

**BAMPTON PARISH  
NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2024 – JANUARY 2025**



***INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS EVE  
AT ST. PATRICK'S***

***COME, MEET AND SHARE  
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
WITH FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS  
WHILST JOINING US FOR  
OUR TRADITIONAL  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND HOLY COMMUNION***

***AT 7.30pm***

***WITH MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES  
IN CHURCH AFTERWARDS***

*Hello,*

I'm not keen on celebrating Christmas too early. I treat myself mean, to keep myself keen! By Advent Sunday, however, I am ready to see a few hints of what is to come. This year, I'm excited that Advent Sunday falls on 1<sup>st</sup> December (simple pleasures!), creating that rare beast of a year when Advent calendars coincide with Advent rather than December.

In church, Christmas is an extended season, comprising not just the traditional '12 days' but also several weeks of Epiphany season. Epiphany begins on January 6<sup>th</sup>, marking the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus. It's the right time to sing *We Three Kings*. The season continues until 2<sup>nd</sup> February, taking in the Baptism of Jesus and the Wedding at Cana, before ending on Candlemas Day, the 'Presentation of Christ in the Temple' (the bit with Simeon and Anna, not the bit where Jesus gets accidentally left behind – that's when he's older).

Epiphany extends the celebration of Christmas for several weeks, and many churches and homes retain their crib scenes until Candlemas. Cribs apart, however, our cultural observance of Christmas after 25<sup>th</sup> December is pretty minimal. How many carol services have you been to after 24th December? That, really, is when *all* the *Christmas* services should be held. However, Christmas services and events *at Christmas* are quite rare today. They mostly take place in the season of Advent, whose *intended* purpose is very different. It is a sombre time of preparation, for contemplating the last things: the second coming, the end of days, and the afterlife. I like to think (and, treat 'em mean again) that the contrast was designed to make Christmas all the more special. But we have really lost that sense of preparation. It's Advent that Christians and non-Christians alike use for eating and serving Christmas food, putting out lights and decorations, and going to festive events – things that our forebears would have done during Christmas itself.

In a way it doesn't matter, but this change must tell us something. Are we all a bit like small children, who cannot wait for the special day, and push to put up the Christmas tree earlier each year? Does the festival have enough real content to endure for long after the day itself? Does it live up to the preparation which has been going on since October? Is the preparation – the anticipation – part of the observance? If so, what does it do for us, apart from lightening our bank balances?

I was looking with pleasure over the church rota this week, at the large list of carol services and other Christmas activities this December. It seemed like a huge number. Then I looked again, at individual churches, and generally saw just one, or perhaps two, special occasions. That didn't seem like enough for one church to mark such an important time! And it didn't seem like the sort of catalogue I've been used to in my previous parishes. Perspective is all important here, and it tells us something more broadly about our churches.

I reflected that those previous parishes, with perhaps one or two church buildings and one school, each had a population as large as, or larger, than the North Westmorland Benefice, where activities (and my time) are all split 13 or so ways. By this measure, our congregations achieve a huge amount, because they are each one thirteenth of the average English parish. When we (or others) ask, 'what does the church/vicar here do about X', we have to remember that everything we do is divided by 13. That isn't much – but together, we are a great deal!

*Stephen*

## Contact Details

Stephen Tudway, Vicar  
Elizabeth Coy, Church Warden  
Maureen Barber, Church Warden

01931 719210  
01931 713211  
01931 713314

## From the Registers

### *Interment and Service of Thanksgiving for the life of*

Florence May Gowling (who died 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024) Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October

### *Requiem Mass at St Catherine's, Penrith and Interment at St Patrick's*

Helen Katherine Farrow (who died 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024) Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November

## COME AND JOIN US

for

## ST PATRICK'S CAFE CHURCH

at **9.45am** on Sunday, **8<sup>th</sup> December**

when Chizzer Childs will talk to us about 'God the Creator'.

At **10am** on Sunday, **12<sup>th</sup> January** – Café Church Fellowship Gathering.

## Services for December and January

1<sup>st</sup> December – Holy Communion **9.45am**

8<sup>th</sup> December – Café church **9.45am**

15<sup>th</sup> December – No service at Bampton this week, but services are available at Askham – Nine Lessons and Carols at **11.15am**; Shap – family service at **10.30am**; and Crosby Ravensworth – Evening Prayer at **6pm**

22<sup>nd</sup> December – Holy Communion **9.45am**

24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Carols and Holy Communion **7.30pm** with mulled wine and mince pies in Church afterwards.

29<sup>th</sup> December – Joint Benefice service at Great Strickland **11am**

5<sup>th</sup> January – Holy Communion **9.30am**

12<sup>th</sup> January – Café church **10am**

19<sup>th</sup> January – No service at Bampton this week, but services are available at Askham – Holy Communion at **11am**; Shap – family service at **10.30am**; and Crosby Ravensworth – Evening Prayer at **6pm**

26<sup>th</sup> January – Holy Communion **9.30am**

## Bell Ringing

Visiting ringers and anyone who might be interested in learning how to ring are always welcome. Tower Practice dates (see Diary Dates listed at the back of this newsletter) are subject to change from time to time so please contact the Tower Captain in advance on Tel: 01931 716822 in order to confirm a date and time before your visit. Thank you.

*Bampton PCC*

## **Raft Race 2024**

Well, unfortunately the weather put paid to two more summer events, with the raft race and duck race both being called off due to a high river level. I always put safety first and there was the possibility of people being pulled off their raft by overhanging branches. It was disappointing given that the Mardale was all set up for their pop up bar.

Prior to the event I did mention to some people that this would be my last year of organising the raft race. I think I started in 2011 but Colin (Barber) established and ran the race for a lot longer than me. If anyone would like to take over the organising then please contact me on the number below. It would be a shame to see it lost, as a fun local event. It has been run purely on people's goodwill to get involved and it is not a money making event. Any small profit has always been donated to a charity.

So, many thanks to those people who have been involved and answered the call for help and either given up their Sunday afternoon or loaned trailers and equipment. I can't name everyone individually but I must mention Maureen who has consistently been involved and helped to keep the event going. Thanks everyone.

*Tim Ward 713127*

## **Tinclars' Library**

The library will be **closed throughout December and re-open on 13<sup>th</sup> January**. In case of any queries, please contact [Tinclarslibrary@icloud.com](mailto:Tinclarslibrary@icloud.com).

We would like to pass on Season's Greetings to all our visitors.

*Sue Bletcher, Trustee*

## **Bampton & District Local History Society**

The next meeting of the Bampton & District Local History Society (BDLHS), will be on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30pm** in Bampton Memorial Hall. The subject, "The Minerals of Cumbria and Haweswater", will be an interactive talk, presented by Mr Ian Tyler, a regular and popular visiting speaker to meetings of the BDLHS. On **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** the speaker will be Bronwen Riley, from Rosgill, on the subject of the Dacians, (early Romanians), with specific reference to their presence on Hadrian's Wall. The usual themed refreshments will be provided.

Meetings of the BDLHS are open to members and visitors. Anyone interested in joining the Society should make contact with the Membership Secretary, Heather Pitt (01931 719187).

*Andrew Yates, Chairman BDLHS*

## **Lakeland Larks**

A community choir has been set up recently, meeting in Askham Village Hall **each Wednesday, 2-3pm**. The aim is to sing short songs, learning by ear, and to sing for pleasure. You don't need to have a musical background, just enjoy singing with a small, friendly group.

If you want to know more, either come along or contact Liz at [hello@lakelandlarks.co.uk](mailto:hello@lakelandlarks.co.uk)

## **Le groupe français**

C'est avec beaucoup de tristesse que nous devons dire au revoir à Diana en janvier. Elle fait partie de notre groupe depuis le tout début et a beaucoup contribué à nos réunions. Elle nous manquera mais nous lui souhaitons bonne chance dans sa nouvelle maison.

Nous continuons à nous réunir un mercredi sur deux dans la petite salle mais l'horaire change pour 14h-15h. N'hésitez pas à venir si vous souhaitez rejoindre un petit groupe de francophiles solidaires.

Joyeux Noël et bonne année!

*Marion Jones (713555) [mjoneskili@gmail.com](mailto:mjoneskili@gmail.com)*

## **Trustee Opportunities with Bampton Trust**

Bampton Trust, set up in 1996, is a registered charity, whose purpose is to support and advance charitable purposes in Bampton and adjacent areas of the Lowther Valley, Cumbria. Financial assistance can be made available to individuals, organisations or charities for a wide range of purposes, notably activities that will strengthen the local community or promote sustainable development. Core to the Trust is the oversight and development of five properties in the Valley let on a low-cost basis. These will require significant investment and work (undertaken by local contractors) as we aim to raise the standard and lower the carbon footprint of our portfolio. We are also ambitious to extend the impact of the Trust potentially adding to what we have today.

We are today seeking new Trustees who can engage with and help develop the Trust's mission over a number of years. We are particularly interested in enhancing the diversity of the Trust's board and wish to appeal to younger people (18-50) to volunteer and represent the area but we are not excluding the older generation. The reward for a Trustee is that they can make a positive personal impact on their home valley and develop relationships and life skills that may be enhancing in their careers. The time commitment is minimal, approximately 4 meetings per annum plus some ad-hoc communications in between.

What is a Trustee? Trustees have overall control of their charity (in this case, Bampton Trust) and are responsible for making sure it's doing what it was set up to do. Trustees are the people who lead the charity and decide how it is run. There are approximately 760,000 Trustees active today in England and Wales.

The formal responsibilities of a Trustee are to:

- Ensure the charity is fulfilling its purpose for public benefit
- Act in the charity's best interest
- Comply with the charity's governing law
- Ensure the charity is accountable
- Manage the charity's resources properly
- Act with reasonable skill and care

In the context of Bampton Trust, your passion for your local community is the most important attribute. We seek a general interest in what is happening in the Valley and a desire to strengthen our community over several years.

Please reach out to **David White on 01931 713530** for an informal conversation or send us a few sentences summarising why you are interested, to [david.white@bamptontrust.org](mailto:david.white@bamptontrust.org)

## News from the RSPB at Wild Haweswater

Hi Bampton newsletter readers,

I'm Annabel, the RSPB's People and Partnerships Manager at Wild Haweswater, with another update from the RSPB's work at the site, in partnership with our landlord United Utilities.

This festive season, we're delighted to have been nominated for a National Park Protector Award in the 'Nature' category. Since 2011, National Park Protector Awards are presented by the Campaign for National Parks each year, recognising the efforts by individuals and groups who are improving national parks. The awards are held in December, so fingers crossed for a win! This will follow on from success at the prestigious Ashden Awards in June. These awards are the BAFTAs of the climate sector, and we were delighted to win the Nature-based Solutions category in recognition of our work to make the landscape more resilient to the impacts of climate change, benefitting wildlife, water and people. You can read more about this in our blog on our website. We're looking forward to wrapping up the year with our staff Christmas meal at the Mardale Inn – a firm favourite with our team.

Winter is key tree planting time. As well as the thousands of trees we plant as part of our landscape restoration work, we also begin planting season in our Celebration Wood.

**Celebration Wood** lies adjacent to the mossy, temperate rainforest of Naddle Forest here. As you know, this rugged corner of the eastern Lake District National Park is a beautiful, peaceful place for quiet reflection and connection with nature.

Our Celebration Wood is a tree planting scheme that has been running for almost three years, where you can donate to plant a tree here, whether in memory of a life or to mark a special occasion. This not only gives the public a lovely, tangible way to celebrate, it helps to restore and expand the rich habitat of Naddle Forest for the future, creating homes for Red Squirrels, Pied Flycatchers, Tree Lungwort Lichen and more. It also generates funds to support our landscape restoration work. Huge thanks to locals who have supported this project so far.

Every tree in Celebration Wood has a story. Visit our website to find out more.

For more information on our work and events, or to get in touch, visit [www.wildhaweswater.co.uk](http://www.wildhaweswater.co.uk). If you're on social media, don't forget to follow us

[@WildHaweswater](https://www.facebook.com/WildHaweswater) on Facebook, X and Instagram.



Finally, January means one thing – **Big Garden Birdwatch!** Over the weekend of **24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January**, spend an hour watching your garden, yard or nearby green space, and count the birds. This citizen science has been running for over 45 years and the results help us to monitor garden bird populations. More here: [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)

See you next time!

*Annabel*

## **Long Distance Paths and Offa's Dyke at 82**

Having climbed every one of Wainwright's 214 Lakeland Fells at least twice since moving to Bampton in 1992, I realised I had never tackled any of the Long Distance Paths that have proliferated across England and Wales during my lifetime. The obvious one was the Coast To Coast which passes through Burnbanks. Accordingly in November 2018 I got together with fellow Bampton Amblers Alison Jones and Andrew Yates to plan how we could achieve this.

Not for us the macho approach of all in one go, but to spread it over 2 years in 4 sections of 4 or 5 days each. Accommodation booked, we met on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Penrith Station to make the scenic journey to St. Bees and commence walking to Burnbanks which we did in 5 glorious days in the company of John Willshaw (JW), the one-time mayor of Kendal. We reconvened on 16<sup>th</sup> September and completed 3 more days to Keld, the half way mark at 95 miles.

Then Covid intervened and the best laid plans could no longer apply. Only 2 days possible in 2020, followed by 2x2 and a 3 day in 2021. Robin Hoods Bay finally reached on 23<sup>rd</sup> September after 17 days actually walking and only 2 days when it rained along the 190 mile route. Thanks go to Katharine Cooke and Ruth Carruthers for providing vehicular support.

2022 we knocked off Hadrians Wall and twice got very wet.

So we come to 2024 by which time Andrew and I had both celebrated our 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays. JW suggested Offa's Dyke, a 177 mile walk with 22,000ft of ascent to be completed in the year along the border of England and Wales south to north. The walk to be split into 4 sections with a target of 10 miles or 5 hours a day. The difference this time was that J.W.'s wife was to provide a taxi service each morning and afternoon. This meant we didn't have to carry large packs and could base ourselves in Wetherspoons pub/hotels which we did in Monmouth and Ruthin on stages 1 & 4. Beer at £1.79 a pint meant the more we drank the more we saved! The only people we saw as fellow walkers were Americans, all Democrats, all fearful that Trump would win. We had celebrated the Labour landslide victory in Presteigne. So on 6<sup>th</sup> November I puffed my way up the final climb and at the summit spread out 700 feet below was Prestatyn, the early 20th Century playground of Liverpoolians; the Nova Centre, our destination; and out at sea in the mist, the North Hoyle Wind Farm. What did it look like in 780 when Offa was alive? Only 2 miles to go, all downhill and the 1961 songs of Helen Shapiro and Nancy Sinatra were my earworms.

We never had a drop of rain in April, July, September and November so somebody was looking after us. We were likened to Compo and friends at times but we agreed that Offa's was tougher than C2C, with some punishing days of steep ups and downs, but very varied scenery and very worthwhile. A sense of achievement and proof of what can be done by octogenarians and a few pints of bitter!!

Plans already being made for 2025, but it will be less ambitious, shorter and nearer home.

Give Offa's a go, you won't be disappointed.

*David Cooke*

## **Bampton REMOTE cinema**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December: The Holdovers (2023, 15) Comedy/Drama**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January: Anatomy of a Fall (2023, 15) Drama/Thriller**

**The Holdovers:** It's the run-up to Christmas at an elite Massachusetts boarding school in early 1970s. Those pupils whose parents can't have them over the holiday are left at school to be looked after by Paul Hunham the irascible ancient history teacher, disliked by staff and pupils alike. Also staying on is Mary Lamb, the school's head cook. In the event, only one pupil, the bright but troubled 15 year old Angus stays over. It's not a promising start for the "holdovers" but this beautifully acted funny story will touch your heart.

**Anatomy of a Fall:** A woman is suspected of her husband's murder and their blind son faces a moral dilemma as the sole witness. The setting is the French Alps, culminating in a gripping courtroom drama with an electric performance from Sandra Huller. Do you think she did it? Some dialogue is in French, with subtitles of course!

Supper plus film tickets for **The Holdovers** will be on sale from **Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>** every morning at our brilliant Bampton Shop and tearoom; tickets are £12 adult; £9 under 16. Film only tickets are available on the door on the night at £5 adult; U16 £2. Posters will be going up, look out for these.

All our trademark entertainment is available: bar courtesy of the village hall, ice-creams from Abbott Lodge, wonderful cooking, short interval.

Screening starts at **7.30pm** and supper is served, (in the village hall) **at 6pm**.

Here are the remaining **film dates** for **2025** for your diary:

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February; Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March; Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April.** Film titles are being decided.

Thank you to all our amazingly talented cooks for the meals we have enjoyed so much this year. And thanks to our lovely audience who loyally come along for film nights. You're always sure of a very warm welcome!

For general cinema enquiries please phone 01931 713311 or 07895 354486

*Hazel, Mike, Dave, Sue, Anna, Lucinda: Bampton REMOTE Film Committee*

## **Bampton Community First Responder Team**

If you think you'd like to join the team and help provide essential emergency cover for the local community please feel free to get in contact with me for an informal chat or look at the NWSA CFR page <https://www.nwascfr.com>

All applications are submitted through the web page and are confidential.

**If you feel unwell and think it is a medical emergency DIAL 999 or 112 and ask for AMBULANCE. Any on call CFR's will then be tasked by Ambulance control to attend if appropriate. CFR's will not be tasked to attend all 999 calls but will be asked to attend the following type of emergencies: abdominal pain, severe allergic reaction, breathing problems, fitting, diabetic emergency, chest pain, stroke, loss of consciousness, collapse, cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, some trauma. We will not normally be tasked to any incident involving children under 12.**

*Christine Gillespie, Bampton CFR Team 07771934996 [christinehillski@gmail.com](mailto:christinehillski@gmail.com)*



## Community Lunches

The monthly Community Lunch in the Memorial Hall will continue on the dates below. We will be offering a choice of soup and pudding, home-made bread, tea or coffee and chocolates – and the price has remained the same at £5.00 per person.

The dates are as follows:-

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**26<sup>th</sup> February**

**26<sup>th</sup> March**

Doors open at 12 noon.

If you would like to join us but cannot get a lift, please contact Jane Storey on 01931 713490. We look forward to seeing you all again.

## Memorial Hall 50/50 Club

So just the Bumper December Prize draw to go (1<sup>st</sup> prize £57, 2<sup>nd</sup> £25, 3<sup>rd</sup> £20), may you have the lucky numbers.

Congratulations to the November winners: Yvonne Grundy, David Cooke and Christine Evans.

Thank you to everyone who purchased numbers this year; the money raised has paid for new cleaning equipment for the halls.

Would you like a lucky number or two for 2025? The 50/50 Club is open to everybody and only costs **£12 per year** – i.e., £1 per month. Full details are on the application form.

For the 2025 Draw you can apply for your numbers in a variety of ways:

- Apply directly online via trybooking. By doing it this way you may be able to ‘bag’ the number you want.
- <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/CSBN>
- Or <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/47359>
- scan the QR code on the application form
- Email Lucinda for a form, [info@cumbriahorsetrials.com](mailto:info@cumbriahorsetrials.com)
- Fill in the form included in this December Newsletter

Some numbers have already been purchased, thank you.

Please return all forms to Lucinda, directly, by email, online or handed in at the Village store by **5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

Best of luck to everybody for 2025

*Lucinda Weymouth 713245*

## Bampton Pilates



Pilates is continuing in Bampton Memorial Hall at **5.30pm and 6.30pm on Monday evenings**. Every class has a different focus, and we use different equipment to facilitate improving our strength, mobility and flexibility. All equipment is provided. Please contact Alexis on 07411 902674 or [penrithpilates@gmail.com](mailto:penrithpilates@gmail.com)

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

This was our best yet, a huge £940 was collected before, on the day and afterwards. A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to everyone involved. So delighted that everyone continues to help in anyway possible. Thank you again.

*Lesley White [lesleyawh@aol.com](mailto:lesleyawh@aol.com)*

## **Mardale Inn Winter Update**

Heading into Winter, we are taking advantage of being less busy at the pub to do some things differently. As a Community Benefit Society, we are delighted to be sharing some profits earned from the summer, back to our community through the Mardale Inn Loyalty Card discount, support of the Stores and by hosting events such as '**Community Wednesday**'.

Many from our Valley are already enjoying the evenings but in case you don't know, on **Wednesdays through Winter**, the bedrooms at The Mardale are closed giving us more freedom around food and entertainment. Every week we offer simple main meals for £9 each, discounts on all drinks of 10% and the opportunity to earn or redeem Loyalty Points. Through December the schedule for the £9 main is: Wed 4<sup>th</sup> – **Fish & Chips**; Wed 11<sup>th</sup> – **Lasagne**; Wed 18<sup>th</sup> – **Festive Burger**.

Given popularity to date, we always encourage booking for a Community Wednesday meal either online at [www.themardaleinn.com/eat](http://www.themardaleinn.com/eat) or by calling the pub on 719202. On some Wednesdays after food, we support the Mardale's Darts Team, the 'Dun Bullseyes'. In any event, it is an opportunity for good local yatter in the warmth of the pub! (We'll confirm the January food schedule on the Noticeboards and in the pub & shop later in December.)

For those in our community who feel less comfortable about coming out on a dark Winter's evening, we are again offering holders of the Mardale Inn Loyalty Card a 10% discount on all food and drink on **Friday lunchtimes** as well as the opportunity to earn or redeem loyalty points.

Coming up to the Christmas holidays we want to share our opening schedule. The pub will be **open between 12pm to 3pm on Christmas Day** as your destination for a pre-lunch stroll. On Boxing Day, it will be the 20th Year Anniversary of Lee's **Charity Pub Quiz** starting at 7pm (**pub will be open from midday**). We'll also be hosting a **New Year's Eve party until 1am**.

The Kitchen will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The Bar and Kitchen will both be closed on New Year's Day reopening as normal on January 2<sup>nd</sup>

For latest Christmas and New Year event updates, please check the website calendar or notices around the Valley. We look forward to sharing the 'season of goodwill' with as many of you as possible!

*The Mardale Inn & BVCP Team*

## **Appleby Christmas Concert**

### **In aid of Hospice at Home, Carlisle and North Lakeland**

Appleby Public Hall, 7<sup>th</sup> **December, 7.30pm**. Featuring Appleby Town Band, Michael Cave (Flute) accompanied by Brian Tanner, and the Sun Singers. Tickets: £10 incl. a glass of wine and a mince pie. £1 for school children.

Tickets available: Appleby Tourist Info Centre (017683 51177) or pay at the door.

## **Update on the Crown and Mitre**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of November the Planning Inspectorate published its decision regarding the Crown and Mitre. In effect, the Inspectorate upheld the enforcement notice issued by the LDNP. So, the planning appeal made by Joof Hotels has failed and the building is not allowed to be used as a single use holiday let.

They now have 3 months to comply.

Thank you, to all who helped get us this far. And especially to Dave and Alison, Wendy and Damien, Ros Orford and the Bampton Trust, for all the support given over the last couple of years. This wouldn't have been achieved without you.

*Aileen Salway*

## **Bampton walkers**

We are thinking of trying to re-establish a walking group in Bampton, possibly going out on a monthly basis for a friendly sociable walk. Over the winter months, it would be realistic to plan in terms of 3 to 4 hours of walking.

If anyone is interested in this, please contact Alison Jones (713350) for further information.

## **Bampton Valley Stores**

As most will hopefully know by now, we're running Winter Hours at the Stores from 9.30am through to 12.30pm. During the darker months it means that just one Volunteer is on per day to serve. It's much appreciated that many of you have adapted their hours to visit for a shop – or to just come and natter!

As we come up to Christmas we will be closed on the normal days, i.e. Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. We hope to wish you 'Seasons Greetings' on the other days around then.

Finally thank you to the various folks who have expressed their gratitude for the work that our Volunteers are doing. Some have very kindly suggested things like a 'volunteers tips jar' but we all do it to support an active shop for all available in the Valley. We are optimistic that every now and then the pub will offer us a free drink as a token of appreciation!

We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Bampton Valley Stores Volunteers*

## **Thank you!**

This is the time of year when I have the opportunity to thank everyone who helps to make this Newsletter so successful. Firstly, I would like to say a big 'thank you' to Jane Storey who is bowing out, after being a reliable Deputy for 9 years and latterly in charge of all the distribution arrangements, enabling the editions to be delivered early each month – I hope you enjoy your rest!

And so a warm welcome to Bridget Kelly who will take her place – her details can be found, as usual, before the diary section at the back. I would also like to thank the contributors – both regular and occasional; advertisers; Village Store for holding the spare copies; distributors, often delivering in stormy conditions; and of course, the readers!

May I wish you all the Compliments of the Season.

*Heather Pitt*

## **December events at Shap**

### **Call out for artists/craftspeople**

#### **Above Eden - Shap Artists' Open Studio Trail - July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Would you like to take part in a newly formed Artists' Open Studio Trail in Shap and including surrounding villages? This is taking place on the above date. Participants will be invited to exhibit one or two pieces of work at the Exhibit 'A' Gallery, The Old Courthouse in Shap at an accompanying exhibition in July.

If your studio is within a radius of 9 miles from Shap and you can offer a professional and welcoming experience to visitors please contact Deborah or Suzanne for further details and to request an application form from [deborahwindsor51@gmail.com](mailto:deborahwindsor51@gmail.com) or [suzanne@muiryhillarts.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@muiryhillarts.co.uk)

### **Friday Music Nights are back at The Old Courthouse!**

Eden Valley Touring Network presents

**13<sup>th</sup> December** Neil McHardy also The Clifford Movement

**10<sup>th</sup> January** Mark Stivvy also The Rhubarb Thieves

**14<sup>th</sup> February** Carolyn Francis also Briar & Bramble

**14<sup>th</sup> March** John Chambers also Tailgate Buskers

Performances start at **7.30pm**. Admission **£8**. Short interval. Tea/Coffee or BYOB

Visit [www.theoldcourthouse.org](http://www.theoldcourthouse.org) for information and to book

### **The Old Courthouse, Shap**

#### **Winter Opening Times – Gallery and Library Access**

Sun/Tue/Thu/Fri : 1 – 4pm Mon: 10 – 1pm Sat: 10 – 12 noon

#### **Christmas/New Year closures**

Closes Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 1pm and reopens Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 1pm.

#### **Arts, Crafts: 2025 Local Scenes Calendars on sale**

The Old Courthouse provides a warm place for reading, working, and computers with FREE WIFI. Hot drinks are available. Why not drop in for some company?

**Knit and Natter** – Thursday afternoons

**Cuppa and Company** – Friday afternoons

### **Shap Farmers' and Makers' Christmas Market**

**9am – 1pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

Food/Art/ Craft stalls plus much more – indoors and outdoors – Refreshments

Appleby Town Band – Festive music and Carol singing

### **Bampton Mobile Post Office**

Bampton Post Office operates from the Memorial Hall on **Wednesdays between 9.00 – 10.30am**: most postal services continue to be available from this mobile unit.

## **The local bus**

**Face masks are now optional** on the Fellrunner bus weekly **Thursday** service. The bus will go down **Rosgill Hill at 10.10am**, then travel via **Bampton Grange (10.18am)** to **Burnbanks (10.25am)** and leave **Bampton at 10.34am** to arrive (via Morrisons) at **Penrith Bus Station at 11.05am**. The return bus will leave **Penrith Bus Station at 1.15pm** to arrive back in **Bampton at 1.42pm**, **Burnbanks at 1.53pm** and **Rosgill at 2.08pm** (subject to passenger requirements). Bus passes can be used and children under 16 years travel free.

## **Bampton Village Website [www.bamptonlakedistrict.org.uk](http://www.bamptonlakedistrict.org.uk)**

Please send any updates for the website to Chris Cant on [chris@phdcc.com](mailto:chris@phdcc.com) or 713240. Any new photos very welcome.

**Copy deadline for the February/March issue is 5pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Please send all items to:**  
**Heather Pitt (Tel no: 01931 719187) [pathfinders2728@gmail.com](mailto:pathfinders2728@gmail.com) or**  
**Bridget Kelly (Tel no: 01931 716822) [bridgetkelly1010@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetkelly1010@gmail.com)**

## **PARISH DIARY**

(Note MH = Memorial Hall)

## **DECEMBER**

<b>Su 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Holy Communion, <b>9.45am</b>
<b>Mo 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
<b>Tu 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	BDLHS, MH, 7.30pm. Interactive talk by Ian Tyler
<b>We 4<sup>th</sup></b>	French Group, Small Hall, 2-3pm Community Choir, Askham VH, 2-3pm Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm
<b>Th 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
<b>Su 8<sup>th</sup></b>	‘Café Church’, Church Hall, <b>9.45am</b>
<b>Mo 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
<b>We 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Community Lunch, MH, from 12 noon Community Choir, Askham VH, 2-3pm Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm
<b>Th 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
<b>Sa 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Bampton Cinema, MH, “The Holdovers”. Doors open 7pm
<b>Su 15<sup>th</sup></b>	No service
<b>Mo 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
<b>We 18<sup>th</sup></b>	French Group, Small Hall, 2-3pm Community Choir, Askham VH, 2-3pm Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm
<b>Th 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
<b>Su 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Holy Communion, <b>9.45am</b>
<b>Mo 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
<b>Tu 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Carols and Holy Communion with Stephen, <b>7.30pm</b>

Th 26<sup>th</sup> Mulled wine and mince pies in Church afterwards  
 Charity Pub Quiz, Mardale Inn, 7pm  
 Su 29<sup>th</sup> Joint Benefice service at Great Strickland **11am**  
 Mo 30<sup>th</sup> Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm  
 Tu 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve party, Mardale Inn, until 1am

## JANUARY

Th 2<sup>nd</sup> Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm  
 Su 5<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, **9.30am**  
 Mo 6<sup>th</sup> Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm  
 Tu 7<sup>th</sup> BDLHS, MH, 7.30pm. Talk by Bronwen Riley.  
 We 8<sup>th</sup> French Group, Small Hall, 2-3pm  
 Community Choir, Askham VH, 2-3pm  
 Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm  
 Th 9<sup>th</sup> Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm  
 Su 12<sup>th</sup> 'Café Church', Church Hall, **10am**  
 Mo 13<sup>th</sup> Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm  
 Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm  
 We 15<sup>th</sup> Community Choir, Askham VH, 2-3pm  
 Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm  
 Th 16<sup>th</sup> Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm  
 Sa 18<sup>th</sup> Bampton Cinema, MH, "Anatomy of a Fall". Doors open 7pm  
 Su 19<sup>th</sup> No service  
 Mo 20<sup>th</sup> Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm  
 Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm  
 We 22<sup>nd</sup> Community Lunch, MH, from 12 noon  
 French Group, Small Hall, 2-3pm  
 Community Choir, Askham VH, 2-3pm  
 Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm  
 Th 23<sup>rd</sup> Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm  
 Su 26<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, **9.30am**  
 Mo 27<sup>th</sup> Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm  
 Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm  
 We 29<sup>th</sup> Community Choir, Askham VH, 2-3pm  
 Indoor Bowls, MH, 7pm  
 Th 30<sup>th</sup> Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm