THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

ADVENT

2025



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

2025

Contents:

Church Services	p.2
Deacon's Deliberations	p.3
Community News & Groups	p.4/5
Church Groups and Events	p.6
Webster's Waffle	p.7
Online Links & Contacts	p.8

Articles / Events / updates for inclusion in the Nov/Dec edition

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 15th Dec 2025

Email - revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES –

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2025

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 2nd Nov 2025	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 9th Nov 2025 Remembrance Sun	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion +AoR Evensong (BCP) +AoR AoR	10:45am 2.30pm 10:45am
Sunday 16th Nov 2025	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 23rd Nov 2025	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 30th Nov 2025 Advent Sun	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 7th Dec 2025	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick Stainton Village Hall	Holy Communion with Carols Carol Service	11:00am 3:00pm
Sunday 14th Dec 2025	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Carol Service	11:00am 2:30pm
Sunday 21st Dec 2025	Rampside Village Hall Holy Trinity Bardsea	Carol Service Christingle/ Carols	11:00am 4:00pm
24th Dec 2025 Christmas Eve	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick St Cuthbert's Aldingham	Crib Service Holy Communion	3:00pm 9:00pm
25th Dec 2025 Christmas Day	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea	Holy Communion	10:00am
Sunday 28th Dec 2025	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea	Holy Communion Family Service	11:00am 11:00am

Every Wednesday 10.30am
Mid-week Communion service in Urswick Parish Room
Refreshments are served after the service

Morning Prayer

On-line Morning prayer via Facebook live Is currently suspended

Healing Service 6:00 pm Sunday 23rd Nov 2025

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

Deacon's Deliberations

Due to illness of some of our key member we are unable to support the traditional range of services over Christmas. Please check with the service schedule if you would like to attend church services over Christmas

Graham

Sad News

Sadly we have to announce the death of Rev Alan Barrett.
Alan retired to Great Urswick after the life time of ministry in the midlands. He and Janet joined the worshiping community in the Benefice that included Urswick, Aldingham, Dendron and Rampside. He graciously came out of retirement to support the worship as our then vicar, Alex. Became ill and eventually retired. His help and support, not just leading services, but sharing his experience in the wider running of the parishes was invaluable during the interregnum. And not just at Urswick as other neighbouring parishes were also in vacancy. He was regularly leading Eucharist services at Dalton Lindal Penington and Bardsea as well as the ADRU Benefice.
There are many congregations in our area who are grateful to Alan and remember him with affection.
Sadly illness, borne with courage and dignity, has taken it's toll over the last few years and he passed away on 24th Oct surrounded by his family.
Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet and the wider family in their grief.
A celebration of Alan's life will be held at Urswick church at 12:30pm on 7th Nov.
May he rest in Peace and rise in Glory

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 for this service which is being used and hopefully will continue with a regular service.

Fridays 9.30-11.30am

Throughout the year the coffee morning offers a **warm friendly space** for fellowship and refreshments



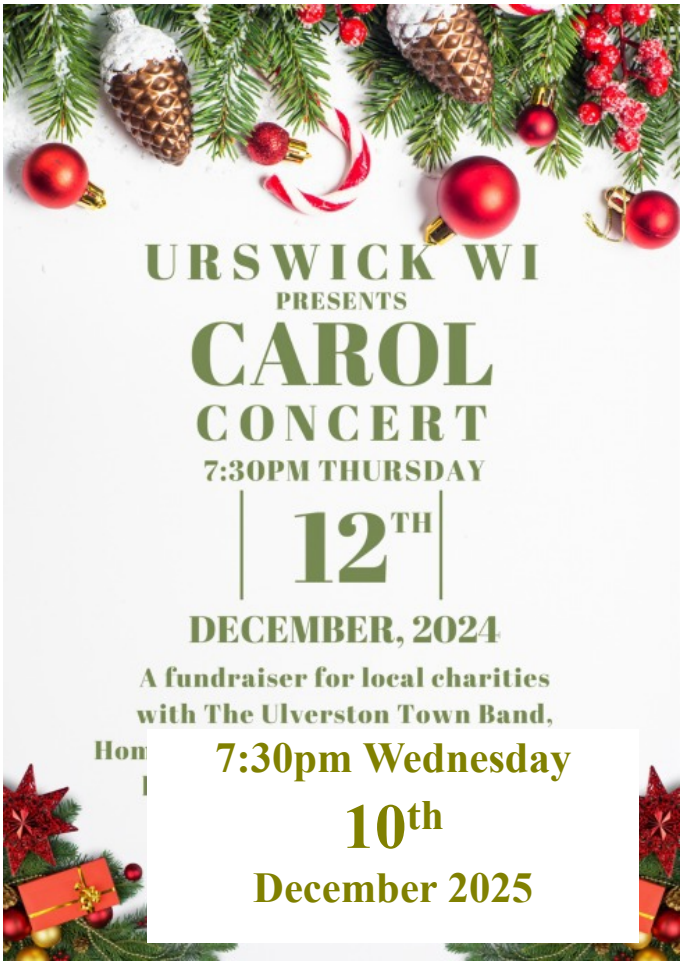
Urswick Parish Room – Room Hire

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

COMMUNITY NEWS & GROUPS





? Quiz Night ?

7:00pm Sat 22nd Nov 2025

Urswick Parish Room

Proceeds for Hospice Community Hub & Urswick Parish Room

Contact Helen Morris for tickets ,

tel,01229 869873 or 07857949324

CHURCH GROUPS AND EVENTS

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

Fortnightly 1-4pm Thurs at Urswick Parish Room

Contact Linda 07856107256 for more information and to book a place.

FURNESS FOOTSTEPS
Stepping Beyond the View

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

Crib Service

3:00pm 24th Dec 2024 at Urswick Church

A service for all the family celebrate Christmas Eve





LADIES LUNCH GROUP

The Ladies Lunch contact Maggie for details

Booking Essential - contact Maggie : tel. 0 7592 312015

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

Churchyard maintenance

Autumn is approaching , and as we prepare for seasonal changes there are costs the churches will incur in maintaining the churchyards.

Any one who would like to make a contribution to the churchyard fund can leave a donation at the church. All contributions are greatly appreciated. - A special thank you to people who have contributed to the cost of church yard maintenance this year.

Webster's Waffle

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Churches and congregations can go through cycles. Somebody commented that "the congregation gets a shrink, panics, reaches out and recruits people, then gets smug, relaxes, starts to shrink again."

But there is another phenomena. It's the downward spiral. Numbers drop off, and this means you have fewer people to recruit from when you want new Churchwardens or PCC members. And perhaps your parish is amalgamated, to that you keep your critical mass. But if the new parish continues to shrink, then you still have trouble recruiting new Churchwardens and PCC.

But now it's even more difficult, because the PCC and officers that you have got are doing even more work, this time for two parishes. The spiral can take further turns and other, shrinking parishes, are added to them. Because these extra parishes are also failing, this means that the officers you've got have to shoulder an even larger burden.

Then at some point the officers you've still got have to be replaced. Their health is no longer up to it, they'd died, or perhaps their adult children want their parents to move closer to the family so that the children can keep an eye on them.

This throws up other problems. Firstly everybody in the congregation takes one look at the work load the last churchwarden or treasurer or whatever was carrying and refuses point blank to pick up that burden. Another problem can be that nobody actually knows what the job entails. Indeed if the Churchwarden or other officer dies in office, not only have you lost their memories, a lot of the paperwork might be thrown out by their family when the house is cleared.

At this point your parish might come to the attention of the Archdeacon. I was talking to one (not ours) and they talked about some parishes they have to deal with. The Arch Deacon may have to amalgamate a parish with others if,

It has a dwindling congregation: There are so few worshippers the parish isn't viable.

It may have financial difficulties: The parish might be facing repair costs beyond what it can afford. In some dioceses (not Carlisle) it might be that the parish can no longer afford to pay a parish share to the diocese to help defray the cost of clergy.

There may be a decline in ministry: Basically this means that there are no longer the volunteers coming forward from the congregation so that the parish has a viable PCC and churchwardens.

Finally there are the structural issues: In simple terms the church building will cost too much to repair, or get into a safe condition.

Apparently the dwindling congregation and decline in ministry are the two most insidious causes of closure. The Archdeacon I was talking to commented that once they got to know their parishes, they had a list of those that were in danger of having to close. So at a church service in that parish, the problem was explained and a date set for a parish meeting to discuss the issue.

At one meeting perhaps a dozen people turned up and admitted things were beyond them.

At the other meeting, much to everybody's surprise, over a hundred people turned up. People not merely promised to attend more, they handed the treasurer standing orders so they'd pay so much a week, whatever. By the end of the meeting they had a full PCC and two churchwardens.

Which parish survived?

God Bless
Jim

CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS ONLINE

Date	Platform	Service	Time
Every Mon/Tues/Thurs	Facebook Live	Morning Prayer	9:00am

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 pubic 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/

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

Rev Graham Tate : revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Rev Martin Williams : sweccsuper@outlook.com

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

Safeguarding : Mrs L Armstrong : safeguarding@churchoflowfurness.org.uk