THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023



Happy New Year

to all our Readers

WINTER 23

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Articles / Events / updates for inclusion in the Spring edition

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 18th Feb 23

Email - revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

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



Knead to Chat?

Please contact Maggie (t. 01229 835606) 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.

Kneed to Chat : Monday 10:00am to 2:00pm Mon 23rd Jan

Booking Essential 07710254123

Donations please to cover cost of ingredients

Feb Date to be confirmed - please see website



LADIES LUNCH GROUP

The Ladies Lunch will be held 3rd Feb 2023 TO BE CONFIRMED

Do come and join this friendly group. **Please Book with Maggie t.** 07710254123**.** Dietary requirements and menu choice can be submitted as soon as possible please.

Booking is Essential as places are limited

CHURCH SERVICES – JAN – FEB 2023

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 1st Jan	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 8th Jan	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea Rampside Village Hall St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Service of the Word Sung Evening Prayer (BCP)	10.30am 2.30pm 2.30pm
Sunday 15th Jan	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion (spoken) Holy Communion	8:00am 10.30am
Sunday 22 Jan	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Service Healing Service	10.30am 10.30am 6:00pm
Sunday 29th Jan	Rampside Village Hall	Benefice Holy Communion	10:30am
Sunday 5th Feb	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 12th Feb	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea Rampside Village Hall St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Service of the Word Sung Evening Prayer (BCP)	10.30am 2.30pm 2.30pm
Sunday 19th Feb	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion (spoken) Holy Communion	8:00am 10.30am
Sunday 26th Feb	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Service Healing Service	10.30am 10.30am 6pm
Sunday 5th March	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	10.30am

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.

Evening Prayer - Compline

Every Saturday Evening at St Mary & St Michael's Urswick at 4pm

Healing Service Sunday 22nd Jan & 26th Feb 2023

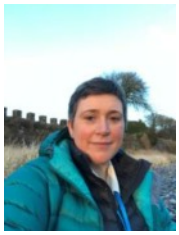
A service of prayer, contemplation, and healing at Urswick Church

Worship at Home

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

View from the Vicarage

Revd Lucie Lunn
The Vicarage, Great Urswick LA12 0TA
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Hope for 2023

Dear Friends,
I begin this new year with a message and prayer of HOPE.
Last year was hard for so many; rather than picking up where we left off pre-pandemic, or flourishing in recovery, we have seen war break out in Europe, a cost-of-living crisis affecting millions and the rise of the working poor struggling to make ends meet. Which, together with exhaustion and anger at the social injustice of the situation, has led to strikes and the prospect of more as we enter 2023.
But we have HOPE. As Christians we are a people of hope, living in the reality of God's love for us and the promise of God's Kingdom breaking through the uncertainties and corruptions of these human kingdoms and oligarchies.
So, what does hope look like? Well, I am often struck by the words of Emily Dickinson's poem*: "Hope is the thing with feathers, That perches in the soul, And sings the tune without the words, That never stops at all…"* For me, the description 'that never stops at all' is most like the Christian hope, the hope of Christ, the light that shines in the darkest places and darkest moments of life, and the darkness cannot overcome that light. (John 1:5)
But recently I came across another (anonymous) description of hope online, that captivated my imagination. It said this: *"People speak of hope as if it is this delicate, ephemeral thing made of whispers and spider's webs. It's not. Hope has dirt on her face, blood on her knuckles, the grit of the cobblestones in her hair, and just spat out a tooth as she rises for another go."*
Some of you who know me well will understand why such a description of hope, as determination in the midst of spiritual pain and standing firm in the face of bullying and aggression, resonates so much with me. It is this image of hope that I leave you all with as we start this new year. The world feels a frightening and hostile place for many, many people, whether due to job insecurity and financial hardship close to home, or international conflict and climate degradation having creating migration and homelessness. As Christians, we have the rooted certainty and stability of God's kingdom to look to and trust in. It is a rootedness that allows us to get up, again and again, in the face of any attack or darkness and rise with hope in our hearts, a hope that we share with others and which, as Emily Dickinson puts it, *never stops at all*.
God's blessings upon you this new year, may you live in the hope of God's promises throughout 2023.

Lucie

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

1-4pm Thurs 12th & 26th Jan & 9th & 23rd Feb
at Urswick Parish Room

Contact Maggie (t. 835606) or Lucie (t.587200) for more information and to book a place.

God for All

Follow Daily: Family Worship

As part of our commitment to the principles of our refreshed Diocesan vision; to Follow Daily, Tread Gently, Care Deeply and Speak Boldly, our monthly family service outdoors,

Wild Church will resume in the New Year

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

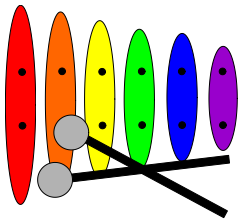
07579 798481

Next Meeting

Feb 26th Venue TBA please contact Graham; FB page or website

Events

The Children's Gate



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

Mental Health Fellowship Group

Wednesday 25th Jan at 12:30pm

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.

Urswick Parish Room – Room Hire

Urswick Parish Room is open and taking bookings. While we have been contacting previous user groups, 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 Maggie on tel. 01229 835606

MISSION AND PIONEERING



Rev Graham Tate

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Furness Footsteps

Footsteps are taking our Winter break and will resume in Feb 23

Stepping into the Future

By now most of you will have heard that Lucie will be leaving for pastures new.
This time last year Furness Deanery had 5 full time priests and 2 part timers. When Lucie goes in late Feb, the Deanery will be left with one full time vicar in Ulverston and the 2 part timers, one of whom is based in Millom and the other in the Crake valley.
The state of Diocesan finances means that not all of the vacancies will be filled. A quick check on the Diocesan website lists no clergy vacancies – so at best it will be many months before we see any more ordained clergy in our Deanery. Our Benefice is not likely to be a priority for recruitment for a full time priest.
So we face a future, probably a long term future, without a 'vicar', and in the short/medium term very little support from the wider Deanery. Unlike our last interregnum, which lasted a year (longer if you count the time Alex was off work ill before he retired) and during which many people helped sustain the pattern of worship and activities, this time we facing a long term without a resident priest.
We will soon be at a watershed moment when Lucie leaves. Then we will be dependent on our own resources, and without a full-time priest we should pause and consider what we can realistically sustain for the long term. And we need to have that in place by early March. Simply assuming that people will do what they did during the last interregnum is not viable as health issues have impacted some members of the team and others have moved away. We have less capacity than 5 years ago to sustain the full spectrum of services and activities we currently provide.
Just as a reminder – I have been mistaken for a vicar on a number of occasions – but as a Distinctive Deacon my ministry is limited – I cannot cover many of the priestly ministries.
So over the next couple of months, as a Fellowship we will have to consider what we can sustain going forward. What our priorities are, and how do we sustain the important things. Not just services – Jesus' church is more than the buildings and more than the services (although worship is important) Jesus' church is about people and the kingdom of God.
Yes the future looks different, but it will be what we make of it with God's help.

God bless
Graham

Webster's Waffle

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Rampside
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And the world is turned upside down. As you've doubtless learned, Lucie is moving to pastures new. Somebody asked me, "Are we faced with a long interregnum before we get a new Vicar?" The answer is probably 'No, because we're very unlikely to get another Vicar for our benefice.' The reason for this is simple. Firstly Carlisle diocese has struggled to attract clergy. Secondly, and more importantly, even if clergy were applying there isn't the money to pay them. Over the years I've heard people say, "I want my money to go to this church, not to Carlisle." Who on earth do they think pays the clergy?

One chap, a retired teacher, asked why clergy were paid at all, as it was a vocation. I merely commented, "You mean, like teaching and nursing?"

But as you read this, Broughton and Dalton will not have vicars. When Lucie moves, there will be one full time Vicar in the deanery.

The guess is that the priority is to get a vicar for Dalton, and then that individual will somehow be held responsible for some sort of oversight of Broughton and us. So we're left with our current team to try and keep the show on the road.

But in reality, nothing has changed. As it says in Hebrews, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." The important one, the person we follow, hasn't changed and isn't going to change. The Son of God who washed his disciples' feet as a reminder to the rest of us, is still here and still wants us to pick up our cross and follow him.

During Christmas I read Mary's song, sometimes called The Magnificat. She sings about God, "He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty."

The Apostle Paul wrote to one church, "Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth."

It's encouraging. If you want to follow Jesus, if you're the sort of person who doesn't get offered a 'good' table at a charity function, if you're ignored by all the 'important' people, then you are going to fit right in.

So what are we going to do over the next few years? Apart from trying to follow Jesus. Well a church isn't a building, it's a Christian community. Together we have to build that community. It has to be welcoming, where somebody who is wondering about Christianity can explore faith. It has to be supportive, a place where those who are down know they will be able to share with people who have walked where they are walking. It has to be a safe place, a place where victims can feel they belong and know that the proud, the bully and the abuser will not strut and throw their weight about. A community dedicated to servant ministry following only one master.

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.

Working as part of the ecumenical county of Cumbria, we are also part of the developing Furness Mission Community and Churches Together in Cumbria.

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

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/

Additionally, these are uploaded to our **YouTube Channel**:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEiGPcDStf4AQE4E_wKV-Kg/videos

Worship at Home material is produced every week for Sunday. This is available via our Facebook group posts, or you can access 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 new bulletin from Carlisle Diocese:
https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/news-and-events/