

THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



MARCH / APRIL 2024

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Articles / Events / updates for inclusion in the March/April edition

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 15th May 24

Email - revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES –

MARCH / APRIL 2024

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 3rd March	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 10 th Mar Mothering Sun	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Family Service Sung Evening Prayer (BCP)	11:00am 2.30pm
Sunday 17 th March	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 24 th March	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion Family Service Healing Service	11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm
Sunday 31 st March Easter Day	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 7 th April	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 14 th April	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Sung Evening Prayer (BCP)	11:00am 6.30pm
Sunday 21 st April	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 28 th April	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion Family Service Healing Service	11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm

Every Wednesday 10.30am

Mid-week Communion service in Urswick Parish Room
Refreshments are served after the service

Morning Prayer

from the Church of Low Furness is posted on our Facebook page every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00am when you can join live or watch later.

Healing Service 6:00 pm Sunday 24th Mar 24 & 28th Apr 24

A service of prayer, contemplation, and healing at Urswick Church

Worship at Home

Worship at Home podcast (see links page 9) and supplementary material by email

Deacon's Deliberations

Revd Graham Tate

tel: 07579 798481 email: revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Occasionally we get sunny, but cool days that hint at the approaching spring. The rest of the time it just rains. Everything is very wet and we have seen the roads and fields flooded to a much greater extent than in the past. That wet and dreary weather has affected a number of traditional events last year. Both the Teddy Bear's Picnic held in July and the Urswick Rushbearing celebrations were driven in doors by bad weather.

That has not helped us as a church family as we journey on without an incumbent in post for the last year. Although, as I report in the 'Mission' page there is hope that we may get a – albeit part time incumbent in the future. The process is starting but in reality there won't be an appointment this year – but let's pray it's next year, and pray for the right person to lead us into the future.

In the meantime, we are all extremely grateful for Martin and Davids' ministries, leading communions and also for help and sharing experience. Not that we'll wave either of them goodbye should a new incumbent arrive. But that will give Martin in particular (and for David and I) some breathing space. As I write this, I have no news of any appointment (or otherwise) at Dalton. A Priest in Dalton would be a great help within the Deanery, as we are still short of clergy. I'm praying that the lack of 'black smoke' is a hopeful sign that there will be some 'white smoke' in the near future!

The days are getting longer so spring is coming. The clocks go forward on Easter Sunday – that's because Easter is early this year. Spring is always a time when moods lift as the weather warms and the plants and trees start to grow and come into leaf.

It's a time to look forward rather than back. The path we have walked as a fellowship and as individuals has been rocky but most of the rocks are behind us. True there are still some rocks in the path we see ahead to be negotiated but I believe the path is less 'rocky' than in the recent past.

What lies ahead is a future that with God's guidance we can forge. So let me echo the words I concluded my last deliberations with -

Let us Pray

God bless
Graham.

COMMUNITY NEWS & GROUPS

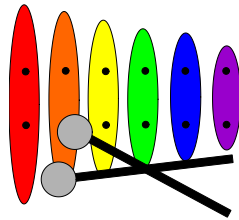


URSWICK POST OFFICE OUTREACH – URSWICK PARISH ROOM

Thank you to everyone who has supported the village Post Office and Coffee Morning. We are grateful that this service is now under new PO Outreach management and will continue with a regular service.

Fridays 9.30-11.30am

Urswick Toddlers Group



Music and Play for 0-3yrs

Our popular Toddler Group is held on Tuesdays!

9.30-11am

Come and join us for play, snacks, and singing at Urswick Parish Room

Contact Julie Charnley on 07709341047

Urswick Parish Room – Room Hire

Urswick Parish Room is open and taking bookings.

Please do get in touch if the space can support your group or community venture. The hall includes toilet and full kitchen facilities. Heating by meter. For bookings

and enquiries please contact Linda on

armstronglinda680@gmail.com

tel. 07856107256

CHURCH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt



10am Good Friday (29th March)
Urswick Church

CCArtT



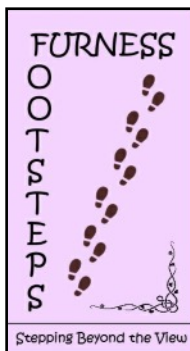
Cumbria Craft & Art Therapy

Cumbria Craft & Art Therapy is open to individuals with any mental health or fellowship need, including those affected by bereavement and loss, stress and anxiety or isolation and loneliness. Meeting and working together, we use a variety of crafts and art to offer a safe space and understanding

1-4pm Thurs 14th & 28th Mar; 11th & 25th Apr at Urswick Parish Room

Contact Linda 07856107256 for more

information and to book a place.



What about a walk in the
countryside?

What do you see?

Maybe there's more than
meets the eye

Join us on the 4th
Sunday of each month

Contact Graham

Revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Or mob : 07579 798481

Next Meeting 24th March 2024

Meeting at Ghyll Car park Ulverston

Start of Cumbria Way

please contact Graham; FB page or website

Date for your Diary

4th May 2024

Jumble & Craft Sale and Refreshments

Urswick Parish Room

In aid of refurbishment of Parish Room

CHURCH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Lent Reflection Group

Meets on Thursdays from 15th Feb to 28th March 7:00pm for refreshments and a 7:30 start

At Urswick Parish Room

Using the Church of England reflections **Watch and Pray**

Which can also be accessed on line by signing up for daily reflections via email at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/watch-and->

Knead to Chat?



Please contact Maggie for details of our Bread Therapy sessions.

These take place once a month and are a safe and peaceful space for those who are experiencing isolation, bereavement, stress or any struggle.

A great way to spend a few hours with company, good food (a soup and bread lunch is provided) and some good fun.

Urswick Parish Room

Booking essential Contact Maggie 835606

Donations (£4) please to cover cost of ingredients and heating



LADIES LUNCH GROUP

The Ladies Lunch 4th April 2024 at The Bay Horse, Dalton Lane, Barrow

Booking Essential - contact Maggie : tel. 07710254123.

Dietary requirements and menu choice can be submitted as soon as possible please.

Mental Health Fellowship Group

Essential to know who intends to come along **before** the date, please ring Sonjie 07710254123

Meeting in the Urswick Parish room. A time to chat, seek advice, advocacy or help with form filling are all available. This will be a safe space for anyone who attends.

If you feel that this would be beneficial to yourself or someone you know please contact Community Pastor : Sonjie Marshall Tel :07710254123 for further details.

MISSION AND PIONEERING



Rev Graham Tate

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Mob : 07579 798481

It's been winter and a wet one at that so Furness Footsteps have been taking our usual winter break. We did manage a short walk on Walney front in Feb - I have had to find a hard paved walk or we would have been paddling in mud. We'll see how the weather goes for the March walk!

However, it does give me the opportunity to relay the Archdeacon's plan for the future of the church in the Deanery and of more interest to us how that affects the churches in Low Furness. Vernon (the Archdeacon) met with the Bardsea PCC in Jan and with the combined PCCs of Aldingham, Dendron, Rampside and Urswick on 2nd Feb to outline the plan that has been agreed after considering the options over many discussions last year.

The plan is constrained by finance, although does include a contribution from the Diocesan central funds.

The south of Furness Deanery is (albeit slowly) recovering from the severe lack of stipendiary clergy that we have suffered from during 2023. A full time priest in-charge has been licensed at Broughton to fill one of the vacancies. Interviews have taken place for the Dalton post. At the time of writing, I have no news on the outcome.

The plan for our local ministry is a part time, house for duty priest-in-charge covering the three parishes that have been working successfully as a group for the last 5-6 years. I.E

Aldingham, Dendron and Rampside Parish
Bardsea Parish
Urswick Parish

To that end the parishes have been tasked with preparing the 'Parish Profile' as the first step in the planned recruitment of a new Priest-in-charge.

The plan also includes additional part-time youth and family workers to be deployed across the Deanery to 'grow younger' i.e. encourage younger people to become more active within the church community.

The plan is the best we could have hoped for given the circumstances; however, it will only be effective if it comes to fruition. And for that we pray.

God bless
Graham

WEBSTER'S WAFFLE

**Editor. Jim
Page Bank,
Rampside
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So we're in the run up to Easter, the reason why the Church exists. As Paul said to the Corinthians about his preaching to them, "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

But it's not just the death of Christ that is important. An awful lot of people have died over the years. What makes Jesus different is the resurrection. As Paul also says to the Corinthians, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

This resurrection is the very heart of our Faith. We say at some Communion services, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." In the Apostles Creed, "On the third day he rose again."

Whilst to us the crucifixion is shocking, being crucified isn't the reason for Christianity. I don't know if anyone here remembers the film Spartacus with Kirk Douglas playing the lead? At the end of the revolt, the Romans crucified the captured slaves along the side of the road from Capua to Rome, over 6,000 men, or one every thirty yards.

Similarly it wasn't just that Jesus was a wise and compassionate teacher. There have been many of those in the past, the vast majority of them long forgotten. The problem for those who want to remember Jesus purely as a wise teacher is that he said he was more than that. He said he was the Son of God. In John 10 "Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

Contemporaries knew he had made the claim. In John 5:18 we read about the Jewish leaders. "For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."

The problem is that without the resurrection, Jesus is just another wandering preacher, touched by the sun, and claiming to be the son of God. It's only with the resurrection that he proves he is the son of God.

Some people will cherry-pick scripture, saying, 'these bits I like are the original gospel, but these things I don't like, things that challenge me, things that force me to evaluate my entire reason for living, are later additions and I can ignore them.' But adopting that stance will tell you far more about yourself and what you cannot face up to, than it will tell you about Jesus. And once you accept the resurrection, the whole world changes. We have a paradigm shift, a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions. We look out at the same world but through a different window and see things from a slightly different angle.

St. Anselm was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 to 1109. He is the one who said, "I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but rather, I believe in order that I may understand."

CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS ONLINE

Date	Church	Service	Time
Every Mon/Tues/Thurs	Facebook Live	Morning Prayer	9:00am
Every Sunday	Worship at Home podcast and supplementary material by email		

ONLINE LINKS AND RESOURCES

The Church of Low Furness is the collective name for the churches serving the parishes of Aldingham, Dendron, Rampside and Urswick with Bardsea, a Church of England united benefice in the Diocese of Carlisle.

Please see our **Church of Low Furness website** for up to date information about our services and news: <http://churchoflowfurness.org.uk/>

Minutes of public domain meetings can be accessed via our website <http://www.churchoflowfurness.org.uk/meetingminutes.html>

We deliver regular live weekday services and prayer sessions on Facebook. Live on our **Facebook group**, the **Church of Low Furness**:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/578956609372390/about/>

Worship at Home material is produced every week for Sunday. This can be accessed via the podcasts directly at **Anchor with Spotify**:
<https://anchor.fm/lucie-lunn>

You can find the Common Worship Liturgy we use on the **Church of England website**, along with many other resources including information on weddings, baptisms and funerals:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

The **God for All** website has news from churches around the County of Cumbria and many faith resources:
<https://www.godforall.org.uk/>

You can also sign up for a regular news bulletin from Carlisle Diocese:
<https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/news-and-events/>

Contacts

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Rev Martin Williams : sweccsuper@outlook.com

Parish Room booking Mrs L Armstrong : armstronglinda680@gmail.com