10.30 am in the School Room & Zoom	Ian Peters

Pastoral Letter - Rev^d David Bickersteth

Christianity Lite and Watchful Driving

Lent is well upon us, beginning last month on Ash Wednesday. The word 'Lent' comes from the old English for 'Spring' and obviously refers to this time of the year. But for the Christian faith - at least the ancient denominations - it's a practice of forty days of fasting before Easter. It was first created as a discipline at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD and made mandatory at the Council on Loedicea in 363. St Augustine of Hippo, (354-430) declared it a sin not to fast!

Well for most of us it's a time to give up chocs and booze for the benefit of our physical wellbeing! Moses and Elijah spent 40 days praying and without food as they engaged with the Lord, as of course, did Jesus immediately following his baptism: a time of trial and temptation by the satan, which he overcame.

For early Christians it was a period when baptismal candidates would prepare for their initiation into the faith, but fasting was probably just the last week – Holy Week, before their early dawn baptisms on Easter day.

Jesus told his followers to fast in secret – not to make a public declaration of their piety. But prayer and fasting have been a part of the Christian life from the beginning and dates to ancient Judaism.

This begs the question for the disciples of Jesus today, how seriously do we take our commitment, for the Apostle Paul taught clearly, we are saved not by works, but by grace through faith (Ephesians 2: 8-9).

Is there need for such a discipline as a Lenten fast? Well personally I don't think it's necessary for salvation – but discipline is good for the body as well as the soul, again Paul said as much in 1 Corinthians 9:27. Indeed he talks about being disqualified for the prize if having preached to others, he fails to discipline his body.

Discipline is a concept that often seems out of fashion these days. I certainly knew and indeed felt discipline as a schoolboy! Today as I write, I'm also facing discipline for the first time in my long driving career (1967). I'm facing a drivers awareness training course having been 'snapped' by the Holmrook speed camera driving at 40 in a 30. Neither my wife nor I, realised it was a 30 zone – but that's no excuse, I've been collared and must pay the price!

Happily, the price for failing the 100% standards of God's Holiness has been paid by a loving Saviour. But out of respect and appreciation, I follow him in faith and the practice of worship, prayer, Bible study and Holy Communion.

As I have opted for driver awareness training for my speeding penalty, so long ago – about the time I passed my driving test as a teenager, so I opted to follow Jesus. Lent for me is a time for study (we run Lent study groups) and a time to practice some discipline over habits – to show my body I'm in control – not my greed and passions.

Safe motoring and Holy living this Lent, is my agenda – what's yours?

David

Grizedale Marshal Opportunity

We are looking to start a new parkrun event at Grizedale and would like to ask anyone interested in volunteering to marshal to please get in touch.

You do not need to be a runner to get involved and you do not need to commit to every Saturday, in fact the more volunteers who express an interest the more flexible the rota. The hope is that we will be able to start with a core of volunteers and develop this over time. If you would like more information on the various roles I will be happy to provide more details. My email is rachael.morgan@forestryengland.uk

Around the Parishes: Coniston & Torver

Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston - January 2026

Total - 215.9mm (8.5ins)

Wet days - 22

More than 1mm on 19 days

Wettest day - 12th - 31.0mm (1.2ins)

Frost on the 2nd, 3rd & 28th

Snow on the 4th, 5th & 6th.

Coniston Parish Council

Upcoming Coniston Parish Council meetings (please do come along):

- **16th March**
- **20th April**
- **18th May** (Annual Parish and Annual Coniston Parish Council meeting)

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. 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
- *James Buller*, Vice Chair james.buller@coniston.info
- *Robert McCracken* robert.mccracken@coniston.info
- *Derek Adams* derek.adams@coniston.info
- *Lian Dixon* lian.dixon@coniston.info
- *Libby Lea* libby.lea@coniston.info
- *James Butcher* 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 or by telephone **01539 441 442**.

Torver Parish Council

The next meeting of Torver Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 5th March** at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom. The council's five councillors are *Chris Bradley* (Chair), *Tom Stergiakis* (Deputy), *Mark Feather*, *Julie Ward*, and *Rick Graham*. Topics of interest include flood prevention, community governance, and water treatment.

All are welcome to attend.

Save The Date!

Coniston Festive Fayre Returns!

It will be held on **14th November 2026!** We will be having an artisan market, Santas grotto, children's party, lantern parade and evening entertainment!

Press Statement: Fight to Save Coniston GP Surgery Continues

Patients in Coniston have reacted with dismay to news that no applicants have come forward to take on the local GP surgery vacancy. For many residents, this raises the alarming prospect of losing vital, accessible medical care in the village.

The Coniston Patient Group has been campaigning since 2014 to protect local GP services. In recent months the community has stepped up its efforts, producing a recruitment video and gathering a petition of over 1,000 signatures in support of keeping the surgery open. This groundswell of local backing underlines how essential the service is to people of all ages in the area.

The group believes the Integrated Care Board (ICB) must urgently extend and widen the search for a replacement provider. Allowing the service to disappear would create a cliff edge in patient care for Coniston and the surrounding rural communities, many of whom face long and difficult journeys to alternative surgeries.

An ICB-commissioned report published in **February 2025** itself recognised the vital need for medical services in Coniston. Closing the surgery would contradict that evidence and leave vulnerable patients at risk.

There is also serious concern that the timing of the recruitment process undermined its success. Releasing the contract on 23 December, immediately before Christmas, is likely to have severely limited interest from potential applicants.

The Coniston Patient Group is calling on the ICB to:

- extend the recruitment period,
- actively seek new providers, and
- guarantee that a GP service is retained within the village.

“This community has fought for over a decade to keep its surgery,” the Chair of the Coniston Patient Group said. *“We have demonstrated overwhelming local support and a clear clinical need. We will not accept the loss of our GP service without a renewed and determined effort to find a provider. Coniston deserves sustainable, local patient care – and we will fight on to secure it.”*

(Statement issued by the Coniston Patient Group 07/02/2026)

Christians Together in Coniston - Annual Report 2025

Who are we? Members of all the churches in Coniston representing the Methodist Chapel, St. Andrew’s and Sacred Heart Churches. The committee consists of a volunteer from each church, and also includes the Anglican Vicar (Brian) and Methodist Minister (Grace).

What do we do? We look together for ways to support the community in the light of Christ.

There are a few things that we have chosen to do on an ongoing basis:

- We pray together.
- We study together, with a special focus for Lent and Advent.
- We worship together when there is a 5 Sunday month, usually on the 5th Sunday.
- We celebrate Easter sunrise together on the lake shore by Blue Bird café.
- We support the work of Chris Clark, Children, Youth and Community Worker.
- We support Love Coniston, a partnership between the churches, Parish Council and other organisations such as WI as relevant.
- We fund Christingle (generous souls do the ordering and put it together).
- We donate a Remembrance Day Wreath.
- We support Churches Together in Cumbria.

What’s different in 2025?

Beginning in the autumn of 2025, *Open the Book* was restarted in the Primary School. This is drama-based story telling delivered by amateurs to great acclaim by the children (and staff). A substantial gift enabled nine volunteers to receive materials from the Bible Society along with training to support the project. It is a lot of fun for the volunteers and the children are quick to respond to the refreshing content.

Further information

A financial statement is available on request

Thank you to those who provided help and support over the last year.

Alex G Stewart, Chairman.

Pamela Hull, Treasurer.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. This year the service is prepared by Christian women in Nigeria, with the theme "I will give you rest, come".

The Day of Prayer is part of a wonderful wave of prayer which encircles the globe.

We will be taking part in this in Coniston, with a service at St Andrew's Church on **Friday March 6th** at 2 pm, followed by refreshments.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us, including men!

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 March**.

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

Everyone welcome.

Coniston and Torver Village Over 70's Trip

The Coniston and Torver village over 70's trip will be on **Friday June 19th** leaving Coniston bus shelter at 10am. We are visiting Barton Grange, having a ride on the canal followed by dinner at Crooklands.

Everyone is welcome, to book a seat telephone *Gill* on **01539441116**.



Thank You! - The John Ruskin School Fundraising Group would like to thank all of our supporters; families, friends and businesses who

supported us on Saturday 31st January. Our night was a great success and we were able to raise an impressive **£1592**.

CONISTON CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 25 March** at 6.00 pm in the Institute Reading Room. The agenda will provide an opportunity for members to raise issues, and will include the Minutes of the last AGM, the Chair's report, presentation of the accounts by Saint & Co, a review of the Rules of Governance, and the election of the Board of Directors. *All members are invited to attend.*

Good numbers for the 44th Annual Coniston 14 Race

The 44th Coniston 14 race will take place on **Saturday 21st March**. So far, 1,100 runners have registered for the Race. A road closure to protect the safety of the runners will operate between Coniston and High Ground in both directions from 10.50 until 11.20. There will also be a closure on Lake Road to coincide with the return of the runners. The race starts from John Ruskin School at 11.00 and runners need to complete by 14.00 after which the course is no longer covered by marshals.

Our race attracts many kinds of runners; those wanting to keep fit, to train for marathons, to raise money for their chosen charities, to compete against friends or improve their personal best times.

We are always pleased to have extra marshals to help on the day. Please contact the race director, Janette Braithwaite: janettemaude@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer.

Each year the Coniston 14 Committee makes donations to support the work of about 30 local organisations, charities and clubs. Information on how to apply for grants will be given in the next newsletter.

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

Coniston Community Lunches

Our next lunch will be **Monday 16th March** at 12.30pm in the institute reading room. We will be serving a hearty two course lunch plus tea or coffee. *All are welcome.*

Please confirm attendance by phoning or texting *Helen* on **07583 371275** or email e.glaister013@btinternet.com, by the Friday before. Also please let us know if you have any dietary requirements or need help with transport.

This will be our last lunch of the season so we hope you can make it. Thank you to everyone who has attended, we've really enjoyed your company, and to all the wonderful helpers and contributors who have given up their time over the last 6 months.

With very best wishes
The Community Lunch Team

Coniston Children, Youth and Community Worker



Chris Clark has been in Coniston nearly four years now as the Children, Youth and Community worker under the Love Coniston banner, helping with a variety of community events such as the winter lunch clubs, co-leading the community youth club with the Sports and Social centre, and leading activities in schools. He is keen to ensure the work is as useful to the whole community as

possible, and has been visiting every house in Coniston to ask what's going well in the village and if there are any gaps that Love Coniston could be helping with.

He is almost finished the project and will soon begin collating the results, but there is still time to offer any ideas – do drop him a line (ConistonYCW@gmail.com or **07594 775046**). The four questions he has been asking are below.

Lastly, a huge thanks from Chris for all the contributions already given. Watch this space!

- What's going well in the village, or in village life?
- Is there anything else Love Coniston, or Christians Together, could do?
- The Parish Council are building a list of residents for wellbeing checks in times of emergency, such as Storm Arwen. Would you like to be included? Is there anything you'd need?
- Do you have a smoke alarm fitted? If not, would you like Cumbria Fire & Rescue to contact you about installation of a free one?

Lowick



Your council needs you!

*Become a
Lowick Parish Councillor!*

Get involved in your community!

NEXT MEETING:
19th March at 7:30pm

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
clerk@lowickparishcouncil.gov.uk



LOWICK YFC EASTER BIG BREAKFAST

CASH ONLY
Regular £13
Small £10

**GREENODD VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 2026
9:30AM – 12:00PM**

Includes:
Sausage, Bacon, Hashbrown, Egg, Mushrooms,
Beans, Tomato, Black Pudding, Toast &
Refreshments

Egton cum Newland



Penny Bridge Church

Coffee Morning

Greenodd Village Hall
Saturday 14th March 2026
10.00am – 12 noon

Raffle Chocolate Tombola Cakes
Nearly New Stall Books Bric a Brac
Selection of wooden items

Homemade refreshments
Admission £2

Come and join us for good company, warmth and lots of things to buy

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.

Greenodd and Penny Bridge Village Hall Annual General Meeting

To be held **28th April** at 7.00pm in Greenodd village hall. All welcome to attend, new members are **NEEDED** to keep the hall running and will be made welcome!

“Now is the time to air your thoughts”

Colton

Colton Parish Council News March 2026

Join us! Colton Parish Council has vacancies for 4 Councillors. We urgently need people from the centre and east side of our parish, including Bouth, Finsthwaite, Lakeside and the surrounding areas to join us so there are Councillors who can speak up for these communities. Please get in touch if you can help. Email clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk Please note, this the new email address; our old ones are out of action so please update your contacts.



Good News!

We are delighted that the organisers of the Bluebird Festival taking place in Coniston in May have listened to our concerns about the impact on the east shore of Coniston and are working with local partners to put road closures in place (with permitted access for essential users).

We have secured a grant to help us carry out essential work at Bouth Village Playground. We will be working with the Bouth Village Green Committee to make sure the play equipment is updated. Did you know Bouth Village Playground holds a special place in the history of playgrounds? It was designed by pioneer of children's play areas, Mary Mitchell, and is one of the few remaining examples of her work.

Councillor Kevin Wiley attended the Fibrus Hyperfast drop in session in Hawkshead on our behalf. We were pleased to hear that Fibrus intend to improve communications, including publishing local articles to help people find out more. If you have further queries you can also contact them: <https://hyperfastgb.com> or see <https://www.facebook.com/Hyperfastgb> To keep up to date with road closures see <https://one-network>.

Possible changes to Local Parish Councils Westmorland & Furness Council is reviewing Community Governance; this could mean changes to local Parish Councils. We are all invited to have our say. Make your views known here <https://consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/westmorland-and-furness-council/community-governance-review-second-consultation/>

If you have an issue you want to bring to our attention, are considering becoming a Parish Council or just want to find out more, you're very welcome to join us at one of our meetings:

Our next 2 are 7pm **Monday 23rd February** at Bouth Village Hall and 7pm **Monday 23rd March** at Oxen Park Reading Room.

Keep in touch by emailing clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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:

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)

Reports

Oxen Park Cinema Club

Oxen Park Cinema Club

March - 3rd March - 'September 5th' - the disastrous Munich Olympics. **14th March** - now 2 shows, 4pm and 7.30 (now full) our special selected programme from the London Mountain Film Festival. **Saturday 21st March** - 'The Seed Of The Sacred Fig'. Our last two films for this season are 'Civil War' on **7th April** and 'I'm Still Here' on **Saturday 18th April**. Book in now while seats are still available. It won't be long now before we start selecting films for next season. Do pass on your ideas for us to consider and if you would like to sponsor a film (£25) then let us know; we really value that extra contribution which goes towards our wonderful community cinema being sustainable.

Oxen Park & Green Sparks Winter Talks in aid of Oxen Park Reading Room

All at The Carthouse Community Cinema 7.30pm £5.00 on the door but please book in with Abigail - abi.bennettgm@gmail.com or Carol - 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.

Friday 10th April - last of the series - "Where are we with wildlife reintroductions in Cumbria?" a summary of the current situation in our county. What chance seeing Lynx, Beavers or White-tailed eagles in the future? An illustrated talk from Colin Barr featuring a presentation by Jenny Williams (Natural England).

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.

Mother's Union Report - 2026 January

Coniston Mother's Union members are celebrating two special birthdays this year. The first is the 150th birthday of the founding of the Mother's Union by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife living in Old Alresford, Hampshire. Mrs Margaret Barrett of Holywath formed the Coniston and Trover branch in 1906 with membership reaching 35 members in its heyday.



Mother's Union is a worldwide organisation with over 4 million members, now including men in 84 countries. They work together to free violence, poverty and injustice with kindness, courage and compassionate action.

The 150th celebrations include a service in St. Pauls Cathedral London, while the diocese are holding events at Round Thorn Hotel, Penrith, Songs of Praise Services in various areas. A Family weekend with events at Rydal Hall, **17th -19th July**.

At their January meeting Coniston members began with their annual membership service where they welcomed a new member. They then planned this year's programme which includes outings, Bible study, a craft session and a Choral Evensong with the Bishop of Carlisle to celebrate their 120th birthday on June 25th. Officials, children and grandchildren of former members will be invited so keep the date free, all included.

The next meeting is on **February 26th**, all are welcome.

For more information contact *Kay*, **015394 41559**

Egton WI

Our February meeting was one that was a little different for us but very entertaining. We had a good turn out of members and after our usual business part of the evening our speaker took over. It was a first time WI talk for *Helen Bradford* who is a local authoress living in Ulverston. Apart from telling us a little about herself and her job in "Wellness and mental health" she got us all involved with writing a story about our day and how we should look after ourselves in life. Women especially seem to put themselves last on a list of priorities and she encouraged us to praise ourselves a little more. It provoked an interesting discussion amongst our members who were more forthcoming than usual! Helen hasn't been writing for long but had her first two books available to buy and her third and fourth books are already in the pipeline. We wish her all the best with these.



Apart from our usual meetings we have several county run events to look forward to. There will be an "Inspiring Young Women" event in Greenodd village hall later this month and March will see a county lunch at Grange and our Annual Council meeting in Kendal. Locally we have one of our tea parties planned in the near future so watch this space. You may also have spotted some of us out on our annual litter pick on **Saturday 21st**. As I write this article I am wondering what the weather has in store for that day!

We are always delighted to welcome visitors/prospective new members so why not come along to our next meeting ladies when *Claire McKeever* from "Pure

Lakes" (natural handmade skin products) will be our speaker on **Tuesday 10th March** in Greenodd village hall at 7.30 pm.

For further information 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.

BRANTWOOD NEWS AND VIEWS

Good News! Spring is almost here and High Season at Brantwood begins on **Monday 16th March** with the house and gardens open every day from 10.30am – 4.00pm. The Terrace Café opens every day 10.00am-4.00pm.



'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 2024-2025 Concert Series continues on **Sunday 22nd March** with a performance by Pianist, **William Bracken**. We are delighted to welcome William to perform again in Brantwood's Drawing Room. The ambience of a private drawing room affords the opportunity to meet the musicians and observe at close quarters the technique, interpretation and expertise of their performance in this most exquisite of venues. Performance begins at 2pm. Seating is limited to forty so booking early is recommended. Tickets £20 (includes an interval drink). Book online at <https://www.brantwood.org.uk/product/piano-concert-series/>

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

Cumbria Wildlife Trust: Rusland Local Support Group

Our enthusiastic tree-planting work party on 31st Jan put 60 'whips' in the ground on the common near Oxen Park. These mixed species of hawthorn, hazel, rowan and birch were received free from Westmorland and Furness Council's 'Free trees for Residents' scheme. Excellent teamwork and great planting weather in the gentle rain was followed by tea and lemon drizzle cake (thanks to Zella Slater!) in Oxen Park Reading Room.



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

Look out for the following events:

14th March - 'Rhody-bashing' work party in Black Beck Woods, near Bouth. Please register via our email address below.

24th March - Evening talk at Oxen Park Reading Room, 7pm. Sylvia Woodhead, Geo-conservation. £3 on the door.

22nd April - Evening talk at Oxen Park Cinema, 7.30pm, Kevin Grice, "The Local Archaeology of the Rusland Valley and Woodlands". £3 on the door.

3rd May - Dawn Chorus walk, Rusland Valley. Time (early!) and location to be

determined. Max 12 people. Please register via our email address below.

Other events to come! We aim to be at the **Rusland Spring Show (21st/22nd March)** – see www.rusland.org.uk if you would like to chat to one of us. We are looking for additional members for our Group, so if you would like to take part in steering our conservation and wildlife activities, please come along and let us know.

As always, you can also keep in touch with us by:

- Joining the *Wild about Rusland* Facebook group.
- Contacting us by email on RuslandLSG@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
- Going to: <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/rusland>

Rookhow

Rookhow's Retreat Away Fund

Over the last 5 years the Retreat Away Fund has supported over 2,000 people from 90 groups to have a subsidised stay at Rookhow. Initially set up with a grant from the Quaker Mental Health Fund UK, it is now supported by local Quaker Meetings, individuals and 5% from Rookhow's bookings income. Groups have included refugees, people dealing with addictions and trauma, homelessness charities and youth groups. The next deadline for applications is **1st April**.



Fundraiser concert

South Lakes Acapella Choir will be presenting a concert at Rookhow on **Monday 20th April** at 7pm. This will be a fundraiser for Rookhow's Retreat Away Fund. Cash donations on the door.

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!

Rookhow is a Quaker charity.

Website: rookhow.org.uk Email: info@rookhow.org.uk Tel **07377 971783**

Green Sparks News March 2026

Friday nights at the Carhouse Cinema Oxen Park, Book now for the final 3 talks in this series. Hope to see you there!

£5 per person on the door. Cash only. Proceeds to Oxen Park Reading Room. There

will be a raffle on the night too. And you are welcome to get a drink from the Manor, just across the road, and bring it in with you (drinks are fine, but no food please).

All welcome! Email us at greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com to book your seats.

7.30pm Friday 13th March Sarah Littlefeather Demik A memoir of Sarah's story from indigenous beginnings to being adopted and ending up in Cumbria.

7.30pm Friday 27th March Fires & Fascism with Director/filmmaker Pete Knapp. Q&A afterwards. A record of where some of the worst fires are and how many are started by big corporations wanting the land.

7.30pm Friday 10th April Where Are We With Wildlife? A summary of wildlife reintroductions in Cumbria with local resident Colin Barr and Jenny Williams from Natural England.

Other news

Climate Change, Reversing Nature's decline and key environmental factors affecting farmers and those involved with conservation talk with Q&A with local MP Tim Farron 7.00 pm **Friday 20th March 2026** at St Mary's Church, Ambleside. Free to attend. No booking necessary.

Save the date! **Ulverston Eco Fair! Saturday 18th April** free event for all the family at the Coro in Ulverston featuring eco-focussed exhibitors, eco-crafts, freebies, food and drink.

Got 15 minutes to spare? Watch the inspiring short film *Power of 10 Another Way* by the Cumbrian campaigner Amy Bray who founded Another Way to support and inspire young people to take action on Climate Change see <https://another-way.org.uk/>

Gardening for wildlife With spring approaching, the days getting longer and the snow drops blooming you may well be starting to think about getting back in the garden. Cumbria Wildlife has lots of information to help you make your space more nature friendly. See: <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/help-wildlife/wildlife-gardening>

Keep in touch! You can email us at greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com

Parish Prayer Diary March 2026

1st: Sunday, the first day of the week

By discipline of Lent we may enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings and by following the way of Jesus come to share His glory.

2nd: Pray for areas of on-going armed conflict; pray also for the diplomats and peacemakers striving to negotiate just resolutions that end hostilities.

3rd: Pray those struggling with an eating disorder will get the help they need.

4th: Pray for Coniston & Crake Benefice Team meeting this afternoon.

5th: Pray for the Royal Family.

6th: On this World Day of Prayer, join Christians around the world praying that all who are carrying heavy burdens, will find the rest promised by Jesus "I will give you rest: Come" (*Matthew 11:28-30*).

7th: Pray for all who work within the Probation Service supervising offenders serving community sentences or released into the community from prison.

8th: Sunday, the first day of the week

May our loving, Eternal God, grant us insight to discern His perfect will for us, that we give up what harms us and seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

9th: Pray the Commonwealth Day theme “*Unlocking opportunities together....*” will deliver shared, fair and lasting prosperity for all the communities, small and vast, within the Commonwealth.

10th: Pray for Christians in Somali, having to practise their faith in secret, isolated from other secret believers. Pray for the underground Church in Somalia that is doubly traumatised, being part of the community facing national lawlessness and anarchy, and also experiencing the trauma of persecution because of their faith in the Lord Jesus.

11th: Pray for the Open the Book sessions at Coniston CE Primary School.

12th: Pray for university students experiencing mental health difficulties because of academic, financial or social pressures.

13th: Pray for our local General Practitioners, and their medical and administrative support staff.

14th: Pray for the Christian charity *thirtyone:eight* as it equips organisations with the safeguarding tools need to protect vulnerable people.

15th: Sunday, the first day of the week

As we give thanks for those who nurtured us from childhood, we pray our Father God, whose love is strong and tender, will watch over us and hold us all the days of our lives.

16th: Pray for organisations helping poor communities to access clean, safe drinking water and decent sanitation.

17th: Pray for the ministry of Rydal Hall, the Diocesan retreat house in Ambleside.

18th: Pray for those who administer the law, that they may uphold justice and truth.

19th: Pray for Parish Councillors as they work for the good of our communities.

20th: Pray for the various Red Nose Day events raising donations to tackle homelessness, hunger, abuse and mental health at home and abroad.

21st: Pray for today's Coniston 14 Road Race; its organisers, stewards and participants.

22nd: Sunday, the first day of the week

Jesus taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters in Christ we do also for Him. Pray for the will to be the servant of others, as He was the servant of all and gave up His life for us, but is alive and reigns, now and forever.

23rd: Pray for those wearied by insomnia because of anxiety, illness or constantly changing work patterns.

24th: Pray for the children of Penny Bridge Academy attending the Experience Easter sessions at St Mary's church today and tomorrow.

25th: Pray for Sarah Mullally's Installation at Canterbury Cathedral today, which marks the symbolic start of the Archbishop of Canterbury's public ministry in the Church of England and across the Anglican Communion.

26th: Pray for Christians in the entertainment industry and professional sport.

27th: Pray for pupils, teaching and support staff as Spring Term ends.

28th: Pray for all who live and work in the communities of Bandrake Head; Blawith and Bouth.

29th: Sunday, the first day of the week

Pray our true and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah, may grant us the faith to know Him and truly love Him and that we may be found beside Him on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

30th: At the beginning of Holy Week, pray for a fresh awareness of all the Jesus endured on our behalf, because He loves us.

31st: Pray for our local farming community, especially during lambing time.

THANK YOU + HELP NEEDED

At the Church service in Coniston on Sunday 22nd March—Passion Sunday—we will be thanking Nick Monk and Linda Inman as churchwardens of St. Andrew's, Coniston and St. Luke's, Torver. This is after a combined total number of years of service that are simply too many to make known in public! Please do join us as we publicly thank them both for their love and service down the years.

After the morning service we will be holding our APCM, the annual meeting of the church at 12 noon. Please do think about coming along and/or joining our electoral roll as a member of the church. There are electoral forms available to join.

At the APCM Nick and Linda will be standing down as churchwardens and we are looking for volunteers to help with the tasks that they currently undertake. If you could help with any of the following on a rota basis then that would be an enormous help as we look to keep St. Andrew's church open and running:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Daily | Opening and closing the church; checking the lights; sweeping the porch; checking the lavatory; checking the kitchen; checking the bins; tidying the food bank shelves. |
| Monthly | Checking and reading the electricity, gas, and water; checking the oil for the heating boiler; checking the churchyard for unregistered headstones. |
| Yearly | Checking the fire extinguishers; checking the installation of the Christmas lights; updating the advertising board at the main gate. |
| Occasional | Acting as verger/helper for baptisms, weddings, and funerals; changing the cloths on the altar for different church seasons; ensuring altar and communion cloths are washed and ironed. |

Please do speak to Nick or Linda, or the Revd. Brian Streeter on **07505 048736**

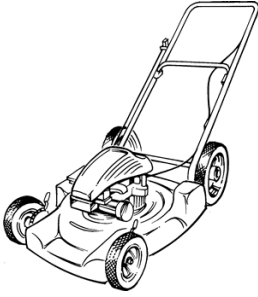
EASTER SPRING CLEAN



Before the Easter Sunday service we will be having a thorough Spring clean of St. Andrew's church building. As you can imagine this is quite some task, and so please do come and join us to help clean and decorate the Church in preparation for Easter.

This will be on **Thursday 2nd April, 9.00am** onwards.

CHURCHYARD TENDER



The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is tendering for the maintenance work for the churchyards of Coniston and Torver. This involves regular grass cutting during the growing seasons and occasional strimming to tidy up around the headstones and borders.

If you are interested in tendering for this work then please do contact the vicar, the Revd. Brian Streeter on **07505 048736**

From the Registers

St. Andrew's, Coniston, 31st March 2026, Interment of ashes of Gordon Edgar Bramwell

Readings for March 2026

1st	Romans 4.1-5, 13-17	John 3.1-17
8th	Romans 5.1-11	John 4.5-42
15th	2 Corinthians 1.3-7	Luke 2.33-35
22nd	Romans 8.6-11	John 11.1-45
29th	Matthew 21.1-11	Matthew 26.14-27.66

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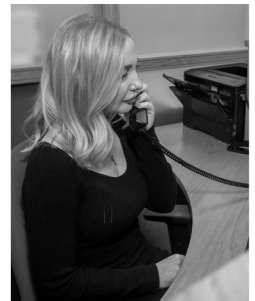
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2 nd & 4 th Friday	Tottle-Art: Art Group 10.30am - 12.30	Tottlebank Baptist Church
Tuesday	Coffee and Chat, 9.45 - 10.45am	Greenodd Village Hall
Tuesday	Coniston CAMEO 2 - 4pm	Coniston Institute
Tuesday	Youth Club age 11 & over 7 - 9pm	Coniston S & 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 nd Tuesday	Egton WI, 7.30pm	Greenodd Village Hall
2 nd Tuesday	Ulverston Repair Café 6.30-8.30pm	Croftlands Community Centre
3 rd Tuesday	Coniston WI, 7.30pm,	Coniston Institute
1 st Wednesday	Prayer Hour - 10 - 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
3 rd Wednesday	Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.30pm	Bouth Village Hall

What's On Guide - March

3rd	Film - 'September 5th' - see page 13	Oxen Park Cinema Club
4th	Lunch and Dominoes - see page 9	Coniston Institute
5th	APPEARANCE AND REALITY: WHAT SHOULD THE LAKE DISTRICT LOOK LIKE?- see page 32	Water Yeat Village Hall
7th	Tim Edey - see page 31	Coniston Institute
10th	Egton WI - Claire McKeever from "Pure Lakes" - see pages 14-15	Greenodd Village Hall
13th	Sarah Littlefeather Demik - see pages 13 & 17	Carthouse Cinema
13th	UVHS SWING BAND - see page 31	Coniston Institute
14th	Penny Bridge Church Coffee Morning - see page 11	Greenodd Village Hall
14th	Rhody-bashing - see page 15	Black Beck Woods
14th	Special selected programme from the London Mountain Film Festival - see page 13	Oxen Park Cinema Club
16th	Coniston Community Lunch - see page 10	Coniston Institute
18th	The Crake Valley Friendship club coach trip - see page 12	Greenodd
21st	44th Annual Coniston 14 Race - see page 9-10	John Ruskin School
21st	The Misty Mountain Tour and Joshua Burnell - see page 32	Water Yeat Village Hall
21st	Film - 'The Seed Of The Sacred Fig' - see page 13	Oxen Park Cinema Club
22nd	Pianist, William Bracken - see page 15	Brantwood
24th	Sylvia Woodhead, Geo-conservation - see page 15	Oxen Park Reading Room
25th	Bouth Village Hall Coffee Morning - see page 13	Bouth Village Hall
27th	Film - 'Fires and Fascism' - see pages 13 & 17	Carthouse Cinema

**Please send all articles and events for the April Magazine by March 15th to
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APPEARANCE AND REALITY: WHAT SHOULD THE LAKE DISTRICT LOOK LIKE?



We live in a park. But what is a park, and what should this one look like? Some will say it should look beautiful, or natural, well cared for, or left to the wild. Some think it should look the way it's always looked, others that we should move with the times, still others that there's no way, in particular, that it should look.

We will talk more about both the questions and the answers. And we should take note of what William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter, the National Trust and the LDNPA, farmers and rewilders have had to say

A discussion led by Chris Belshaw (The Open University and The University of York)

Environmental Philosophy: Reason, Nature and Human Concern (Acumen)

'Landscape, Wilderness and Parks' (in *Contested Environments*: Wiley/The Open University).

**Thursday 5th March - 7.30pm, £5 includes tea/coffee on arrival.
Doors open 7pm**

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The Misty Mountain Tour and Joshua Burnell

We are very pleased to welcome Joshua Burnell, who makes retro pop-rock for the modern world. His music takes on chameleon dimensions with alt-folk, glam rock and classical influences - musics of the past which he skilfully brings to the present

www.joshuaburnell.co.uk



Saturday 21st March 8pm (doors open 7.30)

£15 cash/card on the door or in advance

www.wegotickets.com/wateryeatvillagehall - no booking fee

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

www.e-voice.org.uk/wyvvh

www.facebook.com/wateryeatvillagehall/