THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



MARCH / APRIL 2025

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Articles / Events / updates for inclusion in the May/June edition

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 21st April 2025

Email - revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES –

MARCH – APRIL 2025

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 2nd March 2025	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick St Michael & Holy Angels Pennington	Holy Communion	11:00am 3:00pm
Sunday 9th March 2025	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (BCP)	11:00am 2.30pm
Sunday 16th March 2025	Rampside Village Hall St Michael & Holy Angels Pennington	Holy Communion	11:00am 3:00pm
Sunday 23rd March 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 March 2025 Mothering Sun	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea	Family Service	11:00am
Friday 4th April 2025	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Low Furness School end of term service	9:00am
Sunday 6th April 2025	Rampside Village Hall St Michael & Holy Angels Pennington	Holy Communion	11:00am 3:00pm
Sunday 13th April 2025 Palm Sun	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	11:00am 2:30pm
Sunday 20th April 2025 Easter Sunday	St Mary & St. Michael, Urswick St Michael & Holy Angels Pennington	Holy Communion	11:00am 3:00pm
Sunday 27th April 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 4th May 2025	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.

Healing Service 6:00 pm Sunday 3rd March & 27th April

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

Deacon's Deliberations

Sadly no one applied for our vacancy again. There was some interest from a couple of people but alas no one put in a formal application.

There is difficulty attracting clergy (and many other professions) to Cumbria. Why when millions come to the Lakes for holidays would they not want to live and work within a few minutes' drive of an area of such natural beauty?

What next our Benefice?

Archdeacon Vernon is still trying to persuade the Network Youth Church, who also have been unable to recruit a worker into the area to collaborate on a joint role. They have just readvertised roles in Keswick, Kendal and Ulverston. Closing date is 24th March. The next 3 weeks will tell if there is any response this time.

So for the time being no change for us in Low Furness.

One thing being actively pursued within the Deanery is to recruit a paid part time administrator to relieve some of the admin load on those who are working hard to sustain the church. I know many are feeling the strain and I'm holding you all in prayer, and yes, some practical help would easy the strain.
A big thank you to all of you who are working hard to sustain the church and build links with the communities in our villages.

Thankfully the life of the church continues and Lent starts this coming Wednesday.

Lent is traditionally a time for forgoing luxuries (like chocolate) but the real purpose is an annual time for reflection on our personal journeys. Echoing Jesus' 40 days of spiritual reflection between His baptism by John and the start of His earthly ministry.

Our Lent group this year will use the Church of England Lent Journey 'Living Hope'. Which is a booklet of 40 daily reflections. We'll meet each Tuesday at Urswick Parish Room at 2:00pm to share our thoughts together. If you can't make the group gathering the booklets are available via CoE website as are daily reflection on line. You can sign up for the daily reflections by going to the Church of England website and searching for 'Living Hope' and either downloading the app and signing up for daily reflections by emails

https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-lent-reflections

Then towards the end of April we look forward to Easter. That day we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. A day of celebration and hope for us all. This year the Easter Day services are at 11:00am in Urswick where we will be led in worship by Archdeacon Vernon and at Pennington at 3:00pm.
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 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

Cumbria - Westmorland Federation

Urswick WI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Meet at Urswick Parish Room

7:30pm on second Wednesday of each month

We have speakers ; meals; crafts; fun and fellowship

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

RACHAEL 01229 869643

KRISTAN 07963 376388

JUST COME AND SEE

Urswick Toddlers Group

Music and Play for 0-3yrs

Our popular Toddler Group is held on Tuesdays!

9:30 - 11:30

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

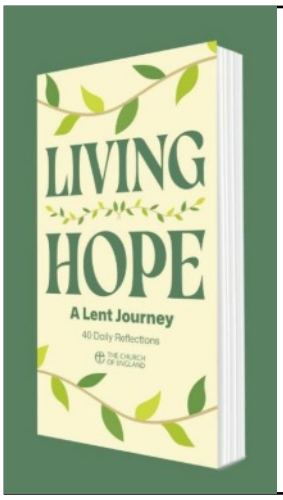
Contact Julie Charnley on 07709341047

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



Lent Course

Church of England Lent Journey

Living Hope

Meeting Tuesday afternoon at 2:00pm Urswick Parish room

Starting 11th March for 6 weeks.

See Graham for a copy of booklet



Easter Egg Hunt

Good Friday 18th April : 10:00am at Urswick church

And you get to keep the eggs

Plant Sale



Come for coffee / cake and go home with some plants

Monday 5th May 2025

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

Next Meeting March 23rd meeting at Abbey Amphitheatre carpark

please contact Graham; FB page or website



LADIES LUNCH GROUP

The Ladies Lunch

TBA - contact Maggie for details

Booking Essential - contact Maggie : tel. 0 7592 312015

Churchyard maintenance

Spring is approaching , when we see new growth and an increase in costs that 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.

Webster's Waffle

Editor. Jim
Page Bank,
Rampside
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We could be in for a busy two months. By the time you read this, it's entirely possible we have had somebody apply for the position of Priest in Charge of our parishes. It's also entirely possible we won't, so please pray that somebody suitable is prompted to join us.

At the same time the committee is meeting to shortlist for a new Bishop. Last time they tried this, they short listed but then rejected everybody at interview. Given it's the same committee with the same members I'm not entirely convinced they'll pick somebody this time.

More importantly we're going through Lent into Easter. Yes, a small team is running itself ragged trying to keep the show on the road. The admin that goes into a parish is beyond belief. I've lost track of the emails that have gone into organising an interment of ashes. A lot of these are people from away. The deceased moved away to live closer to their children and now their wish was to come back and have their ashes interred with their spouse. This is fair enough and not a problem. But what could be sorted in a five minute conversation with the undertaker when the family live locally can take three months and innumerable emails.

Somebody did ask me why we did it. But what else can you do? We follow somebody who, in the final hours running up to his arrest, washed his disciple's feet. He then told them, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." We have that example, that commandment. We have to look after people.

And now we're coming up to Easter. I remember two things told to me by clergy. One was Penny Driver who was our Archdeacon. She commented that people who come into church, who attend a service, 'put themselves at risk of God.' They have come into a place where they have been told he is present (actually he's present everywhere, he's not restricted to buildings but we'll let that go for now) and it's not our fault if he decides to taken them up on this and to talk to them. He might have a job in mind for them, or feel that they could make better use of the gifts he has given them.

Another comment was made by Alex Armstrong when he was our vicar. He was showing us how to set the communion table ready for communion. The first thing he did was put the piece of cloth down on which everything else goes. He commented that you could think of this as a target for the Holy Spirit. When he's asking the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and wine, this marks the spot. But Alex then added that just because he has provided the Holy Spirit with a target, it doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit isn't going to look around the church and decide that as well as blessing the bread and wine, he's going to have a quiet word with two or three present. After all, they've 'put themselves at risk of God.'

So we're a servant community, a welcoming community, ideally a community that people want to feel a part of because they want something intangible that we've got.

And because of that they come and join us as we too put ourselves at risk of God.

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