THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

NEW YEAR 2024



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2024

Contents:

Church Services	p.2
Deacon's Deliberations	p.3
Church Groups and Events	p.4-5
Community Groups & Evenmts	p.6
Mission and Pioneering	p.7
Webster's Waffle	p.8
Online Links	p.9

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

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 19th Feb 24

Email - revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Church Services – January / February 2024

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 7th Jan 24 Epiphany	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 14th Jan 24	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Sung Evening Prayer	11:00am 2.30pm
Sunday 21st Jan 24	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 28th Jan 24	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 4th Feb 24 Candlemas	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 11th Feb 24	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Sung Evening Prayer	11:00am 2.30pm
Sunday 18th Feb 24	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 25th Feb 24	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 3rd Mar 24	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am

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.

There will be no Morning Prayer between Christmas and New Year

Resuming 2nd Jan 2024

Healing Service 6:00 pm Sunday 28th Jan 24 & 25th Feb 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

I hope you all are having or have had a good Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year.
This is the time of year when we look forward to the new year, and things we might want to change. All those New Year resolutions over the years. Some made it into the normal – others – well least said!

The post-Christmas / New Year weeks after the celebrations are over is a time to reflect on the past year and think about the coming year.

2023 was not the year we expected at the end of 2022. We hadn't got far into 2023 when our vicar Lucie departed for pastures new in Blackburn Diocese. And that was the 4th full time priest (out of 5 incumbents and 1 curate) to leave the Deanery in the space of 12 months. To date only one has been replaced. That as the saying goes has been challenging across the Deanery.

We in Low Furness however have been blessed with the presence of Martin Williams without whom we would not have been able to sustain the service pattern we have. So a big Christmas thank you to Martin. Since the latter part of the year David is now helping by presiding at some of the Sunday services. So, another big thank you to David too.

Looking forward to 2024 Easter is early – end of March that means that Lent starts on 14th Feb. So it looks like the first job in the new year will be planning Lent and Easter.
Calendar apart – what kind of church do we want to be in the future? We have a rich history in our churches and communities, but society is changing. The pace of change has taken a quantum leap as a result of the world-wide Covid pandemic of 20/21 and the war in Ukraine. The society that has emerged from the disruption of the past few years is not what we knew a few years ago. How should we as a Christian community respond to the changes happening around us. The Gospel message hasn't changed in 2000 years despite the socio-economic environment in which the church has ministered changing radically over that time.

I think a key theme for the coming year is – discernment – prayerfully listening to God. It applies to our own local church and the Diocese at large.

By now the news that the Crown Nomination Committee failure to agree on a name to be put forward for the next Bishop of Carlisle will have propagated through the churches. This means Bishop Rob will remain as Acting Diocesan Bishop for the short-term future. I ask you to hold Bishop Rob and the discernment committee and process in prayer.

Locally we have our challenges and we remain unsure of the framework in which Low Furness Church will be ministering going forward

What can we do; what should we do; what does God want us to do?

Let us Pray

God bless
Graham.

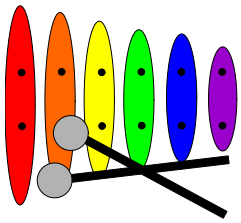
COMMUNITY NEWS & GROUPS

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

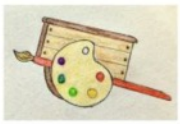
Urswick Parish Room – Room Hire

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

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 4th &18th Jan; 1st ; 15th ; & 29th Feb at Urswick Parish Room

Contact Lynda 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

07579 798481

Next Meeting 25th Feb 20204

Venue TBD

please contact Graham; FB page or website

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.

CHURCH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Lent Reflection Group

With Easter being early in 2024 Ash Wednesday and therefore the beginning of Lent is 14th Feb 24.

So early I haven't as yet sorted the details of a reflection of Lent.

Please see the website toward the end of Jan or the church notices for details.

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 18th Jan 2024

Venue TBC

Booking Essential - contact Maggie : tel. 07710254123.

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

MISSION AND PIONEERING



Rev Graham Tate

Email : revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Mob : 07579 798481

Furness Footsteps

October

We met at Conishead Priory and headed out onto the beach taking advantage of low tide to walk on the sands rather than the coast path. The plan was to walk to Bardsea and back and have coffee at the Priory café. However, we got the Bardsea – Chill and Grill were open. Now the Priory café does serve nice cakes, but only vegetarian food. Chill and Grill serve bacon buns and sausage buns as well as coffee and tea. You guested we fell for the temptation of bacon and sausage buns. Well to be honest not so much fell as jumped!! I can recommend the sausage buns and the bacon and egg one went down well too. Then replenished we made our way back to the Priory.

November.

With the fields getting a 'bit' boggy we planned on the paths around the Crake estuary at Greenodd. Good plan too many car parks. But we did eventually manage to meet half way round the walk.



It was one of those really still days when ponds become mirrors to the sky and surrounding land.

This was probably a flooded field rather than a permanent pond but the effect was much the same.

Footsteps are taking our usual winter break in Dec and Jan but intend to resume our walks in Feb – weather permitting.

Low Furness School

The church was full of excited young children on 14th Dec for the end of term Carol Service. The various year groups had their own contributions to the service. The infants enacting the nativity story, year 6 (that's top juniors to those who pre-date the year numbering) lead the prayers. There is something really moving listening to the children sing 'Away in a Manger' which the whole school did.

Webster's Waffle



When I was thinking about writing this, two songs came to mind. One was 'O little town of Bethlehem' which I'm sure everybody will know. The other was 'Fairy Tale in New York'. If you don't know it, it's a combination Christmas love song and the sort of argument you overhear in a pub carpark where you desperately hope neither of the two people arguing intends to drive.
The problem we have is that whilst we might all hope that Christmas turns out to be closer to 'O little town of Bethlehem;' for many, the second song probably carries too much bitter truth to be comfortable.
So is it our fault and can we fix it? Well the answer to the problem is given by the carol. "No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in." So problem fixed then?
Yet I've been re-reading a book by the American author, Philip Yancey called, 'Vanishing Grace.' Looking on-line you can pick it up second hand for less than a fiver, so it might even be worth looking at for a Lent course. Still, Philip Yancey is an American Evangelical Christian who has written and travelled across the world. He was shocked to see how the term 'evangelical' had become a term of abuse in the US. His book is an exploration of what went wrong and what needs doing.
At one point he came across four complaints about Christians in a magazine published by 'Christianity Today'.

- You don't listen to me.
- You Judge me.
- Your faith confuses me.
- You talk about what's wrong instead of making it right.

The first one we can fix. Indeed we ought to fix it. You cannot help somebody by providing a pre-packaged solution. You have to listen to them to discover what they think their problem is.
Judgement? If we're judging an individual then we shouldn't. As Isaiah said, the Lord is our judge. The problem is, if you try to live to a different standard to other people, they can feel judged. Unfortunately that might be their problem rather than ours. After all, they can experience the glee when we fall short of that standard.
As for 'your faith confuses me,' our faith can be very simple. Just not especially easy. As Mark Twain said, "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand."
Then the final point, expecting us to make everything right is a tough call, except for another point Yancey raised. "One thing that had always troubled me was the way people disappeared from church when their lives were breaking down. Separation and divorce were the most common explanations for long absences, but so were depression, alcoholism, job loss and mortal illness. One new widow told me that she could not come to church because she started crying the moment she sat down in a pew…. I understand the reasoning but I was sorry that church did not strike these wounded souls as a place they could bring the dark fruits of their equally dark nights."
In 'Oh Little Town of Bethlehem,' looking for the lyrics, I found one verse I've never seen sung before. "Where Charity stands watching, and Faith holds wide the door, the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

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 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/

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

Rev Graham Tate : revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Rev Martin Williams : sweccsuper@outlook.com

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