THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025



Happy New Year

to all our Readers

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

Contents:

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

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

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 20th Feb 2025

Email - revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES –

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 5th Jan 2025	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 12th Jan 2025	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Sung Evening Prayer (BCP)	11:00am 2.30pm
Sunday 19th Jan 2025	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 26th Jan 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 2nd Feb 2025	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 9th Feb 2025	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	11:00am 2:30pm
Sunday 16th Feb 2025	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 23rd Feb 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 2nd Mar 2025	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am

Every Wednesday 10.30am – Except 1st Jan 2025
Mid-week Communion service in Urswick Parish Room
Refreshments are served after the service

Pennington Services will added when available

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 26th Jan & 23rd Feb

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

Deacon's Deliberations

Christmas day may be past for another year but the church is still in Christmas season.
That time of year we celebrate Jesus birth and sing of peace on Earth - good will to all men.
But those songs and prayers are lost in the clamber of war and conflict. Would that this Christmas had bought peace to lands torn by arm conflict – but the guns seem to have drowned out the carols.
Yes the world needs peace at all levels from the nations and competing factions at war – the violence within societies across the world – conflict within families between individuals, and even internally for ourselves. And yes with God.

So as we reflect on Peace we can ask the question

What is Peace?

Major wars and conflicts sometimes end with a peace treaty or agreement, that ends the fighting. But does that bring peace? It's certainly better than the fighting and a step along the road to peace – but only a first step. Often with the best of intentions
Recorded history is a litany of wars and empires that have come and gone.
So what we often call peace is really the interlude between conflicts. And not just on the nation state level it is equally applicable to the conflicts we see between social factions, families and even individuals.
So I come back to my question

What is Peace?

True peace – that Shalom that scripture speaks of is something far deeper than what we have been calling peace.
We probable have to go back to the Garden of Eden to catch a glimpse of Shalom.
Adam and Eve living in the garden at peace with each other with creation and with God. All 3 of them "*walking in the garden in the cool of the day,*" Gen 3:8. But then it all went wrong. Adam blaming Eve – Eve blaming the serpent. God cross with everybody.
The Shalom of the Garden shattered. Humankind destined to be driven to conflict by greed and jealousy.
Shalom was and is God's plan for us all. It shines out of the prophets in the OT. It's embedded in the 10 Commandments : Exodus 20 : 1-17

When the pursuit of wealth, material and possessions become gods and greed becomes the driving force then we have conflict. As opposed to God's intent for Shalom – How do we know that – from the mouth of Jesus Himself Matthew 22 : 36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

It doesn't require a great leap of intellect to se that if we love God and our fellow human beings as God intended then all the 10 Commandments just fall into place.

Happy New Year and 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

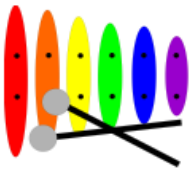
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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!

9.30-11am

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

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

please contact Graham; FB page or website



LADIES LUNCH GROUP

The Ladies Lunch

TBA - contact Maggie for details

Booking Essential - contact Maggie : tel. 01229 835606.

Churchyard maintenance

Winter is approaching so the trees and plants are taking their annual rest

However, spring will be with us in a few months 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



I was lent a book, 'Sick Society,' written by Dr Andy Knox. It is subtitled, 'Reimagining How We Live Well Together.' Whilst the writer mentions his own Christianity, he didn't intend to write a Christian Book. He has considerable experience, as a GP, with dealing with poverty in North Lancashire, and his book is an exploration of how bad it has been for some of his patients and how the system methodically fails those on the margins. In spite of his best efforts, I'd say he'd written a very Christian book. Most of his solution is that if we just started loving each other, things would work better.

To be honest I wish our archbishops showed the same understanding that he shows. Also I wish they had some of his fire. We have had too many archbishops who have been managerial when actually what the country really needed was somebody who was prophetic. Not prophetic as is predicting the result of the next race, but prophetic in that they slam the table so hard the wood cracks and announce, "This is wrong, it has to stop."

Obviously such an archbishop, he or she, would be told to stay out of politics, but given that it's a politician who picks the archbishop from the shortlist, this seems a bit strange. They're a politician's choice.

But yes, at a high level all this stuff is going on. At some point stuff filters down to our level. But in the meanwhile what are we going to do? Graham will doubtless have explained to you the plans afoot to try and get us a new incumbent. Frankly I think they're an interesting idea. Getting somebody young who is interesting in working with young people and helping to build our congregations has to be a good thing. But what is our part to play in this?
In the last twelve months it looks as if the Aldingham congregation is drifting slowly up. The others seem to be holding their own. Bardsea is a joy with having the children there. Even without a vicar and with a small unpaid and overworked team running themselves ragged, we are sort of keeping the show on the road.

But I was talking to somebody. They mentioned that they'd been back to where they used to live. During the visit, there was a church service in the parish church. They went. Back when they lived there, they hadn't been a church goer (they now are) so weren't sure they'd meet anybody they knew. Actually they met the lady who used to be their next door neighbour. They'd never been bosom friends but they'd got on well enough. But as this person said, "If she'd invited me to go to church with her, I'd have gone."

When you think about it, we have a wide range of services. If your friend is somebody who is nervous of going into a church building, we have the friendly informality of Rampside. For somebody who wants a more formal service held in beautiful buildings we have Urswick and Aldingham. Bardsea with flowers is just breath-taking when you get inside.

Something to pray about perhaps?

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

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

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