BAMPTON PARISH NEWSLETTER JUNE - JULY 2025



The North Westmorland Benefice is fortunate to be receiving a Curate (trainee vicar) this month, the Revd Chris Smith. He will be based in Shap Vicarage. Chris sent us this short biography by way of introduction.

"I grew up in London and studied Veterinary Medicine at the Royal Veterinary College. When the time came to look for jobs, I decided that for my first job I would like to work in a mixed practice, a bit like James Herriot. Those jobs are few and far between nowadays but I was offered a position at the vets' in Broughton-in-Furness. I can still remember arriving for an interview in the "ancient market town" and parking up in the square. It was about 9.15am and all was silent. I was pleasantly surprised at the silence seeing as I had grow up amongst the exhaust fumes and police sirens of London!

That was almost 11 years ago now and Cumbria certainly feels like my home now. Despite this I suspect I would still be classed as an "off-comer" and my southern accent definitely does not make me sound very Cumbrian!

I was baptised and confirmed whilst at university although I was no stranger to life in the Church growing up. I am really grateful to God for providing me with so many people to encourage me in my faith up until now. I was sad to leave the church in Broughton as this was the first Church I really got involved with and they were always so encouraging of me.

I started feeling the call to ordained ministry not long after graduating as a vet. I continued to work as a vet throughout my theological training and into curacy. For my curacy, I was initially placed in the Hawkshead Benefice. Once more I was surrounded by many caring Christians who again supported me in my faith.

During Curacy I got the nagging feeling that God was calling me to serve him within the Church full-time. This meant saying goodbye to my veterinary career and moving to another part of Cumbria. I don't know the North Westmorland area very well but when people heard I would be living in Shap they mentioned 4 things: how cold it is, the fish and chip shop, the open air-swimming pool and the geology. I will have to see what else there is that they failed to mention!

I had no clue that some day God would call me to be a leader within the Church and I also had no clue that eventually he would call for me to lay aside my veterinary career. What I have learned over the years though is that if God calls you to do something and you ignore it then he always gets you in the end!

I really do look forward to serving you and to learn more about God from you. I would say my area of interest lies within prayer and spirituality. I have always made it my priority to draw close to God in prayer so that I may be able to advise others on how to do this too. Furthermore, in a culture where our worth seems to be linked to how much we work and how busy we are, I try to challenge this. I think we as Christians must live differently to show that God's Kingdom works on a different set of values. Salvation has already been achieved for us despite what we do.

I look forward to getting stuck-in and meeting everyone!

Chris Smith"

Contact Details

Stephen Tudway, Vicar	01931 719210
Elizabeth Coy, Church Warden	01931 713211
Maureen Barber, Church Warden	01931 713314

From the Registers

Baptism

Wren Eliza Coward 26th January, 2025

Bell Ringing

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

Bampton PCC

Shap CE Endowed Primary School

It's been a fantastic Spring term at Shap CE School, full of memorable events and brilliant achievements!

World Book Day was a real highlight, with children decorating t-shirts to represent their favourite books, building reading shelters, and creating imaginative 'Book in a Box' dioramas. For Comic Relief, we ran an incredible 198.8 miles as a school, held a popular bake sale, and raised £122.87, a huge thanks to everyone who supported us.

We were also thrilled to reach the finals in both bowling and rock climbing, and our choir loved singing at Young Voices in Manchester alongside thousands of other children. Another highlight was Digital Creativity Day with Mobius Loop, where children explored VR headsets, made music, and produced their own mini broadcasts, many said it was their "best day ever"!

Looking ahead, we warmly invite local families with young children to join our *Come and Play* sessions, held on the last Thursday of each month during term time. Our next session is on **26**th **June**, **1.15-2.30pm**.

For all our latest news, visit www.shap.cumbria.sch.uk.

Katie Chappell, Headteacher

Bampton Sports 2025

Calling all the peoples of the Lowther valley and its environs. 2024 was very nearly the last year for the Bampton Sports day which has been running for over a 100yrs. With several committee members retiring and a lack of volunteers to fill their roles we nearly called it a day. But we haven't, we have rallied and will be running the sports this year on 13th July 12.30-4pm. As usual it will be a mix of kids' races (for all ages with small cash prizes); a fell race; some local interest stalls, bar and food sellers. We plan to have a fun dog show, a bouncy castle and the inevitable tug-of-war to rope everyone in. Please come along with your kids, young and old, to enjoy a traditional village sports day.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the committee at bamptonsports@outlook.com or call or text John Watson on 07810 645501.

We still need help with: Field prep (topping, mowing, marking out, tent erection) mostly on 11th July evening; putting up signs and posters; marshalling of the fell race and the kid's races; manning stalls, the entrance gate and games on the day; set up and clear away on the day itself.

John Watson

Duck Race

This will be held on the same day as the Sports Day: the 13th July. Times etc will be put out on posters, as they are still to be arranged. Ducks will be available to purchase in the shop and the Mardale Inn from June. If you would like some ducks to sell I can get them to you in June.

Lesley 01931 713530

Bampton REMOTE cinema

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who helped make last season a success. Thanks go to those who helped with all the elements that make the cinema possible, the cooks, the set up helpers, the washers up, running the bar and of course the audience.

The end of season saw the end of an era – with Hazel Eccles and Mike Jones stepping down from the committee after many years of hard work. Many thanks again to them both – without all their efforts we would not still have the remote cinema offering in the Bampton valley.

Dates for your diary for next season 2025-2026: September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, December 13th, January 17th, February 21st, March 21st and April 18th. These are all Saturday evenings at Bampton Memorial Hall. Supper will remain at 6pm but **please note the films will start at the earlier time of 7.15pm** We will hopefully be able to let you know in the August-September newsletter what the first few films are going to be. Keep a look out for posters going up nearer the time and the tickets will continue to be sold via Bampton Valley Stores. We are now a committee of four and would welcome new people to join us – either on the committee or offers of help for set up on the Saturday mornings would also be much appreciated – **please contact me** – **Anna Cooke (01931 713392) if you would like to get involved.**

We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Anna, Dave, Lucinda and Sue: Bampton Cinema Committee.

Bampton Pilates



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

Bampton Community First Responder Team

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

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

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

Christine Gillespie, Bampton CFR Team 07771934996 christinehillski@gmail.com

Educational Grants: The Bampton Endowed Schools Endowment

Last year the Charity made 5 grants totalling £2,000 to local young people. These awards were mainly to help them financially while they took part in a variety of post-16 educational courses at college, university, sixth-form or while undertaking apprenticeships.

The Trustees now invite applications for financial support from those who will be undertaking courses at any university, college or institution of higher or further education or at sixth-form level, in autumn 2025. Consideration will also be given to applications from those who will be taking part in other forms of post-16 education (including the study of music or other arts) to prepare for entry into any occupation, trade or profession.

To be eligible the applicant must be:

- Under the age of 25 on 1st September 2025
- Resident in the civil parish of Bampton, Cumbria or to have attended Bampton Endowed School.

An application form can be obtained from (and returned to) Hazel Eccles by email: heccles@btopenworld.com

Completed application forms must be received by 30th September 2025.

Rainfall 2025 - Mill Craggs - Bampton - Update as Drought Conditions Intensify

As of 18th May only 0.1mm of rainfall has been recorded in the last 27 days. The total for April was only 27mm and for March a mere 29mm.

The table below demonstrates that below average rainfall has occurred for 8 months, commencing last September. This is a shortfall of 350mm (14inches).

May 2024 saw 100mm of rain fall from 23rd of the month, of which 75mm fell in around 12hrs on 23rd/24th.

Rain is forecast every day from 23rd this year but not in the quantities required to make up the deficit

-	Rainfall mm	% of Average
		1993-2023/24
September	76	70
October	153	99
November	52	30
December	179	89
January	103	55
February	136	90
March	29	26
April	27	34
Total	755	68

My records show comparable dry periods are the years 1995, 1996, 2003 and 2010. 1995 is the only year when total rainfall was less than 1,000mm

What the rest of the year will bring is in the lap of the rain gods so let's hope they look favourably on the needs of our farmers.

David Cooke

News from the RSPB at Wild Haweswater

Hi Bampton newsletter readers,

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

We're hugely grateful to the continued support of Patrick Lacey and other members of the Cumbria Dry Stone Walling Association, who spent a whole weekend in May utilising their impressive walling skills to support us with repairing gaps in Swindale.

The early summer brings vegetation surveys – monitoring the plant life on-site and how it is responding to our landscape recovery work.

Our Assistant Wardens are gearing up for the next tree planting and tree cage building season. The next phase will involve getting tree cage materials (metal mesh and wooden fenceposts) into even more remote parts of Mardale Common, so some of the heavy lifting will need to be carried out by helicopter, which you may notice on its runs later in the summer.

We've continued to make adaptations on our farm, to help us achieve our landscape restoration aims, delivering key benefits to society that the uplands are crucial to achieving: improving drinking water quality, reducing flood, fire and drought risk, carbon storage, increasing biodiversity. We have fully phased out our in-bye sheep flock as we have found through trialling different approaches with them that recovery wasn't as rapid or as significant as we've seen with our cattle and pony grazing. We will still bring in low numbers of sheep as a tool on certain parts of the site for short periods in future, but having our own flock is costly and we've found that native cattle and Fell Pony grazing is better delivering our aims, so will be growing these herds in the coming months. See our blog on our website for full details.

We've got some exciting events coming up in summer:

- Saturday 7th June Forest Bathing in Naddle Forest with local guide Ruth Kirk (9.30am-1.30pm)
- Saturday 5th and Thursday 17th July Guided walks in Swindale Meadows with our former site manager and author Lee Schofield (10am-12 noon)
- Saturday 20th July Nature Doodling in Naddle Valley with local guide Ruth Kirk (9.30am-12.30pm)

Image of Wood Cranesbill, one of the special species in Swindale Meadows, by Chris Shields (rspb-images.com)



For more information on our work, to get in touch, or to book one of our exciting events and experiences, visit www.wildhaweswater.co.uk. And if you're on social media, don't forget to follow us @WildHaweswater on Facebook, X and Instagram. See you next time!

Annabel

Dr. Patricia Garside, Bryham House, Knipe

Pat's many Bampton friends were deeply saddened to learn of her recent death at the Royal Cornwall Hospital following a short illness.

Pat and her husband John lived at Bryham House for many years and when they retired to, as Pat put it, the "edge of the world" remoteness of the Penwith western peninsula in Cornwall, her absence was felt keenly by her Knipe neighbours especially and by many more in various aspects of community life in Bampton.

Pat led Bampton History Society for over 15 years. One of her many roles was as Burnbanks Project Co-ordinator resulting in the acclaimed book "A Cast Iron Community, the story of Burnbanks". Her expertise as a historian and academic was much appreciated by all the amateur researchers involved. Pat's view was that Bampton has a fascinating history and this needs to be preserved for the present and for generations to come.

Pat enjoyed taking part in much that Bampton life offered: bookgroup meetings, French, cooking for cinema evenings, choir evenings at Bryham House. Above all being a dear wise friend to many of us.

Hazel Eccles Marion Drinkwater

Le groupe français

Nous avons profité du beau temps et avons tenu toutes nos réunions en extérieur en avril et mai. Combien de temps cela va-t-il durer? Les jardins ont désespérément besoin d'eau, mais nous espérons qu'il pleuvra pendant la nuit. Consultez les dates à la fin de la newsletter si vous souhaitez nous rejoindre.

Marion Jones (713555) mjoneskili@gmail.com

Tinclar's Library

The library will be open every **Monday from 12 noon until 2pm** throughout June and July except for 9th **June and 14th July** when we will be taking scrapbooks and school photos to the village shop from 11am to 1pm.

In case of any queries, please contact Tinclarslibrary@icloud.com

Sue Bletcher, Trustee

Mardale Inn Summer Update

With the summer months upon us (hope we haven't already had our summer in April & May!), there are a few key events at The Mardale which we'd like to highlight to our community.

On Sunday, June 15th at 4pm, we're delighted to welcome back Lee Schofield to play us some tunes. It's Fathers Day as well of course so perhaps time to treat a dad to lunch, dinner or just a couple of beers – while enjoying a local dad playing dad-friendly music which may also inspire some dad-dancing!

In July we enter our fourth year of The Mardale running as a community owned business at the heart of the Valley. We're very grateful for the local support you've given us over that time.

As a Community Benefit Society, we're particularly proud of a few of the things the success of the business has enabled. These include year-round reliable employment at Real Living Wage rates for an average of 15 local people, opportunities for our youngsters to develop experience in the world of work, the showcasing of products grown or made in the Valley, discounting of food and drink via the Loyalty scheme and financial support to retain Bampton Valley Stores (thanks also to our fantastic BVS volunteers!).

To celebrate this anniversary we're hosting a Third Birthday Party at the pub starting at noon on **Saturday**, **July** 5th. Chefs Nick & Wullie will be stoking up the barbeque at lunchtime and we'll have The Acoustibots playing some background music. At 2.30pm there will be some fun games followed by more music. Viktoria and the bar team will be mixing up some of their new Mardale summer cocktails. We can't promise what the weather will do but we do guarantee a relaxing afternoon spent with Valley friends!

Finally on **Thursday, July 24th** at **7.30pm** we'll be holding the Bampton Valley Community Pub Annual Members Meeting (AMM) in the Memorial Hall. As always, we appreciate as many Members attending as possible so we can transact the required AMM business as efficiently as possible. More details will be emailed to Members shortly.

The Mardale Inn & BVCP Team

Summer Quiz

Come and join us for a summer quiz on **Saturday** 5th **July** at the Memorial Hall beginning at **7.30pm**. Bar available.

Look out for posters with more details nearer the time.

Lee 07399 629079

Outreach Post Office at Bampton Village Hall

Bampton Post Office operates from the Memorial Hall on Wednesdays between 12.00 - 1.30pm. Most postal services continue to be available from this mobile unit.

The local bus

A warm welcome awaits you on our friendly, weekly Fellrunner Thursday bus service. The bus will go down Rosgill Hill at 10.10am, then travel via Bampton Grange (10.18am) to Burnbanks (10.25am) and leave Bampton at 10.34am to arrive (via Morrisons) at Penrith Bus Station at 11.05am. The return bus will leave Penrith Bus Station at 1.45pm to arrive back in Bampton at 2.16pm, Burnbanks at 2.25pm and Rosgill at 2.40pm (subject to passenger requirements). Bus passes can be used and children under 16 years travel free.

Bampton Village Website www.bamptonlakedistrict.org.uk

Please send any updates for the website to Chris Cant on chris@phdcc.com or 713240. Any new photos very welcome.

PLEASE NOTE EARLIER DEADLINE FOR FUTURE ISSUES WILL BE THE 18th OF THE MONTH i.e. FRIDAY 18th JULY **NEXT TIME.**

Please send all items to:

Heather Pitt (Tel no: 01931 719187) pathfinders2728@gmail.com or Bridget Kelly (Tel no: 01931 716822) bridgetkelly1010@gmail.com

PARISH DIARY (Note MH = Memorial Hall)

JUNE

Su 1 st	Holy Communion, 9.30am
Mo 2 nd	Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
Th 5 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Su 8 th	'Café Church', Church Hall, 10am, Fellowship Gathering
Mo 9 th	Tinclar's Library: scrapbooks and school photos to Village Store,
	11am-1pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
We 11 th	French Group, Small Hall, 2-3pm
Th 12 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Su 15 th	The service today will be Holy Communion, 11am, at St. Peter's,
	Askham
Mo 16 th	Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
Th 19 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Su 22 nd	Holy Communion, 9.30am
Mo 23 rd	Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
We 25 th	French Group, Small Hall, 2-3pm
Th 26 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Su 29 th	Benefice Service of Holy Communion, Askham, 11am
Mo 30 th	Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

JULY

Th 3 rd	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Sa 5 th	Summer Quiz, MH, 7.30pm, Doors open 7pm
Su 6 th	Holy Communion, 9.30am
Mo 7 th	Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
We 9 th	French Group, Small Hall, 2-3pm
Th 10 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm

Su 13 th	'Café Church', Church Hall, 10am , Fellowship Gathering Bampton Sports, 12.30-4pm
	Duck race. Look out for timings on posters around the village
Mo 14 th	Tinclar's Library: scrapbooks and school photos to Village Store,
	11am-1pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
Th 17 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
Su 20 th	The service today will be Holy Communion, 11am, at St. Peter's,
	Askham
Mo 21 st	Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm
We 23 rd	French Group, Small Hall, 2-3pm
Th 24 th	Bell Ringing practice, from 2pm
	Bampton Valley Community Pub Annual Members Meeting, MH,
	7.30pm
Su 27 th	Holy Communion, 9.30am
Mo 28 th	Tinclar's Library, Church Hall, 12-2pm
	Pilates, MH, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

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Music Lessons

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Steve and Katie 07946 328806 Shap - stephen.burke.mail@gmail.com

Penrith Physio Pilates

Experienced physiotherapist Alexis Dykes, specialising in injury rehabilitation, scarwork, pelvic and spinal pain, myofascial release and 1:1 Pilates Clinic based in Motherby: CA11 0RJ. Contact Alexis on: 07411 902674 penrithpilates@gmail.com www.penrithphysiopilates.co.uk

Wild Haweswater

A rugged Lake District landscape where nature restoration works alongside hill farming, to benefit wildlife, water and people. Visit our website for events and experiences in nature: wildhaweswater.co.uk

Interested in the history of your family, house, or land?

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Contact Joe: joseph6.saunders@outlook.com / www.josephsaundershistory.co.uk

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(JS & MG Bowness)

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