Coniston and Crake Valley News



Coniston &Crake Churches

December 2026 www.conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk

Carol Services

Friday 11th December
St. Luke's, Lowick, 6.00pm

Sunday 13th December
St. Luke's, Torver, 5.00pm

Sunday 20th December
St. Mary's, Penny Bridge, 11.00am
Holy Trinity, Colton, 3.00pm
Tottlebank Baptist Church, 4.00pm
St. Andrew's, Coniston, 6.00pm

Monday 21st December
Lowick Young Farmers
St. Luke's, Lowick, 6.30pm



Christmas Eve

Children's Service
Lowick Community Hall, 3.00pm

Christingle
St. Andrew's, Coniston, 4.00pm

First Communion of Christmas
Holy Trinity, Colton, 11.00pm

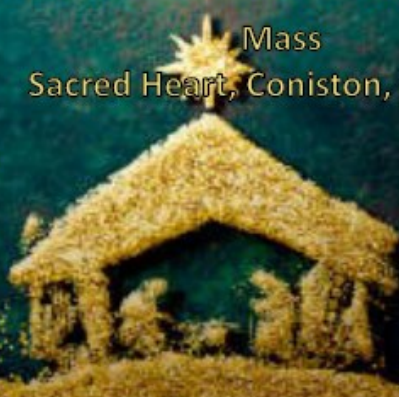
First Communion of Christmas
St. Andrew's, Coniston, 11.00pm

Christmas Day

Family Communion
St. Andrew's, Coniston, 10.00am

Family Communion
St. Mary's, Penny Bridge, 10.30am

Mass
Sacred Heart, Coniston, 11.00am



The Coniston and Crake Valley Benefice

"To Grow, Witness and Love Like Jesus"

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

Revd Brian Streeter The Vicarage, Penny Bridge. LA12 7RQ	vicar@conistonandcrakechurches.co.uk *Brian works for Filling Station on Thursday* *Brian's rest day is Friday*	01229 861668 07505 048736
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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 December 2026

6th	**Second Sunday of Advent**		
St. Luke Torver	9.30am	**Winter Breakfast**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Luke, Lowick	9.30am	**Holy Communion**	Rev David Bickersteth
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	**Morning Worship**	Rev Phil Gough
11th	**Friday**		
St. Luke, Lowick	6.00pm	**Carols and Candlelight**	Rev Brian Streeter
13th	**Third Sunday of Advent**		
Holy Trinity Colton	10.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Harry Welch
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	**Morning Worship**	Pamela Hull
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	**Local arrangements**	
St. Luke Torver	5.00pm	**Carol Service**	Rev Brian Streeter
20th	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**		
St. Luke Torver	9.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Grace Cauldwell
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	**Carol Service**	Rev Brian Streeter
Holy Trinity Colton	3.00pm	**Carol Service**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	6.00pm	**Carol Service**	Rev Brian Streeter
21st	**Monday**		
St. Luke, Lowick	6.30pm	**Lowick Young Farmers Carol Service**	
24th	**Christmas Eve**		
St. Luke, Lowick	3.00pm	**All Age, Children's Service (Lowick Community Hall)**	Pam Priestley
St. Andrew Coniston	4.00pm	**Christingle**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00pm	**Holy Communion by Extension**	Pamela Hull
Holy Trinity Colton	11.00pm	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
25th	**Christmas Day**		
St. Andrew Coniston	10.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Brian Streeter
St. Mary Penny Bridge	10.30am	**Holy Communion**	Rev David Bickersteth
27th	**First Sunday of Christmas**		
St. Mary Penny Bridge	11.00am	**Holy Communion**	Rev Harry Welch
St. Andrew Coniston	11.00am	**Joining with Coniston Methodist Church**	
Coniston Methodist	11.00am	**Morning Worship**	Hazel Edmondson

Tottlebank Baptist Church - **Carols by Candlelight** - **Sunday 20th December 2026** - 4pm - Everyone is welcome to join us for our Carols by Candlelight service followed by Mulled Wine or tea and coffee and Mince Pies.

Tottlebank Baptist Church

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 10.30am

Sunday Services are shared via Zoom for those unable to attend.

Refreshments are served in the School Room after the service.

	Tottlebank Baptist Church - SUNDAY SERVICES - DECEMBER 2026	
6th Sun	**10.30 am in the Church & Zoom** Communion.	Mark Callaghan
13th Sun	**10.30 am in the Church & Zoom**	Richard Henry
20th Sun	**4 pm in the Church & Zoom** Carols by Candlelight	Richard Henry
25th Fri	**Christmas Day - 10.00 - 10.30 am in the Church & Zoom** followed by refreshments at the Hampses (next door)	Chris Hamps
27th Sun	**10.30 am in the School Room & on Zoom** Testimony Time.	led by Chris Hamps

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Pastoral Letter - Revd Brian Streeter

WAITING

Waiting. There is in the season before Christmas — called Advent — a great deal of waiting.

Waiting. There is the period while people decide when they can safely use the “C” word, Christmas, in polite conversation. There is the waiting and build-up at school and at home for children of all ages, 2 to 92. There is the waiting for parcels and presents to arrive and the wrapping to begin. There is the waiting for the first Christmas meal, often with work colleagues, and the associated Christmas parties. There is even those who are waiting for it all to be over!

Waiting. On Christmas Eve, children everywhere will be trying to stay awake as they wait for Santa Claus to make his delivery. And there will be those who are waiting for the birth of the Christ child…

...except, that in reality they are not waiting for this. The Christ child has already come. Jesus has already been born as a vulnerable baby, in a manger, in a stable, in the land of Israel. The seasons of Advent and Christmas are not about celebrating an expected arrival, but celebrating an event that has already happened, a historical fact. Just as Santa Claus is based upon the historical figure Saint Nicholas, so the birth of Jesus is a historical event—in the past.

Waiting. And yet, people are still waiting for Jesus. However, this time, not as a baby, vulnerable and weak. No, instead this time Jesus will come as seen in the vision of the Prophet Daniel,

> "*I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away"* *Daniel 7.13-14*

Waiting. So, what ever you are waiting for this coming Christmas—family to arrive, a period of rest and relaxation, peace and justice in the world—whatever you are waiting for, know that Jesus is coming. He has promised to do so. As the Apostle John writes in the Book of Revelation from a vision similar to Daniel's,

> "*The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*" Revelation 22.20

I long to see family, I long for rest and relaxation (after Christmas Day!), and I long for peace and justice in our world. Therefore, I hope that you can join with me as I echo the words of the Apostle John and say "*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*"

Blessings in Christ, 

Church Decking at Christmas by William Wordsworth

(*First published in 1851*)

[1]Would that our scrupulous sires had dared to leave
Less scanty measure of those graceful rites
And usages, whose due return invites
A stir of mind too natural to deceive;
Giving the memory help when she could weave
A crown for Hope! — I dread the boasted lights
That all too often are but fiery blights,
Killing the bud o'er which in vain we grieve.
Go, seek, when Christmas snows discomfort bring.
The counter Spirit found in some gay church
Green with fresh holly, every pew a perch
In which the linnet or the thrush might sing,
Merry and loud, and safe from prying search.
Strains offered only to the genial spring.

Traditions, memories and hope: The poet wishes more old traditions had survived. They connect us with the past, stir genuine feelings and give us hope for the future. "I wish our ancestors hadn't been quite so cautious about keeping those lovely old traditions. Whenever they come round, they stir up feelings that are real and hard to ignore. They bring back memories and give us something to hope for."

Progress can come at a cost: The poet questions whether every change is an improvement. Sometimes we lose something valuable and only appreciate it when it's gone. "But I'm not so sure about everything people call progress. Sometimes it

does more harm than good, wiping out something lovely before it's had a chance to grow. Then we're left wishing we could bring it back."

Christmas brings comfort: The holly-decorated church offers a cheerful refuge from the cold and misery outside—a place to find renewed warmth and hope. "So when the Christmas snow leaves you feeling cold and miserable, step into a cheerful church filled with fresh holly. You'll find a different spirit there."

And joy in the middle of winter: The imagined birds represent happiness, safety and freedom. Their spring-like singing suggests that Christmas traditions can bring life and joy even in winter. "Imagine a linnet or a thrush perched on every pew, singing its heart out—happy, safe and free from anyone nosing around. It's the sort of joyful singing you'd normally expect on a warm spring day."

Around the Parishes: Lowick

Lowick Parish Council

Lowick Parish Council are happy to announce that they will be joining forces with Blawith and Subberthwaite Parish Council. Both parishes felt that they had a natural connection and were happy to move forward with the proposal. Each parish will continue to maintain its own identity whilst continuing to prioritise all residents. However, the councils will now hold joint Parish Council meetings, providing an opportunity to work more closely together, share knowledge, skills and experience, and learn from one another. By pooling their ideas and resources, the aim is to strengthen local representation and work together for the benefit of all communities. The new arrangements are expected to come into effect by May next year.

The much delayed and hugely over budget UU project to replace the high pressure water main from the Red Lion junction to Woodgate appears to be progressing towards a conclusion; at last. There is still no firm end date but they hope to be finished by Christmas. Thus it will be 12 months since they started and the original estimate was 3. The rocky ground was the main problem and limited access restricted the plant that they could utilise. This is a very high pressure main with a natural head of pressure from the Paddy End treatment works above Coniston which enables the water to flow back up to Gawthwaite without pumping. Lowick Bridge is the lowest point on this route and hence has the highest pressure. With the old pipes this resulted in many bursts over the years and the locals will be happy to see the end of those.

Like other Parish Councils, Lowick recognises the advantages of having local WhatsApp groups, both in normal times and in times of stress such as power cuts or bad weather. They can engender a sense of community and encourage mutual help and support. A WhatsApp Community has been created for the Lowick area. The parish council is happy to support and promote this, however the council does not own it and it is not limited to the parish boundary. The intended scope is the Crake Valley below the lake. A WhatsApp Community is a parent umbrella that connects multiple

Lowick Area chat, information and Support

WhatsApp community



related groups together and includes an announcement channel. This will include local events, road works, weather warnings, planned power cuts etc. The intention is to create a clean feed of useful local information without any advertising or trivia. Anyone living in the area should find this useful. Please contact one of the Admins if you want anything posted on this channel. In addition to this there will be a number of traditional local chat groups for the individual communities in our area, plus a general chat group. If you join the community you can decide for yourself if you want to belong to any of these. Existing groups can be added and any member can create a new group if they think it may be viable. Thus it may evolve over time. Guidelines for posting will be enforced to make sure that postings are limited to content that is local, relevant, interesting or useful. To join scan the QR code on your phone or send an SMS to **07766927739**.

Colton

Colton Parish Council News December 2026

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Christmas and New Year.

A big thank you to everyone who contributes to making our area such a special place to live. Whether you help organise the local shows, run community groups or activities, pick up litter, support vulnerable neighbours, tidy your local village green or do other tasks that we all benefit from, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank our Lengthsman, Archie. Archie has been working his way around the parish clearing drains to help reduce the risk of flooding on the roads. This is an enormous task so please bear with us if he hasn't reached your patch yet. This is just one of the jobs Archie undertakes to keep our minor roads and lanes safe. If you are aware of problems that Archie might be able to deal with, please email our clerk clerk@coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Does your community group need any equipment or resources? You can apply for a small grant from Colton Parish to cover the cost. Contact the clerk for details or see https://www.coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-council/grants/ you will also find some information about other possible grants here.

As usual we've been preparing for winter by checking the grit bins, most of which are now full. We've put a small bucket in each bin to help you move the grit from the bin to the road. Please note grit in these bins is intended for use on the roads only. You can buy grit for your drive or doorstep from several local suppliers. If you find that your local bin is running out or there is no grit bin or grit pile and one is needed contact Westmorland & Furness Council on **0300 373 3306** or report it here https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/streets-roads-and-pavements/road-maintenance-closures-and-improvements/winter-road-maintenance-and-gritting/salting-grit-heaps-and-salt-bins

Our local Community Police Officer Paul Harris has made us aware of an increase in two issues that affect rural areas like Colton: sheep worrying and poaching. We have been posting reminders on our social media that dogs should be on a lead when walking where there is livestock. If you are concerned about this, poaching or any other criminal activity you should contact the Police. If it's an emergency, you or someone else is at risk of immediate harm or a crime is taking place call **999**. If it's not an emergency call **101**.

Are you a young driver aged 17-24 who passed the driving test within the last 12 months? If so, you can apply for ***The Young Drivers Pass Plus Discount Scheme***.

Pass Plus is additional training for new young drivers that includes driving on rural roads, driving at night and driving in poor weather conditions. To find our more. contact the Council or see https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/streets-roads-and-pavements/road-safety/young-drivers-pass-plus-discount-scheme

You are very welcome to come along to our meetings – the next ones are:

- 7pm **Monday 4th January** at Finsthwaite & Lakeside Village Hall.
- 7pm **Monday 1st February** Rusland Reading Room.

To find out more see https://www.coltonparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-council/meeting-calendar or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

AN EVENING WITH TIM FARRON, MP FOR WESTMORLAND AND LONSDALE, ON BEHALF OF RUSLAND CHURCH RESCUE

Please join us at the Reading Rooms, Rusland, LA12 8JZ, on **Thursday 17th December** at 7pm, for mulled wine, mince pies and to hear Tim talk of; Politics, Faith and our Rural Communities in this pre-Christmas Fundraiser on behalf of St Paul's Church, Rusland.

Tickets are limited and cost just £10 each including refreshments.

Please call *Alison* on: **07831 227987** to book your place.

We look forward to welcoming you all.

Bouth Village Hall Coffee Morning 2026

Filter Coffee or Tea with Biscuits: £2.00 Donation

An event for residents and non-residents alike

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

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

Coniston & Torver

Rainfall, Garden House, Coniston - October 2026

Total 409.8mm (16.1")

Wet days 29

More than 1mm on 25 days

Wettest day 24th - 96.5mm (3.8")

Coniston Parish Council



Help us prevent flooding!

Blocked drainage gullies can increase the risk of flooding. If you spot a blocked drain or gully in your area, please report it to help keep our streets clear and reduce the risk of flooding.

Report online: https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/streets-roads-and-pavements/report-highways-problem/flooding-and-drainage/report-blocked-drain-or-gully

Or

Call: 0300 373 3306 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm)

Thank you for helping keep our communities safe!

Torver Parish Council

Torver Parish Council has a vacancy and welcomes expressions of interest.

Eligibility: you must be 18 or over, meet citizenship criteria, and live, work or own property in the parish.

Want to make a difference in Torver? Help us complete the council, which has 5 seats. The new councillor will be co-opted with full powers and serve until May 2027.

The role is voluntary and unpaid. Meetings are held in the Schoolroom, at least 6 times a year. It's a great way to get involved in village life.

To find out more, speak to any councillor—Chris Bradley, Mark Feather, Julie Ward and Rick Graham—or contact the clerk: clerk@torverparishcouncil.gov.uk, **07761 904327**.

Coniston Surgery Update

There has been concern recently about the unexpected closure of the surgery. Andy Woodward, the practice manager, apologised and explained that a clerical worker had resigned and clinical staff were off with sudden illness with no replacements available. A new clerical appointment has been made and clinicians made available for Fridays. Negotiations are continuing for the new premises.

Rob Gee (*Coniston Practice Group*)

Lunch and Dominoes

This will be on the **second Wednesday in December (9th)** at 12.30pm in Coniston Institute Reading Room. *Please note change of date*.

Do come along and join us for soup/roll and a pud, tea/coffee, followed by dominoes. All for £5.00

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

We will then continue on the **first Wednesday of the month** in *January*, *February* and *March* next year.

Everyone welcome

COFFEE and MINCE PIES with MUSIC

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

Donations will go to St Mary's Hospice.

Do come and join us.

Just For Ewe Christmas Shopping Afternoon

Wednesday 9th December 1pm until 5:30pm

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

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

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

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

Monday Lunch Club

Monday Lunch Club **every 3rd Monday of the Month**. We look forward to seeing you. Please bring your friends. Come and enjoy homemade soup, and delicious desert, served by our Coniston Primary school pupils.

Please Contact *Ruth Stewart* on **07780371707** if you are coming.



BURNS NIGHT CEILIDH at 7.00pm

SATURDAY 30 JANUARY 2027

at the Coniston Institute

£30 per person (including meal provided by Steam Restaurant, Coniston)



Our live band, the Cornerstone Band, will play ceilidh music and talk us through some traditional ceilidh dances. You can join in the dancing or just enjoy the music.

We'll serve traditional Scottish fare including haggis (traditional or vegetarian) with neaps and tatties plus a wee dram to wash it down. The arrival of the haggis will be accompanied by live bagpipe music and the reading of Robert Burn's 'Ode to the Haggis'. Catering courtesy of Steam Restaurant, Coniston!

You can come in a kilt if you like, but it is not compulsory. However please try to wear something tartan – it could be just a tie or a scarf.

Because we need to know how many of you will be attending please book your place as soon as possible from Derek Adams by email no1@dsadams.co.uk or phone **07973 179805** or phone *Anne Hall* on **07771 988518**. Your place will be confirmed on receipt of payment. ***We have 45 places so book early to avoid disappointment!***

This event will be organised by Coniston and District International Twinning Association.



Stagecoach Winter Timetable

Be aware! Stagecoach have introduced their winter timetable which has caused some changes to regular bus times, with some times being a lot earlier, such as a morning bus now leaving at 6:38 and not 7:00.

Be sure to check updated timetables for the accurate times.

Coniston Library is open three days a week

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9am-5pm

We welcome local people to use it, there is a good selection of books for adults and children.

Details for contact for becoming a member are on the notice board in the Library.

Coniston Network Investment and Road Closures

SP Electricity North West is delivering a £16 million investment along a 39km route.

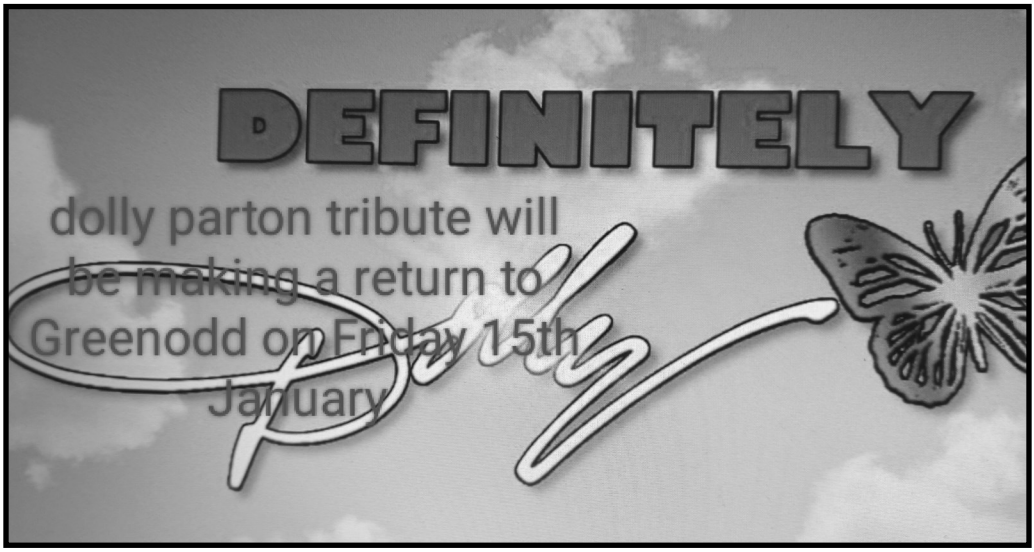
The project will strengthen and modernise the ageing electricity network by improving reliability, increasing resilience to severe weather and supporting future demand, reducing the frequency and duration of power cuts.

However, there will be multiple, multi-week road closures impacting Coniston and the surrounding areas for an extended period.

It is recommended that everyone in the village, working in the village, or supplying the village should be aware of these when traveling.

- ENWL has created a website with information on work, closures, and timelines: https://www.enwl.co.uk/coniston (*please check for updates*)
- There is also a feedback survey: https://www.enwl.co.uk/about-us/networkinvestment/coniston-feedback-form/

Egton cum Newland



Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council

The next Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12th January 2026** 7pm at Greenodd Village Hall.

Penny Bridge Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 12th December

10:00 - 12 noon

Greenodd Village Hall

Cakes Tombola Books Bric a Brac

Raffle

Admission £2 to include

Coffee & Homemade Refreshments

Join us for a relaxing morning with friends

Reports

News from Oxen Park

Cinema Club - Remember to book in for films you want to watch in 2027 and if you are wondering what to give someone who has 'everything' why not think about booking the cinema and showing their favourite film - or even your favourite.

Large screen, warm, cosy, opposite the pub - perfect. Contact *Carol* via the website: www.oxenparkcinemaclub.org.uk

Friday presentations at The Carthouse in aid of the Oxen Park Reading Room:

- **11th December** - (Adam Crowe and Helen from Rusland Farm will tell us about their organic and regenerative farming)
- **Friday 8th January** - Sheep & Wool - (Local sheep varieties and farming them - Callum Smith) - (What happens to the wool - shearing, sorting, washing etc - Hartley Trotter) - (Spinning and products - Anne Smith)
- **Friday 19th March 2027 -** Fell Pony Heritage Trust with Beatrix Wood.

Look out for other dates as we get them finalised

Mother's Union Report

Coniston MU members spent a lovely afternoon at their host's, Jean Edwards. They began with a short form of worship, then under Jeans' patient guidance they made peg doll angels with much laughter and varied results. Jean had prepared the faces and hair beforehand so members only had to clothe them and add wings. They hope to display them in St. Andrew's church at Christmas. Tea and cakes followed.

Their next event is a Christmas lunch when husbands, partners are invited to enjoy a meal and company. In December an invite to Dalton MU Christmas Celebration includes a pie and pea lunch, magician and a visit to St Mary's Christmas tree display. The last event of the year is the Deanery Carol Service at the Parish Church in Ulverston on **December 7th**.

All welcome to join us.

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

Coniston Community Singers

Do you enjoy singing? Come and join us in the institute on **Thursday** evenings 7.15 for a light hearted sing along. It's a chance to make friends, socialise and have fun with music old and new. ***Everyone welcome***.

Egton WI

Our meeting in November was our AGM. In order to make the meeting more inviting we began with a pie and peas supper which went down very well. For a dessert we ate the competition entry of "three scones on a plate" along with lovely homemade jam (what else!) and lots of cream. Whilst we digested those with a cuppa we were entertained with a screening of BBC's Clothes Show from 1985 with Egton's WI entrants chatting (with Selina Scott), sewing, then parading on the catwalk wearing the outfits that they had only 24 hours to make. It was lovely to see members from earlier years some sadly no longer with us, but the star of the show was Jean Lancaster who looked absolutely stunning in her evening dress. Eventually we came back down to earth and proceeded with the business confirming the committee members (no change) and the adoption of the financial statement and annual report.

Thanks to the support from friends and neighbours we have raised £2,500 for the Admiral nurses at St. Mary's Hospice which we will be handing over in December when the hospice signed up for the Big Give week. The great news is that means their sponsors will match that amount so they will receive £5000.

We now look forward to our Christmas meeting where business will be brief and a supper enjoyed then some entertainment provided by the committee. The program for 2027 will be handed out so members will discover what topics our speakers will cover next year. If you haven't joined us previously how about making a New Year's resolution to do so? We will be holding a WI Women's Day on **Saturday 6th March** in the village hall so save the date.

Finally our WI wishes you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and we hope to see you all again at our future fundraising events.

Coniston WI

Coniston WI will be delivering Christmas cards across the village again this year, with all donations going to Coniston Christmas Lights. Post boxes will be in Conston Co-op, Coniston and Torver Dairy and Hutchinson's from **31st November** to **13th December**. We will deliver within the boundaries of Park Gate - The Banks - Far End - Low Yewdale - Boon Crag - Brantwood. Please ensure that all cards are addressed correctly - we can't guarantee delivering cards with partial names and/or addresses.

Rookhow



'SINK DOWN TO THE SEED' - ROOKHOW SENSORY QUIET DAY
Monday 7th December 9.30-4.30pm

Come for a day of deep disengagement from the rush of modern life to support finding some balance for our inner and outer lives; experience quiet in an embodied way and allow some breathing room. Using our sense of smell as a key to deepen our spiritual and cognitive connection to the natural world, discover how the scents of woodland, earth, trees, rain, woodsmoke and specific places can influence memory, mood and well-being, in the tranquil and restorative environment of the Meeting House and woodland. With artist in residence

Caroline Stow and aromatherapist Alison Smedley. Suggested donation £30. https://rookhow.org.uk/events

'ACTIVE HOPE WEEKEND' 12th-14th March 2027

A weekend exploring Joanna Massey's 'The Work That Reconnects' - a powerful programme that helps us support ourselves and those around us in challenging times. Facilitated by Gareth Thomas from Woodmatters. Quakers and non-Quakers are welcome. Stay in the Bunkbarn or travel from home each day. Suggested donation £150 or pay as you feel. https://rookhow.org.uk/events

'LET THE LIGHT IN' SOCIAL Thursday 21st January 2027 5pm-7.30pm

A seasonal celebration of welcoming the light back after the dark Winter nights for local people and Rookhow supporters. Bring and share supper. Lantern making, fire pit and parade. Any local musicians willing to offer some background music or anyone willing to share a poem or help to create the fun, please get in touch. Donations to Rookhow's Retreat Away Fund welcome. Contact: *Sue Nicholls*, Development Manager Email- info@rookhow.org.uk Tel **07377 971783**

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.

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!

Sue Nicholls, Development Manager Email- info@rookhow.org.uk

Tel 07377 971783

The Farmer's Arms

10th Dec *Community Christmas Lunch* with Rosemary and Brian 1pm sharp, £12 a head, full xmas lunch and mince pies, tea and coffee - this year's unmissable treat!

THE FARMER'S ARMS

Community lunches are every Thursday at 1pm and priced at £7 a head, 2 courses tea and coffee - always good company - last one this year **17th dec**.

Resuming of the Soup talks programme now on a Friday at 6pm this means we will be open every Friday for bar and pizzas running through till June next year. First talk is **20th November** with Grizedale arts director talking about the plans for the coming year, all Grizedales projects at home and abroad.

27th Nov *Grizedale's new curator Ila Coley* talks about her work with the Kendal museum and the Folk Art museum at Compton Verney as well as things she will be working on.

Dec 4th ***Matthew Clayton on Ditchling Museum and the Ditchling Guild*** - a rural arts and crafts collective that ran for almost 80 years

Dec 11th ***local wood worker Edward Carefoot*** on his craft, including a folk music interlude!

Dec 18th ***Professor Charlie Gere*** talking about collections and collecting

CafeTeen every **Saturday** 11am-4pm a cafe run by teenagers with support from chefs and art teachers. Please come along to support the project, lots of lovely things to eat and drink.

CafeTeen have introduced kids craft workshops as part of their Saturday offer with Art Teacher Esther Benson. running from 11am till 2pm a drop in session suitable for 8 - 12 year olds, the first session will be **5th** and then **12th December** and its free.

New Years Eve

We have just managed to get bar staff for New Years eve so will be booking soon via the website. Our usual end of year blow out buffet and all the usual fun and games - does anyone want to run a quiz?

We are open to bookings for Christmas lunch on Christmas day, email: adam@grizedale.org for bookings of up to 20.

We are also booking in weddings and other community and private parties right now, Spring 2027 on.

In the new year there will be more courses available in Pottery and Gardening and others, if there is anything you are wanting to learn, email us at hello@lakedistrictfarmersarms.com

Farmers arms will be closed between new years day and **30th Jan** for maintenance work we reopen with our always popular Burns night dinner, performances and talks not to forget over energetic dancing. Booking through the website soon.

Green Sparks News December 2026

2026/2027 winter talks at the Carthouse Cinema Oxen Park We're working with Carol from Oxen Park to put together this year's series of talks, so make a note of the dates. We hope to see you there!

- **7.30pm Friday 11th December 2026** with Adam Crowe and Helen from Rusland Farm, who will tell us about their organic and regenerative farming.
- **7.30pm Friday 8th January 2027** Sheep & Wool - Local sheep varieties and farming them with Callum Smith; what happens to the wool- shearing, sorting, washing etc with Hartley Trotter; and, spinning and products with Anne Smith
- **7.30pm Friday 19th March 2027** Fell Pony Heritage Trust with Beatrix Wood.

All talks are £5 on the door with proceeds going to Oxen Park Reading Room.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust Rusland Support Group also has a series of winter events: for times and other details see https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/rusland#events

Coming soon! ***Hedges and Edges 6.30pm Tuesday 19 January 2027*** Oxen Park Reading Room and ***All about coppicing Tuesday 23 February 2027*** Oxen Park Reading Room.

5 tips for making your Christmas greener:

- Avoid cards, wrapping paper and tape with glitter and plastic in them – or make sure you reuse them. Glitter is made of tiny bits of plastic and can't be recycled.
- Make your own; many of us used to make Christmas cards, decorations and gifts when we were children but now feel too pushed for time or not confident in our skills, but there are lots of simple patterns, instructions and recipes on the internet to inspire and guide you so give it a go!
- Try setting a 'miles budget'; shipping miles, food miles, and days out all add to a household's energy use on 'miles'. Instead, focus on using your miles on the things that matter most to you, e.g. visiting family and friends or local food and gifts, rather than on ordering goods from around the world to be delivered to your doorstep.
- Challenge yourself to walk or cycle when it's practical.
- And for after the festivities, register to have you Christmas tree collected and recycled in aid of St Mary's Hospice see https://just-helping.org.uk/collections/cumbria-st-marys-hospice/

***Best wishes for a happy festive season from all of us*.** Please get in touch with ideas to share or news of upcoming events and activities greensparks.sparkbridge@gmail.com

Parish Prayer Diary December 2026

1st: Pray for peace in zones of conflict, for ceasefires, protection and humanitarian aid for innocent people affected by ongoing conflicts and violence.

2nd: Pray for Food Banks providing emergency food to those in need, and for Pantries preventing waste by distributing usable produce to members.

3rd: Pray for those who live with disability, and the organisations supporting them and their families at home and in their local community.

4th: Pray for action that tackles the rising violence in sub-Saharan Africa where thousands of Christians have been killed and millions displaced from home and faith community by Islamist extremists' violence.

5th: Pray for missionaries, far from home, learning new language and culture to translate the Bible into local dialect.

6th: **Sunday, the first day of the week:**

By the Spirit's grace, may our hearts and minds be purified to run the race that is set before us, so that when Jesus comes as Judge and Saviour, we are ready to receive Him, who is our Lord and our God.

7th: Pray for the children of Coniston CE Primary School participating in *Experience Christmas* today in St Andrew's church.

8th: Pray for our farming community, providing quality food for the nation and working to conserve wildlife habitat.

9th: Pray for people living under oppressive and unjust regimes. Pray also for all who stand for truth and integrity against the corruption that undermines social and economic development in all societies.

10th: Pray for The Royal National Lifeboat Institute, giving thanks for the volunteer

lifeboat crews who often risk their own lives to save people in danger.

11th: Pray for carol services across the nation as familiar words proclaim the awesome wonder of how The Word was made flesh and lived amongst us.

12th: Pray for chaplains who minister in hospitals and other care settings.

13th: **Sunday, the first day of the week:**

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

14th: Pray for The Children's Society as it works with professionals to protect and rescue young people from "County Lines", a form of criminal exploitation of vulnerable children by drug gangs.

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

16th: Pray for those who having explored the Christian faith, have come to the point of personal commitment and received Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

17th: Pray for NHS staff managing many challenges amid increasing demands for services.

18th: Pray for staff and pupils as the school term ends.

19th: Pray for the bereaved grieving the loss of someone they love.

20th: **Sunday, the first day of the week:**

As we prepare for the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus, may we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, that we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our judge.

21st: Pray for the peacemakers – for wisdom, patience, opportunity and success to negotiators sent to reconcile nations in conflict with each other.

22nd: Pray for The Samaritans, especially counsellors on the helpline taking calls from people in distress (116 123).

23rd: Pray for Armed Forces personnel away from family this Christmas.

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

25th: **Christmas Day**: With Christians across the globe, we celebrate God with us: Jesus to You be all glory given! Word of the Father, now in flesh appears – O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

26th: Pray for new parents adjusting to life with their first born. Pray for mothers who are experiencing post-natal depression.

27th: **Sunday, the first day of the week:**

Praise our God who came to share in our humanity and to wonderfully restore us. Give thanks for the Kingdom fellowship to which we now belong and pray for opportunity to share with those who do not yet know the Lord Jesus.

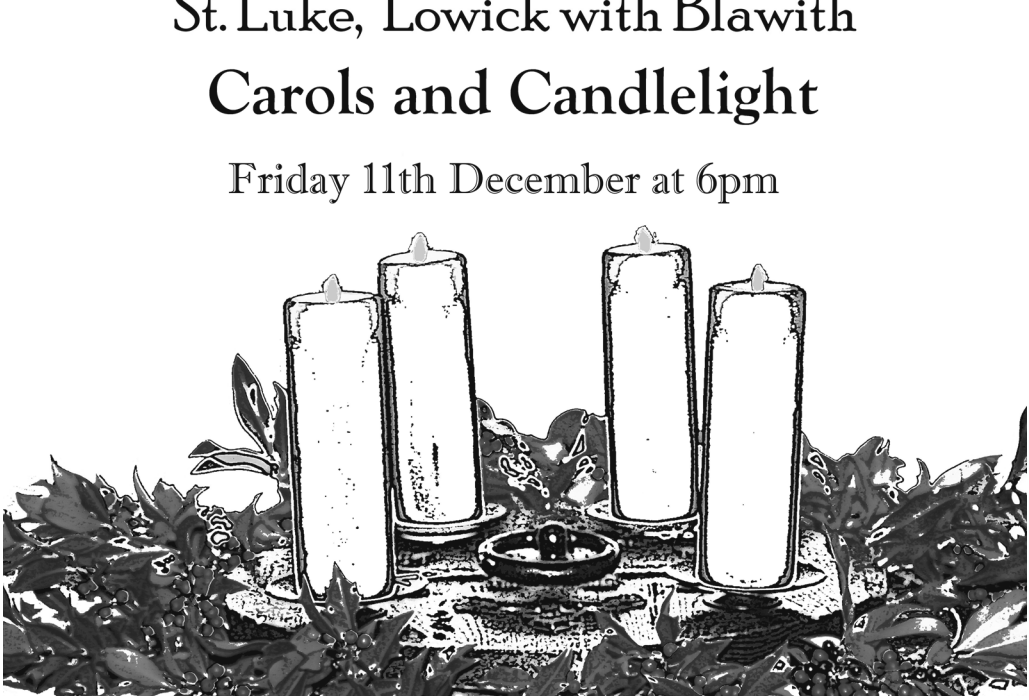
28th: Pray for the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury.

29th: Pray for organisations working on our streets and in hidden places of deprivation, reaching out to vulnerable people affected by homelessness, addiction, modern slavery and other perilous situations.

30th: Pray for the Mothers Union and give thanks for its 150 years defending family life at home and abroad and pray for its campaigns to end violence, poverty and injustice.

31st: As 2026 draws to a close, reflect on the Lord's provision during the past year and, assured of His faithfulness for today and tomorrow, offer Him your concerns for today and the year ahead.





LOWICK YFC CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Monday 21st December 2026

6.30pm

St Luke's, Lowick with Blawith Church



Followed by festive refreshments in Lowick Community Hall

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LOWICK YFC

CHRISTMAS BINGO





- Saturday 12th December
- Greenodd Village Hall
- £8 a book
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- Eyes Down 7.30pm
- Raffle
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Sunday 13th December

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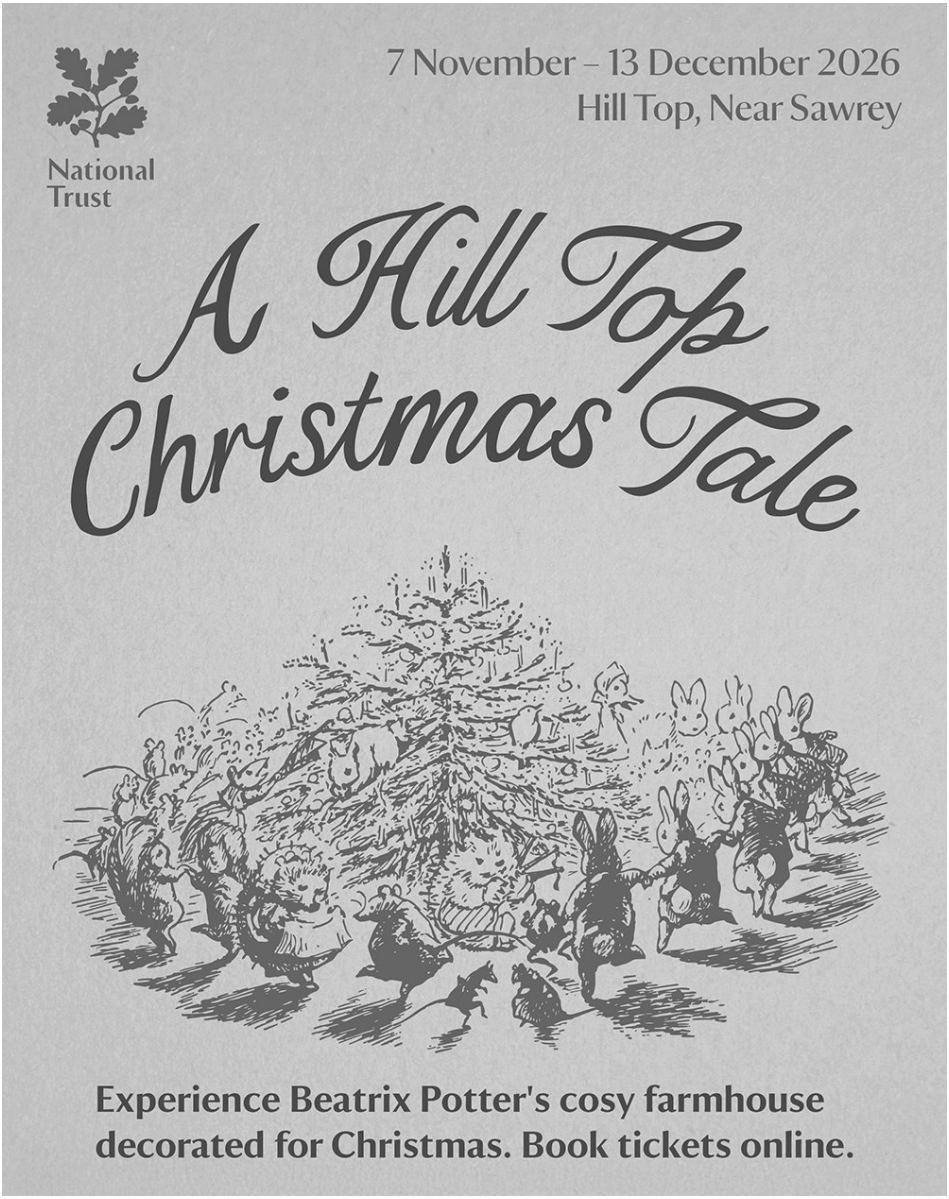
nationaltrust.org.uk/hill-top



From the Registers

St. Luke's, Lowick, 15th November 2026, Baptism of Mabel Rose Graveson

Thorncliffe crematorium, 19th November 2026, Funeral of William (Bill) Henry Cooper

Readings for December 2026

6th	2 Peter 3.8-15a	Mark 1.1-8	
13th	1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 Luke 1.26-35, 38 Matthew 2.1-11	John 1.6-8, 19-28 Luke 2.1-7 John 1.1-14	Isaiah 9.2, 6-7 Luke 2.8-16
20th	Isaiah 9.2, 6-7 Luke 2.8-16	Luke 1.26-35, 38 Matthew 2.1-11	Luke 2.1-7 John 1.1-14
24th	Titus 3.4-7	Luke 2.8-20	
25th	Hebrews 1.1-12	John 1.1-14	
27th	Galatians 4.4-7	Luke 2.22-40	

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Regular events

Monday	Knitting and Stitching, 7pm	Greenodd Village Hall
Monday	Short Mat Indoor Bowling, 1 - 3pm, no experience needed	Greenodd Village Hall
Monday	Little Kicks, a football session for 4-6 year olds, 5.30pm	Coniston S & S Centre
2nd & 4th Friday	Tottle-Art: Art Group 10.30am - 12.30	Tottlebank Baptist Church
Tuesday	Coffee and Chat, 9.45 - 10.45am	Greenodd Village Hall
Tuesday	Coniston CAMEO 2 - 4pm	Coniston Institute
Tuesday	Youth Club age 11 & over 7 - 9pm	Coniston S & S Centre
Wednesday	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
1st Wed of the month	Lunch and Dominoes, 12:30	Coniston Institute Reading Room
2nd Wed of the month	09.30 Blue Works bus from Coniston Central Bus Shelter. Bus walks from Coniston All welcome. Just turn up or contact: roberthenrymccracken@outlook.com	Coniston Central Bus Shelter
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
Thursday	Community Singers 7.15	Coniston Institute
Friday	Junior Cricket	Coniston Cricket Club
2nd Tuesday	Egton WI, 7.30pm	Greenodd Village Hall
2nd Tuesday	Ulverston Repair Café 6.30-8.30pm	Croftlands Community Centre
3rd Tuesday	Coniston WI, 7.30pm,	Coniston Institute
1st Wednesday	Prayer Hour - 10 - 11am	St Mary's, Penny Bridge
3rd Wednesday	Coffee Morning 10.30am - 12.30pm	Bouth Village Hall

What's On Guide - December

4th	Matthew Clayton on Ditchling Museum and the Ditchling Guild - see page 16	The Farmer's Arms
7th	'SINK DOWN TO THE SEED' - ROOKHOW SENSORY QUIET DAY - see pages 14-15	Rookhow
9th	Lunch and Dominoes - see page 10	Coniston Institute Reading Room
10th	Community Christmas Lunch - see page 15	The Farmer's Arms
11th	Winter talk with Adam Crowe and Helen from Rusland Farm about organic and regenerative farming - see pages 13 & 16	Carthouse Cinema
11th	Local wood worker Edward Carefoot - see page 16	The Farmer's Arms
12th	Penny Bridge Church Coffee Morning - see page 13	Greenodd Village Hall
12th	Lowick YFC Christmas Bingo - see page 21	Greenodd Village Hall
12th	A community Ceilidh with STRIDING EDGE - see page 36	Water Yeat Village Hall
12th	The Little Arrow String Band - see page 35	Coniston Institute
16th	Bouth Village Hall Coffee Morning - see page 9	Bouth Village Hall
17th	AN EVENING WITH TIM FARRON, MP FOR WESTMORLAND AND LONSDALE, ON BEHALF OF RUSLAND CHURCH RESCUE - see page 9	Rusland Reading Rooms, LA12 8JZ
18th	A talk about collections and collecting - Professor Charlie Gere - see page 16	The Farmer's Arms
18th	COFFEE and MINCE PIES with MUSIC - Coniston Methodist Church Christmas Coffee Morning - see page 10	Coniston Methodist Church

Christmas and Carol Church Services	See Pages 2, 4, 5, 19 & 20

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

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Presents

The Little Arrow String Band



Saturday 12th December

Doors open 7.00pm. Café/table seating

£12 online at conistoninstute.uk or cash on the door

PROCEEDS TO ST MARY'S HOSPICE

No bar - Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Raffle.

WATER YEAT VILLAGE HALL

Presents



A community Ceilidh with

STRIDING EDGE

One of North West England's most popular and classic ceilidh bands, they will energise you with fiddle, melodeon, border bagpipes, drums, French horn, harmonica, double bass, mandolin, bouzouki, electric guitar, trombone and of course, vocals. Their two expert dance callers will make sure you know the steps.

Come along for a lively night.

Saturday 12th December 8pm, £15

Cash or card at the door or in advance at

www.wegottickets.com/wateryeatvillagehall - no booking fee

Doors open 7.30pm - No bar – bring your own drinks and nibbles

www.striding-edge.org

e-voice.org.uk/wyvh

www.facebook.com/wateryeatvillagehall