THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

WINTER

2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026



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

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 21st Feb 2026

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CHURCH SERVICES –

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 4th Jan 2026 Epiphany	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 11th Jan 2026	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Sung Evening Prayer (BCP)	11:00am 2.30pm
Sunday 18th Jan 2026	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 25th Jan 2026	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 1st Feb 2026 Candlemas	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 8th Feb 2026	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	11:00am 2:30pm
Sunday 15th Feb 2026	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 22nd Feb 2026	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

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

Morning Prayer

We hope to resume On-line Morning prayer via Facebook live in Jan
Initially be will be Mondays only
Details will be announced on our Facebook page

Healing Service 6:00 pm Sunday 25th Jan and 22nd Feb 2026

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

Deacon's Deliberations

Deacons Deliberations Winter 2026

Well Christmas 25 has come and gone and by the time you are reading this 2025 will have followed too.
Christmas is a time for decoration and Bardsea church decked out beautifully for the season.



The turn of the year is often a time for reflection on the past year and looking forward and planning for the new year. We are being bombarded by adverts on the TV for holidays for the coming year. Actually that started before Christmas.

We start the new year with a Diocesan Bishop in post after +Rob's enthronement in November. Although he has effectively been in post for a while as acting Bishop. The process for seeking a new Suffragan Bishop for Penrith has started but it will be a while before we see white smoke. What all that means for us locally we have to wait and see.

For now the turkey and Christmas pudding are all eaten and we face the winter months of January and February. A time when there is great temptation to hibernate as travelling is difficult. But the days are getting longer and it will soon be Lent – 18th Feb to be precise with Easter in early April.

The Advent season of 2025 may be over but as we look towards, and prepare for Easter we should remember that we are Advent people preparing for Christ's coming again – not as a small vulnerable baby – but returning as King to usher in His kingdom for justice and compassion.

In the meantime I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2026.

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



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



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

We may be in Winter when relatively little maintenance is required in gardens and the churchyard but we can be preparing for seasonal changes when the churches will incur cost 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

Editor. Jim
Page Bank,
Rampside
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During our Fourth Sunday healing service there is a very short talk. Recently we've been drawn to the psalms and when I did the talk last, I was drawn to one particular psalm. But I want to share the journey by which I got to the psalm.
In the beginning, when God spoke to Abraham there was no ceremony. Abraham merely admitted his doubts. On one occasion, he bargains with God over the people of Sodom. Bargains? Abraham haggles! Read Genesis 18 from verse 16 to see how it's done.
God, when he dealt with the Patriarchs, was their God, talking to them. And they regarded him as a member of their clan or family. To Jacob, when he had to swear an oath, he swore by God, who he describes as 'The Kinsman of Isaac.' Each person talked with God, one to one, and each was his own priest, making sacrifices in person when they felt they were needed
Then with Moses you get the full panoply of the Law. You get priests, servers, and musicians. And all the regulations. When you think how close the Children of Israel came to being obliterated or absorbed, you can see why God introduced the Law. It helped them remain distinctive and gave them a distinct identity.
Yet all though the period of the Monarchy, you get the prophets who often attack organised religion. We get Micah 6.6 to 8
"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression? The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

So according to Micah, complex ritual isn't going to save you, keep it simple, 'act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.'
And then we have Jesus. He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."
Jesus told us to talk to Our Father. After many years of wandering we are back with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, talking to our God who has brought us into his family. Keep it simple.
And the Psalm, it was Psalm 117. The shortest, the simplest.
"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord."
Allegedly Albert Einstein once said "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough."
Nobody is entirely sure whether he did or not but Lord Rutherford apparently said, "An alleged scientific discovery has no merit unless it can be explained to a barmaid."
But then I read somebody reminiscing about some mathematicians he knew who were trying to play a joke on their colleague in a bar. Whilst the colleague was absent, they coached the "barmaid" to reply "one third x cubed" when they offhand asked her what the integral of x squared was. So when the colleague came back they decided to play their prank and she responded as they prompted her, and then nonchalantly added, "Plus a constant".
If I keep it simple, I have a chance of understanding it.

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