



United Benefice of Distington and Harrington with Salterbeck



**December 2025 and
January 2026**

£1

Christmas Card Competition

Our magazine cover this month is the winning entry to our Christmas Card competition which we ran in conjunction with Beckstone school. We had over 180 entries from children across the school and the winner was Lilly Wilson in 5/6CC. Runners up were Ella Hunter and Remi Blanco-Chartres pictured here with Lilly. Each of our winners received an art set to encourage their creativity.



Well done to Lilly Wilson, with runners up, Remi Blanco-Chartres and Ella Hunter.



Remi Blanco - Chartres



Ella Hunter

What's in this Magazine...

Amy Dunne foot health practitioner	12	Flowers in church at Distington	16
Angela Black, Accountant	45	Help wanted at Distington	7
Animal Concern Cumbria	44	James A Murray - Joinery	45
Babies and Toddlers at Distington	19	Ladies Club	18
Baby and Toddler Group at St Mary's	38	Lazy Sunday breakfasts at Distington	36
Beckstone School Christmas	20	Leslie Cleeland - beds and carpets	45
Benefice contacts	47	Lynda Elliot - hairdressing	46
Benefice Diary	5	Men's Breakfast at Hunday Manor	16
Bingo at Distington (Reunion)	35	Mental Health support Group	31
Book Review	37	Messy Mary's	18
Café Service at Distington	36	Myers and Bowman - car dealer	48
Cartoon	12	Nature Notes	32
CC Plumbing	46	Parish Registers	6
Children's page (Mouse Makes)	34	Prayer Boxes	11
Chocolate Bingo at Distington	15	Prayer journey in Oct and Nov	10
Christmas at our Churches	24	Readings for church services	14
Christmas Day Communion at home	33	Recipe for December	8
Christmas in Sweden	22	Recipe for January	41
Church at Home	28	Rector's Letter	4
Church Hall Booking at Harrington	12	Rugby Club booking	26
Cook, Eat, Pray - Youth Group	30	Saint of the month - Thomas Aquinas	40
Crossword	43	Saint of the month - Saint Stephen	29
Crossword solution (previous issue)	44	Sandelands - Funeral Directors	45
Cuppa and Chat at Distington	30	Scouts in Harrington	9
Dancing for Pleasure	12	Solicitors in Whitehaven	45
Dates for the Diary - December	26	Sudoku	44
Distington 100 Club	17	Thoughts of a Curate	28
Distington Club for Young People	11	Toddler Praise	30
Distington Community Centre	45	Tom Edgar - Funerals	46
Distington Community School Review	39	Triplet services	42
Distington Library Link	27	Tuesday Gang at Harrington	27
Distington Lunch Club	31	Visiting and Home Communion	33
Distington Surgery	44	Warm Hub (DCYP)	35
E Lamb and Son - coal and gas	46	Warm welcome Café	7
Evergreens at Distington	16	What to look out for...	42
Family services at St Marys	26	Yeowart Gill and Rudd - Funerals	46

From the Rector

Dear Friends

Merry Christmas!

I genuinely hope that, for you, this Christmas will bring joy and contentment, warmth, good food and good company. I also hope that the fresh reminder of Jesus' birth and the miracle of God coming to be with us, will bring you joy and peace. Jesus' birth reminds us that we are not lost and forgotten, but dearly loved and wanted. Our separation from God has never been of God's doing, but our reconciliation and adoption as his children certainly is. That is the wonder of God coming to us – choosing to enter into our world of pain, poverty and cruelty in order to gather us up in his love.

I am acutely aware that for many, Christmas is a difficult time. It can be a sharp reminder of loss, of isolation, of misfortune. The images with which we are bombarded on television and social media tell us that Christmas is a time of excess, and for many this creates an expectation that cannot be met. But the true meaning of Christmas is not, and never has been, about materialism. The true message of Christmas is being present in love, and love is the most precious and most costly gift we can give. Our love is shown in kindness, in being present for other people, in the giving of our time, our attention and forgiveness.

...and a happy New Year?

The future can sometimes seem a scary place to contemplate. The news is full of trouble and gloomy predictions, of wars, rumours of wars, natural disasters, man made disasters, and Powers exerting themselves to the detriment of the world. The future can threaten personal uncertainty and worry can undermine our present quality of life and peace of mind. Christmas reminds us that Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us – and that he has promised to be with us to the end of the age. No matter what we face, we can face it with confidence knowing that God is by our side, supporting us, guiding us and bringing us hope in uncertainty. peace in anxiety and joy in adversity.

God be with you.

With best wishes,



Rev. Dom de Mattos



Benefice Diary

Day	Harrington	Distington
Mon	10am – 11.30am Baby and Toddler Group* 2pm – 4pm Warm Welcome café in the church hall*	8pm Distington Reunion Bingo in the Community Centre*
Tues	9.30am – noon Tuesday Gang (maintaining the church and churchyard – all welcome)*	
Wed		10am – 11.30am Toddler Group* 2pm – 3.30pm Cuppa and Chat café*
Thurs	9.30am Communion 10.15am for 10.30am start Toddler Praise* 2pm Dancing for pleasure in the church hall	
Fri	7pm First Friday Film club*	12 noon Second Friday Lunch club at the Community Centre*
Sat	9.30am Last Saturday Men's Breakfast at the Hunday Manor*	
	4pm – 6pm Third Saturday Messy Marys*	
Sun	Sunday morning services are at 10.30am* 4pm Second Sunday Healing Communion service	9.15am communion Second, Fourth and Fifth Sundays* 10.00am First Sunday Lazy Sunday breakfast in the community centre.* 3pm First and Third Sundays (First Sunday café service is in the Community Centre*)

* More information elsewhere in this magazine

From the Parish Registers in September and October 2025

In Memoriam

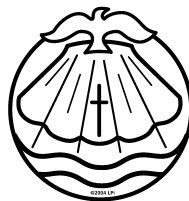
Funerals in Harrington and Distington conducted by our ministers

17 th Sept	- Eleanor McFadden at Distington Hall Crematorium
18 th Sept	- William Murphy, Burial at Holy Spirit, Distington
18 th Sept	- Alan Briscoe at St Mary's Harrington
15 th Oct	- Marion Johnstone at St Mary's Harrington

We pray for peace and comfort for all their family and friends, and rest for their souls. May they know eternal joy in the presence of God.

Sharing the Joy of New Life in Baptism

7 th Sept	at Harrington	Remi-Lea Smith
7 th Sept	at Distington	Delilah Layla Sheila Hodgson
21 st Sept	at Harrington	Harriet Hazel Holdsworth
21 st Sept	at Harrington	Bodhi Leo Thirlaway
28 th Sept	at Harrington	Erin Louise Johnstone
5 th Oct	at Harrington	Connie-Grace Walby
26 th Oct	at Harrington	Theo Alfie Scott



We welcome you
into the fellowship
of Christ

If you would like to arrange a christening for your child this year, please do get in touch with Rev. Dom de Mattos on 01946 830215.

True story

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them.

As they continued to get 'no room' answers, a little voice called from the back of the church: "You should have booked!"

Courtesy of Parish Pump

Warm Welcome Café Monday 2pm - 4pm at St Mary's Harrington

The warm welcome café has continued to grow in popularity and is a highlight of many people's weeks. But don't just take our word for it!

“ I've been going to the Warm Space cafe since it started. It's the highlight of my week and I enjoy actively helping on the rota. The cafe has gone from strength to strength. There is a dominoes table, two Scrabble tables and a craft table. We enjoy sharing our skills with one another on the craft table, chatting as we go, with home-made cakes and a hot drink too. I've made some new friends along the way as well as enriching the friendship of people I know already. It has a lovely, friendly atmosphere. **Jackie**



”

So if you have time on your hands do come along and see what you think, we would love to see you. Transport can be provided if needed.

Pam Douglas

Please can you help Distington Church?

The church here in Distington is a very important and beautiful building but more importantly it is the house of God. Like all houses it needs to be cared for. Could you give a little time once a month to help keep the church clean and tidy and well cared for? Our small band of willing helpers is struggling to keep on top of the jobs that need doing, especially the cleaners and so we are appealing for your help. We have had one offer of help, for which we are very grateful, but we do need more helpers so that no-one is on their own



It would not be every week, and as the saying goes; “More hands make light work.” If you feel you could help in any way please get on touch with Dom (07851 095264), Barbara (07425 792995) or Doreen (07488 319695).

Recipe of the Month – December

Our December recipe comes from Sweden and is for Christmas saffron buns, sometimes called *Lussekatt*. Traditionally, this special version is eaten on December 13th, the festival of Saint Lucia, a Roman Christian martyr, born in Sicily, who died during the Diocletianic Persecution. She is traditionally pictured with her eyes on a plate and is the patron saint of the blind.



Basic recipe for Lussekatt

500ml milk (room temperature)	50 gr fresh yeast
800 - 900 g plain flour	2 tbs rum or water
200ml sugar	2 packets saffron
1 beaten egg to coat the buns	100ml raisins
1 tsp salt	

Method

Crush the saffron with 1 tsp salt. Soak in the rum (or water) and stir. Leave for 30 minutes.

Cut the butter into cubes.

Crumble the yeast and mix with the milk and saffron mixture in a mixing bowl. Add the rest of the sugar, salt and flour. Work for 15 minutes in a machine or 20 by hand. Leave it to rise under a cloth for 60 minutes.

(For *Lussekatt*, rather than simple saffron buns, soak 100ml raisins in water for about 30 minutes. Then strain off the water).

On a floured worktop, knead the dough lightly and form the buns (a figure of eight shape is common). The quantities given here should give about 40 or 20 buns, depending on the shape chosen, and press in the raisins (two in each) to represent eyes. Allow to rise under a cloth for about 30 minutes.



Coat with the beaten egg and bake in the middle of the oven (225°) for 8 -10 minutes.

ENJOY!

Pamela Vang

Join Harrington Scouts and Embark on an Exciting Adventure!

Are you looking for a way to engage your child in a world of fun, learning, and adventure? Look no further than Harrington Scouts! We are thrilled to invite new members to join our scouting family and explore the countless opportunities that await.



Four Sections, Endless Possibilities

At Harrington Scouts, we offer a wide range of scouting experiences for children of all ages. Here's a glimpse of what each section has to offer:

- 1. Beavers (Ages 6-8):** Our Beavers section is perfect for young adventurers starting their Scouting journey. Join us on Tuesdays from 17:00 to 18:00 for exciting activities, games, and opportunities to learn valuable life skills.
- 2. Cubs (Ages 8-10.5):** For children aged 8 to 10.5, the Cubs section is the place to be. Join us on Tuesdays from 18:30 to 20:00 for an engaging and enriching scouting experience filled with teamwork, challenges, and memorable moments.
- 3. Scouts (Ages 10.5-14):** Scouts is designed for those aged 10.5 to 14 who seek adventure and personal growth. Our Wednesday sessions from 19:00 to 21:00 offer a platform for leadership development, outdoor adventures, and building lifelong friendships.
- 4. Explorers (Ages 14-18):** Our Explorers section is tailored for teenagers aged 14 to 18. Join us on Mondays from 19:00 to 21:00 for high-adrenaline activities, leadership opportunities, awards such as Duke of Edinburgh, and the chance to explore your interests.

All our sessions take place at the Harrington Scout Hut, a welcoming and safe environment where your child can thrive. At Harrington Scouts, we are committed to fostering a sense of community, building character, and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. To get started or inquire about enrolment, visit our facebook page 11th Workington (Harrington) Scouts, or email us on harringtonscouts@gmail.com. We can't wait to welcome your child to the Harrington Scouts family and embark on this incredible journey together!

Ellen Brown (Group Scout Leader)

Our Prayer Journey in December and January

At this very special time of Advent and Christmas we pray for the whole of our parishes.

As we take a journey through our benefice I am mindful of the routes that connect us all. The road, the railway line, the bus route, and the disused railway line, and our industries past and present which create our identity.

Beginning at the Workington end of our parishes I ask you to pray for everyone who lives in Salterbeck, Harrington, and High Harrington.

We pray especially for everyone who lives and works in our residential homes of Eastcroft and Westwinds. We also pray for those who provide welcome, hospitality and ready meals at Brewery House and the Galloping Horses. We pray for every child and every adult in our local schools and nurseries, youth club and scout group. We pray for every person who has come to live in High Harrington and for whom this will be their first Christmas here. We pray that every person, and every household has a very blessed Christmas and a good start to the New Year.

As we journey from High Harrington please remember in your prayers those who farm and care for livestock and domestic animals at this time of year.

Please hold in your prayers the Golf course, the gym at Lillyhall, and the football academy. Don't forget the college, the apprentices, the students at UTC and the Learning Centre, plus our school and youth club.

We pray particularly for the ambulance station, our GP surgery, our shops and all our petrol stations staff. Please also pray for all those staff from the council who process our refuse and grit our roads.

In Distington please think about and pray for our local industry. We also pray for the Walled Garden Café, and the staff of the Crematorium. We give thanks for those who keep our community looking so beautiful and cared for.

We pray for all who live in Pica and Gilgarran and for those who work hard to make these the communities they are.

Finally we pray for the mission and ministry of our churches; our Anna Chaplaincy for older people, our Hospital Chaplaincy, our Children and family ministry, our warm spaces and our welcome and fellowship.

Please pray for anything else that comes to mind and anything I have forgotten. Fortunately, God knows and sees all.

Rev Ruth

Prayer boxes

By the time you get your new magazine we will have prayer boxes in both of our churches. In Distington this is in the newly formed lady chapel, placed on top of the heater and at Harrington near the memorial book. Both boxes will have some prayer resources in them which are free to take away, and also some prayer cards for anyone to write their prayers on. Please put prayers in the boxes. They will be checked on Thursdays on a weekly basis.



Distington Club for Young People

Looking for somewhere exciting to hang out after school?

Distington Club for Young People is *the* place to be – packed with fun, friendship, and activities for *everyone*. We're proud to be an inclusive, welcoming space where young people can relax, explore, and thrive.



🌟 Here's what's waiting for you:

🎮 Gaming Stations & Computers

🎨 Arts & Crafts Galore

🎭 Role Play & Chill-Out Zones

🏓 Table Tennis & Pool Tables

📶 Free Wi-Fi

🍔 Hot Food & Tuck Shop Treats

📅 Weekly Raffles

... and **so** much more!

📅 Sessions Just for You:

🟣 Phoenix Group (4-11 years)

- Mondays: 4pm–6pm
- Wednesdays: 4pm–6pm
- Thursdays: 4pm–6pm

🟢 Wyvern Group (11 years and over)

- Mondays: 6pm–8pm
- Tuesdays: 5pm–7pm
- Fridays: 5pm–7pm

☀️ Holiday Fun!

During half terms and summer holidays, our schedule changes to include trips out and special activities – keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and booking info!

📍 Find us at Distington Club for Young People

☎️ Call us on **01946 832882 or 07761781992**

📱 Follow us on Facebook for the latest events & updates!

Come along, bring a friend, and make some amazing memories. Everyone's welcome!

Harrington Church Hall is available for Hire



Regular Groups
Classes
Children's Parties



Bouncy Castles Welcome



Tables and chairs to seat up to 72 people

Well-equipped kitchen

Disabled toilet facilities and level access

Only £15 per hour

Hirers must include set up and pack away time in their hire

Email: **BookThisHall@gmail.com**



Gosh! It must be advent already...

Amy Dunne
 Dip.PRFHC
Foot Health Practitioner.
 (Offering home visits in & around the West Cumbria area)

- *Routine nail cutting & filing.
- *Thickened nail reduction.
- *Fungal nail treatment.
- *Ingrowing nail assessment/treatment.
- *Corn & Callus treatment.
- *Verucca consultation & treatment plans.
- *Heel care.
- *Diabetic foot care.

DBS checked & fully insured.

Please call to discuss further & book an appointment.

07515647134
 a.helpinghands2022@gmail.com

Dancing for Pleasure

Everyone is welcome at Dancing for Pleasure on Thursday afternoons from 2pm in Harrington Church Hall
Absolute beginners welcome – any age, any agility! Just come and have fun!
 There's no charge but donations towards costs are always welcome.

Rev Dom de Mattos



Stronger

Statistics show we're getting stronger. 50 years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. 20 years ago, it took two people to carry £20 worth of groceries. Now a five-year-old can do it.

Courtesy of the Parish Pump

Sunday Readings for December 25 and January 26

Date	Distington Readings	Harrington Readings
1st Sun Advent 2 7 th Dec	3pm Family service Community Centre Matthew 3.1-12	10.30am Holy Communion Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12
2nd Sun Advent 3 14 th Dec	9.15am Holy Communion James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11	10.30am Parade Service Matthew 11.2-11
3rd Sun Advent 4 21 st Dec	3pm Carols by Candlelight As set	10.30am Holy Communion Isaiah 7.10-16 Matthew 1.18-25
		6pm Family Carols
Christmas Eve Afternoon	5pm Nativity The Christmas story	3pm Cristingle The Christmas story
Christmas Eve Night	11.30pm Midnight Mass Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2.1-14	9.30pm Bethlehem Mass Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2.1-14
Christmas Day	9.15am Holy Communion Philippians 2.5-11 Luke 2.1-20	10.30am Holy Communion Philippians 2.5-11 Luke 2.1-20
4th Sun Christmas 1 28 th Dec	9.15am Holy Communion Isaiah 63.7-9 Matthew 2.13-23	10.30am Holy Communion Isaiah 63.7-9 Matthew 2.13-23
1st Sun Epiphany 4 th Jan	3pm Family service Community Centre Matthew 3.13-17	10.30am Holy Communion Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12
2nd Sun Epiphany 1 11 th Jan	9.15am Holy Communion Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12	10.30am Church in the Hall Matthew 3.13-17
3rd Sun Epiphany 2 18 th Jan	3pm Family Comm. 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1.29-42	10.30am Holy Communion 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1.29-42
4th Sun Epiphany 3 25 th Jan	9.15am Holy Communion Isaiah 9.1-4 Matthew 4.12-23	10.30am Holy Communion Isaiah 9.1-4 Matthew 4.12-23

**Come and join us on
Friday 5th December at 7pm for**

CHOCOLATE



with turkey baguettes and trifle

Distington Community Centre

Tickets £6 (Children £3) Including free bingo book

All Welcome

The Wrong Gift

A young couple began to assemble a special Christmas gift they had bought for their children. They had bought a kit for a tree house, but it didn't make sense. Then they realised that the materials were for a sailboat, so they wrote to the company to complain. The company's reply was apologetic: "We deeply regret the inconvenience this mistake must have caused you. We are now trying to contact the man who is out on a lake somewhere, trying to sail your tree house."

Courtesy of Parish Pump

Distington Evergreens

The Evergreens are a group of old, and newly made friends, who meet weekly in The Distington Club for Young People each Thursday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. We have enjoyed lots of different activities as we chat, including writing about our childhoods (which, of course, bears no resemblance to today's children!) We have painted pottery at the crafty workshop in Workington and learned how to do Christmas door decorations. We plan to write a recipe book of favourite recipes. We go out to places for a meal, to concerts or shows. Why not come and join us? Laughter is the best medicine they say and as sure as sure, there is lots of laughter ... give it a go. A warm welcome awaits. Give Pat a call on 07981360996.



Harrington Men's Breakfast – Last Saturday of the Month

The Men's breakfast meets at **The Hunday Manor** on the **last Saturday of each month** at **9.30am** and finishes by 11am. There is a cooked breakfast available (£11) and usually a talk or other entertainment. If we have sparked your interest, please do come and try it – we will make you very welcome. For more information phone Richard Wilkinson on (07974) 437874.



Flowers In Distington Church

Flowers are displayed in Distington Church each week, (apart from during Lent, when we don't have flowers in church), and many are placed there in memory of loved ones. Could you help us to keep the church looking beautiful for visitors and worshippers alike? Many people come to the church for those special services in life and every contribution, of whatever size, will help us to make sure that they appreciate the church as much as I know you do.



If you can help, please contact Barbara Lamb 07425 792 995 or e-mail to balamb912@outlook.com. Thank you.

Rev Dom de Mattos

Distington 100 Club

**It's never too late to enter the 100 Club draw!
Were you a winner last year? No? Well it MUST
be your turn this time (maybe!) Remember you
must be in it to win.**



The cost of a number is £12.00 for the year. If we have 60 people entering, the prize money each month would be £30.00 and the remaining £30.00 would go to Distington Church funds. (The draw however is not limited to Distington residents!)

If you are interested, please complete the slip below and return it to any member of the Distington PCC (or bring it to Distington church between 4pm and 5pm on a Thursday or to a Sunday service) along with £12 per number. There is no limit on the number of numbers you can have.

Winning Number

December 2025 – no. 15 – Marjorie Daniel

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

How many numbers would you like?

If you would like to take part please return the slip above to Barbara Lamb c/o Distington Church (the church is open Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm approx.) **OR** email Barbara at balamb912@outlook.com, with your name, address, telephone number and how many number you would like and she will send you details to pay by bank transfer.



Ladies Club

**HARRINGTON LADIES CLUB
MEET EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON IN THE
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON CROOKLANDS
AVENUE, HIGH HARRINGTON
FROM 2PM TO 3.30PM.**

**SOMETIMES THEY HAVE A SPEAKER OR A
MUSICAL AFTERNOON OR A TRIP AND MEAL.
OTHER TIMES THEY HAVE DOMINOES CARDS
OR BINGO AND ONCE A MONTH THEY HAVE
THEIR VERY OWN PERSONAL TRAINER WHO
DOES CHAIR EXERCISES.**

**THERE IS ALSO A RAFFLE EACH WEEK WITH
THREE PRIZES. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



Messy Mary's

Messy Mary's

Messy Church is held on the third
Saturday of every month in St Mary's
Church Hall in Rectory Close from
4pm to 6pm, during term time.



Messy Mary's



Messy Church is for all the family and includes a
number of craft activities, songs, a story and some
prayers all based on the theme for the day.
We then finish with a shared meal together.

Come and join us – and bring your friends.



We meet next on

Saturday 17th January at 4pm

**There is no Messy Mary's in December as everyone is invited to the Christingle
and Nativity Service at 3pm on Christmas Eve in Harrington church**

(Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult)



Could you be a part of our Toddlers Team?

Distington Baby and Toddler Group meets every Wednesday during term time 10am-11.30. We welcome all children and their carers from birth until the children start school. Parents and carers are provided with tea or coffee and the children are given a snack. We are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen (it would not be every week). If you feel you could help, please contact Julia (07747 581390) or Doreen (07488 319695)

Santa's sleigh

Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer and pulled up in front of the toy factory. "At last!" he shouted, "No-el plates!"

Courtesy of Parish Pump



Celebrating Christmas, reflecting on 2025 and looking forward to the New Year at Beckstone Primary

The end of the calendar year and run up to Christmas is a magical part of the school year. We have a special 'Christmas Countdown Clock' in the main corridor from the October half term which adds to the building up of excitement and expectation with the pupils. The school is then decorated with many exciting things such as a dancing and singing motion sensor Santa (!) and lots of lovely lights that make the dark afternoons bright and sparkle.



In the run up to the Christmas holidays the school is a very busy and active place. We have Carol singing practices and rehearsals for the Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) and Upper Key Stage 2 Carol Services in the Church; Nativity plays for Nursery and Reception parents; a visit from the Christian Union Puppets with their re-telling of the Christmas story; Christmas disco and movie nights; Christmas parties; our Christmas dinner made in our newly refurbished kitchen as well as taking the spirit of Christmas out into the community with Carol Singing at various venues including the Allerdale Disability Association. We also are inviting all the community to come and join us in Christmas song in Victoria Square at 10.30am on Friday 19th December. The dates of all the events can be found in our monthly school newsletter which can be found using the QR code and back copies as well as any new ones as the year progresses are also available there or directly on our web site under the 'news' icon.



Through all the exciting activities we teach the children the importance of Christmas and the coming of Jesus and how it isn't just about exciting events, presents and party food but a celebration of Jesus' coming to light up the world.

Reflecting on the year that was 2025 (the 20th year since the school opened), the school had some major events and changes.

Our Deputy Head left in the Spring to become a North England attendance adviser and has been replaced since September with Mrs Needham, a Harrington resident as well as one of our school leaders.



In early April we very sadly and heartbreakingly lost one of our pupils as a result of a brain tumour. Arabella Kelly was a delightful, funny and very friendly pupil who lit up many a day in school. She is very much missed and we are celebrating her memory with a regular trophy in her name to be awarded to pupils, developing an outdoor playground for the younger children which will feature fun and laughter reflecting her character. We have been blown away with the generosity of the community and have donations of nearly £25K already towards this cause.

At the end of April, we had an explosion in the middle of the night in our kitchen, which was so powerful it melted microwaves and clocks! As a result, the kitchen has been out of action for six and a half months and only re-opened recently. The staff, pupils and parents pulled together to overcome the difficulties we faced and showed what an understanding and supportive school community we are lucky enough to have.



Thanks to ongoing pressure from our Governors there is now a Puffin crossing on the A597 to protect children accessing the school via the back path but also residents on their way to Church.

It was incredible this year how many visitors to the school commented on how well behaved, polite and engaged the children were which is so lovely to hear. Whilst on the subject of visitors, the children (and staff) have been entertained by the 'Open the Book' Bible stories shared and acted out with aplomb by members of the Church and as a school we thank them for their re-tellings delivered in such an engaging way.



It is to be hoped that 2026 is a great year for the school and that the children continue to really enjoy their learning and growing up at the school - hopefully with the families restricting any social media access to age-appropriate apps to

ensure they aren't forced to grow up too quickly! Finally, all the pupils, staff and Governors would like to wish all our community a very happy Christmas and an absolutely magical festive season and New Year. Please give all the children in your lives your time over this period to create lasting memories. Let us hope 2026 will be a memorable and excellent year for the Harrington & Salterbeck community.

David Warbrick, Head of Beckstone Primary School



Christmas in Sweden

A traditional Swedish Christmas can be magical. The festive season is long, like the cold, dark winter months, and is a time for candles and cosiness. The season stretches from the first Sunday in Advent until January 13th “tjugondedag Knut” (Canute). Traditionally, schools take their younger pupils to church to celebrate the onset of Advent with special advent songs.

Homes are decorated with a special candlestick with four candles. One is lit each Sunday in Advent so that by the last Sunday, all four cast their magical light and scent. In addition, electric, multibranched candelabra Nordic Candles, are placed in every window, sometimes with a lighted advent star lamp. Red poinsettia and even Christmas curtains, especially in the kitchen, are a stable feature of the season. Even the windows of office buildings are decorated with these candelabra and flowers, so the many dark hours are lit up and buildings seem to glow warm and welcoming, especially if there is snow to reflect and magnify glowing lights.

On the four Sundays of Advent people try to meet with family and friends for advent coffee and to light the respective candle. Gingerbread and saffron buns play a central role in these gatherings, and not only is coffee served but also *glögg*, Swedish mulled wine which is drunk with almonds and raisins, and *Julmust*, a very popular seasonal soft drink reminiscent of coca cola.

From December 1st “Christmas Calendar” is broadcast. This is a different adventure series every year, with children in the leading roles and a number of celebrity actors playing villains or parents. The Calendar culminates in a happy-ever-after denouement on Christmas Eve when Christmas is welcomed and celebrated and goodness has been restored. There is also a different radio version.



December 13th is Lucia. Although Saint Lucia was of Sicilian origin, she is possibly the best-known saint in Sweden. This day is traditionally celebrated by a beautiful and often moving Lucia procession. This is headed by a girl wearing a long white robe with a red sash and a crown of lighted candles. She is followed by her

maids, also dressed in long white robes but carrying a single candle, and by star boys who wear long white robes but with a sort of dunce's cap covered in stars. There are special songs for this particular day, including, of course, the famous

Italian song *Sancta Lucia*, associated with the legendary tenor, Enrico Caruso. There is a special saffron bun just for Lucia, a *Lussekatt*, with two raisins to represent the saint's gouged-out eyes.

Christmas in Sweden is celebrated on December 24th. There are church services in the morning, but it is at three o'clock that Christmas proper starts when everyone gathers around the television to watch Disney. This has always the same format and content, starting with *Santa's Workshop* and including parts of *The Jungle Book*, *Snow White* and *Cinderella*. After this, Santa visits in person (often unfortunately arriving when the family father has just popped out on some urgent business matter) wanting to know if there are any good children in the house.



Christmas food follows traditions too and is in the form of a buffet, called a *julbord*. This includes different sorts of herring, meatballs, sausages, spare ribs, a



special dried fish, Janson's rice pudding, cheeses, a special bread and stars the Christmas Ham.

Some people might attend a midnight service while others might go to the Christmas Day service, traditionally at seven in the morning. Christmas Day is otherwise a very low-key affair.

On January 13th the Christmas tree is 'plundered' and 'danced out'. Again, there are traditional songs and dances for this event. Accidents do occur when flat-dwellers throw their naked tree out of the window or off the balcony and unwittingly hit an incautious passer-by in the street below. But Christmas comes but once a year!

Pamela Vang

Meanwhile, at

Three o'clock on Christmas Day in the UK *Many people will stop everything at 3pm on Christmas Day to listen to His Majesty's annual address to the nation. But ever wonder what the King calls his Christmas Broadcast? Could it possibly be 'The One Show'?!*

Courtesy of the Parish Pump

Christmas and Epiphany at Harrington and Distington

You are very warmly invited to our Christmas services – I do hope you will find time to join us at least once during this season, because without Jesus there is no Christmas!

Christingle Services

The Christingle originated in the Moravian church in Germany and has been adopted by the Children's Society as a way of celebrating Christmas and raising money for their amazing work. Each child receives a Christingle, and the collection goes to the Children's Society.

Our Christingle services this year are at

Distington on Tuesday 2nd Dec at 6pm and at

Harrington on Christmas Eve at 3pm where we also be telling the Christmas story and dressing the crib.



Christmas Fair at Harrington

This year's Christmas Fair is on Saturday 6th December from Noon to 2pm in the church hall at St Mary's on the Hill, Harrington. There will be Christmas food on offer, including turkey baguettes, a raffle, a tombola and lots of other stalls where you might find the perfect Christmas Present!

Carol Services

Our carol service at Distington will follow the traditional pattern of nine lessons and carols and at Harrington we will be having a less formal Family Carol Service. The services will be on

Sunday 21st December at 3pm at Distington

Sunday 21st December at 6pm at Harrington



Nativity Service at Distington

Children are invited to come to the traditional **Nativity Service at Distington** dressed up as someone from the Christmas Story. (There will be some additional costumes at the church). We will explore the Christmas Story with Christmas Carols at **5pm on Christmas Eve**



Bethlehem Midnight Mass at Harrington

Our late Christmas Eve communion service at St Mary's Harrington will be at **9.30pm on Christmas Eve.**

The service is timed to coincide with midnight in Bethlehem, which is 10pm here in the UK.



Midnight Mass at Distington

If you prefer a midnight communion at a more traditional time, Midnight Mass at **Distington will be at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve**

Christmas Communion

Our Christmas Communion services will be at **9.15am at Distington** and **10.30am at Harrington on Christmas Morning.** A time to give thanks for the birthday of Jesus and to pray for the peace of the world.

Epiphany

Epiphany is the celebration of the visit of the magi to Bethlehem to bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It is important because it shows us that Jesus did not just come to be the saviour of God's people, the Jews, but of people of the whole world, represented by the gentile wise men.



Epiphany is on 6th January and this year we will be celebrating it on Sunday, 4th January at 10.30am at Harrington and on Sunday 11th January at our 9.15am service at Distington.

Rev Dom de Mattos, Rector

Nativity set

A man visiting his daughter and her family for Christmas was admiring the beautiful nativity set in her hallway. His young granddaughter came up to him, and he asked her if she knew what it was.

"Of course, Granda," she replied. "It's breakable."

Courtesy of Parish Pump

Dates for the Diary

Tues 2nd Dec – DCS Christingle service at **6pm** in **Distington Church**

Sat 6th Dec – **Christmas Fair** from 11.30am to 2pm in **Harrington Church Hall**

Tue 16th Dec – **Beckstone LKS2 Carol Service** at **2pm** in **Harrington Church**

Wed 17th Dec – **Distington school Carol Service** at **10.30am** in **Distington Church**

Wed 17th Dec – **Beckstone UKS2 Carol Service** at **2pm** in **Harrington Church**

Sun 21st Dec – Carol Service at **3pm** in **Distington Church**

Sun 21st Dec – Carol Service at **6pm** in **Harrington Church**

Christmas Services on 24th / 25th December will be on the Parish Christmas Cards

Family Services at St Mary's, Harrington

Come and join our St Mary's family services at 10.30am on the second Sunday of each month. The services are either a parade service in church with the Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, or they are more relaxed café style services in the church hall. There is something for everyone, and everyone is welcome.

The services for the next few months are as follows:

14th December – Scouts award service in the church

11th January - café service in the hall



Rev. Dom

Distington Rugby Club CASC

Looking for somewhere to hire for a party, or celebration of any sort?

Look no further than Distington Rugby Club, Grassroads Distington.

Ample parking, lovely setting, newly refurbished and lovely staff.

Great prices on drink too.

Contact Distington ARL & CASC on Facebook or call **01946 830124** if you would like to enquire about booking their function room for a celebration.

Footballer's carol

A football supporter's favourite Christmas song? 'Yule never walk alone'.

Courtesy of The Parish Pump

The Tuesday Gang at Harrington

The Tuesday Gang is an enthusiastic, friendly and hugely appreciated group of volunteers who maintain the open churchyard across the road from the church, as well as carrying out all sorts of maintenance work around the church and church hall, particularly over the winter months when excuses not to brave the weather are always welcome.

At 11.30am the gang stops for tea and cake, a well-earned rest and some great conversation.

Anybody out there wanting to help? Come and join our merry team - you would be more than welcome! The Tuesday gang meets from 9am to 12 noon every Tuesday (obviously!), and you can come for all or part of that time.



The Tuesday gang at work...

John Wilkins

Distington Library link

Opening hours

Monday: 10am to 2pm

Tuesday: 10am to 2pm

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 10am to 2pm

Friday: 10am to 2pm

Tel. 01946 506400



The Distington Mobile Service Post Office visits the Community Centre on Thursdays between 11am and 12:30pm and provides many Post Office services.

Keep it a surprise

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said very seriously, "Don't be silly Daddy. T-shirts don't rattle."

Courtesy of the Parish Pump

Thoughts of curate

After weeks of wearing a green chasuble, I was delighted to wear my red chasuble at long last, even if it is just for a few weeks. I am then looking forward to changing this for a purple one at the beginning of December, and finally changing to white for Christmas Day.

The liturgical year follows a pattern of celebration which is supported by changes in our altar frontals, veils over our elements, the dressing of our lecterns and sometimes the pulpit. Each colour brings a new message and has a distinct association with our faith year.



So what do the colours all represent, and when do we use them?

Red (alternating with Green) is used between All Saints and the first Sunday of advent and for services celebrating the Holy Spirit and Martyrs.

Purple is worn during advent. Advent is the start of our new church year. Advent is a time of preparation for us all, a time when we connect the birth of Jesus with his death and resurrection. Advent is a wonderful time of joy when we can give thanks for all our blessings. We use purple again in lent.

We wear white at Christmas; a time of great joy, a time of celebrating new life and new hopes, something we do again from Easter Day to Pentecost as we celebrate the risen Christ. We also use white at baptism and weddings both of which are sacraments of new beginnings.

The familiar green is worn in between, in what is called 'ordinary time'. Green, however, is as equally important as the other colours as it represents a time for new growth in us all.

As we get ready for Christmas, we therefore go on a journey with the colours of the liturgical year as our guide. We remember those who have been so dedicated to their faith that they have given their lives for it, we are reminded that we should give ourselves a time of preparation and reflection during advent, and that we can look forward with hope and joy to the future. As we move back into ordinary time - we should give ourselves space to grow in faith.

Rev Ruth.

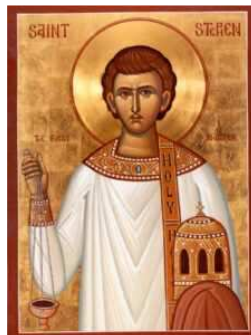
A Life Lesson

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

Duane Hulse.

The Feast of Saint Stephen – 26th December

Saint Stephen appears in the Book of Acts (chapters 6–7) as one of the first seven deacons appointed by the apostles. These early deacons were chosen to ensure fair distribution of food and charity, especially to widows, so that the apostles could focus on preaching and prayer. Stephen quickly distinguished himself not only by his practical service, but by his deep faith, wisdom, and powerful preaching. His bold proclamation of Christ in the synagogue led to accusations of blasphemy, and he was ultimately stoned to death – becoming the first Christian martyr. As he died, Stephen echoed the words of Jesus himself: “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” In that moment he embodies the fullness of Christian charity, forgiveness, and courage.



Having celebrated the birth of Jesus, believers are immediately invited to contemplate the cost of discipleship. The joy of the Nativity is set alongside the witness of those who gave their lives for the Gospel. Saint Stephen therefore becomes a bridge between celebration and commitment: a reminder that Christ entered the world not only to bring peace, but to lead His followers on a path of love that requires sacrifice.

Many traditions grew around St Stephen's Day, especially in Europe. In the Middle Ages, the day became associated with acts of charity. It was customary for the poor to go from house to house seeking alms, and for servants to receive gifts or time off. The carol *Good King Wenceslas* captures the heart of the feast: practical compassion offered in Christ's name.

In some countries, 26th December is known for the “boxing” tradition—placing gifts in boxes for the needy or for workers who served the community throughout the year. While its historical roots vary, the custom mirrors the generosity associated with Stephen's feast.

For us today, the Feast of Saint Stephen offers a renewed invitation. Having celebrated the astonishing gift of God's love on Christmas Day, we are called to let that love overflow in service, mercy, and forgiveness. Stephen's short but shining ministry reminds us that holiness is not measured in years, but in faithfulness; not in status, but in love.

As we pause on 26th December, may Saint Stephen inspire us to carry Christmas into the world—not just in words, but in the generosity of our actions and the courage of our witness.

Chatters

Cuppa and Chat Café at Distington

Everybody is welcome at our café on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm until 3.30pm at the Distington Community Centre on Church Road. There's free tea, coffee and cake, and it's a great chance to meet others in a relaxed, supportive atmosphere. We have a light-hearted quiz each week for the adults, and children are always welcome.



Rev Dom de Mattos

Toddler Praise on Thursdays at Harrington



Pre-school toddlers and their carers are invited to a time of songs, stories, prayers and play, not forgetting, of course, the all-important snacks, tea and chat! We meet at **10.30am** on **Thursday** mornings during term time in the church hall at **St Mary's on the Hill, Harrington** until about 11.30am. Coffee and tea available from 10.15am. **There is no charge**, although donations for refreshments are welcome.

Rev. Dom

Cook, Eat, Pray

It does what it says!

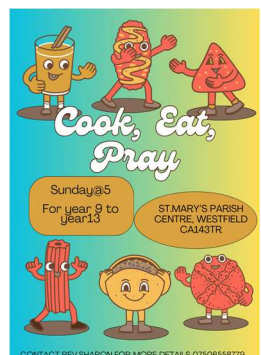
A fun-filled evening each Sunday at 5pm for school Year 9 to Year 13 children

Children cook together, eat together, pray together and play games together

St Mary's Parish Centre in Westfield CA14 3TR

For more details contact Rev Sharon

07606 558779



Distington Lunch Club

**Everyone is welcome
at lunch club!**

**Come and meet old
friends or make new.**

**Home cooked food at
reasonable prices.**



**The Community Centre,
Church Road, Distington**

No need to book – just arrive before 12 noon

Every second Friday of the month (except August)

ALL THE SMALL THINGS

Mental Health Support Group

09.30-10.30 at the Parish Centre, St. Mary's Westfield.

Contact Rev. Sharon 07506558779 or
rev.sharonmurphy@gmail.com to book a place.

Prebooked Creche available.

Nature Notes - Mistletoe

The Christmas pop songs may encourage kissing under the mistletoe, but there's a bit more to it than that.

Like many of our myths and legends, stories about mistletoe go back to the Norse times or even the pagan druids. One of my favourite stories was that of the Norse God, Balder the Beautiful. His mother, Frigga wanted him to live for ever and so she persuaded every living thing not to kill her son. Unfortunately, she forgot about the mistletoe. The evil god, Loki, found out her mistake, and shot Balder with an arrow made of mistletoe wood. According to one version of the myth, the gods were able to resurrect Balder from the dead. Frigga was so delighted that she declared mistletoe a symbol of love and vowed to plant a kiss on all those who passed beneath it. This led the Vikings, dating back to the eighth century, to believe that mistletoe had the power of resurrection



The Druids of the first century, saw it as a symbol of fertility and used it in some of their medications believing that mistletoe could perform miracles. The Druid priesthood held a very special ceremony five days after the new moon, following winter solstice. The Druid priests would cut mistletoe from a holy oak tree with a golden sickle. The branches had to be caught before they touched the ground. The priests then divided the branches into many sprigs and distributed them to the people, who hung them over doorways as protection against thunder, lightning and other evils.

Although mistletoe berries are not on the human menu, birds have no so such problem as the sticky white berries provide a food source for birds such as the mistle thrush, fieldfares and redwings. As the birds wipe their beaks on branches to rid themselves of excess stickiness, they spread the seed to a host plant. The mistletoe is a parasite and depends on the host trees to provide nourishment and develop its growth. Apple trees are a favourite host tree. In some parts of England and Wales farmers would give the Christmas bunch of mistletoe to the first cow that calved in the New Year, to bring good luck to the entire herd.

So if this Christmas you decide to hang up a bunch of mistletoe above your door, remember it was the Druids who started off the custom.

Sheila Richardson

Visiting and Home Communion

Would you, a friend or a neighbour appreciate a visit from the Rector or Curate, with or without receiving home communion? If so, please can I urge you to contact me on 07851 095264, or email rev.domdem@gmail.com? I really want to hear from you!

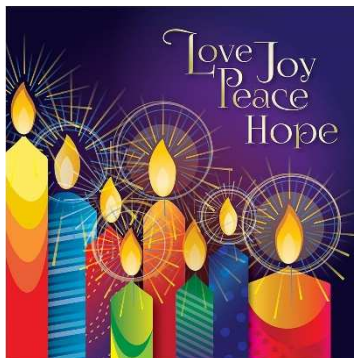
There are quite a few parishioners who, for one reason or another, are unable to come to church but are still very much a part of the church community, and I would love to meet them. However, you don't have to be a church member to request a visit, I am hoping to hear from anyone in Distington, Harrington or Salterbeck who would like to see the Rector or Curate over a nice cup of tea!

Rev Dom de Mattos



Christmas Day Communion

I will be distributing Christmas communion immediately after the 10.30am Christmas morning communion service (between 11.30am and 1pm). If you would like to receive communion on Christmas Day but are unable to get to church, please let me know (07851 095264) and I will bring it to you.



Rev Dom de Mattos

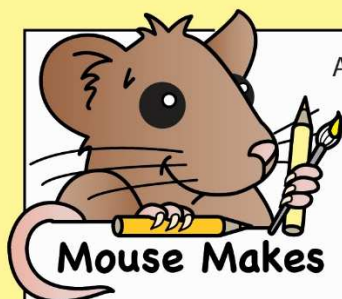
When children tell the Christmas story...

When the three wise guys from the East Side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.

When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

Courtesy of The Parish Pump



Mouse Makes

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snuggly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

.....
read Luke 2:7

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

.....
read Luke 2:1-6

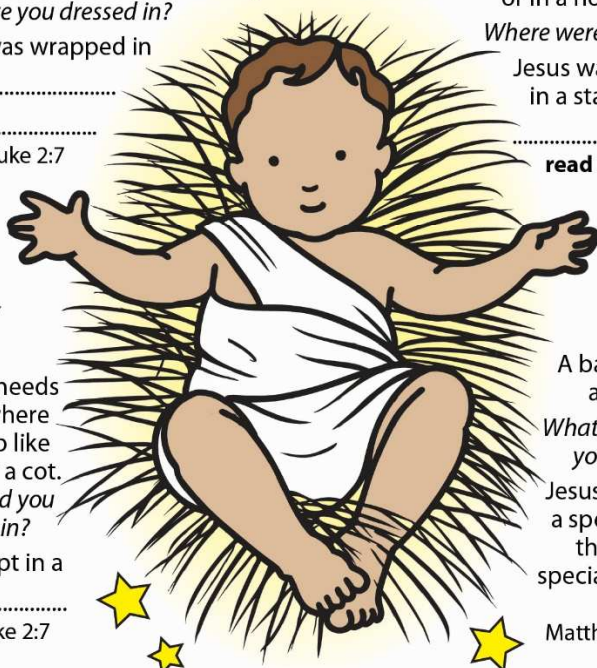
A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ★ NOLLAIG CHRÏDHEIL ★ NOLLAG SHONA

JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

WARM HUB BASED AT
DISTINGTON CLUB FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FREE TEA, WEDNESDAYS
COFFEE & FOOD 12-2PM

EVERYONE WELCOME



COME ALONG & MAKE NEW
FRIENDS OR MEET NEW FRIENDS

DISTINGTON SENIOR
CITIZENS REUNION
MONEY BINGO



MONDAYS - 8PM START
DISTINGTON COMMUNITY
CENTRE
ALL WELCOME

PIC-COLLAGE

DISTINGTON CAFE SERVICE



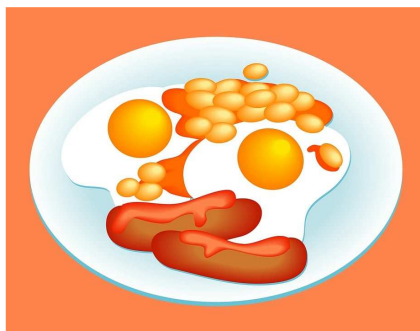
EVERYBODY is welcome!
7th December and 4th January
3pm in the Community Centre



Come and join us at the Lazy Sunday Breakfasts

Spread the word! Lazy Sunday breakfasts are back on the **FIRST Sunday** of the month from **10.00am to noon** in the **Distington Community Centre**. Come and enjoy a cooked breakfast, or if you prefer there will be cereals, or fruit and yogurt. Bring a friend and enjoy a lazy chat or sit and read

our newspapers in peace! **Eat what you like, pay what you can.** The breakfasts are open to everyone, and everyone is welcome. If you would like to volunteer to help cook or serve (free breakfast included of course!) please contact Rev Dom on 07851 095264 or email rev.domdem@gmail.com. Training is provided.



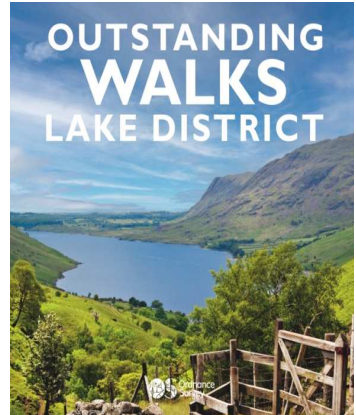
Book Review

New Ordnance Survey

Outstanding Lake District Walks.

RRP £25.00

Enjoy the fells and vales, the meres and tarns and waters, the woodlands, the waterfalls and the enormous breadth of natural history, heritage and cultural interest the Lake District has to offer. The most outstanding of these treasures are brought together in this carefully curated selection of 60 walks, 48 'don't miss' sites and 42 picture essay locations, in total including more than 300 very special features of interest for you to visit. There are 27 short walks (that can be completed within 3 hours); 18 half-day walks and 15 full-day hikes, including the ascent of England's highest mountains.

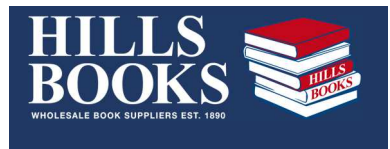


Ordnance Survey/Milestone Publishing 7th October, 2025, (328 pages)

Hill Books Ltd

Where to buy?

This book is available online and at the Hill Books showroom on the Clay Flats Estate. Their opening hours are Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm and Friday 8am-12.30pm. Direct Order Line 01900 603031 or 01900 602781.



Know what?

As we were putting out cookies for Father Christmas one Christmas Eve, I accidentally dropped one. I picked it up and dusted it off before placing it back on the plate. "You can't do that," argued my four-year-old. But I assured him that Father Christmas would never know. He shot me a dubious look. "So, he knows if I've been bad or good all year, but he doesn't know if you dropped his cookie on the floor?"

Courtesy of The Parish Pump



Can YOU be a Baby and Toddler Group Volunteer?

We are looking for new volunteers to help serve refreshments at the Baby and Toddler group on Monday mornings (from 10am to 11.30am). The hall is usually set up ready, and volunteers provide toast and juice for the children, together with tea and coffee to the parents or carers who are with them. Currently volunteers are on duty one week in three, but with extra volunteers we hope to reduce this to one week in four.

If you can help, or would just like to find out more without any commitment, please contact Rev. Dom de Mattos on 07851 095264 or email him on rev.domdem@gmail.com



Let's play

Four-year-old to her two-year-old sister: "Let's play Christmas. I'll be Father Christmas, and you can be the present I give away."

Courtesy of the Parish Pump

A Wonderful Year of Learning and Achievement at Distington Community School

It has been an exciting and inspiring year at Distington Community School, filled with achievements, new experiences, and unforgettable memories.

We began the year on a high note with a brilliant Ofsted inspection in January, where we were delighted to receive a **Good** outcome. This result is a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and teamwork shown by our pupils, staff, and wider school community.



Throughout the year, we have been fortunate to welcome a number of inspiring visitors who have enriched our learning. Author Helen Haraldsen, known affectionately as “the author in the wellies”, shared her passion for storytelling; poet Andy Tooze inspired our pupils to express themselves through poetry; and illustrator Sophie Martin encouraged creativity and imagination through art.

Our Key Stage 2 residential trip to Winmarleigh Hall was a highlight of the year. Pupils challenged themselves to step outside their comfort zones — climbing new heights, tackling obstacle courses, and developing vital teamwork skills. Their courage and determination were truly admirable.

We also enjoyed an energetic visit from the Football Fun Factory, whose skilled coaches led exciting workshops that promoted physical activity and fun for all. Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils took part in the Mini Police project, learning about citizenship and how to play an active, positive role in our village community.

Throughout the year, we have supported a number of important initiatives, including Children’s Mental Health Week and Anti-Bullying Week, helping pupils to understand kindness, respect, and wellbeing. Our school has also proudly raised funds for several charities, including Children in Need and the British Legion, showing once again how caring and compassionate our pupils are.

As the year draws to a close, we are excitedly counting down to the Christmas festivities. There’s lots to look forward to — our traditional Christmas Dinner Day with festive jumpers, the EYFS and KS1 Christmas performance, and of course our annual Christmas Fayre.

It has been a truly memorable year for everyone at Distington Community School, and we look forward to another year of learning, laughter, and success in 2026.

The Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas – 28th January

Saint Thomas Aquinas is remembered as one of the greatest thinkers in Christian history. Yet behind his towering intellect was a man whose deepest desire was simply to know and love God. His life offers the Church not only philosophical brilliance but also a model of humility, devotion, and trust in divine truth.

Born in 1225 into a noble family near Aquino in Italy, Thomas was destined—at least in the eyes of his family—for a life of influence and prestige. Instead, he felt drawn to the newly established Dominican Order, whose mission of preaching and teaching matched his own spiritual calling. His family, however, strongly opposed this decision, confining him at home for over a year, hoping he would abandon his plans. Thomas used the time for study and prayer. When he eventually joined the Dominicans, he did so with characteristic calm and quiet determination.

Aquinas's writings—most famously the *Summa Theologiae*—sought to explain the Christian faith clearly and logically, showing how reason and revelation work together rather than in opposition. He believed that truth is one, because God is the source of all truth, whether discovered through faith or through careful thinking. For this reason, he engaged deeply with the philosophy of Aristotle, integrating ancient thought with Christian doctrine in a way that still shapes theology today.

Yet Thomas's greatness was not limited to intellectual achievement. Those who knew him spoke of his gentleness, prayerfulness, and purity of heart. Toward the end of his life, after a profound mystical experience while celebrating Mass, he set aside his writing altogether, saying, "All that I have written seems like straw compared with what has now been revealed to me." Even the finest human reasoning, he realised, is only a faint reflection of the glory of God.

Saint Thomas Aquinas invites us to love God with our minds as well as our hearts, to ask questions boldly, and to trust that faith and reason lead, together, toward the same divine truth. His legacy is not merely academic—it is a beacon for all who seek to understand and live the wisdom of God.



Chatters

Recipe for January

Janson's Temptation

This dish is an integral part of the Christmas Buffet but is popular classic all year round. Why not try it for the New Year?

Ingredients

2 large onions
700 g floury potatoes (King Edward for example)
250g anchovies
300 – 400 ml cream
Salt, pepper
3 tablespoons of breadcrumbs
Butter

Method

Half and slice the onions and fry them in butter at a low temperature until they are golden in colour.



Peel the potatoes and slice them thinly (You can use a mandolin, a food processor or do this by hand.)

Whip the cream and juice from the anchovies together with a pinch of salt and pepper.

Butter an oven-proof dish and put the potatoes, onions and anchovies in layers into it. There should be a layer of potatoes at the top and at the bottom. Add the cream and anchovy juice mixture but do not cover the potatoes. If you add too much it will bubble over.

Sprinkle with breadcrumbs and spread some pieces of butter over them. Bake in the lower part of the oven at about 225°C for about one hour. Cover with aluminium foil if it starts to become too brown.

Enjoy!

Pamela Vang

Don't eat

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinselitus.

Courtesy of the Parish Pump

What to look for in winter

Do you remember the Ladybird books on what to look for in the different seasons? In my childhood, I believed that one season miraculously turned into another without any sense of progression or sense of the process of change, and yet as we see the leaves fall, we can see the new buds forming. God's creation is an eternal process of harvest and renewal. One of the things I have noticed in particular is the forming of the hazel catkins. As the leaves of the hazel fall away, exposing the hazel nuts, the presence of the male catkins becomes more apparent. They won't be fully ripe and pollinated until spring but here they are as a reminder of what is to come.



Rev. Ruth

TRIPLE TTT

triplettt.co.uk

Garden Maintenance

Grass cutting, hedge trimming, gutter cleaning, pressure washing, tree pruning, window cleaning, patio laying and more!

Airport & Local Runs
Prebooking Available

Taxi Service

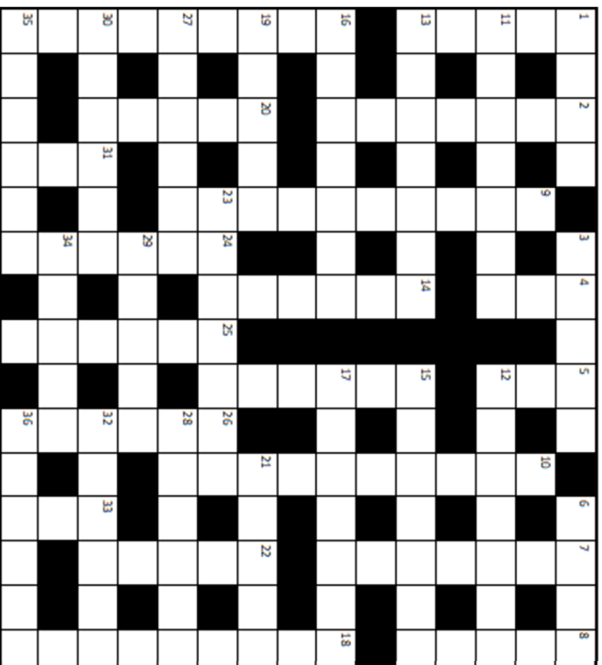
Unit 1, Preedy Road, Clay Flatts, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 2TS
01900 810008 enquiries@triplettt.co.uk 07934 770 328

Triple TTT, a local business offers a range of services in your area, including:

- Window cleaning
- Grass cutting and hedge trimming
- Pressure washing and garden renovation
- Taxi and minibus transport services

We're proud to serve our local community with reliable, friendly, and affordable work.

Coffee Time Teaser



Coffee Time Teaser

Across

1. The original Christmas mother (4)
3. Container with slatted sides (5)
6. See 18.
11. Housed especially a horse (7)
12. Groups of eight notes (7)
13. Those wishing to woo (7)
15. Cancelled (7)
16. Put forward (7)
17. Like a heavenly being (7)
19. An original Christmas gift (5)
21. Bible unit of measurement (5)
23. Etch (6)
27. Number (6)
28. Needles (5)
29. Increase breadth (5)
30. Annoy (6)
32. Incapacitated (6)
34. Begin (5)
35. Not yet manifest (6)
36. Returns e.g. from crops (6)

Down

1. Foundling raised by a princess (5)
2. Taking information from a page (7)
4. Crimson (3)
5. Brace (3)
7. Resuscitation (7)
8. Made less tight (5)
9. In total (10)
10. Reinforce (10)
14. Positioning (6)
15. Group of lines in verse (6)
16. Game in penultimate round (9)
18. Seasonal conifer (9,4)
20. Ne'er-do-well (5)
22. Native Kiwi (5)
24. Most recent (6)
25. Spreading out from the centre (6)
26. Narcissism or hubris (6)
31. Owed (3)
33. Charge (3)

9			6					
2	7			8				6
	8	6		4	3	1	9	2
	9			1	6	5		
		5				2		
		3	4	5			7	
7	5	9	1	6		4	8	
3				7			2	5
					5			9

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

	5					3	7	
			2	7	6			
7					1			
2		3		1				
		7				6		
				3		4		5
			1					9
			5	9	4			
	6	2					1	

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Harder

N	A	V	E		S	W	A	R	M		P	A	S	S
S		A		P		A		O		P		G		P
P	I	L	L	A	R	S		B	R	O	C	O	L	I
C		I		R						S		N		R
C	H	A	N	C	E	L		E	N	T	W	I	N	E
		N		H		A		X		M		S		
A	T	T	E	M	P	T		P	R	O	C	E	S	S
D				E				E		D				A
H	E	R	O	N		N		L		E	L	F	I	N
E			O		T	R	O	U	S	E	R		A	C
S	P	A	R	S	E		N		U	N	J	U	S	T
I		R				T	O	W	E	R			N	U
V	E	S	T	R	Y		R		E	R	R	A	T	A
E				O		P	L	A	N	K				R
S	O	U	R	C	E		P		A	U	M	B	R	Y

Answers to last issue's crossword

Easier

Distington Surgery

Dispensary Home Delivery Service

If you would like to have your medication delivered to your home. please call the dispensary to discuss delivery dates and times.

Dispensary line: 01946 833155

ANIMAL CONCERN CUMBRIA

Rehoming companion animals from our centre in Egremont, West Cumbria

Ways to support animals in need:

Adopt – Leave a legacy – Donate - Volunteer – Fundraise.
Join our lottery - shop with Amazon smile!

Have you space for a barn cat?

Ways the charity can help you.

Rehoming – guidance and support
TNR Ferals – Peppa's pot
supporting food banks

www.animalconcerncumbria.org 07712 330829

AB AAT Licensed Accountant
Angela Black is licensed and regulated by AAT under license no. 1008505

ANGELA BLACK NAAT
AB Accountancy Solutions
Accounting, bookkeeping and payroll services.
Tel: 07879 414927
angela@abaccountancysolutions.co.uk

**JAMES A MURRAY
CARPENTRY AND JOINERY**

(Time served tradesman)
loft ladders – garden sheds
fencing – traditional floorboards
doors and architraves
Tel: 01900 829791/07394915010
**3 Lawson Garth, Brigham,
Cockermouth CA13 0SX**

LESLIE CLEELAND
**See our large range of beds,
suites, carpets,
occasional furniture and
bedroom furniture**

**61-65 Main Street
Cockermouth CA13 9JS
Tel: 01900 823005**

**JOHN SANDELANDS
Funeral Directors Ltd**

Tel: 01900 602753

**Rest Chapels at:
Main Road, Seaton
South William Street,
Workington
Bridge Street, Cockermouth**

**Brockbank Curwen Cain and
Hall**

Solicitors and Notaries

44 Duke Street, Whitehaven
CA28 7NR

Tel: 01946 692195

**Also at Cockermouth, Maryport,
Workington and Keswick**

- **Home Information Packs**
 - **Residential and Commercial Conveyancing**
 - **Wills and Probate**
 - **Court or Protection**
 - **Personal Injury**
 - **Matrimonial**
 - **Crime**
 - **Employment**
- www.brocklands.co.uk**

**DISTINGTON
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The centre runs training events and other community-based activities including public meetings

The Mable Knowles room is a committee room available for small meetings – capacity 25.

The main hall is available for events, activities and private parties etc – capacity 100.

Full new kitchen available

**For further details
Tel: 01946 834297**

E. LAMB AND SON
Est. 1944

Spares / Appliances
Solid Fuels Bottled Gas
Tel: 01946 830353

Lynda Elliot
Hairdresser



Tel: 01946 830504
Mobile: 07798 648233

YEOWART, GILL AND
RUDD

Chapel of Rest, Low
Monkwear
Prop: John, David & Margaret
Yeowart

The Family funeral service
People committed to a dignified
service at the lowest cost
GOLDEN CHARTER
Pre-paid Funeral Plan
Details available on request
Tel: 01946 693819/692939

(24 hours)

Beware of recommendations that
could be costly!!

TOM EDGAR
Funeral Services

Caxton House, 13 Brow Top
Workington, CA14 2DP
Private Chapels of Rest
Tel: 01900 603388

Email:
tom.edgar1@btconnect.com

24 HOUR SERVICE



CC Plumbing

No job too small
All plumbing work undertaken
Call Carl on **07916 292 946**
Email: ccraggs1@gmail.com

If you would like to
advertise your
business here
Please contact
Barbara Lamb on
Balamb912@outlook.com

Benefice Contacts

Rev. Dom de Mattos (Rector of Harrington and Distington)

Landline 01946 830215 Mobile 07851 095264 rev.domdem@gmail.com

Please contact the Rector for information about christenings, weddings or funerals, and if you would like a pastoral visit for yourself, a friend or a relative.

Curate at Harrington and Distington

Rev. Dr Ruth Illman - email rev.drruthillman@gmail.com

Churchwardens at Harrington

Charles Murray - 07510 398369

Graham Mudie - 07800 626892

Churchwardens at Distington

Julia Hoggarth - 07747 581390

Helen Finn - 07786 016670

Please contact the churchwardens if you have any questions about the services or events at the churches, or if the Rector is unavailable.

Safeguarding

We take the safety of all at our church very seriously. If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of anyone at church, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer Mrs Alisha Kilgour on 07545 499094 or at psa@harringtonanddistington.org

Harrington Church Hall

To make a booking please contact James Mossop at churchhall@harringtonanddistington.org

Distington Community Centre

The Distington Community Centre is run by the Distington Community Centre Association rather than the church. To book please contact Alexander Tomlinson on 07907 462644 / dcomc@yahoo.co.uk

Magazine Editor

Submissions for the February/March 2026 edition of the Magazine should be sent to the Editor at editor.handd@gmail.com by the copy date of Monday 12th January 2026.

Myers & Bowman



Celebrating over 100 years in business 1919-2025.



Lillyhall,
Distington,
Workington,
Cumbria
CA14 4PE

01946 832282
toyota.co.uk/dealers/myersbowman