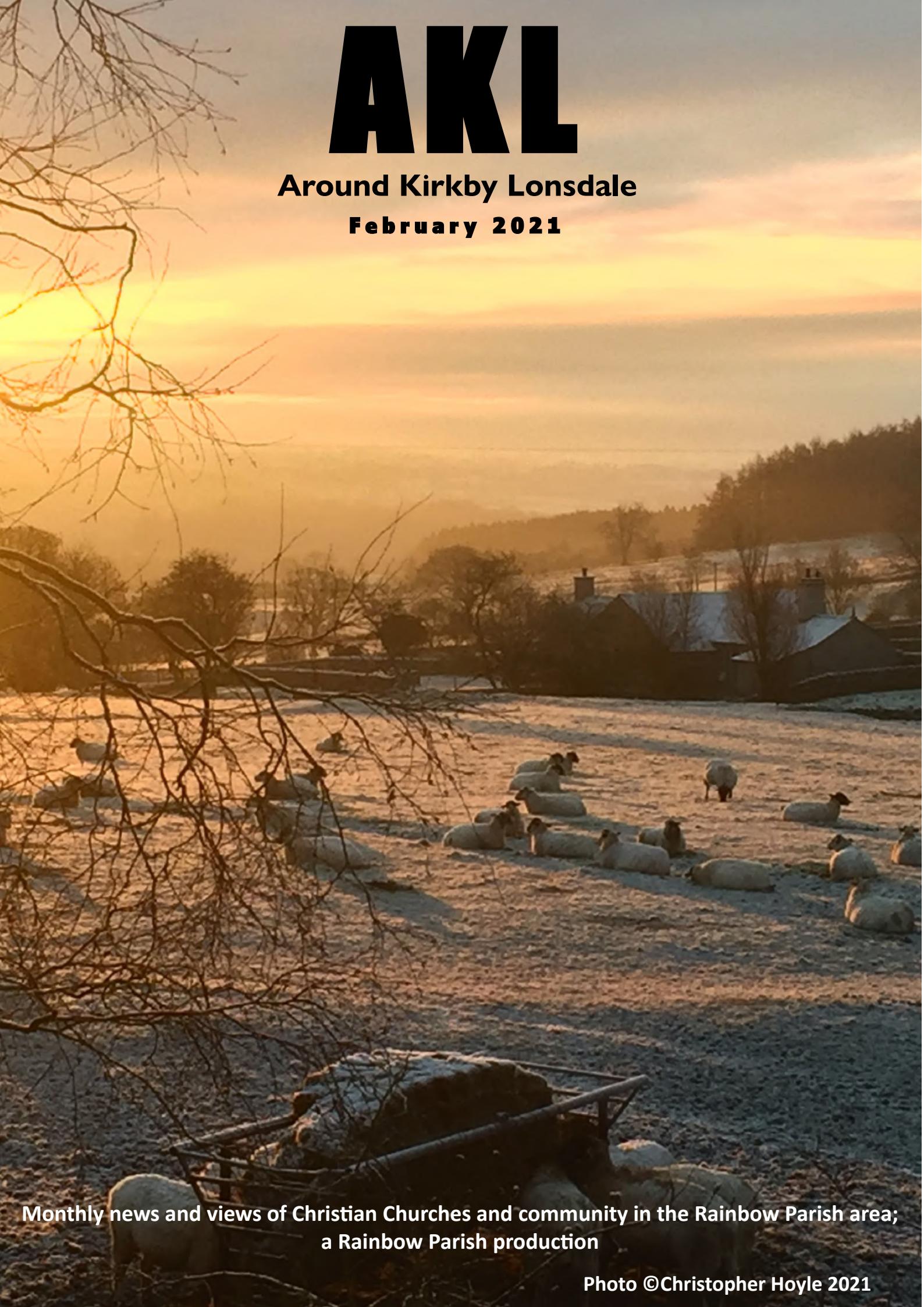


AKL

Around Kirkby Lonsdale

February 2021



**Monthly news and views of Christian Churches and community in the Rainbow Parish area;
a Rainbow Parish production**

Photo ©Christopher Hoyle 2021

All You Need is Love

This is the first opportunity in 2021 to wish everyone a 'Happy New Year' in AKL, although the turn of the year seems a distant memory. This year, Lent begins on Wednesday 17th February, (preceded by Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday, of course). But a few days earlier, on 14th February, there is the feast-day of St Valentine, which is a festival with a rather confusing history.



It seems that there were at least two separate people who were both called Valentine. One was a bishop, who was martyred in the year 273, the other was a priest who was also martyred in the middle of the third century. It is likely that the two deaths became one commemoration due to confusion, misunderstanding and a lack of historical information. The common element was that that both deaths were a reminder of the difficulty of being a follower of Jesus during a time of persecution.

The lack of historical information is probably the reason why there are many legends surrounding Saint Valentine: One is that he performed Christian weddings for couples, allowing the husbands to escape conscription into the army. In order "to remind these men of their vows and God's love, Valentine ... cut hearts from parchment". This may be the origin of the widespread use of hearts on St. Valentine's Day.

The first reference to Valentine's Day as a celebration of romantic love goes back to Chaucer in the fourteenth century. The custom of sending cards and flowers declaring love may owe its existence to John Donne who wrote a marriage song for Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of James I when she married on St Valentine's Day in 1631. Valentine cards are known from the eighteenth century, but it was the coming of the penny post and the industrialisation of card production in the Victorian period that enabled the commercialisation of Valentine's Day really took off.

The modern phenomenon of Valentine's Day is very much a product of the consumer society of the post-war period. It would be easy to dismiss it because of the commercialisation but look at it as an opportunity to focus on, and celebrate, love (rather like Mothering

Sunday, which is an opportunity to celebrate the qualities of kindness, compassion and sacrificial love).

A few years ago, at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Bishop Michael Curry had the opportunity to preach not only to the assembled congregation but to a huge global audience. He chose to focus on the transforming power of love, and he reminded the world of the mystery, and the power, and the enormity of what lies behind that little word. There are many things that help individuals and communities flourish (COVID-19 vaccines are certainly going to be very important), but love is essential. The way that love has been demonstrated, given and received, in so many practical ways over the last year is well worth celebrating and perhaps we need to add that to 14th February.

Pope Francis once spoke of his belief that 'everything is connected by love'. Our whole purpose is to love and to be loved - that is all that matters. All the rest flows from this mighty act of loving.

There was a true story in one of the papers a few years ago about an infant teacher taking a class of 6-year-olds for a design technology lesson. The task was to make puppets out of papier mâché. The teacher's guidance notes stressed that when the children had completed the task, they should be encouraged to consider ways that their puppet might be improved. So, when Sam brought his puppet up for inspection, the teacher looked at it and then suggested that he might like to go away and think of ways of improving it. When Sam brought his puppet back a while later, apparently unaltered, the teacher asked him what he had done to improve it. 'I gave it a cuddle,' Sam replied.

Rev'd Richard Snow



Pic by Jeanette Lawrence

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View from the Bridge

Not surprisingly we greeted 2021 with the country in lockdown, but it is not all doom and gloom. Our local surgery has supplies of the vaccine and is working to get the upper age group and more vulnerable vaccinated. Thanks to the organisers, the town looked a treat decked with Christmas trees and the shops entering the spirit with their festive window displays. Having just returned from 18 days in hospital, not only did I get a chauffeured tour of the town centre thanks to Robin, but also to see the many Advent themed windows.

Before I close the door on 2020 thanks to the Community Cupboard for my Christmas hamper a lovely surprise and the real treat was the fruit cake. We owe the volunteers of both the Community Hub and Cupboard a lot for what they are doing in looking after the many residents with different needs from collecting prescriptions to a hot meal once a week.

After numerous delays, the Dodgson Croft pedestrian crossing has been completed. Thanks to the County Council, Christopher Robin's Trust and your Town Council for the funding of this much-needed safer missing link between the schools and the town centre.

The Town Council's meeting on the 13th January was again held on Zoom: my first as chair since October. January is always an important month as the precept is set for the coming financial year. I am pleased to report that there will be no increase in the KLTc element this year, we just have to wait on SLDC and CCC if they intend to raise the tax or not. The minutes of our meeting will be available online and on the Lunesdale Hall notice board and, if it has reopened, in the Library. The next council meeting will again be on Zoom on February 10th at 1900 hr. If you would like to join please contact The Rev. Kevin Price, Town Clerk, at kevtherev7@hotmail.com a few days prior and a link will be sent to enable you to log in.

2021 will get better but it will take time and social distancing must become second nature like washing our hands. We do rely on tourist and visitors to help the town's economy but we must all be vigilant in helping to keep any risk to a minimum. Remember, Hands, Face Space.

My thanks to all who have helped me over the past few months and Diane for her help and the production of an excellent AKL every month.

Stay safe and best wishes.

Cllr. Geoffrey Buswell

Plastic Free 2021

Since 1950 the world has created over 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste, of which 91% has never been recycled. When Covid struck the demand for plastic increased – from face shields, takeaway food packaging, gloves and plastic bubble wrap for online delivery. This in turn has increased the price in new plastic which is now half the price of recycled plastic. Our recycled plastic waste is now not affordable and therefore is no longer being purchased by corporate companies – even drinks bottles made of recycled plastic have become less viable as the recycled plastic to make them is 83% to 93% more expensive than new bottle-grade plastic, according to market analysts at the Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (ICIS).

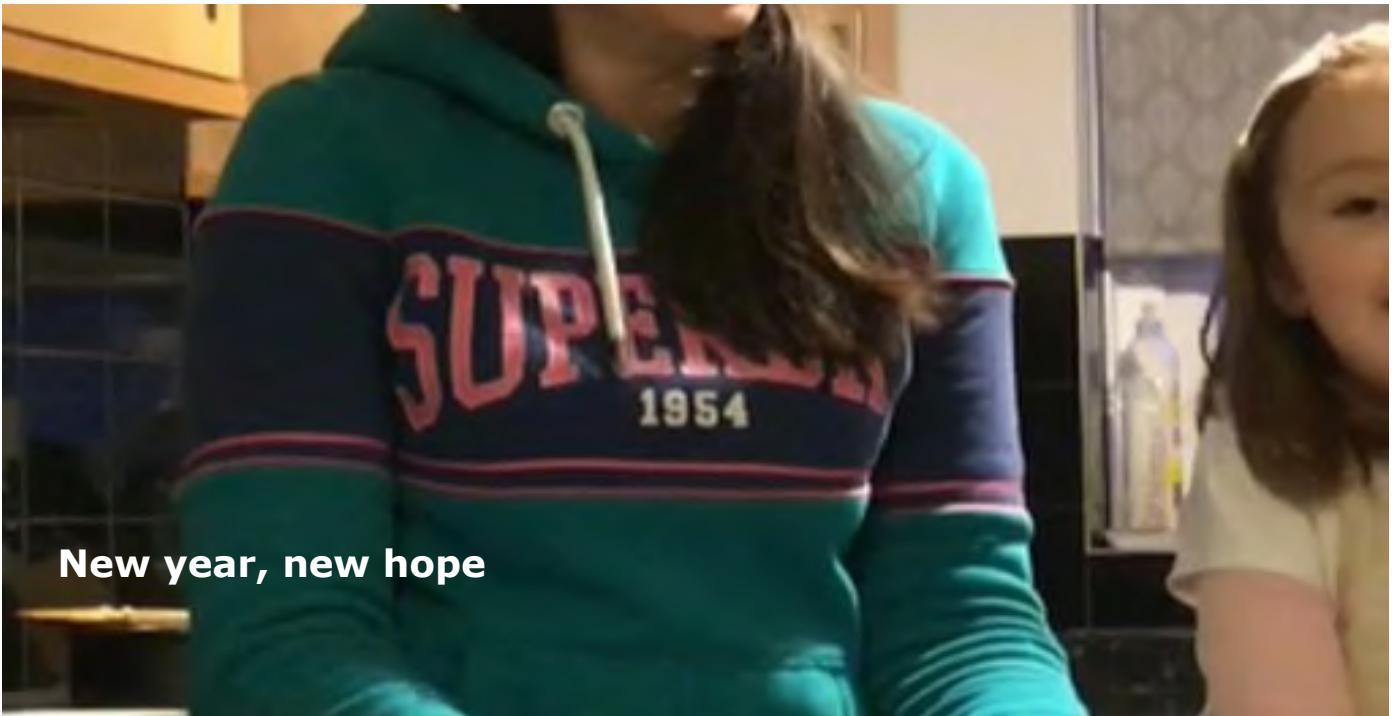
There is no better time to go plastic free than now. Our planet cannot cope with the amount of waste we are generating and therefore, as consumers, we must make a change. Whether they be small changes or large changes, if we each individually agree to purchase plastic free then collectively we make a huge difference.

How? I hear you ask. There are many plastic-free alternatives to our everyday necessities. Change your plastic wrap (clingfilm) to wax wraps, vegan wraps or cloth bowl covers. Next time you need a new toothbrush, swap it for a bamboo one. Why not use a loofah instead of a dish brush or body scrub? How about refilling all those plastic cleaning bottles with environmentally friendly alternatives? Deodorant can now be sourced in plastic-free containers – kinder to the skin and kinder to the environment. Get rid of those plastic makeup wipes and swap them for washable cloths or cotton pads. Shop plastic free – choose a refillable option where you can. The list is endless and the options are never ending. Not only will you help save the environment but you will also save money in the long term.

This is our town, our country, our planet - it is up to each and every one of us to start making a difference to the waste we are generating. There are so many alternative options available and over the coming months I would like to help you on your quest to be plastic free in 2021. Each month we will look at the alternatives on offer and ways we can collectively make a difference. So come on people, who's with me? Let's make 2021 Plastic Free!

Kim Bradshaw - The Zero Pantry,

Kirkby Lonsdale & Sedbergh



New year, new hope

2020 was a year many of us could not have predicted. Life as we knew it altered. The Family Project adapted and went online with several of its projects such as St. Patrick's Youth Group and Kirkby Lonsdale Messy Church. Some projects such as Drop-in at St.Mary's School have been paused but not forgotten.

2021 is a year in which projects that have continued online will remain online for a while but with the view of going back to being in person as soon as possible . Projects that have been paused we are hopeful will restart as soon as it is safe to do so. It is a year where we are delighted to say that new projects, such as Muddy Church will be launched. However, this year we are particularly keen to hear how life has altered for everyone and what you have discovered or are perhaps seeking now after the year of uncertainty and change. Please be in touch if you have thoughts to share about how life is for you and those you love. Those of us involved in the Family Project are keen to hear from people in our communities and your insight may help us direct our energy in the right direction in 2021.

The Family Project has been enjoying catching up with some of our community after the Christmas break.

St. Patrick's Youth Group has restarted, with a core group of young people who join us online every Tuesday 7-8pm to play games, do different activities and have a catch-up about how each other's weeks have been. Since moving online we have had new people join us but we would love for some more young people to join too! If you are Years 5-Years 8 you are very welcome to come along and try out Youth Group for a week.

Email: lol@cifamilyproject.org for more information. It is a fun easy-going group who attend and they would make anyone most welcome!

Messy Church has also restarted with a Messy Church on Sunday 24th at 2pm on our Kirkby Lonsdale Messy

Church Facebook Page. We watched and listened to a retelling of Noah's Ark, with great animation and storytelling that helped us imagine the dilemma God must have been in when He flooded the whole earth. God's care for the environment and wildlife also shone through this depiction. Next, we had two of our Messy Church family leading us in a great activity of making bird cakes! It was really good to start the New Year thinking about how we can continue to care and be a steward for the wonderful wildlife that has become an increasing focal point for many of us during lockdown. We hope you will join us for our next online Messy Church on March 21st.

I know that for many people January can feel like a bit of a low point after the Christmas decorations have come down and the daylight hours are still shorter. To try and combat this the Family Project produced a January Calendar where each day a question would be posed for people to chat about. Throughout the days different people across our communities have joined in the conversation. Thanks to everyone who has responded and potentially shone a bit of light into the darkness for many a reader.

Personally, I am hopeful that 2021 will bring a bit more steadiness and rhythm to life after a year where that felt lost. I am hopeful that by the end of the year all thoughts of tier systems will have left my brain. I am excited to spend even more time outside walking after having enjoyed the local daily walks I discovered during the lockdowns. Something about the cycle of nature provided a sense of security and God's peace for me which is something I am so grateful to have had reaffirmed last year and look forward to embracing more this year. I am looking forward to summer days with friends and family. I am excited about seeing how projects begin and develop. 2021 feels full of possibility and hope.

Lol

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The Church in and around Kirkby Lonsdale

Eleven churches comprising Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic congregations, committed to growing as disciples and serving our communities together.

Church Closures

The Anglican and Methodist churches have made the decision to suspend collective worship in church for the time being. They have also closed the churches for private prayer. St Joseph's Church continues with collective worship but see their website (below) for up to date information.

We continue to provide a pre-recorded service on our Youtube channel kl.church – there is a link from our kl.church website. We are also pleased to connect with those who have joined us for worship from different places.

We have now introduced a way to listen to the Sunday morning service by dial up. Simply ring the local number 01524 952004 and listen to the whole service. This is at the cost of a local telephone call (free on many phone plans). The new service will be loaded sometime on Saturday evening and be available on Sunday morning. Multiple people can dial in at the same time. It will be available all week until replaced the following Saturday evening. Please let us know what you think of this.

You can sign up to our weekly church newsletter covering all the churches from either the Rainbow or the Methodist Church websites. If you wish to have a copy of the newsletter posted to you please contact Merlin Hibbs (015242 76410) and we will add you to the list.

Websites

kl.church – <https://kl.church>

Rainbow Parish – <https://therainbowparish.org>

Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church – <https://klmethodist.church>

St Joseph's Church - <https://www.lunevalleycatholics.org.uk>

St Mary's Church Clock

You may have noticed that the clock in St Mary's church has now been stopped for a while. Unfortunately, we have discovered some structural concerns with the tower floors which means that we are having to temporarily remove the church clock. This work should be happening shortly. It also means that we are unable to ring the bells for the time being.

Postage Stamps

Your response to our request for postage stamps is being supported wonderfully well. On behalf of the Air Ambulance, Thanks you so much!

From the Registry

Funerals

Tim Russell, aged 83 Years, St. Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, 19th August 2020

Dennis Lockwood, St. Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, 7th September, 2020

Joan Wynne, aged 97 years, Holy Trinity Church, Casterton, 29th September, 2020

Ted Mason, aged 82 years, Beetham Crematorium, 1st October, 2020

Betty Woolley, aged 91 years, Beetham Crematorium, 13th October, 2020

John Kelly, aged 20 years, St. Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, 14th October, 2020

Helier Hibbs, aged 88 years, St. Bartholomew's Church, Barbon, 15th October, 2020

Winifred Balcombe, aged 82 years, Beetham Crematorium, 5th November, 2020

Connie Mason, aged 97, Holy Ghost Church, Middleton, 7th November, 2020

Mildred Breakwell, aged 89 years, Beetham Crematorium, 9th November, 2020

Keith Hartley, aged 80 years, St. Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, 12th November, 2020

Wedding

Dean Williams and Sophie Beesley, St. Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, 3rd November, 2020

In Memoriam

Kathleen Kendrick (nee Hutchinson)
On November 7th, 2020

Kathleen, wife of the late Jim Kendrick and daughter of the late Ruth Hutchinson of 34 Main Street, Kirkby Lonsdale. Sister of Muriel and a much loved Aunt of Paul and family. Died at her Home in Batley, West Yorkshire.

We continue the collection throughout the year with the valued support of Shirley at the library.

Alan Day 71715

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Walking Kirkby Lonsdale's first Golf Course (1906-1938)

If you had lived in Kirkby Lonsdale 100 years ago, you wouldn't have headed to Casterton or Barbon for a game of golf... Kirkby Lonsdale's golf course would have been right on your doorstep.

To go in search of it, turn left out of the Tourist Information Centre and walk to the end of Main Street. Cross carefully over the A65 and continue onto Robraine/the Whittington Road (B6254). As you head towards the end of the row of houses on the left of Robraine, keep your eyes open for several steps and a kissing gate into a field on the righthand side – this was the entrance to the old golf course, as shown on the map below. Follow the footpath



Photo credit: Robin Ree

through the fields to link up with the Biggins walk that I wrote about in November's AKL.

Woodend Farm was next to the 5th Green, with Low Biggins above and Whittington Road below the course. There were walkways through the wood from the 4th Green to the 5th Tee and from the 9th Green to the Clubhouse. The terrain was similar to Casterton Golf Course with typical limestone rocky outcrops and occasional hawthorn and ash trees.

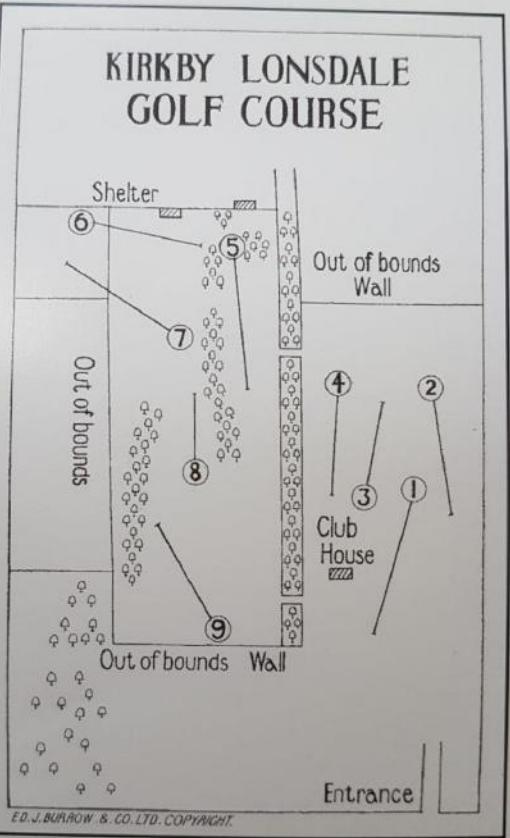
The club had been founded in October 1906, and two years later the Clubhouse was opened. A short walk down the slope from the Clubhouse was the first tee, which was the site of "The Shotgun Start": so that the players knew when to tee off, a small brass cannon from the First World War would be loaded with shot and gunpowder. When all golfers had reached their allotted tees, it was discharged out into the Lune Valley with the sound reverberating for miles!

By 1938, the Club was well established with lots of enthusiastic members, but it seems that the relationship with the family at Woodend Farm was

becoming increasingly strained. The lease agreement was abruptly terminated, and it was time to move on...

A new course was constructed by the River Lune on land owned by the Pease family. It stretched between Holme House Farm and Kiln Bank: the stretch of land between the next field south of Stanley Bridge and where the aqueduct is now – but that's a story for next month!

I have extracted this information from a much longer piece in *Kirkby Lonsdale Golf Club 1906-2006 The Centenary Book*, edited by Jon Parsons, by kind permission of David Towers. If you would like to find out more about the history of the club, please do head down to Barbon after lockdown and pick up a copy free of charge.



DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE.

The Kirkby Lonsdale Golf Club was founded in 1906, a 9-hole course being laid out on the high ground overlooking the valley of the Lune. It is entered from Whittington Road near the Devil's Bridge.

Although the long-hitter may not find the fullest scope for his prowess, the holes offer a variety of play and good sport for even the expert exponent of the royal and ancient game. In all directions the course provides scenery amongst the finest in the north of England.

The course abounds in natural bunkers which exact extreme penalties from the wayward player. The first hole leads through a shallow valley into the open (270 yards); the second green (160 yards) is situated on an embankment with a drop of several feet immediately on the right and high and rocky ground on the left. The third calls for a straight drive (160 yards) down a slope studded with rocks. Green No. 4 is an open uphill approach with rocks on the right of the fairway and a wood on the left. Passing through the wood the fifth tee with its dog-leg hole and its fairway bounded on the right by a wood and on the left by rocks, again asks for good direction.

The sixth hole (200 yards) requires a straight lofted drive and exact approach, whilst the seventh (250 yards), with obstructions of wall and rocks, is the delight of the long hitter. No. 8 is a short accurate mashie shot and the climax of the course is reached at the ninth—a charming hole both from the aspect of landscape and golf.

The Links are 1½ miles from Kirkby Lonsdale Station, 4½ miles from Arkholme, and ¾-mile from the Market Square, where ample car-parking facilities are available free of cost and where buses arrive constantly from Ingleton, Sedbergh, Lancaster, Carnforth and Kendal. Free parking facilities are also provided at the Devil's Bridge, but the accommodation there is limited.

Sunday play is allowed.

Competitions are arranged at holiday times, and home and away matches with local teams are a feature of each summer season.

KL Community Hub

If you're unable to leave your house, or don't feel comfortable about going out at the moment, please give us a call – and we will find a friendly local volunteer to help with shopping, picking up your prescription, or just having a chat with over the phone. We're here to help.

Kirkby Lonsdale
Community Hub
015242 36404

Mon - Fri
10:00 - 13:00



For information and practical help while self-isolating, ring **015242 36404** Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm (answering machine at other times)

The Community Hub has been a real lifeline to me over the past few months – I don't know what I'd have done without them. (local resident)

It's a great thing to do and good to feel useful! I've met some lovely people, both residents and other volunteers. A very positive experience! (local volunteer)

Be part of the team!

Want to learn more about volunteering with The Hub? Whether you've got an hour a month, a week or a day, we'd love to hear from you. Call The Hub on 015242 36404 to discuss joining our friendly team!



KL Community Cupboard

No hibernation for The Cupboard this winter!
Take a look at what's been happening...



Hampers delivered by the Community Cupboard

In the run up to Christmas our wonderful, generous community donated some amazing Christmas gifts, food, treats and finances. A fabulous group of volunteers prepared, packed, and delivered 66 festive bags across the community, sending a strong message of support and love for those facing Christmas alone, and for those who just needed that extra bit of Christmas joy.



Weekly winter food parcels from The Cupboard



The Community Cupboard continues to send bags of supplies out every week, supporting households that could do with extra support during these long winter months.

Households that are facing unexpected dips in income, extra pressure on their household budgets, or simply in need of a familiar face checking in. All are welcome to access the Community Cupboard, including families, couples and those isolated and alone, so please do not hesitate to get in touch, or let us know about a friend or neighbour who you think would benefit from a weekly/biweekly parcel.

How to access help from the Community Cupboard

If you, or anyone you know, needs support from The Community Cupboard please go to www.klcommunity.co.uk for more information and instructions on how to register. Alternatively, please email enquiry@klcommunity.co.uk or call the Community Hub on **015242 36404**.

Collection boxes

Thank you to all who continue to donate to our collection boxes, which are being collected regularly.
This month we particularly need:

Tinned custard, jam , jelly, sweet biscuits, coffee, tinned soup and laundry products

Community Cupboard collection boxes remain in place at St Mary's Church porch, Cowan Bridge Stores, and The Churchmouse at Barbon (monthly collection only at Barbon). Any excess food is being taken through to Kings Food bank.

KL Community Lunches

Community Lunches have been discussed since the very start of the pandemic, with Meet to Eat suspended for the foreseeable future, our community lost a valuable point of social contact for many older residents. For the less mobile, Meals on Wheels have managed to adapt and continue throughout, local businesses helping out on the catering side and some new volunteers drivers stepping in to learn the ropes when regular drivers were shielding.

Back in March the logistics behind such a venture were a step too far in a rapidly changing situation and as Spring progressed neighbours started sitting outside in the sunshine and enjoying the daily queue chats outside shops.

We are now back in lockdown and for those isolating once again we still have some wintery months ahead. Slippery pavements and chilly winds don't lend themselves to socially distanced chats even if you are fortunate enough to see a familiar face on your daily trip out for exercise .

Many residents are missing their regular meet ups in the many coffee haunts around town, visits to the library, church services, market day, clubs, pubs even a catch up in the surgery waiting room seems a thing of the past. With the prospect of so many people becoming socially isolated once again, addressing this issue became a matter of urgency, Community lunches were back on the agenda. Within a week they had become a reality and 36 hot meals went out on a frosty day at the start of January. With increasing numbers a Tuesday has now been added with plans to run until the end of March.

An amazing achievement from start to finish thanks to a tireless band of volunteers from chefs providing the professional cooking of meals to drivers bringing a hot meal to your doorstep and many more behind the scenes planning and prepping.

The whole venture has been made possible through the kindness and welcome of Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Union Football Club and the generous community of Kirkby Lonsdale

If you, a neighbour or family member would like a hot meal dropping in once or twice a week please get in contact with the Hub line **015242 36404** or email admin@klcommunity.co.uk

Suggested donation of £3.50 per meal but a hot meal is more important than payment.
With such a bright light at the end of this tunnel let's make sure we all come out at the other end in one piece and united.

Family Carry Out

The Cupboard would like to offer busy parents, juggling home schooling with work, parenting and lockdown life, a homemade meal to share with the family, a tasty oven to table meal with minimal effort. Take an evening or lunchtime off from meal prep. Meals have been cooked and frozen ready for collection from The Community Cupboard or delivered if families are self isolating.

Meals currently available are:

Vegetarian Lasagne; Vegetarian Chilli; Meatballs in tomato sauce; Chicken Curry

Each week another meal will be added to the list all you need to do is ask, you don't need to be in need of help financially, but if the prospect of not having to think of just one meal in a week feels appealing, just ask.

Contact admin@klcommunity.co.uk with household name, address and number in household and we will discuss collection or delivery.

Have we missed anything?

The Community Cupboard and Hub have been set up in response to the current pandemic and like many other mutual aid groups across the UK it is attempting to meet some of the community's welfare needs through provision of food, meals and regular contact with those in social isolation due to the current restrictions of movement.

The needs of a community during this pandemic are many and varied so please do get in touch if you are aware of a need that hasn't been addressed, once raised it can be discussed with others who may have ideas and suggestions enquiry@klcommunity.co.uk

How is all this being funded?

We are fortunate as a community to have received financial support from local businesses, organisations and groups, our churches, our town council and many kind individuals giving their time, premises, their expertise, food donations and financial support over the past ten months. We also receive weekly food from Fareshare, a Defra funded charity. We have also benefitted enormously from grants through Cumbria Community Foundation and Cumbria County Council, along with valuable support and guidance from their development officer. These grants have been made available to help communities address and prevent some of the negative impacts that a prolonged period of disruption to finances and wellbeing has upon individuals.

As we move through this and an end is on the horizon it would be good to hold onto the positive changes this has brought about and feel that some extra resilience has been built into the system.

KL Food Club

According to FareShare, 250,000 tonnes of edible food is wasted each year by the UK food industry. Surplus food occurs everywhere in the supply chain from field through to fork. This perfectly good in-date food is then sent to landfill, unless it can be intercepted and redistributed. It can become this for simple reasons such as over-production, labelling errors or short shelf-life. FareShare is the UK's biggest food redistribution charity, they redistributed over 20,000 tonnes of food last year, saving it all from going to landfill. Our KL Food Club runs as part of the FareShare scheme, receiving a portion of surplus food each week, with a variety of Cupboard items.



The KL Food Club is run by and for its members on a not-for-profit basis. We have been running now for 6 months with a strong membership of 80 plus, supporting over 250 people across our communities. Formed to help supplement donations to The Cupboard, and to fight stigma surrounding food poverty, the Food Club has become an invaluable part of keeping all our ventures sustainable and relevant. We run every week on a Thursday, kindly hosted by the Rugby Club, offering afternoon and evening collection. As safety is of the upmost importance to us, we regularly review our COVID measures to ensure we are running within the government guidelines.

Volunteer with us!

We are always looking for volunteers who have some time to spare! There are lots of ways to help volunteer:

- With the Community Hub as a telephone or an on-the-ground volunteer
- With the Community Cupboard packing or delivering bags
- With the Community Lunches delivering hot lunches

Check out more and sign up at klcommunity.co.uk/volunteer or call the Hub

klcommunity.co.uk
015242 36404

A tribute to George Harrison from one tourist guide to another

George passed away on Monday 11th January after a long and fruitful life. One might think that his memories might have passed away with him, but he was a clever man who was always keen to share, and pass on not just his memories, but the fruits of his meticulous research.

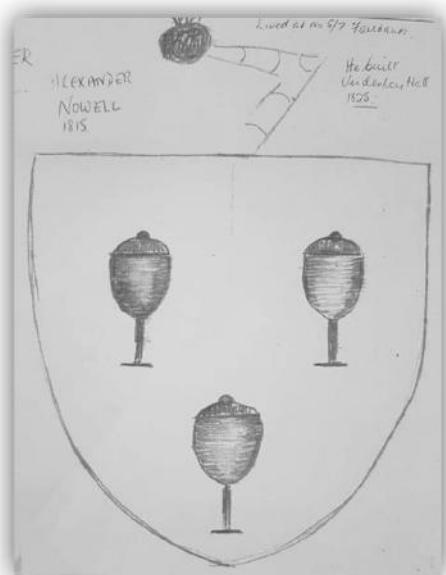
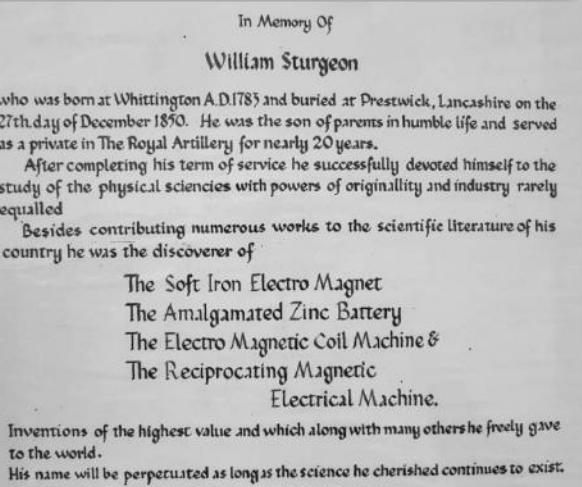


I first made George's acquaintance 21 years ago, shortly after I qualified as a Blue Badge Guide. The phone rang and there was a gruff voice at the other end. He had just seen an advert for a guided walk that I was intending to lead in Kirkby Lonsdale and demanded that we met so that I could tell him what I knew about the town. He was horrified to discover that a week before the advertised date of my walk, I appeared to know very little!



He came on that first guided walk that I did, took me to one side afterwards, and said, "Tess, I don't know how you did it, but that was brilliant!". That was the start of a long friendship. Our paths didn't cross again until we became next door neighbours when I moved into the house opposite George about 10 years ago, and for several years we did a very successful double-act. He never retired, just kept on sharing. After he moved into Brant Howe, where he lived very happily for the last year of his life, I went to visit him every week, and always came away with my homework. The following week I would return to tell him about the Ordnance Survey benchmarks, or a particular milestone or whatever else my task had been, and it always sparked another story from his rich treasury of memories. This time last year the newly trained Kirkby Lonsdale Town Guides each went to visit George,

and he generously gave them permission to record him recounting gems of local knowledge. He was a born storyteller, and was for many years a valued member of the South Lakeland Storytelling Club. Grasmere-based Storyteller Laureate Taffy Thomas has fond memories of George's comic monologues, which he delivered with the help of a suitcase full of hats (a different hat for every character – though it wasn't always the right hat he pulled out of his case!!) and a characteristic glint in his eye.



But his creative talents didn't end with his flair for storytelling. He was also a skilled craftsman, artist and calligrapher: I've included some examples of his work here, and there are many more to be seen all around our town. George may have left us, but his memories live on. Rest In Peace George.

Tess Pike, Blue Badge Guide



Pic by Robin Ree

Pic by Jane Chilton





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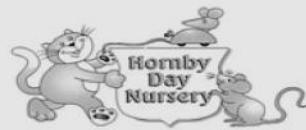
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KL WI

Dear Members

With the last edition of AKL covering Dec and Jan, it's been a long time since writing to you.

We hope you all enjoyed your Members' treat for Christmas and had chance on your daily walk to see the WI entry in the St Mary's Eco Christmas Tree Festival in the churchyard. Each of the 66 decorations represented each of our members. A timely reminder that whilst we're still unable to meet, we remain connected and seek to help each other over the coming weeks with friendship and support.

We have also been reminded by the CWFWI and by Patsy, our KLWI Treasurer, that 2021 subscriptions will be due in April. This has been a challenging last few months for us all but it would be really helpful if you are able to indicate whether you will be renewing your membership at: kirkbylonsdalewi@gmail.com and I'll be in touch with those who are not on email in the coming weeks.

Many congratulations to Jenny Kell, winner of the New Year postcard from KL. Don't forget the March competition to decorate your His and Hers coat hangers. Entries are to be delivered to Chrissy, our Competition Secretary's house: Corner Cottage, 13 New Road, Kirkby Lonsdale (opposite the Post Office, in front of the Library) and deposited in a dedicated WI Competitions box by the front door. The deadline is 10 March.

Please remember to put your name on the entry and allow time so entries can be quarantined for the required amount of time. Winning entries will be included in our gallery on our website, social media and in AKL.

And finally, don't forget to purchase/return your ticket stubs for the CWFWI Raffle, which is drawn on 1 April.

Take care and stay safe.

Amanda and the KLWI Committee. Tel: 015242 98587 / 07765480943 Email: kirkbylonsdalewi@gmail.com, Facebook: Kirkby Lonsdale WI, Website: www.klwi.co.uk

The Rotary Club of Lunesdale

Owing to the coronavirus, the club was not able to hold its usual Christmas party in December. Instead, a virtual Christmas Carol Concert was held online on 3rd December. Invitations were extended to partners, families and friends and other Rotary Clubs. We were also joined by some members of the K Shoes Male Voice Choir. It proved to be very enjoyable. The programme included several well-loved carols, appropriate Christmas readings, a number of toasts to deserving causes and a recipe for an extremely alcoholic Christmas Fruit Cake!

The first meeting of 2021 was an occasion to meet up again, albeit online, and for members to simply enjoy swapping exchanges about their best memories of 2020. Indeed, it was a year that we shall certainly not forget, not least because of the kind acts it produced.

Unfortunately for me my new year has not begun well. I slipped on some ice on 4th January and have broken 2 bones in my left wrist now in plaster. However, on the bright side the vaccine is now being rolled out so we can all look forward to getting back to a safer lifestyle.

Keep safe and keep well.

Lilian

Eat in and help out!

Fabulous Rustic Afternoon Tea Boxes available to collect or delivered to your door on Sunday afternoon February 14th. The money raised will go to provide support for children and vulnerable families in Uganda.

Each box is packed with fresh homemade goodies including a choice of sandwiches, sausage roll, beetroot and feta samosa, scone with jam and cream, biscuit and cake selection.

To order your box(es) please contact Juliet Burd – email: Juliet_burd@yahoo.com for an order form or call 07846 700918 to complete an order over the phone. Boxes are £15 each, delivery extra depending on distance and number of boxes.

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www.childrenofhope.org.uk charity number 1125132

Kirkby Lonsdale Library update

In line with government guidance the library is now closed for general library use. We are, though, able to offer the services below between 2 and 5pm on Tuesdays.

Time slots must be booked in advance.

Pre-ordered Select & Collect books available to collect – just let us know what books you would be interested in.

PC sessions are available for essential use only, time slots limited to 45 minutes.

Just to let you know too, it's fine to keep any books you have a little longer; fines are currently suspended.

To book for any of the above please call 01539 713524.

For more information please visit:
www.cumbria.gov.uk/libraries

Kirkby Lonsdale and District Civic Society

The Corpse Roads of Cumbria

Walks along the county's ancient paths

Alan Cleaver & Lesley Park



Whilst the Covid pandemic has curtailed our usual programme of talks, the Society hosted its first 'Zoom talk' on Monday 9th November for members. We had over 30 Zoomers!!

As the event was such a success, we have booked another of our speakers to 'Zoom' talk. This talk is open to all – and free!

Alan Cleaver and Lesley Park will present a talk entitled 'The Corpse Roads of Cumbria' on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.30 pm. Alan and Lesley are authors of 'The Corpse Roads of Cumbria' which won the Lakeland Book of the Year in 2019.

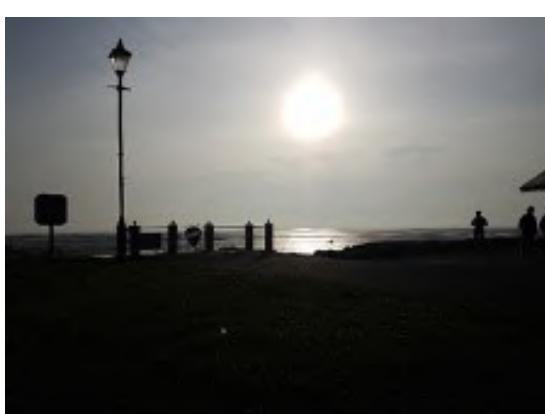
The corpse roads describe those ancient paths that were

used to carry the dead from remote parishes to the 'mother' church in medieval times. Eventually villagers petitioned for their own churches but the corpse roads remained in people's memories. Most of these roads survive today as public footpaths. Alan and Lesley will talk about their history and the superstitions surrounding them.

If you would like to join us please email to kldcschairman@gmail.com giving the name which appears on your zoom account and include 'Talk 8th February' in the subject line.

Everyone should reply by 4th February. Please note we are limited to 100 participants.

Lockdown tours of the Western Lake District and Coast



If you enjoyed my virtual tours of Kirkby Lonsdale in November and are looking for a way to while away an evening in February, you may be interested in joining my tours of the West Coast of Cumbria on Wednesday evenings throughout February. They can be booked online by searching for TryBooking TessPike.

In the Footsteps of LS Lowry: Gateway to Ennerdale (3rd Feb), Sea Valley Mountains (10th Feb), Millom: nestled in the Shadow of Black Combe (17th Feb), West Coast World Heritage Site: Rome's Western Frontier (24th Feb).

Tess Pike

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Bumblebee Gallery (Homeware & gifts)
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Dales Butchers
015242 71278
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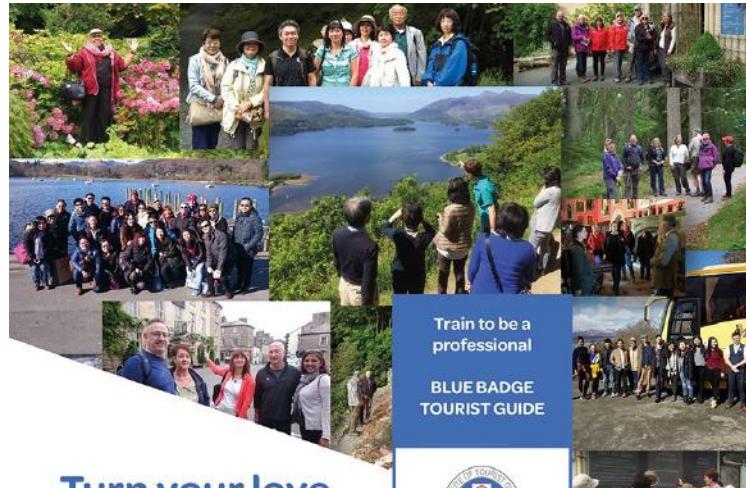
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