

The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere
Church Services February 2018

4th February **2nd Sunday before Lent**
11.00am *Mission Community Commissioning service*
Lorton Street Methodist Church, Cockermouth

11th February **Sunday next before Lent**
9.00am Holy Communion Loweswater BCP
10.30am *Matins* Lorton BCP
3.00pm Holy Communion Buttermere CW

14th February **Ash Wednesday**
7.00pm Holy Communion Lorton CW

18th February **1st Sunday in Lent**
9.00am Holy Communion Lorton CW
10.30am Holy Communion Loweswater CW
3.00pm Evensong Buttermere BCP

25th February **2nd Sunday in Lent**
9.00am Holy Communion Loweswater CW
10.30am Holy Communion Lorton CW
3.00pm Evensong Buttermere BCP

LINK SUBSCRIPTIONS 2018

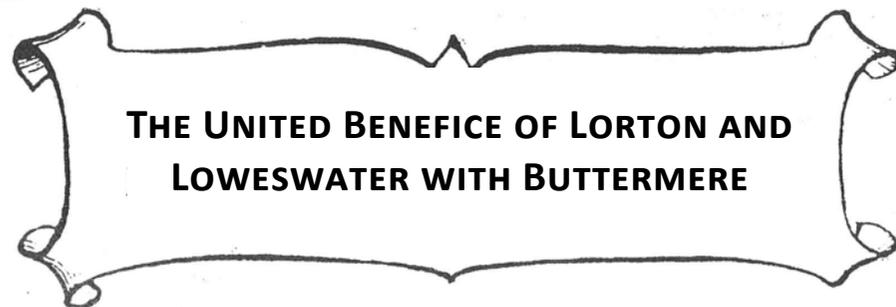
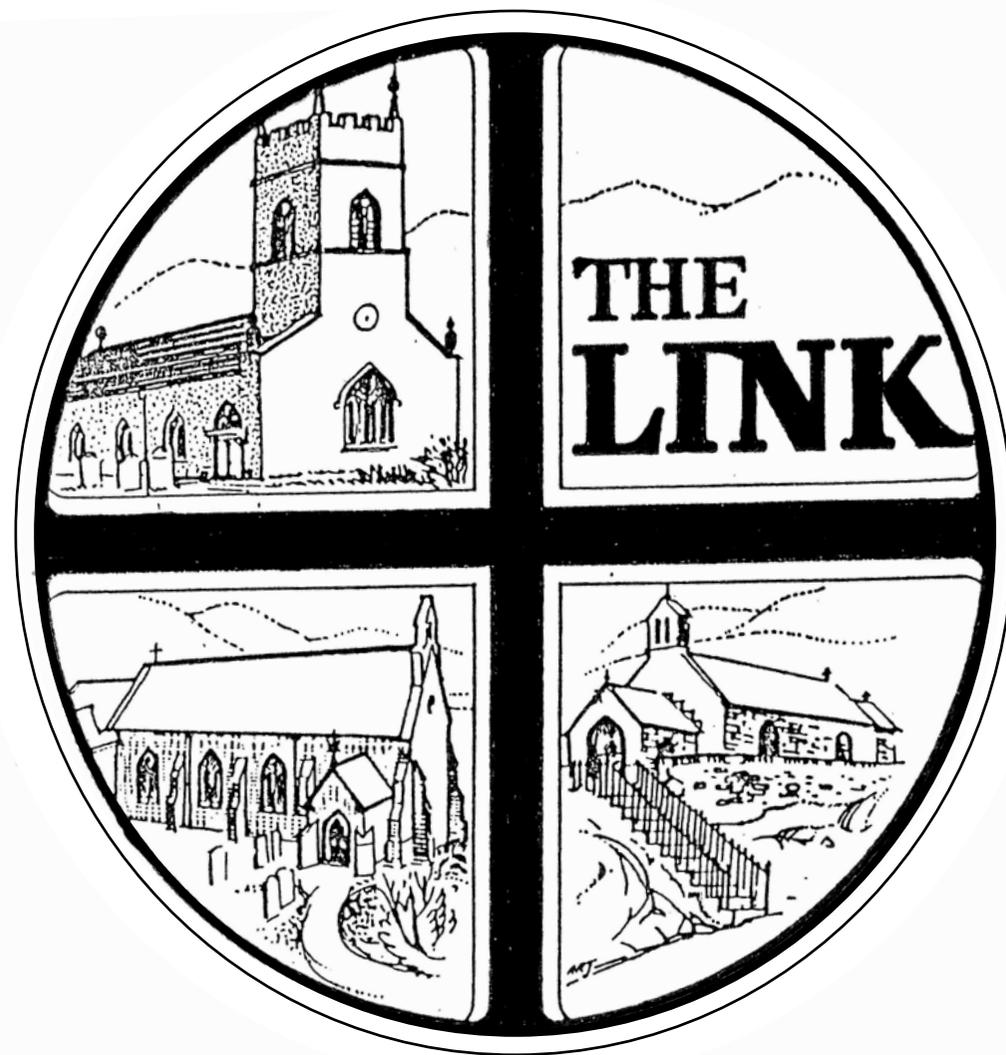
These are now due.

If you wish to continue with the Link this year, please note that the rate for postal subscribers is now £12 pa. and £5 for the ten issues which the distributors deliver.

Please send your subs. to the treasurer: David Walmsley The Old Police House, High Lorton, Cockermouth. CA13 9UL; or give them to your distributor. Thank You.

Deadline for March is Fri 16th February 2018, all articles to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date.

FEBRUARY 2018



DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH

Feb

6	Tue	Talk on the Arctic Charr, West Cumbria Rivers Trust, YTH, 7.00pm Entry free
7	Wed	Table Tennis, 7-9pm, YTH
8	Thu	Loweswater IT Group - Damson Ghyll - 10.00-12.00am - pls book with Jan 01900 85609
10	Sat	Coffee and Cakes, YTH, 10.30am
10	Sat	Chris Bannister performs John Denver LVH 8pm
11	Sun	Mockerkin Mob A walk. Lord's Seat and adjoining fells. 10.00am
13	Tue	YTH ~ 7.15 ~ Lorton W.I. ~ Talk ~ Dr. Janet Wilson
13	Tue	77 Club. Talk on <i>The History and Work of the Cocker mouth Mountain Rescue</i> . 7.30pm LVH
14	Wed	Table Tennis, 7-9pm, YTH
14	Wed	West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Loweswater Care Programme Meeting, 7.30pm, LVH
15	Thu	Church Book Club 10.30am Whiteside, High Lorton. 85490
16	Fri	Film Night, Ullock VH, 7.30pm
18	Sun	Mockerkin Mob B walk. Melbreak. 9.45am
19	Mon	Community Lunch, 1.15pm Lorton School
20	Tue	Lorton Gardening Club, YTH, 7.30pm
21	Wed	Table Tennis, 7-9pm, YTH
21	Wed	Lent Lunch, Julian and Mark Elliott Wheelwright Cottage. High Lorton
21	Wed	Loweswater Ladies, Kirkstile Inn, 7pm
22	Thu	Lent discussion group; Muncaster House 10.30- 12
22	Thu	Loweswater IT Group - Damson Ghyll - 10.00-12.00am - pls book with Jan 01900 85609
24	Sat	Ullock vh Ceilidh
28	Wed	Table Tennis, 7-9pm, YTH
28	Wed	Lent Lunch, Carole and Robert Baird Park View. High Lorton

Mar

1	Thu	Lent discussion group; Muncaster House 10.30- 12
7	Wed	Lorton Parish Council, 7.30pm YTH
7	Wed	Lent Lunch, Jan and Gwyn Evans Palace How, Loweswater
8	Thu	History Soc. talk, The Great War - Ambleside's story. Judith Shingler, YTH. 7.30pm
8	Thu	Lent discussion group; Muncaster House 10.30- 12
12	Mon	Community Lunch, 1.15pm Lorton School
14	Wed	Lent Lunch, Fiona and Charles Lambrick, Armaside, Lorton
15	Thu	Lent discussion group; Muncaster House 10.30- 12
16	Fri	Jazz Evening, Kirkstile Inn, 7.30pm
21	Wed	Lent Lunch, Loweswater Village Hall
22	Thu	Lent discussion group; Muncaster House 10.30- 12

Apr

27	Fri	We welcome back Alan Wilson organist at St Mary-le-Bow for another concert in Loweswater Church
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LENT DISCUSSION GROUP

As in some former years, we hope to be following a new "York Course". This consists of five weekly sessions, starting on Thursday 22nd February, from 10.30- 12. To be held at Muncaster House, Loweswater and open to all who are interested. (85 318)

LENT LUNCHES

These start on Wednesday 21st February - see Diary Dates above for further details

NOTES FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

This year we had a full church for our Benefice carol service. The church looked very festive with Christmas tree and lovely floral decoration thanks to Margie and her team. Thanks to Sue and her choir for all their hard work resulting in a lovely service.

David and Barbara's wine tasting evening in December was most enjoyable and raised £288 for church funds.

We have had further consultation with Ian Wells (church architect) regarding the internal and external work on the church. The work will be staged with external work being prioritised first. An assessment of the roof has taken place this week. It is expected to be a long term project over the coming months.

We lost a long standing, much loved member of our community Alec Bond on December 22nd. Alec was very active in the community being chair of the 77 Club, on the Loweswater Show committee, member of Lake District Special Planning Board amongst many others. He moved from Jenkinson Place to live in Wordsworth Court, Cocker mouth 5 years ago where he was very popular putting everything into his new life there even

starting on Opera club for members of his new community.

Anthony and Liz Whale lived at Kirkhead for a number of years with their children Patrick and Julia. Sadly Anthony died in December in their new home in Dorset. Anthony and Liz involved themselves in village life in Loweswater. He was known for his good nature and bubbly sense of humour!

Arrangements for Lent meetings and lunches are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Please put your names down on the new flower rota to be found as usual at the back of the church.

Whilst currently in the grip of winter encouraging signs are a flock of some 50 or more Fieldfares in the field, the cheering prospect of snowdrops peeping through and slightly longer days.

Eleanor Ella

From the Register:

Burial

Alec Bond aged 92 Year's on 8th January

Jazz Evening

at the

Kirkstile Inn, Loweswater

An evening of Jazz, blues and ballads with Stan Foster on piano, sax and vocals.

Friday 16th March 2018 from 7.30 pm

Telephone 01900 85219

Oh dear! I'm sorry if it was a bit too technical this year! Just 10 entries and only 4 of them correct. Perhaps Britannia no longer rules the waves as she once did! Anyway I hope it wasn't too frustrating. The Admirable winners were **Gwyn & Jan Evans**, second were **Charles and Fiona Lambrick**, third were **Alan and Juliet Gane** and **Ann Hayton** won the booby prize. For those land-lubbers who might still have a fleeting desire to know, the answers were:-

Young Tom wanted to be a painter. He wasn't bad at **skETCHing** but was hardly a **prodiGAL LEONardo**. His brother **GraHAM MOCKed** his ambition while his sister **THELMA LEEred** at his efforts. Tom **lackED GENUine** ability and needed to learn to draw better **beFORE MASTering** painting proper. He had a rather weak left arm. He stood **fourSQUARE RIGidly** upright, as he tried to stop his **eLBOW WAVEring** while his hand felt it had only **thREE FINGers**. He hoped that, like **all A TEEN'S AILments** it was just a **trial OF** The moment and would **stop HAMPERing** him eventually and not be a **handiCAP STANDING** in his way. He wasn't strong, not like those lucky **BLIGHTers** that joined clubs that **RAN SOME sPORTing** games like rugby or **footBALL AS** Training facilities. To look older he **shAVES SELdom**. He was shy but would always **stop GALLANTly** to help an old lady cross the road.

Wanting a bit of exercise he went for a walk **aCROSS TREE** Studded fields some **with ELMS, MAnY** of which were diseased. He **sCREWed** up his eyes but wasn't sure if he could see one large **brANCH OR SAW EIGHT** smaller ones dying on one tree. Then he slipped and **felL AND FALLing** was interested to **discOVER BOAR** Droppings everywhere. He found a stick and began to **stUMBLE HOMEward**. On the way he got a **sCARE ENTering** a farm**YARD ARMed** only with the stick. He could hear a **loud HOWling** **hUMAN CHORus**. Enough to **aWAKEn** the dead. Two wretched **hoBOS UNDER** the high **FLOWER DECKED** hedge**ROW LOCKed** like two scare**CROWS NESTling** together, looking **both WAR-Torn** and **mayBE LAYING PINned** down by fear. They were being **atTACKed** by a **crAFTy** sheepdog which had **beGUN PORTraying** his displeasure with a **barK, NOT** So funny really. It was one of those **draMAS THE ADventurous** might enjoy but "I could get a bad **inJURY RIGHT** enough if I interfere" he thought. He saw that onlookers had gathered making the yard **overFULL AND BY**passed them to get a better view. They were a **scruff LOT ILL** Attired with a **numBER THAT** were **findING HY**stERIC amusement from the scene. One was waving his **sTAFF RAILing** at the hobos to be quiet. Tom began to move away. The man called over "Be a **lamB, URGE** Everyone to go home." "Shall I get a policeman?" said Tom, "there's one in the **village**", "**NO, Ask** someone if they would **aSK IF** Farmer Giles is free and **if AT HOME**, would he come and sort this out".

But the farmer had gone to the local rather **draB INN. A CLEAn** enough place, though, where he was sampling their wine. He had raised **his CUP PERSuaded** by the innkeeper to try their fizz. "**CAVA'S** To be preferred" he thought. "Has my **dogGY BEen** naughty?" he asked Tom "I'd better get over there". And thinking of the champagne soon to come I hope that is enough to **imPRESS GANGs** of solvers. Happy Christmas!

Mike Suckling

From your 'Mission
Community Leader' – Revd
Godfrey Butland



Dear Friends,
Having just been appointed 'Mission Community Leader' I have been invited to write in your magazine. Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself, as I will be a stranger to most of you – though I have now been to all 3 churches in your benefice on different occasions. I have got to know your churchwardens, and much enjoyed their company.

First of all, a word about myself. I have only recently moved to this area (May 2015) as Team Rector of Cockermonth, having done all my 'vicar-ing' till then in Liverpool. For 40 years in fact. And just when I thought I could retire, it seemed that God had other ideas! It is such a joy to be living and working in this area: a joy which is shared by my wife, Lesley (who likes to be known as Les). We left our family behind in Liverpool: 4 grown-up children, 3 married and one single, together with 5 grandchildren aged between 13 years and 5 months.

So, what is a Mission Community (MC)? MCs are part of a county-wide strategy called *God for All* which brings together clusters of churches for the cause of Christian mission. And if you ask me what 'mission' is, I would say it is 'God beyond the walls' – serving, praising and living for God beyond the walls of our church, and even beyond the walls of our imagination. It's about living the Jesus Way Monday to Saturday, not just on Sunday.

There will eventually be about 35 of these MCs across the county, comprising Church of England, Methodist and United Reformed churches and, where present, the Salvation Army. In our case, there are 14 churches, ranging from Buttermere in the south to Bridekirk in the north to Clifton in the west, including all the Cockermonth churches of the three denominations. We have been working together for nearly two years now, and some of you will have been to one or other of the great services we have held together.

I sometimes feel we look at our churches from the wrong end of a telescope, so to speak. Our preferred, 'big picture' view is of plenty of people of all ages, sound buildings, no financial worries – and our own vicar! The reality is of small congregations (of mainly older people), expensive buildings, and shared clergy. Looking through the telescope the correct way, we start where we are – with more resources than we sometimes acknowledge – and see beyond to a new reality, an even bigger picture, where we are blessing our neighbourhoods, and transforming our world in a God-ward direction. All of us involved, and not vicar-dependent. The concept of Mission Community is to strengthen and grow the *local* church by sharing resources and – where appropriate – working together. Does that sound good to you? Can we work together on this? I hope so. In the end, it's living the prayer Jesus taught us: 'Thy kingdom come'. God bless you. And I look forward to meeting more of you in due course.



Yours sincerely,

Godfrey Butland

ANTHONY WHALE

It is with great sadness that Liz, Patrick and Julia Whale have to announce that Anthony Whale died on the 22nd December 2017, at the age of 73, following a short illness. He was very unexpectedly diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour and cancer of the lung and colon in September and died peacefully in the Joseph Weld Hospice in Dorchester – where he spent seven weeks being cared for in the most wonderful way. Liz and Patrick were with him when he died.

The Whale family lived at Kirkhead, Loweswater, for 10 years when Anthony, who was a Land Agent, looked after the land and property owned by the Falcon family – and also looked after other clients in the area during that time. He had previously dealt with farmers in West Cumberland whilst working for the Lowther Estate for many years, so he was very pleased to return to live amongst old friends.

Anthony and Liz were involved in local organisations (Anthony was a member of the PCC and Parish Council and Liz was on the Lorton Tennis Club committee and helped the Rev Michael Braithwaite with the typing of The Link and playing the piano for Assembly at Lorton School). Patrick and Julia attended Lorton School and both went on to Cocker mouth School until the Whales moved to Scotland in 1995. They were both Confirmed at Loweswater Church by the Bishop of Penrith.

The Whales have always looked back on their years at Kirkhead in the Lorton Valley, and the friends they made there, with great fondness. Patrick actually proposed to his fiancée Alexandra, now wife for nearly 10 years, at the top of Melbreak!

LORTON NOTES

As we have no Link in January, it is now that I have to give belated thanks to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas. It did look beautiful and was admired by all who attended the Christmas services. We had approaching one hundred for the Christingle on Christmas Eve and whilst this was slightly fewer than last year, it is remarkable for a parish numbering three hundred or so.

At the end of January we are still in the season of Epiphany, associated among other things with the journeying of the three kings to worship the baby Jesus. However Easter is early this year and I am writing about Lent, the season of penitence before Easter.

There will be a service on Ash Wednesday at 7.00pm and also our “not so frugal” Lent lunches, where we enjoy delicious soups, cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee, in the company of folk from all around the benefice, churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike. Dates are still to be finalised but will be publicised shortly. Please try and come along to the lunches - I'm sure you will enjoy them.

The commissioning service for the Rev Godfrey Butland is a most important occasion, and I do hope you will make every effort to come along. There will be no services in the benefice on that day.

Roger Peck

REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCILS

Lorton Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2018

The Chair, Cllr. Chris Poate, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Following the resignation of Ian Armstrong from the Council, Councillors heard from two candidates who wished to be considered for co-option to the Council. After due consideration Nick Young from Low Lorton was co-opted onto the Council. All those present welcomed Nick onto the Council.

A number of issues were raised by members of the public and these included:

Litter in and around the village: *Litter-picks to be arranged*

On-road parking at the Whinlatter Visitors Centre: *Letter to be sent to Forest Enterprise*

The use/misuse of fireworks at New Year: *Letter to be sent to holiday cottage firms*

A blocked culvert between Shatton Hall and Armaside: *Works ongoing (Cumbria Highways)*

The need for a crash barrier above Scawgill Bridge: *Letter to be sent to Cumbria Highways*

Variety of issues related to cycling events centred on the village: *Issue to be raised with Police*

Water flowing from a drain opposite Vale Cottages: *Works ongoing (United Utilities)*

It was noted that the request for a crash barrier above Scawgill Bridge had been made on two separate occasions by the Parish Council in the last six years following accidents in which vehicles had left the road and plunged down the embankment. Councillors felt that it was only a question of time before someone was seriously injured unless a crash barrier was put in place.

The next meeting of Lorton Parish Council will take place on:

Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 7.30pm in The Yew Tree Hall.

Loveswater Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th July 2018

The Chair, Cllr. Kathryn Mitchell, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillors noted that the roads network in the Parish is in a particularly poor state of repairs at present with blocked drains, standing water, pot holes (many of which are hidden because of the standing water), blocked culverts and disintegrating road surfaces all being raised as issues of concern during the meeting. There were over twenty items on the list of concerns sent to Cumbria Highways, far and away the longest list in the last five years. Concerns were expressed that because the road through the valley, the C2030, is due to be resurfaced, all being well, during the coming year the current condition of the road has not been monitored as it should. Members of the public are asked to report any highways concerns that they may have to Cumbria Highways on 0300 303 2992.

Loveswater Parish Council owns one area of land within the Parish, this being the 'village green' at Thackthwaite (the small piece of land behind the notice-board). The site is currently overgrown and requires some attention which will be undertaken in due course. However, there are two mature larch trees on the site, both of which lean with the prevailing wind, i.e towards the houses on the other side of the road to the land. Though both the trees are healthy, Councillors have agreed that the best course of action is to have them removed and quotes for the work will be sought during the coming weeks.

The next meeting of Loveswater Parish Council will take place on:

Thursday 1st March 2018 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall.

To contact either Lorton or Loveswater Parish Council phone the Clerk, David Smith on 016973 23296 or email: lortonparishclerk@gmail.com or loweswaterparishclerk@gmail.com

Films in Lorton this Spring



Our new film season opens in March. Cine North, the arts organisation who has been providing our film, is still giving online support but this season the films will be distributed by Eden Arts, to whom we are very grateful. The fantastic film equipment is supplied by the Kirkgate Centre in Cockermouth, so, all in all, it's very much a joint effort. All showings are on Tuesdays in Yew Tree Hall and start at 7.30. Doors are at 7 and we have a bar. We will be showing 4 films, starting on March 20th with Victoria and Abdul. Judy Dench reprises her role as Victoria in this true story of the unlikely friendship between the aging monarch and a young Indian clerk. Next up is Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool (April 24th), starring Julie Walters, Annette Bening and Jamie Bell (the young star of Billy Elliott). The film tells the story of the love affair between the eccentric older actress Gloria Grahame and the much younger Peter Turner (on whose memoir the film is based). On May 22nd we have our third biopic, Borg vs McEnroe. Many of you will remember this epic match from the Wimbledon of Summer 1980. The film follows the events of the 3 days leading up to the match. Finally, on June 26th we have Boy a coming of age tale from New Zealand and again set in the 1980's.

LOWESWATER VILLAGE HALL

Book now:

Chris Bannister performs: The music of John Denver.

www.chrisbannistermusic.com

Saturday 10th February 2018- 8pm

Tickets £10. (students £5 and family £22)

Booking from: Penny 01946 862200/ penny@leck08.plus.com , Val 01946 861643 vebell2911@gmail.com , Sue 01900 85039 sue-severs@hotmail.com

Poppy Appeal November 2017

Thank you very much to everyone who donated so generously to the British Legion Poppy Appeal last November: the Loweswater door to door collection raised £367.30, and £253.73 was received in Mockerkin.

Joan Warren and Kathryn Mitchell

Moving Mountains

The Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere Benefice has now finalised the programme of events for Moving Mountains as follows:

- **Thursday 8th March** Posy making Afternoon Tea in Lorton Church at 2p.m
- **Sunday 11th March** Mothering Sunday Songs of Praise in Lorton Church at 10.30a.m
- **Saturday 21st April** LoLoBu Benefice Walk from Buttermere to Lorton
Bus leaving Lorton at 09.30a.m and ending with Supper at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton.
(Please note change of date from 10th March).

A flyer giving more details has been produced which will be distributed to every house in the Benefice and we hope as many members of the community as possible will attend all or some of the events.

Also as part of the Moving Mountain Weekend all young people are invited to a Question Time Supper with the **Archbishop of York, The Most Reverend John Sentamu on Friday 9th March, 7-9**, at Hundith Hill Hotel, Cockermouth, supper included.

If you wish to attend, you could take a friend, please could you let Barbara Robinson know on 01900 85234



Our next Celebration Service is

Sunday, 4th February at Lorton Street Methodist Church at 11am.

Holy Communion, with the Commissioning of Godfrey Butland as Mission Community Leader; and the commissioning of all of us for the mission of God right where we are! The Bishop of Carlisle will attend. Creche facilities available, and children's activities provided.

Bring and share lunch to follow. All welcome.

LORTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
December 2017 & January 2018 Meetings



The Christmas Party on 12th December was a home-grown evening, which was reflected in the warm and friendly atmosphere. Starting with mulled wine and a rousing performance of Jerusalem, we proceeded to pile our plates with warming chilli dishes, curry, chicken pie, salads, baked potatoes and puddings provided by the Committee. Moving through competitions, the Secret Santa and a quiz prepared by Judith B, we rounded off the evening by singing seasonal songs and playing instruments (some more enthusiastically than others!), led by Penny and Ann P. The evening was good fun. The meeting on 9th January started with Ann R welcoming 14 members and 11 visitors to our Open Meeting. There was a short business meeting, including notice of subs of £41 due and a request to choose one resolution from 5 offered by the National Federation to be debated at the National AGM in June. It was a reminder that W.I. is about more than having fun – it is also a powerful force for change. Volunteers were found to serve refreshments at the Lorton 10K and members signed up for a buffet meal at the Kirkstile Inn to celebrate our birthday in March. Ann welcomed our speaker, John Hudson, who, with a vast store of knowledge illustrated with slides, spoke about Josiah Wedgwood. I will never look at my

crockery in the same way again! We learnt about the production, firing and decorating of pottery and the difference between earthenware and English porcelain. Apparently, the latter has the addition of crushed bones to fill the gaps between the clay molecules, resulting in extremely thin but very strong items which can be almost translucent. I wonder how many vegetarians/vegans are aware of this fact? John's account of Wedgwood's rise from being the youngest of a large, poor family, who left school aged nine, to become a renowned scientist and entrepreneur – a leader in the industrial revolution - was fascinating. Techniques and formulae for constituents of clay and glazes which he developed are still used today in the industry. John, as a scientist, was able to pack a wealth of information into an insightful and captivating talk. There followed questions from members and guests and Elly thanked John on our behalf. We had a raffle and completed the evening with wine and cheese and a chat. The next meeting will be at 7.15 on Tuesday 13th February at the Yew Tree Hall. The Speaker will be Dr Janet Wilson, who works in the nuclear energy industry. Her talk is called "My Brilliant Career". As usual there will be refreshments. Non-members are invited to make a donation of £3. All are welcome.

Loweswater Ladies

January 2018

We certainly had a wonderful start to 2018 on Wednesday 10th January as we had the opportunity to view not just one, but three presentations of photos and short videos from Rosamund and John McFarlane. The three sets comprised of stunning photos from their travels in Scotland, Botswana (South Arica) and Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

Each area presented was accompanied by informative and often humorous narrative, either previously added on screen as subtitles or offered live from both John and Rosamund. Many of the photo sets were complemented by the addition of delightful music to accompany the impressive photography. We were introduced to outstanding scenery and to multifarious wildlife, birds and mammals plus unusual local flora and fauna.

Alison expressed our thanks by correctly observing that we were all stunned into silence. We were thrilled to be privileged to view such wonderful photos from our two fellow Loweswater residents, John

and Rosamund. It was interesting that in both the introduction and the finale of the talk, they showed us recent photos of our immediate area, the valleys where we are so fortunate to reside. As Rosamund said, we only have to look just outside our doors to enjoy world-class views.

Teas and coffees and a New Year chat amongst members and guests found Joan winning a lovely Alan Clark mug in the raffle, presented by Loes.

Next month we are holding our 10th Birthday Kirkstile meal on Wednesday February 21st at 7pm (for a 7.30 start). Please note that this is the third Wednesday of the month as we didn't want to clash with Valentine Day diners at the pub ! Sue will be presenting the raffle and anyone who did not sign up for the dinner at our meeting, please phone Alison on 01946 861147 to secure a place.

Annual fees are now due and they continue to be held at £10 for the year.

Ann Hiley

LOWESWATER IT GROUP

FEBRUARY 8TH & 22ND 2018

DAMSON GHYLL

A belated Happy New Year to all. Still having problems with your IT? If you would like to get help or are unsure and would like more information, do come and meet with us. Please contact me. Our sessions are informal and include refreshments at £2.00 and we look forward to welcoming newcomers.

Please ring me to book and confirm attendance

Jan Collins-Webb - 01900 85609

Buttermere Notes

By the end of January every Church has to complete an eight page form entitled 'Statistics for Mission January – December 2017' and return it to the Diocese. The statistics required include how many on the electoral roll (20), average attendance (13), number of communicants on Easter Day (21) and number in your worshipping community (ie on the electoral roll and regularly attend) (5).

These figures were extracted from the current Church Register which was started in June 1989 and the entries reflect the changes in the Valley. Although the average attendance in 1989/90 (15) was not much different from now, it was pretty consistent whereas now we have smaller congregations in the winter and larger ones in the summer which reflects the influx of visitors. There was a congregation of 56 at the Harvest Service in 1989 which shows the predominance of farming then. In the last 29 years there have been only two funerals as St James has no burial ground, not surprising as it is built on rock although I came across plans for one in the 1800s. In this period there were 28 weddings and 14 blessings of civil weddings, most of them in the 1990s when the population was largely full time residents not owners of holiday homes. I assume that the number of blessings of civil weddings reflects the then attitude of the Church to marrying divorcees. There are six weddings booked for Buttermere so far this year and one sincerely hopes that this reflects a need to make a serious commitment before God and not just because St James is a picturesque start to the day's partying.

2017: The biggest surprise of 2017 was the unexpected retirement of the Revd Sheila in September after only three years in office. We wish Sheila and Martin a happy retirement in their native Birkenhead. We are again grateful for the support of the local clergy in enabling us to keep our normal pattern of services during an interregnum. The Informal Carol Service this year was taken by our Archdeacon, Ven Richard Pratt and was again a full house with 45 adults, five children and two dogs! In previous times many people in country areas took their dogs to church and Churchwardens had specially shaped 'dog tongs'. They were used to hold dogs by the neck and separate them when they started fighting. Our two dogs were very well behaved, they scratched at the door and wanted to be with their owner, Les Kyle, the farmer from across the road. 2018: We look forward with anticipation to 'Moving Mountains', commissioning the Mission Community and - who knows - a new Vicar.

We recently received a letter from Eon, the electricity suppliers, which started as follows; 'St Bartholomew, Church, Buttermere, Cumbria; Dear St Bartholomew, your electricity meter needs to be changed....' How does one reply?

Gwyn and Jan Evans

From the Register

St James, Buttermere, December 21st 2017

Wedding of Michael John Postlethwaite and Linda Murray of Farington Moss, Leyland, Lancs

Whilst perusing online I discovered a link to a site that shows you quick and easy ways of using ordinary items to help solve household irritations and ways of recycling old bits and bobs into something useful. For example, turning an old t-shirt into a shopping bag. That would be fine but it is never going to work with any of my old t-shirts as they are more like string vests by the time I'm chucking them out. They also had a section on remedies for relieving everyday illnesses, aches and pains. One of these used pegs at various pressure points round your ear to alleviate everything from stomach cramps to migraines. As a migraine sufferer I thought I'd give the peg a go. Even though I do have those nice soft grip pegs that don't mark or hole your clothes, I can say that the only way it helps your migraine is because you forget about it due to the pain on your ear. I'll stick to the drugs ta.

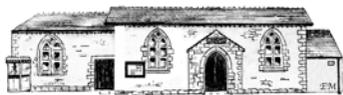
Upon return after the holidays I spent an entire day having inset on handwriting. Very interesting and more difficult than you would think. As an adult we will all have developed our own handwriting style. Depending on how and if you were taught it at school yourself, you may have different ways of forming certain letters. I have taught 3 different ways of forming an f over the years. There has always been huge debate on which letters join and which don't. Many reading this will be wondering what I mean as everyone from me and older was probably taught to join

everything and fill the page with loops and swirls. Your skill in doing this depended very much on whether the result was beautiful or looked like scribble. The concentration required to get back to forming a basic, single letter was ridiculous. But if we get out of the generation that put hearts or smiley faces above their i, it's all good.

Modern cars are beginning to frighten me. They seem to do too much for you, and make it more likely that you will switch off and presume it will sort out whatever may be about to go wrong. Looking across the car park one morning I noticed my friend's car still had its lights on. As she was stood in my room at the time I pointed this out. She then said 'oh no. It's still running'. How can she have the keys in her bag in class and the car be outside with engine running? That's not right. On the plus side it is a nice Merc, so next time she does it I might drive off in it. Presumably I'll be ok as long as I don't hit the stop button. Then at the other end of the scale another friend with a much older car came in with her steering wheel in her hand. Also wrong, but somehow more acceptable. I remember the first Suzuki I took for a test drive had the gear stick come apart. At least we knew what was wrong with it. Not a random flashing light which means. . . who knows.

Penny

Ullock Village Hall



Film Night at Ullock Village Hall
Friday 16th February at 7.30pm

Dunkirk (15)

Tickets £5

In May 1940 Allied soldiers from Belgium, the British Empire, Canada, and France were cut off and surrounded by the German army from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk, France. Telling the story from three perspectives; air, land and sea, Oscar nominee Christopher Nolan retells the story of an epic evacuation.

Saturday 24th February 2018 at 7.30pm

Ceilidh and Supper

With music by Alison Riley
Hot Supper and Homemade Puddings
BYO Drinks

Tickets £8.50 Children £3.00 **(Booking Essential)**

New Zumba Class

At Ullock Village Hall - Tuesday Evenings 7.00 to 8.00

£5

Arrive early to register for your first class!
Discount for block booking
Jo Morgan 07986 427671

Advance notification of our next *Arts Out West* Show on **Friday 2nd March**

Chip Shop Chips

Eric has returned home for the grand re-opening of Booth's Fish & Chip Shop and it's time for a fresh start. But old flame Christine has other ideas. Transported back to a time of chippy teas and Northern Soul, they watch Lee and Jasmine stumbling through teenage love. Is it all just history repeating itself? This is theatre but not as you know it: dinner, dance & show all rolled into one!

Advanced Booking Essential
Tickets (£15) include chip shop supper.
BYO Drinks

Tickets must be booked by 2 days prior to performance date.

To Reserve Tickets please call 01946 862300 or 861458



THE MOCKERKIN MOB
(founded by Alan Gane MBE in 1989)

Walk 328



A Walk Sunday 11th February 2018	B Walk Sunday 18th February 2018
<p>Intended for experienced walkers Meet: 10.00am Spout Force CP, (a turn off the Whinlatter Pass). GR: 182255 Route: Ascent of Lord's Seat and adjoining Fells. Estimated Time: 4½hrs (Moderate) Leader: Judy & Joan</p>	<p>Meet: 9.45am Church Bridge CP, below the Kirkstile, Loweswater. GR: 141209 Route: ½ Melbreak (South Summit) via Yak track, back along Crummock Water Estimated Time: 4½hrs (Moderate) Leader: John Hudson 01946 861555</p>

Walkers participate at their own risk. We welcome new walkers: if you are interested phone Joan, 01900 85637 or Judy, 01946 861555.



The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13 February at 7.30pm in LVH when Laura and Neale Connolly will give a talk on The History and Work of the Cockermonth Mountain Rescue.

Date for your diary: the March meeting will be on Tuesday 20 March. Topic to be announced.

Marjorie Lowery, Secretary.

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The Melbreak Communities
an Action Plan for the four parishes of Buttermere,
Loweswater, Blindbothel and Lorton
www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk



Real Coffee & Home Made Cake

Hosted by The Table Tennis Club

10.30am - 12.00pm on Saturday 10th February 2018
At Yew Tree Hall

Proceeds to be donated to charity

The Lorton Afternoon Book Group's Coffee and Cakes in December raised £150 which was shared equally between Lorton School (for reading-related activity), Yew Tree Hall and The Melbreak Communities.

WEST CUMBRIA RIVERS TRUST: LOWESWATER CARE PROGRAMME

We will be holding a meeting at Loweswater Village Hall on Wednesday 14 February at 7.30pm. The main purpose of the meeting is to launch our main report on the Defra-funded project "Improving water quality in Loweswater" and the accompanying booklet that summarises what we did and what we found out (copies of the booklet will be available for everyone attending). We will also tell you what we have been doing since this project was completed in Autumn 2015 and what we might do in the future. I hope to see as many local people there as possible.

Leslie Webb, Chairman of LCP Steering Committee, November 2017.

The approach of Winter heralds the arrival of the hardest months of all for the animal world, often the very struggle for existence, although many creatures meet the challenge with marked success. With the arrival of Autumn, gradually shortening days and slowly falling temperatures, many species of bird, for example, are lucky enough to be able to depart these shores in exchange for warmer climes, thereby escaping such perils and never experiencing winter weather. Nevertheless, the rigours of winter are exchanged for often long and perilous flights, which are not survived by all that undertake them.

Creatures which remain, use different techniques to help them minimise the worst effects of the weather. Most mammals have thick fur coats and a circulatory system which maintains a remarkably steady blood temperature irrespective of the ambient temperature. In addition, some species, such as the stoat and mountain hare change their coats from brown to white, white being both warmer and, in snowy conditions, effective camouflage. The dormouse, bat and hedgehog however, are unable to maintain their body temperature sufficiently and circumvent the winter by hibernation, during which they eat nothing, secrete nothing, exhibit a very feeble heartbeat and barely breathe. In addition, the dormouse stocks up well in advance with a layer of fat. It selects its winter quarters under moss, among roots deep underground and stocks them well with nuts for use when awakening in warm spells. It will also adopt nest boxes, and indeed there are boxes specially designed

for it. Piles of leaves, grass and garden rubbish usually form the hibernacula of the hedgehog, including heaps intended as bonfires: a fact which should be borne in mind before lighting such heaps in the Spring. Like the dormouse, the hedgehog is likely to awaken occasionally in the winter and may even change "homes". Bats, on the other hand, prefer caves, tunnels, cellars, hollow trees and similar hideaways in which to spend the winter, hanging upside down; they too sometimes emerge in the event of a warm spell. The squirrel has a coat which becomes softer and thicker with the approach of winter. The squirrel does not hibernate, but often spends quite long periods in the drey, emerging for food. Its prime preparation for winter is food storage especially the burying of nuts. At the time of writing, "our" red squirrels are still to be seen daily in the garden, collecting hazelnuts from the feeders and scampering out on the lawn to bury them for later retrieval – locating them, not by memory as is sometimes supposed, but by scent. Adders, grass snakes, lizards and slowworms all hibernate, as do frogs and toads, mostly hidden away in sheltered places among log or rock piles, in deep vegetation or holes in the ground. Some male frogs hibernate in the mud at the bottom of ponds, their skin being a "permeable membrane". In other words, instead of breathing in the normal way, they are able to stay under water and exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide sufficiently through the skin to sustain a highly inactive life under water. Happy New Year – and "Stay Wild." 9
 Alan Gane.

LORTON VALE GARDENING CLUB

Way back on the 6th Dec, we enjoyed an excellent talk by Chis Crowder from Levens Hall on the history of that amazing garden - certainly the finest topiary garden in Europe, and possibly in the world. The gardens date from the 1690s, and much of the paperwork relating to the design and work is still in the house. £2.10 bought 1000 tulip bulbs and the Head Gardener was paid a magnificent £5 per annum. Standards of dress for the gardeners have slipped a bit over the years, from the evidence of the pic of the gardener going to work with his spade over his shoulder and wearing a tricorne hat and tail coat! All the topiary is shaped each year, using a giant rented cherry picker for the largest ones - splendid view of the gardens from the bucket.

Apparently they train their gardeners so well that a visiting Prince Charles poached one of their apprentices for his topiary at Highgrove...

We've just had our cheer up January party - what can I say? A wall of laughter and chat deafens you as you enter the Yew Tree Hall, the games were declared by the setters to be ridiculously easy, and by the punters to be fiendishly difficult, the food was lovely, and the wine flowed. Well done, everyone.

The next talk of the Winter Season will be on **Tues 20th Feb** when John Hamblin will speak on **The Chelsea Physic Garden**. 7.30 in the Yew Tree Hall, all welcome, visitors included.



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Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st December 2017

1st prize of £25 No 65 Gordon Graham
2nd prize of £10 No 25 Walter Head
3rd prize of £5 No 72 Lorraine Dickson

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st January 2018

1st prize of £25 No 39 Meleri McEwan
2nd prize of £10 No 24 Chris Judd
3rd prize of £5 No 23 Frank Judd

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.

NSPCC CAROL SINGING

Once again the committee is indebted to so many people for our very successful week of Carol singing. The number of singers who turned out was wonderful, the hosts who provided us with the welcome "eats and drinks" were very much appreciated, everyone who donated so generously to our worthy cause and even the weather was kind to us! I have banked the fantastic amount of £1,250. Thanks to you all - see you next year!

Ann Hayton