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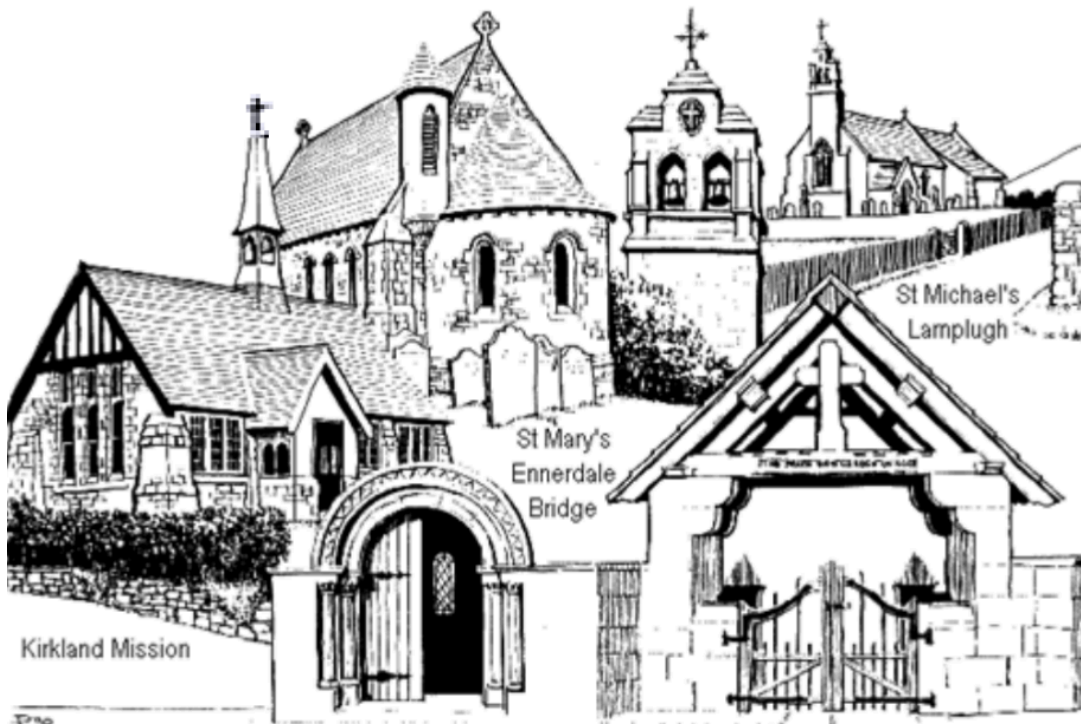
Published by the Church Council for
Lamplugh, Kirkland and Ennerdale
Ecumenical Parish

One Parish, Three Beautiful Churches
for Everyone

February 2026



Cupid has come to symbolize romance on the day honoring St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers!



Church Officers and Contacts

Minister: vacancy

Secretary: vacancy

Treasurer: Mr D Beak 861822

Gift Aid Manager: Mrs M Abbot 861963

Deanery Synod: Mrs M Abbot and Mr D Beak

Methodist Minister: Rev Nick Baker 01900 823273 Email: nicholas.baker@methodist.org.uk

Western Fells Office: 01946 812880

Editor of Contact: Mr Steve Parker: (m) 07968 230507 Email: steve_parker@msn.com

Postal address: Greenthwaite, Ennerdale Bridge, Cleator, CA23 3AR

Church Wardens: Mr R Megan 862904 Mr C Atkinson 862327

Electoral Roll: Mr D Beak 861822

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Christine Murphy: (m) 077911 42756

Messy Church Club: Minister

i) Diocesan website: <http://www.carlisediocese.org.uk>

ii) The National Churches Trust website:

<https://www.explorechurches.org/church/st-michael-all-angels-lamplugh>

<https://www.explorechurches.org/church/st-mary-ennerdale-bridge>

iii) <http://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Cleator Moor West and Arlecon Ward contact

Ward Councillor: Linda Jones-Bulman Email: linda.jones-bulman@cumberland.gov.uk

LAMPLUGH

PARISH COUNCIL: Chair: Roger Braithwaite; Vice-Chair: Ed Surman; Clerk: Susan Stuart;

Email: lamplughpc@gmail.com Website: <https://www.lamplughpc.co.uk>

KIRKLAND C of E ACADEMY

HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mrs Katie Robinson 01946 861386 Email: head@kirkland.cumbria.sch.uk

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: Mr Andy Pratt Email: chair@kirkland.cumbria.sch.uk

SCHOOL KAA Chair: Lisa Naven, c/o school 01946 861386; Secretary Laura Thompson, c/o school 01946 861386

SPORTS COMMITTEE: Guy Murray, 862461

YOUNG FARMERS: Ellie Stamper DipAMA 07907 482780 Email: lamplughyfc@gmail.com

WI: Mrs Brenda Shaw, 861804; Email: BrendaShaw43@gmail.com

LAMPLUGH VILLAGE HALL: Secretary: Mark Stevens on 07543 876490 Email: marklvh@yahoo.com

Website: www.lamplughvillagehall.co.uk

KIRKLAND

PLAY GROUND: Mrs Hilary Stitt, (01946) 862603

LAMPLUGH AND ENNERDALE OIL BUYING GROUP: Ben Tyler Email: lamplughfuel@gmail.com

ENNERDALE

THE GATHER: Website: <https://thegatherennerdale.com/> Tel: 01946 862453 bookings@ennerdalecentre.com

PARISH COUNCIL: Website: <https://www.eandkpc.co.uk>

Chair: Julian Thursz Email: julian.thursz@eandkpc.co.uk

Clerk: Jane Ollerenshaw 07977 339928 Email: clerk@eandkpc.co.uk

ENNERDALE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEBSITE: <https://www.ennerdale.cumbria.sch.uk/home> 01946 861402

HEAD TEACHER: Mr James Gartland <https://www.ennerdale.cumbria.sch.uk>

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: Danielle Heap Email: d.heap@ennerdale.cumbria.sch.uk

CLERK OF GOVERNORS: Yvonne Hey Email: y.hey@ennerdale.cumbria.sch.uk

SCHOOL PTA: (Treasurer) James Gartland 01946 861402 & (sec) Bridget Johns 01946 862036

SPORTS FUND: School. 01946 861402

Please advise any changes to **steve_parker@msn.com** or **07968 230507**

Retired Minister's Letter

To the Churchwardens and people of Lamplugh, Kirkland and Ennerdale

Dear Cyril, Robin and everyone

I am writing to thank you for organising a most enjoyable farewell tea at the end of December. It was a good way to mark the conclusion of ten and a half years of shared ministry in the parish.

I also need to place on record my thanks for the very generous gift of life membership of the Woodland Trust. I am pleased that this vital charity will be benefiting financially, and I look forward to hearing more about their work.

The basket of "goodies" was very acceptable too. I appreciated the number of home-made items, and took a photograph to remind me of the baking and jam making skills of some members of the congregation. Suffice it to say that some of the items in the basket have already been enjoyed, some are in the process of being enjoyed, while others, like the enormous fruitcake, I look forward to enjoying in the future.

I do hope that you don't have to wait too long for a new minister to be appointed; but my prayer is that the right person is found to take the parish forward.

My best wishes to you all.

Ian Parker

=====

From the Registers:

<i>Funeral:</i>	Martha Jackson aged 88, on 17th December, at Lamplugh.
<i>Wedding:</i>	Alexandra Rosewell & Benjamin James Tyler at Lamplugh on 13th December

Praying for the Parish February 2026



The Church Council has decided that we should be more intentional in praying for our parish.

In more urban areas churches often list particular streets that are being prayed for that week / month. That obviously isn't possible in a scattered rural area, so we have divided the parish into 12 areas, one for each month. The list is not set in stone; we can tweak it if anyone feels left out.

For the month of **February 2026** we are praying for:

*The community of **Ennerdale Bridge**, for **Ennerdale school**, and those homes, farms and businesses immediately adjacent to the village*



The **Lake District National Park Partnership** is developing a new management plan that will guide how this treasured National Park and World Heritage Site is cared for in the years ahead. The Plan sets out how all those with a responsibility for the Lake District will co-ordinate their work to tackle the most important issues and challenges.

Have your say: www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/PartnershipConsultation

On the consultation page, you'll be able to complete a questionnaire and share your thoughts on the draft Plan. Printed copies will also be available in local libraries and information centres. If you're unable to access the online form, you can email your feedback to: PartnershipPlan@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Those who provide an email address will be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 voucher, with a choice of Coniston Boating Centre, Hawkshead Relish Company, Keswick Brewing Company or Honister Slate Mine.

Farewell To Rev. Ian Parker



On the afternoon of 29th December 2025 the team at The Gather hosted a thank you and a very enjoyable farewell tea and social gathering to express their thanks and the gratitude of the residents of the Ecumenical Parish to **Rev. Ian Parker** for his ten and a half years of ministry. We believe that Ian was a trail blazer, being the first Methodist Minister in the country to be the incumbent in a largely Anglican parish. Regardless of the difficulties this naturally presented he performed his ministry quietly and very successfully, getting to know residents, taking a great interest in all parish life and the wider area, and out walking the fells and countryside around on his one day a week off (his job description entitled him to 4 days of rest!).

Knowing Ian's love of nature, his concern about climate change and his charitable views, with the donations given for his leaving gift we were able to buy him Life Membership of The Woodland Trust, an organisation which plants trees, conserves many woodlands to the benefit of nature, combatting climate change and enhancing mental health. Ian was also presented with a hamper full of locally made foods which it was hoped would be greatly enjoyed and not clutter his new home for too long!

So farewell and a heartfelt thank you to Ian and best wishes for a quieter life - may you continue to lift up your eyes to the hills ... and your feet as well!

Robin Megan



Kindling Sticks

Do you want to help the **Great North Air Ambulance**?

Tubs of kindling sticks are available and can be delivered (in Ennerdale, Kirkland, Arlecdon, Asby and Lamplugh; other areas by arrangement) or can be collected from:

The Gather in Ennerdale.



£4.00 per tub

To order, contact Derek Tunstall by phone 07841 370644 or email **tunstallderek@gmail.com**

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✉ info@mitchellsestateagency.co.uk

Christian Names

Submitted by Mary Johnson

When did we call our first name a Christian name and what was the reason why?

It began in the middle ages when Christianity spread in the 12th-13th centuries onwards. A first name is called a Christian name historically when given to a person during their Christian baptism or christening linking them to their faith. The name signifies being named in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Christian names are primarily biblically rooted in Hebrew and Greek. They are not just for a birthday but for a lifetime and communicates a sense of a person's identity. Names in the UK come greatly from old English, Celtic, Latin or Biblical roots. You may recognise some of these names to our three parishes as follows:

Roger or Rodger	Famous spearman
Sandra	Protector of humanity
David	Beloved or friend
Pauline	Humble
Christopher	Bearer of Christ
Susan	Lily Beauty and Grace
Cyril	Lord or master
Jane	God is gracious
Steven or Stephen	Crown Crowed
Judith	To be praised
Malcolm or Malcom	Devotee of Columba
Jill	Young youthful

We can continue to think of many great names such as William Shakespear, Marie Curie, Gandhi, Roger Federer, Jane Austin, Aristotle, Rihanna and Paul the Apostle but we know that the GREATEST NAME above all names is mentioned in this song:

*Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer, living word*

Alfred Edward Housman, almost certainly would have been somewhat irritated if his name was misspelled with an “e”, making it Houseman... a feeling that I can also share if my surname is spelled as Steel. Surnames are proper nouns, spelled as a matter of convention, not by standard English (if there is such a thing!).

The first Housman poem I ever read, was entitled XL, which I thought was relating to Extra Large, but no matter how many times I read and re-read the poem, I could not see the relationship between title and content. Eventually I realised that it was the Roman Numeral for 40. XL (aka Blue remembered hills) was just one of a collection of 63 poems called, A Shropshire Lad, and it is a poem from this collection that I feature in this edition of Poetic Licence.

XIX (19)

The time you won your town a race
We chaired you through the market-place;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

To-day, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home,
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away
From fields where glory does not say
And though the laurel grows
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut
Cannot see the record cut,
And silence sounds no worse than cheers
After earth has stopped the ears:

Now you will not swell the rout
Of lads that wore their honours out,
Runners whom renown outran
And the name died before the man.

So set, before its echos fade,
The fleet foot on the sill of shade,
And hold to the low lintel up
The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round the early-laurelled head
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,
And find unwithered on its curls
The garland briefer than a girl's.

This poem has a simple AABB rhyme scheme, which gives it a strong meter. This itself makes it impressive as it tells the story of a young successful athlete, who was carried "shoulder-high" when he won a race for the glory of the town, only to return dead from the battlefield [WWI] and again be carried "shoulder-high" by his townsmen. The poem goes on to say that dying young would mean that the athlete avoids the decline of his physical prime, and the pain of outliving his own reputation, especially when referring to the transience of laurel, which represents the victor's crown.

Housman, it turns out never actually really visited Shropshire - but just used his poetic imagination, perhaps accompanied with maps or guidebooks, to paint a picture in his mind's eye. It probably did not matter at the time of writing, but when the collection became very popular, it surfaced that the description of Shropshire was somewhat idealised, and not entirely accurate. For example there was no actual [weather vane] "The vane on Hughley steeple veers bright, a far known sign" nor indeed was there any steeple! as was described in poem LXI (61)!

Tek care
Steve Steele

=====

Please Keep the Countryside Clean!

Despite living in and around such a beautiful area as the Lake District National Park, we still have to deal with poor behaviour from a very small minority of dog owners, who do not clean up after their animals. Dog fouling is a health risk and a criminal offence. If your dog fouls in a public place, you must clean it up straight away. There are litter bins that you can use for dog waste. If no bins are immediately available then you should bag it and take it with you to the nearest bin available.

Please do not leave your dog's mess for others to clear up. It's an offence to leave bagged waste on the ground or in hedges.

Use the **Cumberland Council** link below to report dog mess in public areas, or report people who do not clean up after their dog:

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-street-cleaning/street-cleaning/dog-fouling>



A Farmer's Observations

By Will Rawling MBE

Noo than, happy new eyr to ivry body.

It's been a couple of months since the last catch up and we've had a bit of weather since the end of November. The wind and rain causes problems with the tugging, (sheep mating). The yows (ewes), spend a lot of time sheltering, which means they are not as likely to go looking for the tups (rams). This means the tups have to spend time and energy finding them. It also causes them to lose condition, as they are more reliant on their body reserves, when they are not browsing around grazing. Normally if a sheep is not asleep it will be grazing. Sheep put on back fat during the summer months and use the fat as an energy store to help them through the winter. Similar to a grizzly bear building up prior to hibernation.

The conditions did eventually change and the frost came along. More about that later.

I am sure everyone enjoyed their Christmas break. Farmers do relax a bit over the festive period but it is still quite a busy time. The cows in the sheds still have to be fed and mucked out and the last few days of December mark the end of tup time. The tups are "lifted" separated from the ewes, often on Christmas Eve. The younger ewes are treated for liver fluke and returned to the fell for a few weeks. The older ones stay in the fields.

Liver fluke is caused by a parasitic flat worm that is ingested by the sheep along with the grass they eat. These worms have a very complicated life cycle which also involves spending some stages of its development using little mud snails as an intermediate host. The ingested flukes mature in the digestive system of the sheep, then enter the blood stream and migrate to the gallbladder and liver, where they survive in large numbers, using the blood of the host as an energy source. They then produce eggs which pass back through the digestive system onto the pasture. If untreated the host animal becomes anemic and usually dies. Once on the pasture the eggs develop in the snail. These tiny molluscs tend to congregate in the wetter areas of the fields. Nature helps us out a bit here. Mallard ducks, as well as other aquatic and wading birds, eat a lot of the snails, reducing infestation to manageable levels.

Recently we have seen a lot of signs of otters on the becks. It is great to see them around but they do take a lot of wild ducklings and we have noticed fewer ducks about the field gutters. Herons also enjoy a duckling or two, so the little balls of yellow fluff that float about in single file between mum and dad are up against it. Less ducklings, fewer ducks and

drakes. I think the otters have recolonised some of the catchment as we have got rid of the invasive mink but I don't think mink took ducklings. Nature is a delicate balance.

I expect otters will affect natural fish stocks and pearl mussels. They are a lovely animal and it is nice to catch an occasional glimpse of these very secretive predators gliding effortlessly along the becks. You might be advised to put a net over your ornamental ponds, if you have one.

Back to the frost I mentioned earlier. Farmers like a bit of frost at this time of year. It makes the fields hard enough to carry the tractors and muck spreaders. This means we can get the cow muck we have stored in the first half of winter onto the land. The soil nutrient in the muck helps the growth of spring grass, ready for lambing and calving. If the cows are wintered outside they do this themselves. Our cows are housed in the winter to avoid them paddling up our wet land. Dryer farms can get away with leaving the cows outside even if they do need to give them hay or silage.

The frost also cracks the soils helping with drainage and aeration. Soil needs air to work properly. The cold temperatures do kill off the last of the grass and you will notice many of the fields have changed from a light green colour to more of a beige. Sheep and the wild grazers can still eat it. It helps to fill them up but has very little nutritional value.

January is a month when we have time for field maintenance tasks. Mending fences and hedges, replacing worn out posts and wire, fixing gates, mending wall gaps and unblocking field drains. All vital tasks, not only from a farming point of view but also to maintain and protect wildlife habitats.

The barn owl is fine by the way. He/she sat on the outside of the bathroom window and watched me brush my teeth, the other night. An interesting experience, I bet an owl has never watched you doing your ablutions.

Hooiver ah'd better give ower afor ah git ower many words.

Will Rawling

=====

E&K PC COMMUNITY LED PLAN & EMERGENCY PLAN

Community Led Plan - Cllr Ric Outhwaite: ric.outhwaite@eandkpc.co.uk

Community Emergency Plan - Cllr Sandra Guise: sandra.guise@eandkpc.co.uk

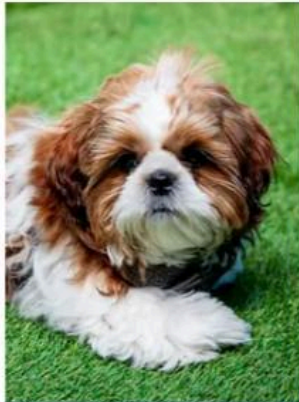
The Community Led Plan sets the priorities for our village over the next few years, covering everything from local amenities and transport to green spaces and activities for all ages.

The Emergency Plan ensures that in a local emergency (like a power cut, severe weather, or heavy snow), our community is ready to help itself.

These are not the Parish Council's plans. These are YOUR Community's Plans. Send us your comments and feedback!

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FREE bike marking is on offer from Cumbria Police!

The Gather, Ennerdale

Wednesday, 25th February, from 11am until 1pm



Police bike marking events are community initiatives where officers help cyclists get their bikes security-marked and registered on databases like BikeRegister (<https://www.bikeregister.com/>), deterring theft with tamper-resistant labels and helping police return stolen bikes to owners, with events often held at public places like train stations or community centers. These events offer free services, including applying unique QR codes or numbers to frames and adding details to national databases, making marked bikes less appealing to thieves and easier to trace if stolen.

Benefits:

- **Deterrent:** Marked bikes are significantly less likely to be stolen (reportedly 83% less likely).
- **Recovery:** Helps police identify and return stolen bikes to their rightful owners.
- **Free Service:** Often provided at no cost to the cyclist.



Forthcoming events at Lamplugh Village Hall will be:

- **Saturday 7th February 2026 – A celebration of Simon and Garfunkel’s music – Admission £15 – Tim Chu and Ian Bradley**, back by popular demand, will be here again to play some of the duo’s enduring classics and other great songs from both their joint and solo careers – concert begins at 7.00pm
- **Saturday 14th March 2026 - 1375 Classic Rock and Blues** – an evening of great rock songs and blues and Motown classics; concert begins at 7.30pm **Tickets £2.50**
- **Friday 17th April - Local singer Vivvy Lee** – come and enjoy an evening of singing and dancing to classic and recent hits; concert begins at 7.30pm **Tickets £5.00**

Doors for all events open at 6:30pm

Details of all events are on the website and tickets can be booked online or by telephoning **Mark Stevens** using the details below.

Full details for all clubs, societies and their activities are listed on the Village Hall website:

<https://www.lamplughvillagehall.co.uk/>

**For further details about any events or hiring of the hall, please contact:
Mark Stevens on 07543 876490 or by email at marklvh@yahoo.com**

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To advertise in Contact

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Steve Parker

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e-mail: steve_parker@msn.com

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full page: £250 - 2/3rds page: £170

1/2 page: £130 - 1/3rd page: £90

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We're hiring!



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WHAT'S ON AT THE GATHER

Ennerdale Bridge, Cumbria, CA23 3AR, 01946 862453

Email: bookings@ennerdalecentre.com

www.thegatherennerdale.com



The Gather Cafe & Shop
Open Seven Days a Week
Monday - Saturday 9am until 4pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm
Last food orders 30mins before closing

Helen's Herbs WORKSHOP

If your door is looking a bit bare now that Christmas is over, how about **making a heart shaped wreath?**

For yourself, or someone you love. Alternatively they can lay flat for a grave or memorial.



* Fresh foliage and flowers to make these pretty wreaths. They are large and made on a mossed frame, using wrapped method so no wiring involved and no sore thumbs.

* All materials provided.

* Followed by home made scones, jam and cream plus tea or coffee.

* On Friday 13th February 1pm - 3.30pm

* venue The Gather Ennerdale.

* £45 full payment on booking

Contact Helen to reserve your place 07901790734



The Gather Community Film Club returns for 2026

on the last Friday of the month

Friday 27th February - 7pm

Tickets available on the door or in advance from The Gather

Community Film Club

Join us for a special community screening of

Dance First

a witty, imaginative and moving film inspired by the life of Samuel Beckett, one of the greatest writers of the 20th century.

Set between Paris and wartime Europe,

Dance First explores Beckett's sharp humour, complicated relationships, and the experiences that shaped his extraordinary work.

Expect a film that's thoughtful, surprising, and full of atmosphere, with moments of warmth and brilliance throughout.



February Community Room Calendar

- Monday 2nd, 9th, 23rd - Baby Sing and Sign - 9.30am
- Mondays - Zumba - 6pm
- Tuesday 17th - Book Group - 11am
- Tuesday 3rd, 10th, 24th - Intermediate Painting - 10am
- Tuesday 3rd, 10th, 24th - Improvers Painting - 1pm
- Wednesdays - Cumbria Coast Karate - 6pm
- Thursdays - Zumba 6pm
- Thursdays - Mind Body Movement Strength - 7.30pm
- Friday - 6th, 13th, 27th - Beginners Drawing - 10am
- Fridays - Tai Chi - 10.30am
- Fridays - Table Tennis - 1.30pm (All Welcome)
- Friday - Last Friday of every month Film Club 7pm
- Saturday 7th - Beginners Drawing - 1pm
- Saturday 7th - Creative Writing - 10am

AVAILABLE TO HIRE

THE COMMUNITY ROOM - UPSTAIRS@THEGATHER
 FOR ENQUIRIES EMAIL: BOOKINGS@ENNERDALECENTRE.COM



Coming Soon...

The Choral starring Ralph Fiennes
 Join us for a special community screening of The Choral — a warm, uplifting and quietly powerful British drama set during World War I.



Officers from your Neighbourhood Policing Team will be at The Gather on **Wednesday 25th February** from 11am until 1pm for a Police Desk
 Call in if you have any community issues or would like some crime prevention advice



NISSAN

POP-UP

EVENT

GET AN EXTRA **£750** DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION. **0% APR** REPRESENTATIVE ON SELECTED NISSAN MODELS*

ENDS 9 FEBRUARY

*Applies to: Qashqai (all models); Juke (except N-Sport); ARIVA (NISMO only); and X-Trail (except e-POWER grades; e-4ORCE Acenta Premium 5 Seat, N-Connecta 5 Seat, N-Trek, Tekna 5 Seat, Tekna+). PCP Nissan Financial Services. Subject to status: 18+. Order by 09.02.26. Registered by 31.03.26. Participating dealers only. 0% APR requires 30% minimum deposit on Nissan Qashqai, X-Trail and Juke. ARIVA NISMO 0% APR requires 36 or 48 month term. T&Cs apply. Images for illustration purposes.

NISSAN

POP-UP

EVENT

GET AN EXTRA **£750** DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION. **0% APR** REPRESENTATIVE ON SELECTED NISSAN JUKE MODELS*

ENDS 9 FEBRUARY

*Applies to: Juke (except N-Sport). PCP Nissan Financial Services. Subject to status: 18+. Order by 09.02.26. Registered by 31.03.26. Participating dealers only. 0% APR requires 30% minimum deposit. T&Cs apply. Images for illustration purposes.

NISSAN

POP-UP

EVENT

GET AN EXTRA **£750** DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION. **0% APR** REPRESENTATIVE ON SELECTED NISSAN QASHQAI MODELS*

ENDS 9 FEBRUARY

*Applies to: Qashqai (all models). PCP Nissan Financial Services. Subject to status: 18+. Order by 09.02.26. Registered by 31.03.26. Participating dealers only. 0% APR requires 30% minimum deposit. T&Cs apply. Images for illustration purposes.

NISSAN

POP-UP

EVENT

GET AN EXTRA **£750** DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION. **0% APR** REPRESENTATIVE ON SELECTED NISSAN X-TRAIL MODELS*

ENDS 9 FEBRUARY

*Applies to: X-Trail (except e-POWER grades; e-4ORCE Acenta Premium 5 Seat, N-Connecta 5 Seat, N-Trek, Tekna 5 Seat, Tekna+). PCP Nissan Financial Services. Subject to status: 18+. Order by 09.02.26. Registered by 31.03.26. Participating dealers only. 0% APR requires 30% minimum deposit. T&Cs apply. Images for illustration purposes.



J. Edgar & Son

NISSAN ROWRAH

The Nissan Pop-Up Event

is now on at J Edgar & Son, Rowrah

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01946 861607 | WWW.EDGARS.CO.UK

Community Tree Planting Day



Join Raise and West Cumbria Rivers Trust for a hands-on community tree planting day at **Cockan Farm, Frizington.**

DATE: **21 FEBRUARY, 2026** TIME: **10:00AM - 3:30PM**



What's happening

- Guided tree planting sessions
- Time to warm up with tea, coffee, and snacks
- Time outdoors, supporting the local environment

SIGN UP



www.raisecumbria.co.uk
zoe@raisecumbria.co.uk
07354 903 253

In Memory of Martha Jackson

by Michael Watts

Life for us, here in Lamplugh, Kirkland and Ennerdale, is full of human stories of births and marriages and retirements and deaths. And we have just had our Vicar leave us on his second retirement in December; Ian has been a staunch minister for us in the three churches. Hard working a full week throughout the year instead for the 2 days allocated for his duties. His preaching has been so good that we have been blessed many times over.

Sadly, we have seen too many deaths in recent times, I remember Jean Ball, a stalwart of Kirkland, whose presence was appreciated by so many of us.

And now we say goodbye to Martha Jackson who was a force to be reckoned with as churchwarden at St Michaels.

I must just mention her fund raising (especially her jam for which some travelled a good distance to buy and which helped towards the construction of the WC and the matching funding for the HLF grant) and her ability to twist arms to get people helping.

And now with Bob

Martha Jackson



19TH JANUARY 1937 - 8TH DECEMBER 2025

Michael Watts

Lamplugh Parish Council



Summary of the November 2025 Lamplugh PC meeting

Full minutes are posted on the Parish Council Notice Boards, if you want more details.

Dockray Meadow Planning Application 7/2025/4077

7 Members of the Public attended the meeting to voice their concerns over the application and wanted their issues to be heard and taken forward.

- The application is about a change of use from a touring caravan site. This year it got a Lawfulness Certificate issued from Lake District National Park, therefore it is assumed there are no occupancy caveats or seasonal restrictions.

Policy Statements:

- Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy; This is a large development of caravans and does not represent the spatial nature of the Village and would give a 34% increase in permanent structures with a large proportion being in this area
A member of the public who attended the meeting provided information regarding both historic and current flooding in the area; this would be up to the Flood Authority and EA to decide whether it meets the criteria.
A question was raised as to where run off water would go? this is currently emptied into Rakegill Beck, however, the size of the proposed development, with water run-off, rainwater and sewage would mean a discharge pipe will be required and most probably put into Rakegill Beck, with the only route through the neighbouring farmer's land. Rainwater is currently going into holding tanks that discharge at a gradual rate. A question was asked is this suitable or sustainable.
- A member of the public stated there are two pipes that run into Rakegill Beck, and these have been there for a long period of time. The local farmer has comprehensively surveyed the area, and could not find either suggesting they have been ignored for a long time. The proposal states there is only one on the survey and it is situated at the reception building, however, this could not be located when surveyed.
- Policy 4 – Biodiversity and geodiversity. This part of the Parish is a neutral nutrient catchment area. The report supplied is contradictory and states that by putting in a new package treatment plant it will reduce the discharges, but then also states that foul drainage doesn't go into the septic tank, so the site wasn't making any foul discharges at all? The conclusion of this is there will be an increase of phosphorous discharges into Rakegill Beck. Natural England who currently have agreements with the local Farmer would have to decide along with the EA (Environment Agency) if extra mitigation would be required? There is no information in the application of a discharge route or overflow.
- A member of the public stated that a package treatment plant for a development of this size would be large and that currently there is only a metal tank that is manually emptied frequently.
- Policy 5 – Protecting the spectacular landscape. A visual impact assessment is required as per the Policy and this has not been provided as part of the application.
- Policy 8 – Infrastructure and developer contributions. It was mentioned that the developer might be willing to do some work for the community, eg, widening roads, etc. but there is nothing mentioned

about this in the application. The Bridge adjacent to the entrance to the development is narrow and single track which not only restricts flow of traffic along the Road but also slows it down.

- Policy 16 – Job creation and employment space. There is no indication of the management and maintenance arrangements for the site or how many staff would be employed, and it is believed this extra information is vital detail on the maintenance of the area.
- Policy 18 – Tourism and holiday accommodation. The application is contradictory as it states proposals would only be supported for ‘short-term holiday letting’, however, the last communication received from the applicant’s agent, states there will be ‘no short-term lettings’. The proposal needs some clarity around the usage of the homes and any restrictions (Airbnb, Second Homes, Holiday lets) It also needs to identify what the construction is to be, as it is noted the application is for Caravans and Lodges but is not specific on detail
- Cllr Braithwaite stating the current site licence for Inglenook when it became open all year round restricted the maximum stay to 21 days, however, this was later found to be unenforceable by Copeland. After 10 years the site applied for a lawfulness certificate. Therefore, it is clear that the original intention is unenforceable and this should not happen with this application.
- There was a landscape plan submitted as part of the application around the Trees already on the proposed site but does not give enough detail as to which would be kept apart from the large tree in the middle of the site, but it is unclear how all the units will fit around it while managing to conform to the ten metres between caravans and trees.
- A local farmer voiced his concerns about what would happen to his own trees which border the development on his side of the Beck as they are already taller than those on the site and could impact on the development over time. The ecology assessment did not consider anything out with the boundary of the site, but there will be implications for this going forward.
- Cllr Maisey raised concern about a fundamental change in use from a touring caravan site to one with potentially a hundred full time residents. It is difficult to say how it meets the tourism policy.
- There are concerns about the infrastructure and services as it was questioned whether these would require ungraded, especially the water pressure and the current electricity supply.
- This is a development of 44 new homes in the Lake District National Park, and this should be a concern that the National Park planning authority need to consider carefully. Natural England at this time have not submitted anything regarding this application for consideration.
- The current proposal is for one parking space per lodge, meaning there would be no facility for visitors, additional vehicles per home, or maintenance teams, so what would be the provision? or would they use the surrounding Roads?
- There were some positive comments made regarding local employment opportunities, and affordability of local homes
- The loss of touring parks leads to wild camping and waste disposal around the community, which is a problem for tourism and the general area.
- It is of concern that the site is currently not being maintained.
- There was concern that the cycle path would be affected by this site as this is on the main C2C route and also popular with cycle clubs, locals and visitors.
- The application is not complete with quite a lot of required information missing and it is asked that this should be submitted before any decisions could be made

In summary, Lamplugh Parish Council object to the planning application as it currently stands.

Public Participation Slot – Seven members of the public attended the meeting.

- Reverend Ian Parker informed the parish council that this would be his final meeting as he is now retiring. Councillors wished him well for the future.
- A member of the public talked about Action with Communities in Cumbria who help people who are disadvantaged because of where they live, as per the Gas Canister issues discussed at the previous meeting

Correspondence to review to 19th November 2025

- Cumberland Co-Production Charter.

- Cumbria Local Nature Partnership. An email was received with a video presentation about the protection of wildlife in the area.
- Congra Moss Footpath. United Utilities proposals will make the footpath a formal right of way.
- Cumbria Community Forest email. Tree planting in the area. Kirkland Mission will be the base on 13th December.
- Bus Service email. There is no mention of the 217/218 services, it was agreed to ask Cumberland about the future of those services and include MP Josh MacAlister in this.

Financial Matters:

- Although the budget had been disseminated to all councillors, the precept for 2026/27 will be set at £14,000.
- Current Balance:
 - **Statement No. 94** Start balance £22,065.00, end balance £20,715.09
 - **Statement No. 95** Start balance £20,715.09, end balance £18,386.90.
- **Schedule of Income and Expenditure** discussed and agreed.

Planning- Applications/Decisions

- **4/25/2343/TPO – The Spinney, Lamplugh – Various works to 18 trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order.** No objections noted
- **4/25/2387/TPO - Pruning of a sycamore tree (T1) and a lime tree (T2) protected by a tree preservation order - Barn Cottage, Lamplugh –** No objections noted.
- **The Countryman Pub shop.** This has now been approved by Cumberland Council, with the caveat that goods must be sourced within a 20-mile radius of the shop.

4/21/2187/0F1, and 4/21/2188/0F1 - Land to South of Whinnah Cottages, Lamplugh. Planning Inspectorate have said the enforcement notice issued by the council was legally unsound. Cumberland CC must now issue a new enforcement notice.

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The Wild Edge of Winter: February in our Parishes

There is an old, somewhat weary proverb that often echoes across the West Cumbrian fells this time of year: *"February fill dyke, be it black or be it white."* Whether it arrives as "white" snow dusting the summit of Pillar or "dark" rain swelling the River Ehen, February in our corner of the world is rarely a dry affair. It is a month of wellies, damp woollen coats, and the constant, rushing music of the becks.

Yet, for those of us in Ennerdale, Kirkland, and Lamplugh, February is perhaps our most honest month. It lacks the festive distraction of December and the cold, darkness of January. Instead, it offers hope.

The most striking sign of this hope is the arrival of the snowdrops - the "Fair Maids of February." In the sheltered corners of our churchyards, our gardens, on the verges of the country roads and in the woods and fields along our fells, these delicate white bells are beginning to carpet the floor.

There is a profound lesson in the snowdrop. It doesn't wait for "perfect" weather; it pushes through frozen soil because it knows its time has come. They serve as a gentle reminder of resilience. Even when the wind howls and the rain seems never ending, there is a quiet strength working beneath the Lakeland soil, preparing for a new season.

Early in the month, we mark **Candlemas** (February 2nd). In the deep trough of the Ennerdale valley, the "return of the light" is a physical event. For weeks, the farms tucked under the shadows of the high ridges have sat in shadow. This month, the sun finally climbs high enough to clear the crags, spilling light back onto the valley floor for the first time in months. It is a moment of genuine celebration - a reminder that the light is always returning, even when hidden behind the fells.

While the rest of the Lake District begins to wake up to tourism, our part of the National Park remains our quiet sanctuary. In February, the lake takes on a steel-grey majesty. Without the summer leaves, the "Wild Ennerdale" landscape feels raw and ancient.

There is a restorative power in walking the lakeside path toward Gillerthwaite when the air is crisp and the valley is empty of crowds. It is a time for us to reconnect with our own backyard - to hear the stones crunching underfoot and the cry of a buzzard over Bowness Knott without the hum of traffic.

On the farms and in our gardens, the rhythm is shifting. The waiting silence of winter is being replaced by the frantic checks of fences and the moving of sheep to lower pastures in preparation for lambing.

February is our "in-between" time - a bridge between the deep sleep of winter and the energy of spring. As we move through this month together, let's take a cue from the snowdrop: stand tall, stay resilient, and keep our eyes fixed on the growing light over the western fells.

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1.2.26	MRS IDA SHARPE	J PRINCE	TBA
8.2.26	TBA	J PRINCE	TBA
15.2.26	TBA	M JOHNSON	TBA
22.2.26	TBA	M JOHNSON	TBA
1.3.26	TBA	D NEVINSON	TBA

SIDEPERSONS ROTA - February 2026

DATE	ENNERDALE	KIRKLAND	LAMPLUGH
1.2.26	B FEARON	D NEVINSON	-
8.2.26	B FEARON	M WATTS	-
15.2.26	-	M ABBOT	R HODGSON
22.2.26	C AYLING	M WATTS	-
1.3.26	-	C ABBOT	J DAVIS

READERS ROTA - February 2026

DATE	ENNERDALE	KIRKLAND	LAMPLUGH
1.2.26	M LACHLAN & M ROBSON	A LEE	-
8.2.26	-	M ABBOT & D BEAK	J MEGAN & R MEGAN
15.2.26	S GUISE & B FEARON	D BEAK & S WATTS	-
22.2.26	-	M WATTS & C ABBOT	J MEGAN & J DAVIS
1.3.26	M LACHLAN & M ROBSON	S WATTS	-

READINGS - February 2026

DATE	1ST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
1.2.26	MALACHI 3:1-5	HEBREWS 2:14-end	LUKE 2:22-40
8.2.26	GENESIS 1:1-2:3	ROMANS 8:18-25	MATTHEW 6:25-end
15.2.26	EXODUS 24:12-end	2 PETER 1:16-end	MATTHEW 17:1-9
22.2.26	GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7	ROMANS 5:12-19	MATTHEW 4:1-11
1.3.26	GENESIS 12:1-4a	ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17	JOHN 3:1-17

Copy Deadline for the MARCH 2026 edition of Contact:

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23rd February 2026

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Steve Parker, Editor: steve_parker@msn.com (m) 07968 230507

SERVICES AND EVENTS	
February 2026	
1st Feb	11:00am St Mary's, Ennerdale: Morning Prayer tbc* 11:00am Kirkland Mission: Cafe Church
8th Feb	11:00am St Michael's, Lamplugh: Morning Prayer tbc* 11:00am Kirkland Mission: Holy Communion 2:00pm Kirkland Mission: Messy Church
15th Feb	11:00am St Mary's, Ennerdale: Morning Prayer tbc* 11:00am Kirkland Mission: Service of the word
22nd Feb	11:00am St Michael's, Lamplugh: Morning Prayer tbc* 11:00am Kirkland Mission: All Age Holy Communion
March 2026	
1st March	11:00am St Mary's, Ennerdale: Morning Prayer tbc* 11:00am Kirkland Mission: Cafe Church
8th March	11:00am St Michael's, Lamplugh: Holy Communion 11:00am Kirkland Mission: Morning Prayer/The Vine tbc* 2:00pm Kirkland Mission: Messy Church
*a service without communion	

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