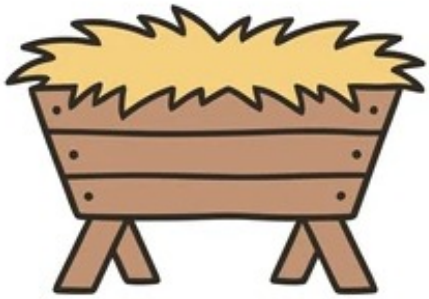
THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 2026



NOV / DEC 2026

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Articles / Events / updates for inclusion in the Jan/Feb edition

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 14th Dec 2026

Email - revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 1st Nov 2026	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion by Extension	11:00am
Sunday 8th Nov 2026 Remembrance Sun	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion with AoR AoR followed by Remembrance Service Evening Song (BCP)with AoR	10:45 10:45am 2.30pm
Sunday 15th Nov 2026	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 22nd Nov 2026	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion Family Service Wellbeing Service	11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm
Sunday 29th Nov 2026	Rampside Village Hall	Advent Praise	11:00am
Sunday 6th Dec 2026	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 13th Dec 2026	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Carol Service	11:00am 3:00pm
Sunday 20th Dec 2026	Rampside Village Hall Holy Trinity Bardsea	Holy Communion by Extension with Carols Christingle Carol Service *	11:00am 4:00pm
Thursday 24th Dec 2026 Christmas Eve	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea	Crib Service Holy Communion (Midnight in Bethlehem)	3:00pm 9:00pm
Sunday 27th Dec	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Morning Prayer	11:00am
Sunday 3rd Jan 2027	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion by Extension	11:00am

Every Wednesday 10.30am

Except 23rd and 30th Dec 2026

Mid-week Communion service in Urswick Parish Room

Refreshments are served after the service

- **Offering at the Christingle services are donated to the Children's Society**

On-Line Daily Prayer

Short services from the Church of England are available at

https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

Wellbeing Service 6:00pm 22nd Nov 2026

Deacon's Deliberations

By now I expect you will know that Martin Williams has moved to a new position in the Barrow Methodist Circuit. Whilst we will miss his ministry and council he leaves us with many thanks for the support he has given the Benefice over the last 3 ½ years and our best wishes and prayers for the new chapter in his ministry.

That has repercussions for the service pattern we have been used to over the recent past. In the short-term running up to Christmas with help from Rev David Goss; Archdeacon Vernon and Bishop Rob and some Communion by Extension services we are able to support most of the services that have been held during Advent in the recent past. As you will note from the service schedule on page 2 an increasing number of Communion services will be by extension, and going forward into 2027 the historic schedule will more difficult to maintain, especially through Spring.

On a brighter note – Sam Sample has started as our new part-time administrator. Sam is based in Dalton and will be the first point of contact with the Benefice, organising the service schedules, handling the admin associated with occasional offices and relaying out enquiries to the relevant church officers. Over the next few weeks, she will be picking up more of the admin work.

The Christmas merchandise is already in the shops so Advent is approaching. This year we're tying something new for an Advent Course. The material is based on the book 'Walking through Advent' by Jan Stuch Pickard. But instead of the traditional evening timing this year the course will be Wed afternoon. The Mid-week communion will happen as usual followed by tea/coffee and at 12 we will be serving a light lunch of soup and rolls then starting the Advent reflection about 1pm concluding by 2:30pm. The details of the dates are on the Events page in this newsletter.

One thing to note – on Remembrance Sunday (8th Nov) there will be an Act of Remembrance at each of our churches. The Urswick AoR will be followed by a short service in church and then the bells at Urswick will ring for peace.

I did mention earlier that Bishop Rob is coming to preside and preach at one of our services – Bardsea 13th Dec. He will be joining us for the traditional refreshments after the service so people will have a chance to meet and chat with him over coffee/tea and biscuits.

Graham

COMMUNITY NEWS & GROUPS

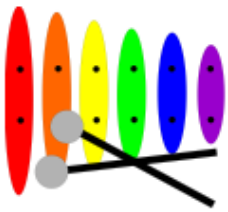
URSWICK POST OFFICE OUTREACH – URSWICK PARISH ROOM

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 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

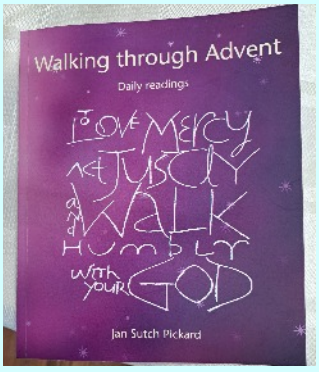
Urswick Parish Room is open and taking bookings.

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

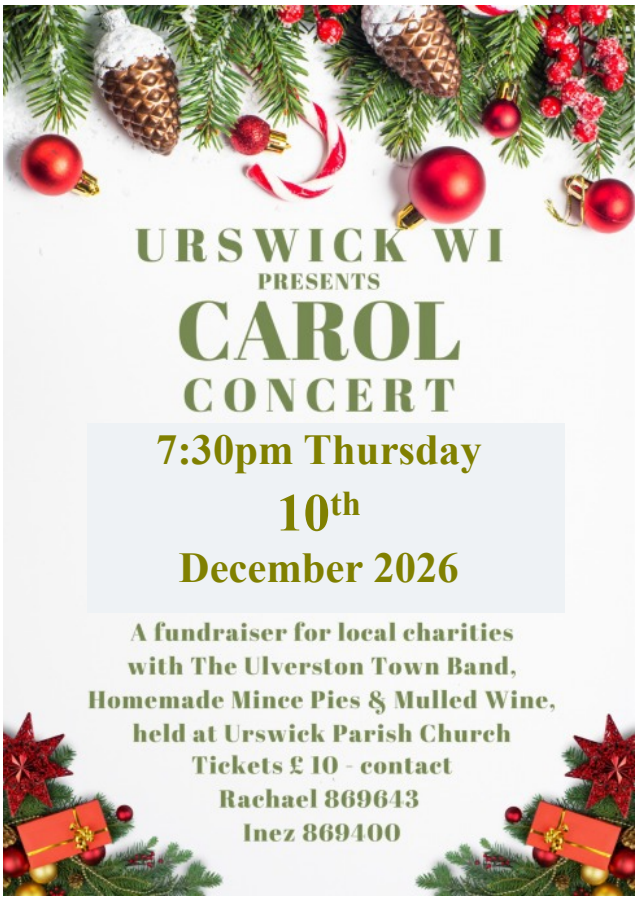
CHURCH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Advent Reflection

Based on
Walking Through Advent



Urswick Parish Room
12:00 pm for Soup & Roll lunch
18th & 25th Nov : 9th & 16th Dec 2026
Following the Mid -week Communion





LADIES LUNCH GROUP

Booking Essential - contact Maggie : tel. 07710 254123

£5 deposit required on booking

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

Churchyard maintenance

Autumn is approaching so we need to prepare for the seasonal changes when some maintenance is required in gardens and the churchyard to prepare for the winter months

Anyone 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 already contributed to this year's cost of churchyard maintenance

Including the family of one of our wedding couples who did a tremendous job of cutting and removing the long grass.

Webster's Waffle

Editor. Jim Page Bank, Rampside 01229 821561



There is a book called the Didache (apparently pronounced Di dee Kay). It's also known as "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles" and was written in the first or second century after Christ. It's barely twelve pages long, and whilst it never made it into the canon of scripture, that wasn't really its purpose. It is a short guide to being a church for the many small churches of that period who couldn't afford the cost of an entire bible, or even a gospel.

It has a lot of advice for the Christian. To quote, "do not pray as the hypocrites either, but pray as the Lord commanded in His Gospel: It then quotes the Lord's Prayer with the comment, "Pray this way three times each day."

It also describes how to hold a communion service, where those present eat the bread and drink the wine, with the comment, "And after you have been filled, give thanks as follows." So it was far more a meal than just a symbolic sharing.

One obvious problem facing the early Church was the many wandering apostles and prophets. But how could you tell whether the stranger who wanted to preach to you was the real thing or just somebody looking for an indoor job with no heavy lifting? So the Didache gave some useful rules of thumb.

It states "Receive every apostle as the Lord. He should not stay for more than a single day, or two days if necessary. But if he remains for three days, he is a false prophet. When he leaves, let the apostle receive nothing except bread, until he finds a place to stay. But if he asks for money, he is a false prophet."

It also states, "Any prophet who teaches the truth, but does not do the things he teaches, is a false prophet." Another useful guide if where it states, "If anyone says in the Spirit, "Give me money," do not listen to him. But if he tells you to give to others who are in need, let no one judge him."
You can see the reasoning behind this. If somebody has the calling to be a wandering preacher, then they aren't going to want to stay with you. So if they start getting too comfortable the suspicion is that they are just freeloading. But when they do move on, given them bread to feed them until they reach the next congregation. But if they ask for money, kick them out.

A tough one for all preachers is where the little Congregation is to look at the prophet and judge them, not by their words, but by their deeds.

I must admit, when first reading this section of the Didache, my thoughts were drawn to those 'TV evangelists' who preach a prosperity gospel and ask people to give them money. (After all, private jets don't maintain themselves.)

The problem is that this First Century attitude sits badly with modern culture. I was at one Annual Parochial Church Meeting when somebody living in the parish complained that members of the PCC were drawing salaries and weren't doing the work he expected them to. I wish I had a photograph of the faces of the PCC, you had everything from stunned disbelief that anybody could be so ignorant, through to people being downright cross that somebody seemed to assume we only did this stuff for money.

But it's not uncommon. I've talked to Brownie and Guide guiders who have had parents assume they're only doing the job because they're paid to do it. Perhaps because the parents wouldn't give up their time to do something like that without financial recompense?

Yet thinking about it, I think the Church is wise when it sticks with the attitudes shown in the Didache rather than adopting a more modern attitude. Remember the saying, "The Church which marries the spirit of this age, will be a widow in the next."

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

Follow us on Facebook.
Facebook group, the **Church of Low Furness**:

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

Administrator : samantha.sample@carlislediocese.org.uk

Rev Graham Tate : revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

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

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