

## EVENTS & FUN DAYS FOR FEBRUARY

**World Ukulele Day 2nd Feb** A day to have fun and play your ukulele.



**National Hedgehog Day 2nd Feb** This is the European version of Groundhog Day, dating back to Roman times. It is also a day to remember that UK hedgehog populations are shrinking, and to celebrate all things hedgehog.

**Winter Olympics 2026**

**6th Feb to 22nd Feb** The world's biggest winter sporting event, held every four years. In 2026 it will be held in Milano Cortina, Italy.



**Charles Dickens Day 7th Feb** This day celebrates one of Britain's greatest writers on his birthday. It is a day to enjoy Dicken's work as a novelist who brought social realism to the fore as his books reflected the real life of the poor in Victorian England.

**Children's Mental Health Week 9th Feb to 15th Feb** Shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health, raises awareness and campaigns for all children to have access to mental health support.

**National Apprenticeship Week 9th Feb to 15th Feb** A week devoted to celebrating and promoting apprenticeships as a practical alternative to qualifications including GCSEs, A-Levels or a degree. Anyone aged 16 or above can apply for an apprenticeship.



**Safer Internet Day 10th Feb** A day to help raise awareness of online safety issues in your home, school, workplace or community, not just on Safer Internet Day but all year round.

**Darwin Day 12th Feb** A celebration of scientist Charles Darwin, author of The Origin of Species. The day is used to highlight Darwin's contributions to science.

**St. Valentine's Day 14th Feb** The annual celebration of love is the day when we take the opportunity to tell the people we love just how much they mean to us. Traditionally one should send a card and a gift such as chocolates or flowers to the one that you love.



**National Nest Box Week 14th Feb to 21st Feb** British birds are short of nesting holes, and there are many reasons why. Anyone with a garden can help by putting a nestbox, which will attract interesting birds to your garden too. This week is devoted to encouraging people to put up nestboxes.

**World Hippo Day 15th Feb** This is a day which is dedicated to hippopotamuses, to help prevent their extinction by poachers who hunt them for meat and for their teeth.

**February Half Term Holiday 16th Feb to 20th Feb** Schools break up for a week in the UK for half term for one week but check with your school for individual date variations of this school holiday.



**Chinese New Year 17th Feb** The New Year according to the Chinese Calendar. 2024 welcomes the Year of the Horse. Chinese New Year is celebrated all around the world.

**Pancake Day 17th Feb** Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent begins, when people would traditionally use up all their fat and eggs by making pancakes.



**Random Acts of Kindness Day 17th Feb** Spend the day doing random acts of kindness.

**International Polar Bear Day 27th Feb** Every year, this global event draws attention to the challenges polar bears face in a warming Arctic and how each of us can help.



## Burnside Church & Community

# Newsletter

February 2026

Dear Friends,

What do you hope for this year?

Hope is a word we use often. We hope the weather will improve, that a situation will resolve itself, that tomorrow might feel lighter than today. Sometimes that kind of hope is little more than crossed fingers. But there is another kind of hope that is deeper, quieter, and more resilient.

One of the Bible readings often associated with hope comes from the prophet Isaiah, who speaks of a servant of God who will not shout or force his way forward, who will not snap a bruised reed or extinguish a faintly burning wick. It is a striking image. A bruised reed is damaged but not destroyed; a dim wick still has life in it. The message is simple. Fragility matters, and it deserves care, not condemnation. Isaiah was writing to people who were tired and worn down by loss and uncertainty. They were not offered instant solutions or dramatic victories. Instead, they were offered reassurance: you are not forgotten; you are being held. Many of us know what it is to carry quiet worries, private griefs, or long-term pressures that don't neatly resolve. Hope, in those moments, is not about pretending everything is fine. It is about knowing we are not alone in what is not fine.

This hope is seen again in the life of Jesus, particularly at the very start of his public life. Before he teaches or heals, he chooses to stand alongside others, sharing their situation rather than setting himself above them. God's voice speaks words of affirmation and delight before any achievements are listed. The order matters: worth comes before performance. We live in a culture that often measures people by output, success, or resilience; how well they cope, how busy they are, how quickly they "bounce back". But most of us know that real life doesn't work like that. There are seasons when we are strong and seasons when we are barely getting by. A hopeful community whether religious or secular is one that makes room for both.

Hope does not require perfect faith, or even any faith at all. It begins with the belief that gentleness has power, that people matter even when they are struggling, and that tomorrow is worth caring about because today is not meaningless. If you are reading this feeling tired, uncertain, or worn thin, know this: hope is not something you have to manufacture. Sometimes it is simply something to receive through kindness, through shared bread and conversation, through the quiet assurance that you are valued as you are.

That kind of hope may be modest, but it endures. And often, it is enough to carry us forward. May you find true hope this month.

Blessings, Michelle x



## St.OSWALD'S CHURCH FEBRUARY SERVICES

1<sup>st</sup> 4pm Evening worship

8<sup>th</sup> 11am Holy communion

15<sup>th</sup> 11am Morning Worship

22<sup>nd</sup> Holy communion



Book of Common Prayer  
Communion in  
The Lady Chapel  
every Wednesday 9.30am

### Weekly Evening Prayers at St.Oswald's Church

Tuesdays @ 5.30pm

in the Chapel



## Beacon Team Lent Course

### "Meeting God in John's Gospel"

The Radley Room, St George's - Thursdays @ 10.30am

We will be running a Beacon Team Lent course at St George's Church Kendal this year. Over 6 weeks we will study the Gospel of John; whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, Meeting God in John will help you see the Fourth Gospel with fresh eyes and gain a deeper understanding of its essential meaning and purpose.

The meetings start at 10.30am through to 12.30pm and will include a simple soup lunch.

Thursday 19th February - 26th March at 10.30am — 12.30pm

Do come along and explore what the Gospel reveals about God through the person of Jesus Christ.



# Burneside

## PARISH COUNCIL



You can find full council meeting minutes on the website  
<http://www.burneside-pc.org.uk>  
and on village noticeboards

We are beginning to work with W&F on a potential 20mph scheme for the village. Public/ local support will be a must for this to go ahead, there will be a public consultation on the proposal and design. We will be using the FB pages, paper copies in areas around the village e.g. Church corridor and the newsletter to advertise so please keep looking for updates– we need your support.

Next meeting - 3rd February @ 7pm, St Oswald's Church Meeting Room

SATURDAY  
**SOUP** LUNCHES

2026 dates  
~~JANUARY 10th~~  
FEBRUARY 7th  
MARCH 7th

£5 per person  
soup & roll  
Tea/ coffee &  
biscuits

from 12 noon

St.Oswald's  
Church

Made with PosterMyWall.com

If there is anything you would like putting in the newsletter please email  
[amanda@dashaw.co.uk](mailto:amanda@dashaw.co.uk) by the 3rd Sunday of the month