



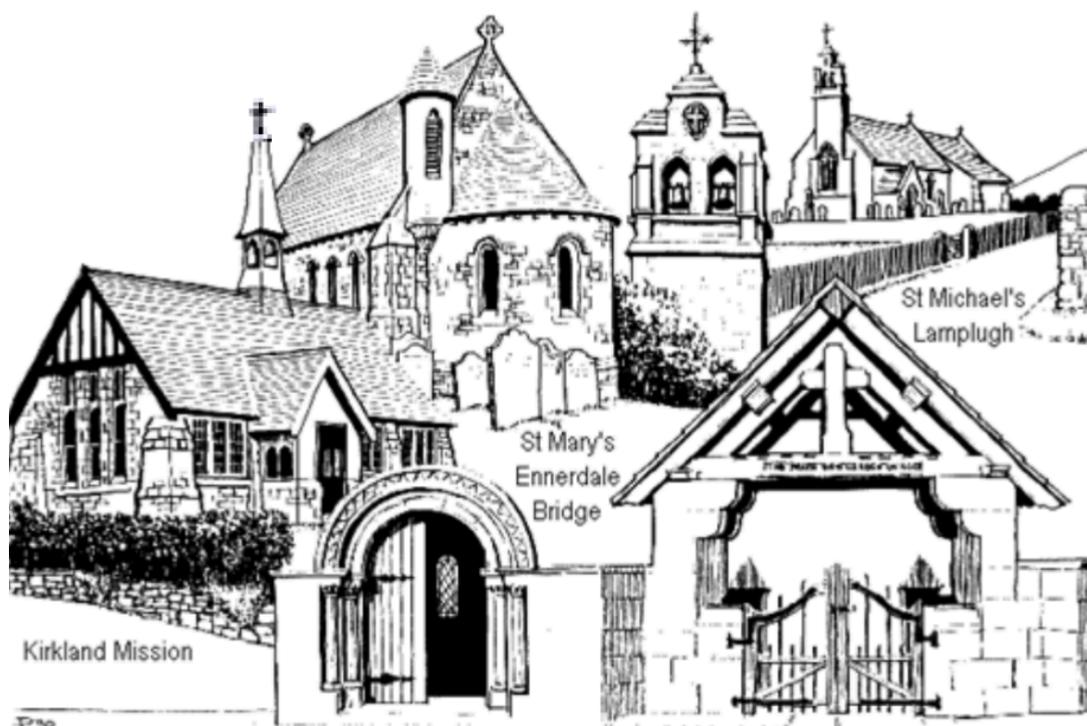
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Published by the Church Council for
Lamplugh, Kirkland and Ennerdale
Ecumenical Parish

One Parish, Three Beautiful Churches
for Everyone
March 2026



March - the month of the Spring Equinox, of daffodils on St David's day, of Mother's Day, of the end of winter...



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

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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

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LAMPLUGH

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

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

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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**

Good news from the Diocese!

I am delighted to report the following announcement by the Carlisle Diocese...

“The Bishop of Carlisle has appointed The Revd Lindsay Gray, who at present has Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Carlisle, as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Lamplugh with Ennerdale (within the Lamplugh Kirkland & Ennerdale Local Ecumenical Partnership). This appointment is subject to the usual legal checks.”

The Revd. Lindsay Gray has taken occasional services in the Parish over the last ten years, when Ian Parker has been unavailable, and is well known and well liked at our three churches. Equally as important, she knows us very well too!

The normal checks referred to in the announcement could take up to two months, after which a licensing date can be fixed and we can officially welcome her as Priest in Charge. We look forward very much to her time with us.

Robin Megan

Praying for the Parish March 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 **March 2026** we are praying for:

*The communities of **Lamplugh Green, Loweswater Road, Sty Gate, Street Gate and Hodyoad** and those homes, farms and businesses immediately adjacent to them.*

Kindling Sticks

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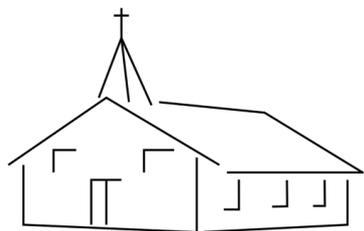
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The Church

Submitted by Mary Johnson

The CHURCH has to be re-examined in the light of today, not yesterday or the distant past. We need to put down important markers about what we understand CHURCH to be and



how we get there. The early CHURCH was in no means perfect but pioneering, advancing and continually taking new ground. Despite living in unprecedented times we are looking to engage with a 'NEW NORMAL' even if we don't fully know what that looks like. The same old has been and gone and the future of the CHURCH in these changing times must be grasped quickly as opportunity allows.

We are looking to engage with a 'NEW NORMAL' even if we don't fully know what that looks like. The same old has been and gone and the future of THE CHURCH in these changing times must be grasped quickly as opportunity allows. A unified approach reflecting our values is more important than ever and it is not time for endless circles of meetings and discussions - to do so would miss opportunities we have and put us in danger of irrelevance as our immediate context will move further away from us.

We need to focus on our public face to the world and not strive for excellence but our engagement with God, one another and towards the community. No doubt we will have many bridges to cross if we are to build a CHURCH that goes far from just keeping in touch but looks to build the Kingdom of GOD.

An unified approach reflecting our values is more important than ever and it is not time for endless circles of meetings and discussions - to do so we would miss opportunities we have and put us in danger of irrelevance as our immediate context will move further away from us.

It is through the CHURCH the Kingdom of God is displayed. This task is not for one person or one CHURCH. At Pentecost they all played their part and so it is with us. The CHURCH is a family not an organisation and Jesus is the head of the family. Within families there are many types of people and we are asked to love one another. St Paul describes the CHURCH as a building under construction, a work in progress, and at its base it is held by Jesus as its cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

One of the hymns we sing in our services is "*Christ is our corner stone on him alone we stand*" was written by Samuel Sabastian Wesley (1810 - 1876). He was one of the finest organists of his age. He was named after the composer Johann Sebastian Bach.

6 - Wordsworth / Ginsberg

or

Daffodils vs Sunflowers

For this edition, I am comparing the works of two great poets. Cockermouth's own **William Wordsworth**, the Romantic poet who, along with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped the birth of the Romantic Age, with **Allen Ginsberg**, an American poet, who along with some contemporary friends from University, formed the core of the Beat Poets.

Firstly, two stanzas from Wordsworth's most celebrated poem, **Daffodils**, which hardly needs more introduction, as it is so recognisable to most people - not just in the lake district, but indeed world-wide.

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:*

And now, Allen Ginsberg's **Sunflower Sutra**

*... and the grey sunflower poised against the sunset, crackly bleak and dusty,
With the smut and smog and smoke of olden locomotives in its eye -
Corolla of bleary spikes pushed down and broken like a battered crown,
Seeds fallen out of its face, soon to be toothless mouth of sunny air,
Sunrays obliterated on its hairy head like a dried wire spiderweb,
Leaves stuck out like arms out of the stem,
Gestures from the sawdust root,
Broke pieces of plaster fallen out of the black twigs,
A dead fly in its ear,
Unholy battered old thing you were, my sunflower,
Oh my soul, I loved you then!*

While both poets use floral centrepieces, to explore the connection between nature and the human spirit, they differ sharply in their setting, and philosophical outlook. Wordsworth's daffodils are in the picturesque, unspoilt and beautiful natural setting of the lake district. You

really get the feeling of joyful peace, in a place of calmness and serenity. Note how in the second stanza the hyphens “ I gazed - and gazed - ” which makes the reader slow down and pause, allowing them to think and reflect on the scenic splendor that is conjured up, with visions of an unending carpet of yellow blooms.

Ginsberg however, uses the setting of a dirty, grimy railway yard, where everything is covered in soot, a highly industrialised area which is thoroughly unpleasant on the eye. Yet still he finds beauty, and solace in a pounded, damaged and but unbeaten sunflower, remaining steadfast in an uncaring environment, barely recognisable in such a barren place.

The style of writing contrasts too, Daffodils uses a precise rhyme scheme of ABABCC in neat stanzas, adding rhythm to the delightful words, whereas Ginsberg uses spontaneous and long sprawling lines, in what is almost a word dump, but none of that deters his immense admiration to a single blackened flower.

So there we have it, beauty and connection with the human spirit, both in the untainted natural world, and also within a wasteland of human industry.



*Tek care
Steve Steele*



A Farmer's Observations

By Will Rawling MBE

Snowdrops are aw oot, spring's mebee just round't cornah.

February is one of the less busy months in the sheep farming year, but one very important modern task has to be done.

Technology now allows us to ultrasound scan all the ewes, to establish how many lambs each one is carrying. In order to do this we need to gather the sheep from the fells and, along with the ones already in the fields, every ewe is passed through a holding crate. This allows the scan operator to place his hand held scanner on the ewes underside, which then projects a scan of the unborn lamb onto a little screen. From this image he can identify how many beating hearts there are, and therefore how many lambs each ewe is expecting. It takes him about 10 seconds to make his judgement, with usually about 100% accuracy. I think the NHS would be a bit envious of his work rate.

Most of the fell going ewes only carry a single lamb but some are expecting twins. This information allows us to feed the ewes carrying multiples the right ration to keep them in good condition. Hopefully meaning they will have enough milk to rear their lambs when they are born.

The ewes that live in fields are a different, more productive breed and the majority carry twins. These provide us with most of our income and the more lambs the better but they do cost us more to get through the winter.

The Herdwick ewes carrying singles are returned to the fell and just get on with it, while those carrying twins, and occasional triplets, are kept in the fields where the vegetation is a bit more nutritious and they are offered some feed blocks, a bit like big energy bars.

I was putting a group of the Herdwicks back to the fell, using the bridge over the river Calder. I got quite a surprise when a couple of young Red Deer stags emerged from the adjacent woodland. I suspect they had heard the echo of my commands to the sheep dogs and had come towards me rather than running away.

I was also downwind of them, otherwise they would have scented me. (I do smell a bit farmery). They are magnificent creatures, pity they eat the newly planted trees. They stood and looked at me for a few seconds before effortlessly hopping over the fence and galloping off towards Lankrigg.

We have noticed that as we reduce sheep numbers, in line with the environmental stewardship scheme requirements, deer are coming to fill the grazing gaps and are going from strength to strength. I am not sure if this is achieving much environmental benefit. If a sheep is where we don't want it, we can go with the dogs and move it, if deer are in the wrong place, our options are to either ignore them or have them shot. I do enjoy seeing them, mostly Roes and occasional Reds, but they do damage the conservation areas.

The rough weather over the past weeks hasn't helped either the farmed animals or the wild guys. I guess we have to share nature's resources, both good and bad. We get along perfectly happily most of the time.

I have noticed more dippers than usual, sitting on stones in the becks, bobbing up and down then diving into the rushing waters in search of food, mostly caddis fly larvae. Good to see, and it would suggest that the aquatic habitats are not too bad. We sometimes see kingfishers on Croasdale beck, they are spectacular but a lot smaller than most people imagine, about the size of a sparrow.

The cows keep eating silage and recycling it in their own way which means we have to either store it or get it back onto the fields. When the ground is either frozen or dry enough we spread the muck to provide the grass with nutrients to help it grow when temperatures rise above 6 degrees centigrade, or 43 degrees Fahrenheit in old money. This is all part of a natural cycle that farmers have been doing for millennia. We are always careful to keep it away from the water courses but I suppose wild animals sometimes poo in the beck.

I noticed that the jackdaws are starting to collect twigs for their nests. I guess they are looking forward to spring as well.

Reet, that's ah fe noow, sith'e next month.

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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Forthcoming events at Lamplugh Village Hall will be:

- **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**
- **Open mic nights** – we are looking to run these once a month on Thursday evenings and extend an invitation to all local musicians and other artists to come along and enjoy (hopefully) an evening of music and other entertainment. If you are interested, please contact Mark (details below) or Paul on 07552 230293.

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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Soup Lunch



In Aid of Lakesiders

Friday 13th March 2026

**St Mary's Church,
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12.00 – 2.00pm



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and raise money for a good cause.....*

We look forward to seeing you there...



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We're delighted to share that North Lakes Stained Glass will be hosting a series of creative events at The Gather.

The programme begins with a half-day Flower Stems Workshop on 14th March a wonderful opportunity to explore the art of stained glass and create your own beautiful piece.



Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to develop your skills, these workshops offer a relaxed and inspiring environment to learn something new.

To find out more and book your place, please visit:

www.northlakesstainedglass.co.uk

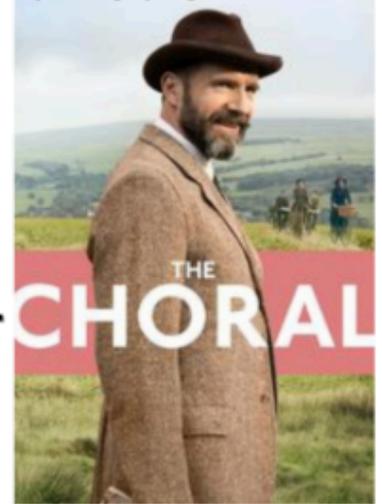


Community Film Club - Date Change
Please note that The Gather Community Film Club will take place earlier this month due to the upcoming Spring Art and Craft Fair

Community Film Club
Friday 20th March
7pm start

THE CHORAL CHORAL

Tickets £5
Available on the door
or in advance from
The Gather



Community Room Calendar

- Mondays - Baby Sing and Sign - 9:30am
- Mondays - Zumba - 6:00pm
- Tuesday 17th - Book Group - 11:00am
- Tuesdays - Intermediate Painting - 10:00am
- Tuesdays - Beginners Painting - 1:00pm
- Wednesdays - Cumbria Coast Karate - 6:00pm
- Thursdays - Zumba - 6:00pm
- Thursdays - Mindfulness|Meditations|Relaxations - 7:30pm
- Fridays - Beginners Drawing - 10:00am
- Fridays - Tai Chi - 10:30am
- Fridays - Table Tennis - 1:30pm (All Welcome)
- Friday - Last Friday of every month Film Club 7:00pm (3rd Friday for this month only)
- Saturday 7th & 21st - Creative Writing - 10:00am
- Saturday 14th - Beginners Painting - 10:00am

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Editor's Notes - March 2026

February is a short month that always seems to catch me out with how quickly it goes by! So here we all are again with another edition of Contact.

I have been really impressed and delighted with the content from all our contributors over recent months. There has been so much to include that space has been at a premium, which meant that my Editor's Notes section had to take a sabbatical. As always, I am hugely grateful for the time and effort that everyone puts into ensuring Contact has content and, most importantly, is properly distributed each month. So my thanks, as always, to all the authors, our advertisers and our distributors!

We have much to look forward to in March: two national saints days - **St David's on March 1st** and **St Patrick's on March 17th**; **Mothering Sunday** this year falls on **March 15th**; and we can all look forward to longer days and shorter nights after the **Spring Equinox on Friday, March 20th at 2:46pm GMT**. And with the seasons changing we will be putting the clocks forward ("spring forward") at **1:00am on Sunday, March 29th**.

We also have the appointment of a new Minister to look forward to! While we continue to wish Rev. Ian Parker a happy retirement, we can now extend a welcome to **Rev Lindsay Gray**, who we hope will become the Minister for this parish once necessary formalities have concluded. As **Robin Megan** says in his announcement, we look forward to hearing from her soon.

Speaking of retirement, our regular printers, John and Lynn at Ink Design Print Cumbria Ltd, who have always provided excellent service and looked after the printing of Contact for many years, chose to retire from the printing side of their business at the end of December last year, although John remains happily active on the design front. We wish them happiness in their next adventures! However, this means that Contact is now printed by **Firpress** at Workington. I hope you'll all agree that the results are first class - I've been very impressed

with all the support and excellent advice given by Paul Williamson and his team during the “onboarding” process for this small, very local parish magazine.

Several of this month’s contributors make reference to the arrival of Spring in their articles: **Steve Steele** references Daffodils, which are associated with this time of year, while **Will Rawling** gives us more insight into the life of a sheep farmer as the season changes. Renewal and reinvention are also a theme of **Mary Johnson’s** article about the church in general. Finally, as their project nears completion, **Jo Willmott** and the team at the LDNP have provided one of the last of their regular flyers, giving us the latest news about the upgrading of **Wainwright’s Coast to Coast route** and other associated changes to the locality.

There is much to entertain us locally this month too - this month at **Lamplugh Village Hall** they have live music with “**1375 Classic Rock and Blues**”, and please do check their other forthcoming attractions to make sure you book in time; while **The Gather** has its film club (showing “The Choral”) and a big weekend for its annual “**Easter Arts and Crafts Fair**”. If you are thinking of going out for a meal - maybe a family outing for Mother’s Day? - then make sure to book ahead at any of our excellent local eateries. Table reservations are strongly advised for **The Fox and Hounds**, **The Shepherd’s Arms**, **The Countryman** and **The Ennerdale Brewery**, especially at busy times. Also, check out the regular **Quiz Night** on Sundays at **The Shepherd’s Arms** - new quizzers always welcome!

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed time and effort in getting this edition of Contact ready and also to the many volunteers who help distribute it across this widespread set of parishes. In addition to the above mentioned, I am always grateful to **Michael Watts**, for his continued help with editorial and, together with his wife **Susan Watts**, and the great team of **Mary Abbott**, **Jude Wildwood** and **Bibi Hope-Johnson** for the work in assembling 560 copies of Contact ready for delivery.

Lastly, if anyone wishes to help with distribution or if you have any articles you wish to have included, or notices about local events (e.g. fund raising / tree planting / community activities / etc.) then please let me know - my contact details are below and inside the front cover.

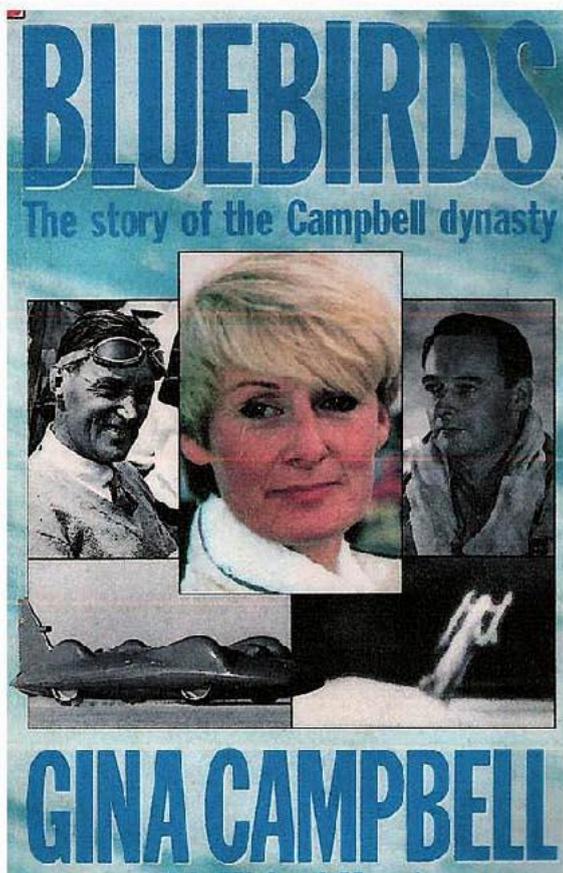
With warmest regards,

Steve Parker (steve_parker@msn.com)
Greenthwaite, Ennerdale Bridge, Cleator, CA23 3AR



Lamplugh and District Heritage Society

Dawn Sempill - my 30 year involvement
with the Campbell family and their Bluebirds



Above - Dawn is with "Bluebird K7"
in the Ruskin Museum, Coniston

It started with this book, becoming
a member of Bluebird Team
Racing for Donald Campbell's
nephew and his "Bluebird Electric"
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ALL INSTRUCTORS ARE FIRST AID TRAINED AND DBS CHECKED

The Fox & Hounds

Ennerdale Bridge, Cumbria, CA23 3AR

tel: 01946 861373

email: info@foxandhoundsinn.org

website: www.foxandhoundsinn.org



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Opening Times

Drinks Served

Monday - Thursday: 12.00 - 8.30, close 9pm

Friday - Saturday: 12.00 - 10.30, close 11pm

Sunday: 12.00 - 9.30, close 10pm

Food served

Monday - Thursday: 12.15 - 7.45

Friday - Saturday: 12.15 - 9.00

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WOULD YOU EXCHANGE WITH SOMEONE ELSE IF POSSIBLE)

FLOWER ROTA - March 2026

DATE	ENNERDALE	KIRKLAND	LAMPLUGH
1.3.26	LENT	LENT	LENT
8.3.26	LENT	LENT	LENT
15.3.26	LENT	LENT	LENT
22.3.26	LENT	LENT	LENT
29.3.26	LENT	LENT	LENT

SIDEPERSONS ROTA - March 2026

DATE	ENNERDALE	KIRKLAND	LAMPLUGH
1.3.26	B FEARON	D NEVINSON	-
8.3.26	-	M WATTS	R HODGSON
15.3.26	C AYLING	M ABBOT	-
22.3.26	-	M WATTS	J DAVIS
29.3.26	-	C ABBOT	-

READERS ROTA - March 2026

DATE	ENNERDALE	KIRKLAND	LAMPLUGH
1.3.26	M LACHLAN & M ROBSON	R WATSON	-
8.3.26	-	M ABBOT & M WATTS	J MEGAN & R MEGAN
15.3.26	S GUISE & B FEARON	D BEAK & S WATTS	-
22.3.26	-	M WATTS & C ABBOT	J MEGAN & J DAVIS
29.3.26	-	C ATKINSON & S WATTS	R MEGAN & J MEGAN

READINGS - March 2026

DATE	1ST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
1.3.26	GENESIS 12:1-4a	ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17	JOHN 3:1-17
8.3.26	EXODUS 17:1-7	ROMANS 5:1-11	JOHN 4:5-42
15.3.26	EXODUS 2:1-10	2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-7	LUKE 2:33-35
22.3.26	EZEKIEL 37:1-14	ROMANS 8:6-11	JOHN 11:1-45
29.3.26	ISAIAH 50:4-9a	PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11	MATTHEW 26:14, 27:1-end

Copy Deadline for the APRIL 2026 edition of Contact:

contact 23rd MARCH 2026 **contact**

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

SERVICES AND EVENTS

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
15th March	11:00am St Mary's, Ennerdale: Holy Communion 11:00am Kirkland Mission: Service of the word
22nd March	11:00am St Michael's, Lamplugh: Holy Communion 11:00am Kirkland Mission: All Age Holy Communion
29th March Palm Sunday	11:00am St Michael's, Lamplugh: United service – Holy Communion, Methodist
*a service without communion	

Copy Deadline for the APRIL 2026 edition of Contact:


23rd March 2026


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